As we move into spring, a season of renewal in nature, I am awestruck by how much our lives parallel this natural cycle, by how much our support for each other can be a source of renewal in everyday life.

This sense of community and renewal was particularly poignant during the time surrounding the death of MSUCOM student Kanwal Kahlon, in December.

While it will take the entire college community a long time to put this tragedy behind us, it was heartening to see the outpouring of love and support for one another during this difficult time.

In a sense, this “family” is one avenue through which we can begin life anew each day. The people that we work with often spend more hours with us than our families at home, and positive reinforcement, compassion and respect from them can be a healing force in our lives.

I think this is one of the special gifts in this college — our ability to put aside our personal differences to build a better tomorrow for the college, for the osteopathic profession, and for each other.

I am constantly amazed at what we accomplish by working together. A vision shared can multiply its success rate many times over when the exponent is teamwork.

As you will read in the article on Page 4 of this issue of COMmuniqué, the entire college is invested in a strategic planning process that began in June of 1996. This process will lay the foundation for our work in the 21st century. Naturally, the Statewide Campus System will play a large role in our success in the next millennium. We are beginning to determine just how our statewide departments will function, as well as building the continuum of education for our students, interns and residents.

Again, by partnering with our 16 affiliated hospitals throughout Michigan, we are able to reach much higher than we would have alone.

As we move into spring, I hope that each of you will seek out and cherish the many opportunities available for teamwork, partnerships and daily renewal in your professional and personal lives.

Best Regards,

Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD
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On the cover: Building on the foundations of the osteopathic profession set forth by founder Andrew Taylor Still, MD, MSUCOM is looking toward the new millennium. The text serves as the motto for the osteopathic communication campaign currently under way at the college. Cover design by Harley Seeley.

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Dean's Search Enters Final Stages

The search for a permanent dean at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is entering the final stages.

Three candidates for the position have been invited for second interviews. They are Charles Henley, DO, MPH, a military physician from Texas; Frederick Humphrey II, DO, dean of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey — College of Osteopathic Medicine; and Allen Jacobs, DO, PhD, acting dean at MSUCOM.

Dr. Henley serves as chief, clinical policy/consultant division and chief consultant to the surgeon general at the United States Army Medical Command Headquarters at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

He earned a bachelor of science degree from the Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Okla., and a master of science degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Tulsa, Okla.

A 1977 graduate of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Henley also earned a master of public health degree from the University of Hawaii School of Public Health in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dr. Henley is board certified in family practice. His interview was held on Feb. 3.

Dr. Humphrey has served as dean of UMDNJ-COM since 1986. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. A 1966 graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Humphrey also serves as a colonel in the Medical Corps, U.S. Army Reserves.

Dr. Humphrey is board certified in neurology and psychiatry. His interview was held Feb. 17.

Dr. Jacobs has served as acting dean at MSUCOM since July 1995. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s of science degrees from Southern Illinois University, and a PhD in anatomy from the University of Iowa. A 1983 graduate of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Jacobs has been a faculty member at Michigan State for most of his career.

Board certified in sports medicine and in osteopathic manipulative medicine, Dr. Jacobs serves as the team physician for several sports teams in the Lansing area at the high school, collegiate and professional levels.

His interview was held March 10.

Once all three final candidates have completed their second interviews, MSU President Peter McPherson and Provost LouAnna Simon will review the committee’s recommendation before selecting the permanent dean.

According to David Kaufman, DO, chairperson of the search committee, MSU Provost LouAnna Simon told the committee that a “strong pool of applicants” sought the position. “The search committee considered 41 candidates, 17 of whom were given serious consideration. We initially interviewed nine candidates and selected three for second interviews,” he said.

“Each of the three final candidates demonstrates solid ability to lead MSUCOM. Dr. Henley is a strong administrator with a solid background in economic policy, Dr. Humphrey has 11 years of experience running a sister osteopathic college, and Dr. Jacobs has shown a strong ability to run an osteopathic college located on a Big Ten campus,” Dr. Kaufman added.

“We anticipate a permanent dean will be named by the end of April,” Dr. Kaufman said.

College Continues Strategic Planning Process

Discussions focused on strategic planning often bring yawns from those people invited to participate in the process, but at MSUCOM, it’s a different story.

“Everyone has been very excited about the process thus far because the mission and scope of this college is so far-reaching,” said Sandy Kilbourn, assistant to the dean.

“The goal of this process is to have a sound plan available so that whomever is selected as permanent dean will have a foundation to work from,” Kilbourn added.

She explained the process “is indicative of the college’s commitment to continuous quality improvement.”

The college has been operating under a strategic plan developed by Douglas Wood, DO, PhD, former dean at MSUCOM.

“While that plan is solid, it is five years old and needs to be updated to accommodate changes in the college and in the health care industry,” she added.

Key members of the dean’s staff and clinical chairpersons began the planning process in June. Basic science chairpersons were invited to participate in December and faculty joined the process in February.

A large portion of the strategic planning process has been focused on the Statewide Campus System (SCS) and what it means for each department in the college.

“It’s been great to see everyone buy into moving forward and to have everyone on the same page,” Kilbourn said.

“Everyone believes we need to move forward and to be engaged in discussions about SCS, and that is something COM has that is unique to any unit on the MSU campus. Now, we are getting to the details of how the statewide departments will function and what it will take to make SCS successful.”

She added, “SCS is so exciting because we are working to improve the education of our students in an innovative way that will help them meet the challenges of practicing osteopathic medicine in the 21st century. We are building a roadmap for the future of this college.”

Planning will continue throughout the spring.

COMmuniqué

Winter/Spring 1997
College Gathers to Celebrate Life of Student Killed in December Accident

Members of the MSUCOM community gathered Friday, Jan. 10 to celebrate the life of Kanwal Kahloln, a second-year MSUCOM student who died in a train accident near Fee Hall on Dec. 13.

Kahloln, 24, was killed when she inadvertently walked in front of a westbound train while crossing the railroad tracks near Hagadorn and Service Roads on the MSU campus in East Lansing.

Students, faculty and staff members who knew Kahloln characterized her as a devoted student and as a warm, pleasant person who was a friend to everyone she met.

Her commitment to family, participation in Sikh religious activities, her love for Indian dancing, and her long-standing desire to be a physician were some of the things people remembered most about Kahloln.

Her family emigrated to the United States from India in the '70s. She graduated magna cum laude with a degree in biology from Wayne State University in 1994, where she was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Kahloln had planned for several years to pursue a career in medicine. A former volunteer in a Detroit-area hospital, Kahloln also served as a camp counselor.

At MSUCOM, Kahloln was a member of the American Medical Women's Association/National Osteopathic Women Physicians Association.

"The college has been deeply affected by this accident," said Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, acting dean. "Because of this tragedy, there is a hole in the college family. As a community, we have come together to support one another and will continue to heal from this devastating event that claimed one of our own. We extend our deepest sympathies to Kanwal's family."

Our Community Remembers Kanwal

Kanwal will always be remembered as a very conscientious and enthusiastic student. She interacted very well with her fellow classmates and instructors and she was a pleasure to have in class. Many times I would notice other students seeking guidance from her. On a personal level, Kanwal was a pleasant individual and quite friendly. She possessed great interpersonal skills. When put in group situations she would always take equal responsibility for all group activities. She was very trustworthy and honest and could be counted on to carry out commitments. She will be greatly missed from the COM class of 1999. My life has been greatly enriched for having known Kanwal.

— William M. Falls PhD, Professor of Anatomy

When I think of Kanwal, I will always remember her sweet smile and gentle spirit.

— Mary Anderson, Student Records Officer

Kanwal stopped in frequently into the Student Affairs office with questions for myself or Mary Anderson. She was always smiling, laughing and had a sparkle in her eyes. She will be missed for her enthusiasm, warmth and the joy that she brought to everyone she met. She was special and a beautiful person to have known. Even though we only knew her for a short period of time, we enjoyed our friendship with her.

— Barb Sinclair, Student Affairs Office

Like a beautiful flower, Kanwal enriched our lives with her humility, warmth, and openness. By sharing her concerns with her friends, Kanwal showed us the importance of supporting one another.

