

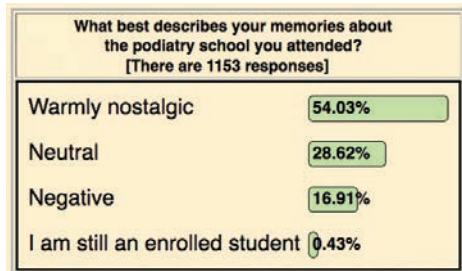
You and Your Alma Mater

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

Now that the horrendous year of 2020 is over, we look anew at the promise of better times going forward. One sign of optimism is the upcoming pending birth of a new and first, state-funded college of podiatric medicine in the country. The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) School of Podiatry, to be located in South Texas alongside of their allopathic medical, graduate, and undergraduate schools, is slated to be the tenth college of podiatric medicine. Hats off to Dr. Lawrence Harkless, the new interim dean for the years-long effort he has put in to make Dr. Louis T Bogy's dream a reality. The new college is approved by the state of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and University of Texas System will start its inaugural class in the fall of 2022.



Professional accreditation is expected from the Council on Podiatric Medical Education. Dr. Harkless is no stranger to founding new schools, being the leader in opening Western University of Health Sciences, College of Podiatric Medicine (WUCPM) in 2009.



The growth and development of podiatric medicine and surgery is dependent on increasing the number of well-trained students who graduate. Opening new schools in different parts of the country is a good way to achieve that goal. Another winning strategy is to support your alma mater. This provides your school the needed resources to attract highly qualified students by providing merit-based scholarships.

A recent *PM News* poll of over a thousand readers shows that a majority of podiatrists have warm nostalgic feelings about their alma maters. We urge you to support the educational institution that made your career possible. Consider this an investment in your future as well because it will help ensure that there will be buyers for your practice when you retire.

Respectfully Submitted,

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