



Former State President Finds Success in Podiatry

One of the things that warms the hearts of HOSA chapter and state advisors is hearing from HOSA alumni members who have found success and happiness in the health professions. Just recently, Nancy Allen, South Carolina HOSA State Advisor, received a wonderful e-mail from former SC-HOSA State President, Chester Penn.

Dear Mrs. Allen,

My name is Chester Penn. I was the SC State President of HOSA in 1988-1989. I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know where I am now and how HOSA influenced me. I worked as a paramedic in Myrtle Beach for 14 years, of which I cross-trained as fireman the last 2 years. I finished my undergrad at Coastal Carolina while working EMS. I then went to New York College of Podiatric Medicine where I completed my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) in 2007. I am now 3 months away from completing my residency in Jacksonville, FL. I have a potential opportunity to stay on as an associate of the residency program. This is an excellent opportunity as I have always enjoyed teaching.

Since starting my residency, I came across a local chapter of HOSA here in Jacksonville. This led me to volunteering time in participating as a judge at last year's SLC. I more recently spoke as a keynote speaker at a regional conference in Jacksonville about my success starting in HOSA that led me to where I am now.

If I can ever be of assistance, don't hesitate to write or call. I believe in giving back. If you ever have students or instructors that have questions about Podiatry as a career, or pointers about health education, my door is always open. I travel back and forth to Myrtle Beach from time to time to visit family.

I have to go now and prepare for surgery, but thanks for taking the time to read this email. I look forward to hearing from you or any other interested persons in the future.

Chester Penn, DPM
Email: drcpenn@gmail.com



Graduation from Podiatry school with wife Pam, and step-children Dawn and Billy.

Like many other HOSA members, Chester started on his path to the health professions in high school. He served as his chapter's president from 1987-88 and the South Carolina HOSA President in 1988-89.

Chester is a multi-skilled healthcare professional, having served as an Emergency Room Technician, EMT, EMT-I, and Paramedic. He also taught several EMT, CPR, ACLS, Phlebotomy, and Dental Emergencies classes.

After spending four years in podiatric medical school at the NY College of Podiatric Medicine, Dr. Chester Penn will complete his two-year residency at St. Vincent's Medical Center this summer.

Podiatry is the specialized field of medicine in which foot and ankle problems are corrected both medically and surgically.

The sub-specialties in podiatry include:

- Medicine
- Diabetic Care
- Dermatology
- Pediatrics
- Sports Medicine
- Orthopedics
- Surgery
- Trauma

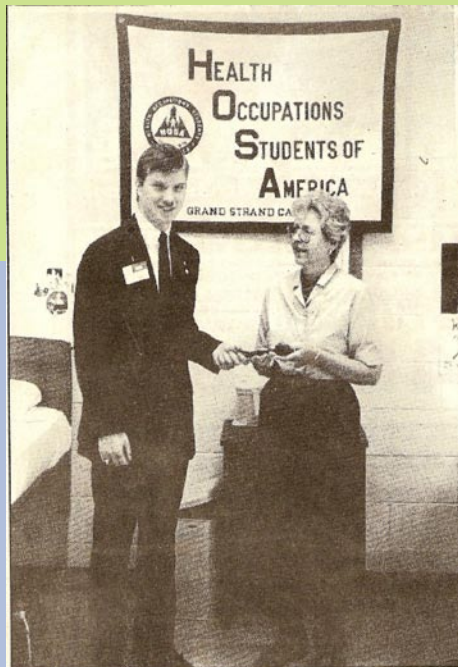
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Foot Facts:

- 1/4 of all the bones in the body are in your feet
- Each foot has 26 bones, 33 joints, 107 ligaments, 19 muscles and tendons
- You take between 8,000 and 10,000 steps a day or 115,000 miles in a lifetime
- Pressure on your feet can easily exceed your body weight. Running puts 3 to 4 times your body weight on your feet.
- Your feet mirror your general health
- Women have four times as many foot problems as men

Dr. Penn wants HOSA members to know that the journey to a health profession can be long and hard, but it is manageable and well worth it. "Last years theme states, 'HOSA: Where Dreams are Made and Futures Begin.' HOSA helped me to form my dreams and that's where my career started."



STATE PRESIDENT — Mrs. Sue Brehm, health occupations instructor at Grand Strand Career Center, shares a gavel with Chester Penn, who was recently elected president of the state Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Penn is a senior at Socastee High School. *Elbert Marshall Photo*

Newspaper clipping from 1988 with Mrs. Sue Brehm, HOSA Advisor.



The white coat ceremony was the induction into medical school, an initial pledge and commitment to the medical field. This even included an early statement of the Hippocratic oath, which was formally taken upon graduation.