— Andrew Knechtl, Class of 1999

To make a gift to the college in memory of Kahloln, please contact MSUCOM Development Officer Dee Telman at 355-8355 for more information.

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I met Kanwal Kahlon when we were both freshmen at Wayne State University. We were enrolled in a calculus class then, but kept in touch throughout our undergraduate days. I was glad to find out we would attend medical school together, and enjoyed being lab partners with her. Being Indian and believing in karmic theory, as does the Sikh religion, I understand that it was fate for Kanwal to leave this world. I simply can not understand how such a bright, beautiful person could deserve such a tragic fate. I hope that all who knew Kanwal will remember her genuine spirit and good nature, as I will.
— Poorvi Shah, MSUCOM Class of 1999

Dear Kanwal,
I didn’t want you to go so quickly. God has different plans for you than we here on earth. I hope you are happy in heaven. I hope you can smile, laugh, and dance. I wish you were here so I could share with you my sorrows. I wish you could sit with me on the bed and talk like we used to. I will miss you but I believe that you will always be here with us because you are an angel.
— Joanna Kala, MSUCOM Class of 1999

Kanwal was one of my best friends. I will miss her. There will never be a day that goes by that I don’t think about her. My greatest hope is that, wherever she is, she is at peace and is happy. My fondest memories of her are of the night before exams when we would talk and complain to each other about how far behind we were and that we still had far too many scribes left to study in one night. She always made me feel better during these last-minute panic attacks and she always made me laugh. My life will not be the same without her.
— Dayna M. Elfont, MSUCOM Class of 1999

The Michigan State University Department of Anatomy remembers Kanwal Kahlon as a very special medical student. Kanwal was always energetic and personable in our classes, and she was always pleasant to work with. Her diligence and dedication were obvious as she prospered academically.
We expected that Kanwal would excel as a physician, and we are deeply saddened by her loss.
— Joseph Vorro, PhD, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Anatomy

I regret I did not have the opportunity to know Kanwal. We used to smile and say hello when we passed in the hall, so I will remember her lovely smile. A smile is really a wonderful legacy.
As her family and friends mourn her loss, so does MSUCOM. We have lost a member of the college family, and must all find ways to understand this tragedy and cherish our memories of Kanwal.
— Kathie Schafer, Acting Director of Admissions

Kanwal was in my DPR small group last year. I got an opportunity to know her. She was a beautiful person, both inside and out. She was one of the most pleasant and kind persons I know. I will remember her beautiful smile.
— Sophia Beyene, MSUCOM Class of 1999

What I remember most about Kanwal is our get-together at the Blue Coyote during our first year here. There must have been a couple of dozen of us there. I spent a lot of time talking and laughing with Kanwal, Dayna, and Joanna. That was in the past, but what I was looking forward to in the future was getting to know her better when we both were at Garden City Hospital. I know she’ll be missed.
— Rosemarie Tolson, MSUCOM Class of 1999

We, in the Office of Academic Affairs, had the opportunity for regular interaction with Kanwal. Kanwal commonly stopped by the office delivering papers, reserving rooms, and engaging in the multiple other kinds of activity which occupy physicians in training. The comments provided by the Academic Affairs staff articulate our thoughts regarding Kanwal. Kanwal was always a joy to interact with, positive, cheerful, and focused, a model of the caring, compassionate osteopathic physician in training. Please understand that Kanwal is and will continue to be missed by the Academic Affairs team. Kanwal’s untimely death is a loss to her family and friends, our college, and ultimately to the osteopathic profession.
You have our sympathy in this time of grief.
— Kathy McLeod, Academic Affairs

My friendship with Kanwal began the first couple weeks of medical school in our first small group experience. We struggled together to learn our physical skills, often pretending to be the patient for one another. We shared our anxiety and fears of beginning medical school, reassuring and encouraging one another. As time went on we continued to share smiles in the hallways and caught up with each other the mornings before exams. Kanwal and I became much closer in the months before her death. I have learned to appreciate from the Sikh beliefs that the times we shared were meant to be. I am grateful for the times we shared. There is so much more I want to know, so much more I wished I would have asked or said. There will not be any time during my training that I will not be reminded of this loss. Not only the loss of my friend and my class’s loss of our classmate, but the medical profession’s loss of a wonderful, caring, and compassionate physician. I will carry her in my heart and memories always. Kanwal was my friend. I cared for her and will greatly miss her.
— Angie Smith, MSUCOM Class of 1999

Kanwal’s spirit always brought a smile to my day and I am delighted that our spirits touched if only for a brief time.
— Alexia Bradley, MSUCOM Class of 1999

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I will always remember Kanwal for her inner peace and serenity. Her grace and compassion for others will always stay with me. Kanwal was a truly lovely woman to know and I will miss her.
— Loren Dominguez, MSUCOM Class of 1999

Let me share a thought from a service for my best friend. For her life of service as a physician we were asked to use our hands to perform the tasks she could no longer perform, and serve those she would have served. None of us can recreate the grace and talent and person that was Kanwal, but each student and person can imagine the thousands of lives she would have touched in her unique way, and contribute an extra measure of service on her behalf. She made the world a better place, and it will take all who knew her, working individually and collectively, to replace a measure of her present and potential contributions.
— Margaret Jones, MD, Professor of Pathology

I remember Kanwal as a quiet, hardworking and conscientious student. She was always pleasant and had a beautiful smile on her face. While she excelled academically, she also made time for cultural and religious pursuits. She was a frequent visitor to the Sikh Temple in Detroit where she played the harmonium and participated in devotional singing. It is remarkable how much she accomplished in her short life and gave happiness to so many. The college has truly been enriched by her. Kanwal will be deeply missed by all of us.
— Kusum Kumar, MD, Professor of Pathology

I only know that ours is a privileged profession. And that we have lost one who was on her way. I hope someday that the whistles on the train will bring me comfort and celebration of her life instead of only sorrow and pain over her death.
— Janet Osuch, M.D., MSU College of Human Medicine
Task Force Champions Osteopathic Excellence

by Karen Hruby

The Osteopathic Communication Campaign’s mission is to communicate, promote and champion osteopathic excellence. It began in February 1996 when representatives of the dean’s administrative staff, the Consortium for Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education (COGMET) and the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOP&S) met to discuss how we might work together to market the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University.

It didn’t take long for them to realize that the college could not be successfully promoted without promoting the profession.

Although the value of osteopathic medicine was clear to the planners, they suspected that others may not be so well informed. To test this hypothesis, a series of mini-surveys were conducted with media representatives, a physician referral service and legislators. The results confirmed their worst fears: few, if any, could accurately cite the benefits of osteopathic medicine.

Survey results from osteopathic students, interns and residents overwhelmingly indicated that they wanted more training and more competence in osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT).

Simultaneously Abigail Trafford, health editor for the Washington Post, welcomed the American Osteopathic Healthcare Association convention in Arizona with these words, “There’s confusion about who osteopathic physicians really are. I sense an identity crisis not only from outside, but from within your profession.”

It was clear that something must be done. The 1996 MAOP&S convention survey helped determine where to begin. The respondents felt that any campaign to promote the profession should focus on increasing the awareness of the public, the media and state legislators about the benefits of osteopathic medicine.

Laurie Beth Jones, who had previously worked for the American Academy of Osteopathy as a facilitator and marketing consultant, met with the planning group in early August 1996. She helped the group define its mission, establish a strategy and develop a motto — a simple phrase that was an accurate, supportable description of the essence of osteopathic medicine, that could be repeated in less than 10 seconds and that was understandable to a 12-year-old.


You’ll be seeing that motto, “Osteopathic Medicine: The Science of Medicine, the Art of Caring, the Power of Touch” frequently in the future. It will appear on the stationery and business cards of the college, the Statewide Campus System, and the college’s alumni association; it already appears on college banners, mugs, luggage tags and other items for general distribution.

The motto has been used as the theme for the college’s annual convocation video and numerous talks and presentations.

