

# Chapter news

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by Rhonda Peebles, Chapter Services Manager, Division of Member Services

To report your chapter's news, please contact Rhonda Peebles toll-free at 888/857-7545, or via e-mail at [rpeebles@facs.org](mailto:rpeebles@facs.org).

## Chapters combine to create new Keystone Chapter

In mid-November 2002, the final procedures and paperwork were completed to create the new Keystone Chapter of the College. This new domestic chapter consists of the former Central Pennsylvania Chapter and the former Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter. The Keystone Chapter will comprise more than 1,000 Fellows. With regard to governance and representation, the Keystone Chapter will be divided into eight geographic regions, each having at least one councilor; regions with one or more teaching hospital(s) will be represented by additional councilors. Finally, there will be two at-large council positions.

According to its mission statement, the new Keystone Chapter will "...provide a regional voice for surgeons in all specialties, be an advocate for its members and the patients they serve, provide educational opportunities for its members, and encourage the highest standards of ethical surgical practice."

The new officers of the Keystone Chapter include: Richard A. Close, MD, FACS, President; Aaron David Bleznak, MD, FACS, President-Elect; Collin Lewis Myers, MD, FACS, Secretary/Treasurer; and Immediate Past-Presidents Robert Sinnott, DO, FACS, and Narayan Deshmukh, MD, FACS. Charlene Wandzilak will serve as the chapter's Executive Director (see photo, right).

## Regents approve multi-country chapters

At its October 5-6 meeting, the Board of Regents approved the formation of multi-country chapters. Currently, there are 27 international chapters that are organized by country, and there are three international chapters in Mexico (Federal District, Nor-Occidental, and Northeast). The Regents' action will permit the formation of chapters in coun-



The past and present leaders of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter join the incoming leaders of the newly formed Keystone Chapter. Pictured left to right: Charles Scagliotti, MD, FACS; Dr. Myers; Dr. Sinnott; Dr. Close; Dr. Bleznak; Linda Lapos, MD, FACS; John LaManna, MD, FACS; and Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, the College's Executive Director.

tries where small numbers of Fellows reside. Procedures to form multi-country chapters will be similar to those for single-country chapters, which must represent at least 15 Fellows before a Governor may be elected. After the Governor is elected, the Governor petitions the Board of Regents to form a new chapter. For additional information on forming new chapters, contact the author.

## Update on chapter Web sites

In early January 2003, two additional chapters went online—the Southern California Chapter and the New Jersey Chapter—bringing the total number of chapter Web sites to 38. All of the chapters' Web sites are accessible at: <http://www.facs.org/about/chapters/chapmenu.html>.

In addition, a new SmartSite™ program was made available last fall to the chapters through one of the College's Internet service providers. The new SmartSite program substantially simplifies the development and maintenance of Web sites.

As of January 2003, five chapters had switched to new SmartSites: Florida, Colorado, Connecticut, Metropolitan Chicago, and Virginia. In addition, the Indiana Chapter anticipates transitioning its Web site to the SmartSite very soon. For more information or assistance with the SmartSite program, visit <http://www.facs.org/chapters/webprog/proglist.html>.

## Chapter anniversaries

| Month       | Chapter                 | Years |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------|
| January     | Northern California     | 51    |
|             | Louisiana               | 51    |
| February    | Arizona                 | 51    |
|             | Australia-New Zealand   | 18    |
|             | South Florida           | 49    |
|             | Iowa                    | 35    |
|             | Italy                   | 17    |
|             | Lebanon                 | 40    |
|             | Montana-Wyoming         | 38    |
|             | Eastern Long Island, NY | 35    |
|             | Westchester, NY         | 51    |
|             | Peru                    | 26    |
| South Korea | 16                      |       |
|             | Washington State        | 51    |

## Chapters continue to support College funds

Last year, 25 chapters contributed a total of \$35,500 to the College's Endowment Funds. The chapters' donations to the various funds support the College's pledge to surgical research and education. Chapters may contribute to several different funds, such as the Annual Fund, the Fellows Endowment Fund, or the Scholarship Fund. The chapters that contributed during 2002 are as follows:

*Life Members of the Fellows Leadership Society\*:* Arizona, Southern California, Louisiana, Mary-

\*The Fellows Leadership Society (FLS) is the distinguished donor organization of the College. Chapters that contribute at least \$1,000 annually are members. Chapters that have contributed \$25,000 are FLS Life Members.

land, Nebraska, Brooklyn-Long Island (NY), Ohio, South Carolina, and North Texas.

*Annual Members of the Fellows Leadership Society:* Alabama, Florida, South Florida, Georgia, Hong Kong, Metropolitan Chicago, Michigan, Southwest Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, Metropolitan Philadelphia, Virginia, and Washington State.

*Contributors:* Alberta, Hawaii, Missouri, Montana-Wyoming, and New York.

## Leadership conference for officers and young surgeons

The 2003 Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers and Young Surgeons will take place June 22-24 in Washington, DC, at the Washington Court Hotel. A special education program is planned, which will examine four topics: professional liability, uninsured and underinsured patients, trauma, and physician reimbursement. In addition, all chapter officers, young surgeons, and administrators will have an opportunity to attend a congressional reception and to meet with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill. A preliminary schedule includes:

- *Sunday, June 22:* Afternoon: Special session for young surgeons; Special session for chapter administrators and executive directors. Evening: Welcoming reception for participants, spouses, and guests.
- *Monday, June 21:* All-day plenary and special education program sessions. Evening: Congressional reception.
- *Tuesday, June 22:* Morning: Breakfast and briefings; visits with members of Congress. Afternoon: Debriefings, lunch, and adjourn.

## Surgical specialty societies launch state action center

The College has joined in a collaborative effort with 11 other specialty societies to launch a new Surgery State Legislative Action Center (SSLAC). The SSLAC is an electronic advocacy tool that uses the same software program and zip code match-

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ing technology that the ACS and many other national specialty societies use for federal advocacy efforts. This system matches surgeons with their elected state representatives—allowing them to reach out to members of their state legislatures on an ad hoc basis or through a coordinated grassroots campaign. Check out the new state action

center at [www.facs.org/sslac](http://www.facs.org/sslac) and look for alerts from the College and other surgical specialty societies. For more information about the SSLAC, or if your chapter would like to post an alert on the action center, contact Christopher Gallagher, Manager of State Affairs, at [cgallagher@facs.org](mailto:cgallagher@facs.org).

## Next month in *JACS*

The March issue of the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* will feature:

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**Commission on Cancer Oncology Lecture:**

**Esophageal Cancer: What Price Swallowing?**

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**Original Scientific Articles:**

- Gender and Coronary Bypass Graft Surgery
- Cost Analysis of Intraoperative Cholangiography
- Decision Analysis of Gastric Bypass versus Diet

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**What's New in Surgery:**

**Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery**

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