The campaign is founded on the belief that this time of rapid change and upheaval in health care is also a time of great risks and opportunities. Nearly 50 percent of physicians are employed by groups or hospitals. Smaller, community hospitals are being bought up and closed or merged into larger hospitals. A large percentage of osteopathic hospitals are meeting this fate. Large hospitals are expanding vertically and horizontally, becoming health care systems. The need for specialists is declining and in response, an increasing number of allopathic medical students are selecting primary care careers.

Increasingly, DO and MD physicians are taking the same board exams, training in the same institutions and
working side-by-side in the same practices. There is increasing pressure from advanced practice nurses, physicians assistants and chiropractors for licensure in areas once reserved for physicians. The challenge is how to maintain what is valuable and distinctive in osteopathic medicine while adjusting to and accommodating these changes.

Simultaneously, there is a growing interest in integrated health care. Consumers are demanding cost-effective medicine with a human face, less technology and more humanity, and distinctive medical care that integrates the best of modern science with a respect for the emotional, psychological and spiritual components of human beings. They are seeking osteopathic medicine, but many of them just don’t know that. It is our responsibility to educate the public about osteopathic medicine. When they understand what it has to offer, they will make the choice that is right for them.

The Osteopathic Communication Campaign’s general strategy has two parts that we refer to as “talking and walking.”

"Talking" is campaign shorthand for promoting osteopathic medicine. It means that we

- Clarify what osteopathic medicine is
- Speak the same general message about what osteopathic medicine is and
- Repeat the message frequently and correct misinterpretations or errors in the message when someone does not “get the message” the first time.

“Walking” is campaign shorthand for doing what we say we’re going to do. It means that we

- Select good students who are committed to practicing osteopathic medicine
- Integrate osteopathic principles and practice in our undergraduate and graduate curriculum and instill a sense of pride in our students about their osteopathic heritage
- Establish readily available databases on osteopathic research, clinical instruction best practices, and the accomplishments of prominent osteopathic physicians that support professional promotion activities
- Encourage osteopathic physicians and students to use and continually enhance their osteopathic skills
- Support research efforts in osteopathic medicine.

The Osteopathic Communication Campaign will cover a wide variety of internal and external audiences, with a consistent message targeted at each audience. That message focuses on the benefits of osteopathic medicine.

An advisory board of osteopathic physicians has recently been named for professional review of the content and direction of the campaign. Its members include: Ann Dean, DO; Dennis DeSimone, DO; Dave Dora, DO; Kari Hortos, DO; Ray Hruby, DO; Todd Moyerbailean, DO; Carol Monson, DO; Don Stanton, DO; and Bob Ward, DO.

The planning team exists to develop resources and make them available, to coordinate activities, to make sure that good ideas are shared and to do its part in educating the public, the media and policy makers. Lists of no-cost and low-cost promotional activities for osteopathic medicine are already available.

Communicating, promoting and championing osteopathic medicine is everyone’s job. We’d enjoy hearing from you whether you have an idea you’d like to suggest, want more information about the campaign or any of its products, would like to volunteer for the advisory board, or just want to make a general comment. Please feel free to contact Karen Hruby at A 317D East Fee Hall or call 355-9617. Hruby may also be reached by e-mail at hrubyk@com.msu.edu.

Guest Column
Osteopathic Medicine: Now is the Time
by Raymond Hruby, DO, FAAO

When A.T. Still founded the profession of osteopathic medicine, many of the ideas that formed the principles of his system of therapeutics were not new. It was not new to use a hands-on approach to treat the patient. Nor was it new to recognize that the body had within it the power to heal itself, or that there was a nutritive quality to the blood. It was also not new that air was essential to life.

But it WAS new to have a system of treatment that placed primary emphasis on the inherent repair processes of the body which maintain health. It was new to recognize that mechanical defects or derangements interfere with the normal functions of the body, and if persistent can cause disease.

This system of therapeutics, embraced by the osteopathic profession for over a century, is now being "discovered" by modern medicine. In spite of the great advances made in standard medical technology, other health care professions are finding that there are limits to what they can offer the patient. A more complete approach is needed. In their own way, these practitioners are finding their answers in the principles and philosophy we have practiced for so long.

For example, Andrew Weil, MD, author of Spontaneous Healing, recently gave a talk which I was privileged to attend. He is a strong supporter of osteopathic medicine and osteopathic manipulation, and much of what he said reflected A.T. Still’s principles. He spoke of the body’s potential for self-healing, and of the amount of time he has spent studying ways in which this self-healing power can be activated. He also talked about See OSTEOPATHIC, Page 10
the body’s need for proper nutrition, and for balance among mind, body and spirit.

Likewise, Deepak Chopra, MD, the modern proponent of ayurvedic medicine, has made similar comments regarding self-healing. In his book, *Quantum Healing*, he states: “The frustrating reality, as far as medical researchers are concerned, is that we already know that the living body is the best pharmacy ever devised. It produces diuretics, painkillers, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antibiotics and indeed everything manufactured by the drug companies, but it makes them much better. The dosage is always right and given on time; side effects are minimal or nonexistent; and the directions for using the drug are included in the drug itself, as part of its built-in intelligence.”

Didn’t A.T. Still say this and much more? Did he not refer to the human body as “God’s drug store?” Did he not say that osteopathy was “the law of mind, matter and motion?” He founded a whole system of diagnosis and treatment based on the fundamental principles of body unity, self-healing and the interrelationship between structure and function. And all before any of these other folks were around!

The point of all this is that what was rejected in Still’s time is now felt to be just what is needed for our health care system today and for the future. The public and the medical-profession-at-large are searching for exactly what the osteopathic profession already has. It is time for us to help them find what they are looking for and end their search. These other practitioners are beginning to believe that the osteopathic approach is the foundation upon which all physicians should practice, and they are asking us to teach them to be like us. It is time for us to take action. If this is the health care of the future, then we should make ourselves known as the “keepers of the flame.” Let us take the lead in this effort. Now is the time!

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**Continuing Medical Education Reaches An Unexpected Group**

*by Brandy Bessau and Hollie Rushhoven of Rossman Martin & Associates*

After four years of undergraduate courses, four years of medical school, and countless hours of internship and residency, you’d think most physicians would want a break from classes. But the enrollment numbers at MSUCOM’s Office of Continuing Medical Education tell a different story:

“We don’t have to advertise very much. Word-of-mouth fills our classrooms,” said Betty Wilson, director of CME at MSUCOM. “Although the next course schedule isn’t even out for circulation yet, many classes are almost full.”

MSUCOM has been a leader in continuing education for osteopathic physicians for more than 20 years. Each year, hundreds of physicians fill the seats to learn the latest ideas and techniques from some of the world’s best. But lately, it’s not just osteopathic physicians in the CME classrooms. Increasingly, more allopathic physicians, physical therapists and dentists are signing up for classes as well.

“These professionals want to do what is best for their patients,” Wilson said. “The osteopathic approach provides the best treatment to meet the patients’ needs.”

CME classes have a foundation in manual medicine, and “Principles of Manual Medicine” is a prerequisite for other CME postgraduate work at MSUCOM. All courses focus on a “hands-on” experience to help students understand the techniques involved in diagnosing and treating musculoskeletal problems.

The desire of health care professionals to learn about manual medicine has created an unusually high demand for CME courses, particularly the Principles class. The waiting list has

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been as long as one and one-half years. "We have dentists interested in temporomandibular joint syndrome (TMJ), physical therapists who can learn better ways to treat painful injuries, and doctors of all disciplines interested in the osteopathic approach to manual medicine," Wilson said. "The number of health care professionals interested in these classes is phenomenal."

The Office of CME limits the number of participants in each class, so students and instructors can take advantage of MSUCOM's hands-on learning philosophy. Wilson said two additional basic manual medicine classes will be added to the class schedule next year to help meet the high demand.

When Jonathon Ritson, an allopathic physician now practicing in Tacoma, Wash., was told there was no more room for him in the Principles course, he became creative, bringing his own table and partner so he would have the equipment needed for classroom instruction. Dr. Ritson continued with his CME education, and then completed a fellowship through MSUCOM's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The reputation of CME at MSUCOM reaches beyond state lines and international boundaries. Students have traveled from as far as Denmark, South Korea, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Australia to take advantage of CME's world-renowned programs.

Philip Greenman, DO, FAAO, chairman of many CME courses and a leader in the field of manual medicine, has traveled abroad lecturing about the subject for more than 17 years. "Although the reasons for my international lectures aren't to recruit many physicians ask about the programs offered at MSUCOM," he said. "I discuss what we do here, and keep them updated by mailing our brochures and schedules."

In 1983, he gave a major presentation about the osteopathic educational system at the International Federation of Manual Medicine convention in Zurich.

"Since then, MSUCOM CME has received worldwide recognition for its excellence," Greenman said.

Other manual medicine courses are also available in craniosacral technique, direct action thrust, exercise, functional technique, muscle energy, integrated neuromuscular and myofascial Release, and sports medicine.

For more information about CME courses, call Betty Wilson at 517-353-9714.
Guest Column:

MSUCOM Experiencing Shortage of Cadavers

by Kristin L. Liles, BS
and Lawrence M. Ross, MD, PhD
Willed Body Program
Department of Anatomy

The Willed Body Programs at Michigan State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine and the other Michigan medical and dental schools have each reported a shortage of approximately 20 bodies at a recent meeting of the Anatomy Board of the State of Michigan.

This shortage of about 60 specimens for the state has not yet affected the medical and dental schools’ ability to teach their first-year medical and dental students gross anatomy, as the medical schools of Michigan are pledged to provide each other bodies if a school experiences a shortage.

However, when all three universities have the shortage, it begins to have an adverse effect upon the ability to provide anatomical material to hospitals around the state for postgraduate medical and dental education programs. Continuing medical education (CME) programs, workshops devoted to surgical skills and procedures and applied clinical anatomical research projects require specimens, which also has contributed to the shortage.

In addition, the three universities are receiving requests from current and newly created allied health programs at many state universities and colleges which also require human specimens.

Osteopathic physicians who attended medical school 15-20 years ago likely studied gross anatomy from a cadaver that was an “unclaimed body”—an individual with no known relative or friend to make burial arrangements. Today, almost every body received into the donor program at MSU has been willed by the individual or donated by their family.

Use and reliance upon unclaimed bodies by the Department of Anatomy has declined dramatically, in part because this population generally has poor medical history data and may be at risk for conditions such as hepatitis, tuberculosis and HIV which in turn poses a hazard to Anatomy Department faculty, staff and students.

Since virtually every body used by the Department of Anatomy has been willed or donated, a very sensitive and personal relationship is created between the donor, his or her family and our donor program.

Implicit in the relationship is trust on the part of the donor and respect for the donor on the part of the department. Preservation of that trust is paramount in the operational procedures of our donor program. This is accomplished in part by the steps we take to fulfill the wishes and instructions of our donors and their families.

The Department of Anatomy has its own burial plot in which the remains of donors can be buried at department expense. Alternatively, the donor or their family may specify that remains be returned to the family for private burial. In yet other instances, both spouses may be enrolled in our donor program, and wish to be interred together. The Willed Body Program has procedures in place to accommodate these requests.

In addition, our students are oriented to the Willed Body Program. The bodies are presented as their "first patient" from which they will learn as they begin to become a physician. They are reminded that their "first patient" has a family, and that the donors' gift to them for their medical education was a unique, special, and unselfish one. The medical students are informed of the department's expectation that the bodies will be treated with dignity and respect. The students are informed about the steps taken for final disposition of the bodies, and steps to fulfill the wishes of the donors and their families.

Unintentionally, physicians have contributed to this problem. Through their health care expertise, the population is living longer. With a longer life span, our population often develops multisystem medical problems which will make increased numbers of donors unacceptable at the time of death. These multisystem pathologies disturb the anatomy required for the instruction of medical and dental students, allied health students and postgraduate medical trainees.

Physicians responsible for postgraduate training programs ask our department to respond to their needs for anatomical material to provide their residents with the very best training possible.

Finally, certain specialties ask us to provide anatomical material for use in the development of better techniques and the enhancement of skills, especially in surgical and procedural radiology. As noted above, it is in these last two areas that we are having the greatest difficulty with adequacy of supply.

We believe the most direct way to correct this shortage is to ask you, the practicing and future osteopathic physicians of the State of Michigan, for help. You can do this by keeping in mind the option of a whole body donation to the Willed Body Programs of one of our state's four medical schools. We realize the heightened media attention and your own knowledge that an organ transplant can literally provide a critically ill patient with a second life often brings organ donation to mind first when dealing with the patient or their family.

The patient's medical condition or age may rule out organ donation, but a whole body donation for medical education is still often a viable option.

Any of the three donor programs will be happy to provide you with further information about their specific program.

To obtain more information about the Willed Bodies Program at any Michigan medical school, please contact Kristin Liles at (517) 353-5398.
Anatomy Lab Offers First Experience in Osteopathic Patient Care

by Lance Owens
MSUCOM Unit III Student

At some point in all medical students' "tour" through the human body via the anatomy, they experience something that can only be described as a type of spiritual enlightenment.

While standing over a cadaver, medical students suddenly realize what they are really seeing—a human body, a human body that used to have emotions and feelings, a name, and perhaps a family, and a job. This person, as a productive member of society, had made the conscious choice to allow medical students to look inside his or her body and hold the vitality of life, whether one believes this to be the brain, the spleen, or the heart.

It is at this point that the medical student becomes eternally grateful for the lasting service the deceased is giving to the medical profession. This experience fosters the utmost respect for the deceased and their families. This respect is personified in the Willed Body Program and is manifested throughout the donor’s stay at Michigan State University’s Anatomy Laboratory. From the acquisition to the procession, to the final cremation, every effort is made to maintain the dignity of the deceased. Finally, the deceased is given a burial, at which time the family and friends are invited to share in this gratifying occasion.

As an osteopathic medical student, I see the Willed Body Program as applying the philosophies and principles of osteopathic medicine as far as they can be taken.

Council Examines, Promotes Diversity at MSUCOM

by Rhonda Jung
Rossman Martin & Associates

For the first time in her life, Loren Dominguez — a first year MSUCOM student— feels like a minority. After all, back in her old Florida neighborhood, being Cuban-Italian was the norm. Having contact with members of other minorities at MSUCOM, while being so far away from her own community, has been enlightening.

“It’s human nature to feel more comfortable relating to people who are like yourself,” she explained, adding that her class at MSUCOM is considered the most culturally diverse in the college’s history. “I’m involved with a lot of the other minority students. It helps us to see people with similar backgrounds become success stories.”

Since the release of the MSU IDEA report in 1989, one of Michigan State University’s goals has been to create a community where people of different cultures, intellectual positions, and lifestyles can reach their full potential: to create an environment where respect for differences while fostering caring relationships, cross-cultural understanding, and common educational commitments can develop. A follow-up report, IDEA II, was issued in 1992.

Those reports suggested that for the university to be more responsive to the staff and students who make up the university, more women and minority leadership is needed on campus. Each college within the university was then directed to find ways to elevate women and minorities to leadership positions.

As a training ground for future physicians who will someday serve a variety of communities, MSUCOM wholeheartedly embraced this idea and created the Diversity Council which is still in its infancy.

“MSUCOM is really into this,” said Maria Patterson, MD, professor of microbiology and chairperson of the COM Diversity Council. “Dean Jacobs is strongly committed to encouraging leadership opportunities for women and minorities within the college. This concept has been important for a long time.”

It is a concept that Dominguez—a former student representative on the Diversity Council—embraces, too. She believes that learning from people with similar backgrounds and experiences would further motivate and inspire her in her own medical career.

The Diversity Council is directed to study the MSUCOM environment, make suggestions to improve relationships, and promote opportunities for staff, students and faculty; focusing on ethnic and minority students, staff and faculty. Dr. Patterson has noticed that other non-ethnic, non-minority students—such as students from other regions of the country—also experience culture shock and can reap benefits from the work of the Diversity Council.

“Our work is the type of work that requires constant honing,” said Dr. Patterson. “But we won’t see big changes overnight. In fact, a lot of people don’t know about the Diversity Council.”

The Diversity Council’s primary goals are to recruit and retain culturally diverse faculty and students. However, determining how to accomplish that goal is like trying to figure out the chicken-and-the-egg dilemma.

“What comes first?” asked Dr. Patterson. “Do we recruit the faculty to retain the students, or recruit the students to retain the faculty?”

She and Dominguez agree that a logical first step is to encourage ethnic and minority MSUCOM graduates to visit the college. The college currently extends invitations to alumni physicians for Campus Days. If some of those visiting graduates become interested in coming back to the college as faculty, all the better, said Dr. Patterson.

Other members include: Norma Baptista, MS (administration); Dorothy Carnegie, DO (internal medicine); Beth Courrey, (dean’s office); Bob Esdale, MUP, (dean’s office); Evita Gilbert-Johnson, MA (Unit III); Celia Guro, PhD (student affairs); Patrice High (MSUCOM student); Sandy Kilbourn, MA (dean’s office); and Kay White, PhD (student affairs).

Many thanks to the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation for its continued generous support of COMmuniqué.

COMmuniqué / Winter/Spring 1997
Department Offers Students Practical Experience

by Hollie Rusthoven
Rossman Martin & Associates

It's where rubber meets the road.
That's how Henry Beckmeyer, DO, chairperson of the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties (formerly Osteopathic Medicine) describes his department.

"We do a lot of teaching in the classroom, but once students reach the third year of medical school, it's time for them to get in the 'real world' of medicine and patient care," Dr. Beckmeyer said.

Third-year medical students are able to put their knowledge to work through a series of clerkships — an intense work experience focusing on a single area of medicine.

The Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties helps place MSUCOM students in clerkships focusing on surgery, anesthesiology, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, and otorhinolaryngology, for example.

The MSUCOM staff works to help pair students interested in these areas with clinical sites throughout Michigan. The college has a network of more than 400 clinical surgical faculty in hospitals and care facilities across the state that take on third- and fourth-year students every year.

"Those clinicians, along with the academic faculty, are the backbone of what we do," Dr. Beckmeyer said. "We couldn't do it without them."

Dr. Beckmeyer said the clerkship program is a time of hard work and a test of personal commitment. "This is a time where a monumental amount of information has to be learned, retained and applied. Their preparation in their first- and second-year courses are put to the test in the field."

Having a clerkship involves a lot more than just showing up to work with a physician every day. Students must also maintain a lecture schedule, journal club, attend departmental meetings, present cases and defend diagnoses and treatment of "their" patients if called upon.

While clerkships are available in internal medicine, ambulatory medicine and surgical medicine, the department helps those interested specifically in surgery rotations. All third-year students must complete at least eight weeks of a surgery clerkship.

"Even in osteopathic surgery, we try to get the student physician to look at the entire individual," Dr. Beckmeyer said. "The clerkships really help the surgical students take a look at all the different specialty areas," he said.

"They become acquainted with the responsibilities of what is actually involved with direct patient care. They also learn about how the patient feels about their disease, the treatment or surgery, and they have to realize the problems the patient may face outside their home environment. It's really an all-encompassing look at how surgery may affect a person and their entire lifestyle."

Dr. Beckmeyer said one of the best things to occur for the department in recent months was a name change from the Department of Osteopathic Medicine to the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties. "We needed a name that tells who we are. We've always been involved with the surgical specialties. Now, thanks to Allen Jacobs (acting dean at MSUCOM), MSU Provost LouAnna Simon and MSU President M. Peter McPherson, we have a name that reflects our commitment," Dr. Beckmeyer said.

He added that the new name also lets the department establish working relationships with those who were not aware of the extent of surgical practices offered by MSUCOM.

"We've got a great surgical — and overall — program here," Dr. Beckmeyer said. "I think we turn out one heck of a good doctor."

Surfing the Internet?
Catch us on the web at http://www.com.msu.edu
Microbiology Studies Help Explain Body's Response to Disease

by Hollie Rusthoven
Rossman Martin & Associates

Microbiology is more than just staring down the business end of a microscope.

At MSUCOM, microbiology is an integral part of the foundation for a medical student's education. Students begin taking a basic microbiology principles course in their second term. Later, they go on to take more detailed classes where they learn in-depth specifics about microbiology, different disease-causing microbes, and their effect on different body systems.

"Microbiology is incredibly important to physicians, because we are seeing that microbes cause an increasingly large amount of human disease," said Jerry Dodgson, PhD, chairperson of the microbiology department. "If students and physicians don't understand the basic principles of microbiology and immunology, they won't be able to understand the response of the human body to disease."

Dodgson said that microbiology studies at MSUCOM focus not only on the infectious agents themselves, but also the body's response to the microbe and the symptoms that it causes.

"We try to teach about the bacterium, parasite or virus, its structure and capabilities. But we also make sure to talk about the body's response," he said. "The most important thing microbiology teaches students is to understand the sophisticated nature in which the body responds and defends itself against infectious diseases, and the sophisticated nature of the mechanisms of disease-causing microorganisms."

Medical students must combine their knowledge of anatomy, pathology and microbiology to better understand how different microorganisms affect the body in a variety of ways. Dodgson said he thinks students are most interested in hearing about specific diseases and disease-causing organisms as a part of microbiology.

The microbiology department has more than 30 faculty members, in addition to a number of joint and adjunct positions. The department serves four different colleges: the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Human Medicine, the College of Natural Science, and the College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, the department also has a component in the Michigan Agricultural Experiment station, since some faculty have research relating to agricultural microbiology.
Downs Uses Knowledge Around the World

by Denise VanBuskirk
MSUCOM PR Intern

John Downs, DO, DDS, professor in the MSUCOM Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties, is no stranger to traveling to other countries on medical missions. His first mission was to Bangladesh in 1991 to treat victims of a typhoon. He has gone on missions ever since then.

Dr. Downs latest venture was to Haiti this past summer. He went to Haiti with surgeons from the University of Pittsburgh to work at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital. After that visit, he was chosen by the U.S. Navy Central Command to serve as the commanding officer of the medical relief mission of Operation Fairwinds in Haiti.

“This was the first humanitarian mission of its kind to ‘Restore Democracy.’ Their needs are just so tremendous,” he said.

Dr. Downs put together four teams by asking for volunteers. The teams consisted of 20 people each. They rotated in two week increments. Secured compounds were erected for the crew to live in during the mission.

The teams visited various orphanages, schools, small hospitals and missions, including Mother Theresa’s Charity mission.

Over the course of 56 days, Dr. Downs and his crew treated 5,000 patients. “We set up effective medical, immunization, and immediate acute response programs. We immunized over 500 children and performed 536 surgical procedures,” he added.

Left-over supplies were kept in the care of non-governmental organizations to distribute to various orphanages.

“We saw almost every disease known to humans — leprosy, tuberculosis, numerous cancers, malaria, starvation, AIDS, Norwegian scabies, donkey bites and burns. Many things we saw simply need to be treated with antibiotics,” Dr. Downs explained.

He also gave preventive medicine lectures to thousands. “We would cover things as basic as washing hands.”

During the mission, Dr. Downs worked closely with the Haitian medical professionals. “By working with them, we got a chance to teach them new skills and techniques. We showed them how we do things from performing surgeries to making diagnoses and treatments. They don’t have the availability of instruments or the technology to perform things as we do,” he said.

Dr. Downs is already making plans for a return trip. While he was in Haiti he met the Rev. Wesley Lane. “Rev. Lane is a missionary and has offered to establish a mission there for us. We would be able to go back with eight or nine people, some of whom would be students. I am hoping to go back as early as this spring, and I’d like the students to get class credit for this trip.”

“Dr. Brutus is another man we met in Haiti. He is the director of a small hospital in a little village called Vaudreill,” Dr. Downs added. Dr. Brutus invited the team led by Dr. Downs to return to perform surgical procedures.

Performing surgery in this type of environment can be a challenge, Dr. Downs explained. “The OR there is just big enough to do minor procedures if we bring our own anesthesia gear,” he added.

Dr. Downs presented a report about his trip to the Secretary of the Navy and the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 29.

This is not Dr. Downs’ first stint with the military. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was called into active duty for the Persian Gulf war. He also was the Joint Task Force Surgeon in two relief missions — one to Bangladesh and the other to Mt. Pinatubo. In 1992, Dr. Downs coordinated medical care for the presidential debate at MSU.

Philipp Gerhardt, PhD, who retired from his position as associate dean of research in 1992, met Dr. Downs through the research committee. Dr. Gerhardt commented on Dr. Downs’ notable position in the military.

“Having the profession represented in military medicine by someone of Dr. Downs caliber is important,” Dr. Downs is a no-nonsense type of guy, as you would expect to find in the military, and it’s good to have his representation for all DOs.”

Dr. Downs’ time at MSUCOM is spent teaching courses in sports medicine, clinical correlations, and physical diagnosis.

In addition to serving as the team physician for MSU’s hockey team, he is also the assistant chairperson in the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties (formerly the Department of Osteopathic Medicine).
Building Bridges to Osteopathic Medicine

by Pat Grauer

For allopathic physicians, physical medicine and rehabilitation is the closest thing there is to osteopathic medicine.

That’s an assertion that Michael T. Andary, MD, graduate of the Wayne State University School of Medicine and associate professor of PM&R at MSUCOM, is uniquely qualified to make.

Andary serves as co-director (with Donald Stanton, DO) of the only MD/DO dually-certified PM&R residency in the nation and as director of the Electrodagnostic Medicine Laboratory at Michigan Capital Medical Center (MCMC). As a physician at the MSU Clinical Center, he sees patients for traumatic brain injury, musculoskeletal problems, and general rehabilitation medicine, and does evaluations for MCMC for persons to receive inpatient rehabilitation services.

He’s also heavily involved in clinical research, with numerous publications to his credit on brain injury, chronic pain, balance, carpal tunnel syndrome, electromyography, and spinal cord injuries.

Currently he is working with MSUCOM’s Richard Hallgren, PhD; Philip Greenman, DO, FAAO; and James Rechtien, DO, in a study to understand the effects of whiplash injury on suboccipital muscles in the neck.

Andary is both open-minded and excited about the potential of his specialty, which only began post-World War II to help survivors deal with the injuries — spinal cord, amputation, and stroke — they had suffered.

“There’s enormous potential for the non-operative treatment of neuromusculoskeletal problems,” Andary noted. “As primary care physicians and specialists work together to try to provide both seamless and less expensive care for patients, I suspect that early referral for musculoskeletal problems will be more likely.

“In physical medicine and rehabilitation, we traditionally take care of people whose disease is not curable,” Andary said. “We learned quickly to treat the person with the disease rather than the disease itself.”

In such cases, teamwork is a hallmark, he said. Physiatrists typically work closely with primary care doctors and most medical specialists, in addition to a wide array of allied health professionals: physical, occupational and recreational therapists; speech pathologists; psychologists; rehabilitation nurses; social workers; nutritionists; vocational counselors and others.

“When physical medicine was first developed, it included ultrasound, x-ray, ultraviolet, and manipulative medicine,” Andary said. “When allopaths accepted PM&R as a specialty, they essentially dropped manipulation from their evaluation and treatment armamentarium. Now there’s a strong move among the MDs to reincorporate manipulation among the skills of physiatrists.”

Andary sees this new acceptance of manual medicine as an outgrowth of simple intellectual honesty.

“Physicians need to be able to diagnose and treat somatic dysfunc-

Michael Andary, MD

tions,” Andary said. “We see good results with manual medicine. Patients get relief and, if it works, people will try to use it.”

Andary has recently coauthored two book chapters — one on traction, manipulation and massage, and another on craniosacral manipulation — but as an MD he performs very little manipulative medicine personally.

“I refer a high proportion of my patients for OMT,” he said, “but I’m a little intimidated by the fact that I have some of the best manipulative medicine practitioners in the world working next door to me.” Nonetheless, he’s learning OMT, from his peers, his personal studies and his own PM&R DO residents.

Andary received the BS from Lyman Briggs College at MSU in 1979, the MD from Wayne State University Medical School in 1983, and an MS in rehabilitation from the University of Washington in 1989. He took his internship at WSU, and his residency and a clinical fellowship in pain management and electrodagnostic medicine at Washington. He joined the faculty at MSUCOM in 1988. He’s active in numerous professional organizations and committees.
Ruth Worthington, DO, Makes the Most of What Life Gives Her

by Karel Juhl
Juhl Communications

Ruth Worthington, DO, acting chairperson of MSUCOM’s Department of Pediatrics, spent her childhood studying to become a doctor.

A congenital heart defect gave her a front row seat as science discovered, and physicians applied, the medical advances that kept her alive.

When she was struck with subacute bacterial endocarditis, a chronic infection of the heart valves, newly-developed penicillin saved her life.

“They didn’t know how much to give, how often, or for how long,” Worthington recalls. “I ended up getting shots for six months.”

Her original life expectancy of 15 was extended to 30 when, as she entered puberty, surgery was developed to treat her heart condition. A second surgery pushed her life expectancy to 60.

She’s made good use of those extra years.

Following medical school at MSUCOM, Worthington arrived at Garden City Hospital for her first pediatrics rotation under the supervision of Bernie Kay, DO. He encouraged her to return to MSU for a pediatric residency, then invited her to join the faculty.

“He told me he didn’t want only a general pediatrician, but someone with extra knowledge in one of two areas,” she says. “He was very specific: infectious disease or adolescent medicine. So I went to Georgetown University and did a little extra work in adolescent medicine before joining the faculty here.”

Dr. Worthington’s “little extra work” has led her to be a recognized expert in adolescent medicine, particularly in child sexual abuse, and students doing their adolescent rotation will likely be under her supervision. It’s a role she enjoys.

In fact, she views both teaching and her duties as acting chairperson as paybacks for the investment others

made in her. “Bernie Kay seems to have an innate sense of when you have maximized your ability to develop in a certain area, and then he pushes you on to another area. One of the jobs of the department chair, which he was at that time, is to help beginning faculty develop. I don’t think there’s anyone better at doing that than he is.”

“I consider Bernie as one of my main mentors, and there are a number of others who can look back and say he was very significant in their professional development. Their influence is so important.”

Exposure to influential individuals was part of the rationale behind Dr. Worthington’s creation of the college’s pediatric interest group. She assigned three of her department members to establish, and become faculty mentors for, a group called Kay’s Figs — “Kay” in honor of her mentor, and “fig” for Pediatric Interest Group.

“There was some concern about that name at first,” she concedes, “but hey! This is pediatrics, and I think it captures a unique spirit.” Though she is striving to keep her own hands off the project, the number of students participating and the interest it has drawn from groups outside of MSUCOM pleases her.

“That is totally appropriate, and we welcome anyone who is interested in the pediatric age group. The group was formed to stimulate and develop interest in pediatric medicine, but a main mission of the group is advocacy. I’m thrilled this is off and running.”

Advocacy is also a personal mission for Dr. Worthington. She is on the board of directors of Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS), a group she credits as being "tremendously effective in working with families in positive parenting.” At the other end of the spectrum, she is part of an educational and investigational organization called the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice.

Over the next few months, Dr. Worthington plans to lead her department through a strategic planning process in anticipation of administrative attention and changes by the university. “We need to be a step ahead,” she says. “We’ve got a lot of very intelligent, very creative, extremely hard-working people, and I think we can control the change to our benefit.”

Controlling the effects of things happening around her is a fact of life for Dr. Worthington. It’s what allows her to enjoy personal pursuits like her church and her music while mastering a busy professional life. It’s a lesson she tries to instill in her students.

“Medical school takes a big toll, but it only takes what you let it take. You have to be in control, you have to draw the line. If your family is a priority and you find that medical school is impinging on very important obligations to your family, there are ways to work that out. People are incredibly understanding when you say you have to draw the line.

“Physicians never stop working hard. We develop a lot of good habits in school, and for me it was worth it. I love what I’m doing and I’m a better person for what I’ve been through. You will take some hits along the way, so it’s not how many times you fall down, but whether you get up, whether you take those chances and those risks. I’d like to think I’ve been that kind of person, and that I’ve justified everybody’s faith in my abilities.”
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Honor Roll of Donors

The College of Osteopathic Medicine takes great pride in publishing the first honor roll of donors in its history. The generous support of alumni, faculty, staff and friends, as well as foundations and corporations since the inception of the college has made a vital difference in the life of MSUCOM.

It is with great pleasure that the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University acknowledges our supporters through the following honor roll.

The honor roll consists of two distinct donor recognition lists. The first section — Historical Honor Roll — recognizes all donors to the university-wide donor groups, whose gifts were made prior to January 1, 1995 and were designated in whole or in part to the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The Historical Honor Roll also includes a list of contributors to the Health Professions Open (HPO) sponsored by MSUCOM during this same period.

The second section of the honor roll, like the Historical Honor Roll, acknowledges all donors to the university-wide donor groups who contributed in whole or in part to the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The second section, however, lists contributors who provided financial support from January 1, 1995 through December 31, 1996, including the 1995 HPO.

We carefully reviewed the lists, and included your input from the draft honor roll mailing to insure that the information is accurate. In spite of these efforts, mistakes and omissions may occur. If an error or oversight has been made, please accept our apologies and contact the COM Development Office by calling (517) 355-8355.

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MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine  
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Four Faculty Join OMM Department

Ann Dean, DO

by Denise VanBuskirk
MSUCOM PR Intern

Ann Dean, DO, knows what it's like to be a student at MSU. She's now finding out what it's like to be an assistant professor in the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) Department.

Dr. Dean said she enjoys teaching because it keeps her mind fresh and is a learning experience for her as well.

"Teaching is very enjoyable for me. The students ask such good questions which is a good learning tool for me too," Dr. Dean said.

She explained she became interested in osteopathic medicine in 1984, when she was on a "European Trek" as she likes to call it, in Switzerland. The train she was riding on collided with another passenger train. She suffered mild back pain and was treated by Lon Hoover, DO, a recent retiree from MSUCOM. Dr. Dean's brother-in-law was also studying osteopathic medicine in Des Moines, Iowa, when she began to take an interest. He is now practicing in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dr. Dean graduated from MSUCOM in 1992. She completed her internship and residency at Sparrow Hospital. During her family practice residency, Dr. Dean received the Resident Recognition Award for teamwork and commitment.

"I was using so many manipulation techniques in my family practice residency that I wanted to gain the special skills of manipulative treatment," Dr. Dean said.

Osteopathic medicine seemed to fit nicely with her own philosophy about life and health.

"I became more and more interested and realized that OMM was where I wanted to be," added Dr. Dean.

She also assists in the direction of the OMM residency as well as being an assistant professor.

One major project Dr. Dean has undertaken is starting an OMM research development committee. "There are an abundance of individuals doing research right now. I'd like to bring some of those individuals together to encourage more research in the area of OMM. We need more mentors and resources for our OMM residents and others doing OMM research. The committee acts as a sounding board for researchers, and I hope in the future it will grow into something even larger," she added.

Dr. Dean felt she was lucky to be a five-year student and have the extra time to study and explore different areas. She enjoyed her family practice residency but has found OMM best suits her. "It's great that family practitioners and other specialists use manipulative techniques, but there is so much to know about manipulative medicine, and I love doing it, that I've chosen to specialize in OMM right now," Dr. Dean said.

Dr. Dean's family includes her fiancé, Ross Auburn, her two children, Jacob, 12 and Katie, 10, and her father and mother, Roman and Crystal Goodman. When she isn't busy grading papers or writing some of her own, she enjoys aerobics, power-walking and downhill skiing.

Wesley Lockhart, DO

by Denise VanBuskirk
MSUCOM PR Intern

One of MSUCOM's newest assistant professors, Wesley Lockhart, DO, says being able to learn the material twice is the biggest benefit to teaching.

"The best way to learn is by teaching someone else. It is important for our students to get as much as they can out of this program, and I am able to learn more by teaching them, too," he said.

Dr. Lockhart spent 10 years in emergency medicine before deciding to specialize in manipulative medicine.

"I chose osteopathic manipulative medicine because I am much more able to get what I want out of medicine with this approach. Manipulation is very intriguing to me, and I also love the holistic approach it takes," he added.

Dr. Lockhart did his OMM residency at MSU under the direction of Robert Ward, DO, which led him to his current position.

"There is an impressive number of physicians in this area who are at the top of the manipulative medicine profession," he added.

Dr. Lockhart assists in all of the OST classes and organizes the Intern Education Day Program with Sherman
Paul Rennie, DO

by Cathy Kearns

When Paul Rennie, DO, first discovered osteopathic medicine, it was like discovering the "best-kept secret in California," he said.

Now, osteopathic medicine and its principles are so much a part of his life, it's hard for him to imagine a time when this was not his focus.

"When I first found out about osteopathic medicine, the manipulative medicine aspect really intrigued me, so I pursued it," he explained.

For the former high school teacher and convalescent home administrator, that meant heading back to school. Dr. Rennie graduated from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. He completed his internship and residency in general practice at the Des Moines General Hospital.

After spending several years in private practice, Dr. Rennie decided to pursue his first love — teaching.

"My ultimate goal is to assist in the development of an integrated approach to practicing osteopathic medicine that, for the most part, has been lacking in our colleges," he said. "I see that the mind, body and spiritual connection is really powerful, and if you follow this principle all the way through, you find that it is inseparable. Evaluating your patient on all three planes enables you to help the patient find a balance."

"For me, osteopathic medicine's distinctiveness is in the approach to finding the balance between the use of our hands and the knowledge of other medical interventions that we can avail to our patients. We as physicians need to learn the

Gorbiis, DO, who directs the program. MSUCOM interns attend this program once a month for lecture and a hands-on training session. He also teaches residency program classes in which half his time is spent in clinic. In addition, Dr. Lockhart will be involved with Dr. Dean's OMM Research Development Committee.

He received his undergraduate degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from Concord College in Athens, WV, and later attended the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Lockhart completed his internship in Hollywood, Fla., and his first residency in emergency medicine at York, Pa. Following completion of his first residency program, Dr. Lockhart worked in Tallahassee, Fla., under the National Health Service Corps for three years. He practiced in that area for an additional five years before signing on for the OMM residency at MSUCOM.

Although Dr. Lockhart is partial to warm weather, he is getting used to Michigan's unpredictable climate.

"It has been hard to adapt to these harsh winters, but I'm getting accustomed to it. I do enjoy the outdoors here, though. It's great for camping and hiking. I'm also learning to play tennis. The facilities for tennis players are wonderful," he said.
Mark Gugel, DO

Mark Gugel, DO

by Cathy Kearns

While he never had much exposure to DOs prior to medical school, Mark Gugel, DO, fell in love with the profession once he saw it practiced by Lon Hoover, DO, and William Johnston, DO.

"The profession’s holistic approach really attracted me, and once I saw osteopathic manipulative therapy performed and experienced it for myself, I was an avid fan," he said.

"I worked a great deal with Drs. Hoover and Johnston, and saw what a difference this treatment modality made in their lives and the lives of their patients, and I experienced it first-hand when Dr. Hoover would put me back together after I had been injured playing sports," Dr. Gugel explained.

"By the time I had completed my preceptorship, I felt my skills in the area of OMT had really advanced," he said.

After graduating from MSUCOM in 1989, Dr. Gugel completed an internship at Bay Medical Center in Bay City, Mich., and a family medicine residency at MSUCOM. During his residency, he served as chief resident and conducted research in the musculoskeletal manifestations of stress in medical students.

One of the most important things Dr. Gugel said he feels he brings to his teaching post is a sense of camaraderie and of remembering what the students are going through.

"I try to help them understand that they need to take time for themselves too," Dr. Gugel said. "Yes, their studies are important, but they need to take care of themselves as well."

His affinity for osteopathic medicine and for OMT continues to grow. "Here is a valuable tool in our treatment arsenal," he added. "Let’s use it. I want to continue to enhance my own skills in this area and to help my students do the same thing. I believe we will keep the profession alive through research and teaching, and I want to do my part."

One of Dr. Gugel’s main goals as a teacher is to "try to get the students to see how to apply manual medicine skills to everyone who walks through their door," he said. "I believe the sooner they get exposed to these skills and get comfortable with them, the more likely they are to use them once they are in practice."

When he’s not teaching, Dr. Gugel enjoys biking, walking, basketball, and a variety of other sports, as well as spending time with his wife Amy. They recently found out they will be adding a new family member in October.

Faculty News Briefs

For those who like to correspond with retired professor Lon Hoover, DO, his new address is 24633 Dockton Road, SW, Vashon, WA 98070.

Philip Greenman, DO, was elected president of the American Back Society at their December meeting in San Francisco, Calif. In addition, four MSUCOM graduates spoke at the meeting. They were Wolfgang Gilliar, DO; Jerrel Glassman, DO; Harry Friedman, DO; and Jay Sandweiss, DO.

Gerard Breitzer, DO, MS, FAAP, FACOP, professor of pediatrics, was awarded the master's degree in administrative medicine from the University of Wisconsin and the American College of Physician Executives. He was one of 23 physicians to complete the program.

Ken Stringer, DO, associate professor of pediatrics, presented "Progress with 1996 Immunization Initiatives" at the Discussion Forum for Public Health and Organized Medicine held this fall.

Howard Teitelbaum, DO, PhD, MPH, professor in osteopathic surgical specialties, has been elected president of the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventative Medicine at the organization's annual meeting held in October in Las Vegas, Nev.

James Potchen, MD, professor of radiology, recently received the Gosta Forssell Medal, one of the highest honors given by the Swedish Academy of Medicine for his work in magnetic resonance angiography.
Laura Neal: People First, People Foremost

by Pat Grauer

Laura Neal is an individual committed to family, and she’s found that sense of family both at home and in her role at MSUCOM.

As a Secretary III, Laura has been a keystone in the Office of Admissions since 1984. Her duties include serving as secretary to the Admissions Committee and the director of admissions, scheduling all candidate interviews and committee meetings, sending out all invitation and acceptance letters, and performing a multitude of other tasks.

In fall and early winter, the many faculty and staff who interview candidates for admission see a lot of Laura, as she delivers secondary essays, schedules (and re-schedules!) interviews, introduces applicants and follows up on missing reports.

Beginning in 1980, Laura worked with Dr. James Howard, who at that time was assistant dean for community affairs at MSUCOM. She began her career at the university in 1968, with assignments in education, communication, the registrar’s office and as supervisor of transportation in the Office of Volunteer Programs.

“I love my job,” Neal said, “because I like to be around people, and I like the contact with students. MSUCOM is a good place to work. It’s a lot like a family.”

Laura’s attitude reflects her willingness to get personally involved. She has, for example, been known to extend herself far beyond the job description in helping students in need, especially those requiring emotional support.

In fact, she views taking others into her home to care for them as part of her ministry to the world. One such individual was an MSUCOM Unit III student, on rotations in Lansing and severely ill with a chronic disease. She lived with Laura and her family for two and a half months, during which her disease became acute. Laura cared for her faithfully throughout that time.

For the last four years, however, Laura has met great needs within her own family. She serves as the primary caregiver for her son Tim, a former student employee at MSUCOM who was rendered quadriplegic in a tragic sports accident. But in typical fashion, when life hands Neal lemons, she makes lemonade.

“I’ve learned so much from Tim’s accident,” she said. “I’ve become more patient, more sensitive to handicappers. I’ve learned that in a wink of an eye, it all can be taken away. I have a closer relationship with God, more faith. And I work hard to maintain a positive attitude for both Tim and me.”

In December, the family stepped out in faith again in Cleveland as Tim had a device implanted that would allow him to move his arm by flexing a shoulder muscle. It’s about to bring him some fame, as the Learning Channel has interviewed him and has filmed his operation. More importantly, if surgery proves successful, Neal said, it opens a whole new world of independence for her son.

Two years ago, Laura’s mother became ill and was confined to a nursing home, where Laura visited her and cared for her physically some mornings and every night for the nine months before she died. During this time, her younger son, Clifton, was diagnosed with a kidney disease, required six months of dialysis, and ultimately received a kidney transplant—only two days after Laura herself had undergone surgery. Undaunted, Laura had her bed moved into Clifton’s hospital room. Last September, Laura’s husband was diagnosed and treated for throat cancer.

Neal credits much of her strength to the support of faith, family, friends, and strangers.

“It has been amazing,” she said. “When our need was the greatest, people we’d never met just walked into our lives and provided for us.”

Neal’s family includes her husband, two sons, two daughters, and four grandchildren. She’s an active member of COM-LINC and of Mount Hope Assembly.

COMmunique Winter/Spring 1997
Two Long-Time Staff Members Retire

Left Photo: Evon Stafford, a staff member in the Business Office, recently retired after 16 years of service at MSU. Here, she visits with Jim Lorenz, Information Systems and Analysis. Right Photo: Millie Miller, right, heads into retirement after 18 years of service in Academic Affairs. She is pictured with Kathy McLeod, left, also from Academic Affairs. Photos by Trent Janda and Cathy Kearns.

Staff News Briefs

Congratulations to Kathryn Bazylewicz, interim program and marketing director for the Consortium for Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education and Training (COGMET) for receiving the Silver Quill Award of Excellence for her "Advance to COGMET" Web Site Recruitment Campaign. The award was earned in District 7 competition sponsored by the International Association of Business Communicators. The Silver Quill recognizes outstanding contributions to the communications and public relations field.

Best wishes to Andrea Beach, evaluation coordinator for COGMET, who recently resigned her position with MSUCOM to pursue a PhD in survey research at MSU.

Kudos to members of COM-LINC for organizing the food and gift drive during the holiday season. Each year the college sponsors several families through the Salvation Army. This year's drive once again demonstrated the generosity and compassion of MSUCOM family members. In addition to individuals contributing food, clothing or other gifts to make a difference, departments such as Family and Community Medicine, pooled their resources to make the holidays brighter for needy families in the Lansing area.

News and Notes?

Send your news items to COMmuniqué

News may be sent to the Office of Public Relations A314 East Fee Hall East Lansing, MI 48824-1316

Contributions also may be faxed to (517) 353-9862, or sent by e-mail to pub-rel@com.msu.edu.

Your news is important to us!

COMmuniqué Winter/Spring 1997
High Pursues Childhood Dream

Patrice High, left front, demonstrates palpatory skills to students from the Hill Vocational School in Lansing, Mich. The students were on campus to get a first-hand look at the life of a medical student as part of an ongoing project between the college and school district.

by Denise VanBuskirk
MSUCOM PR Intern

Patrice High traced her path of wanting to become a doctor back to when she was three years old. Her father told her about a conversation they had at that time during which she said she wanted to be a baby doctor when she grew up. That hasn't changed much. She is considering specializing in pediatrics or family medicine, but says she hasn't been exposed enough to those areas of medicine to make a decision just yet.

"I've always wanted to help people and I feel that providing medical care is the best way for me to do that. I didn't know what the differences were between MDs and DOs until a few years ago. I just knew that I wanted to be a doctor," she said. "My father is an entrepreneur and I think he's part of the reason why I became so ambitious."

She was introduced to osteopathic medicine by her pre-med advisor at Ryder University, New Jersey.

When High was asked why she chose to study osteopathic medicine she said, "I believe in the philosophy that osteopathic medicine follows. I like the fact that osteopathy looks at the whole person, and I enjoy the large amount of interaction that DOs have with their patients."

High did apply to other osteopathic schools before deciding to attend MSUCOM. Originally from Philadelphia, High thought she would stay on the East Coast and enroll at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) with her other classmates that were going into the field.

"Philadelphia has six medical schools and only one of those is an osteopathic school. When I was looking at schools I noticed one big difference between DO and MD schools. DO schools are more interested in personality and other aspects of your life that will shape the kind of physicians you become. It was that type of philosophy that really appealed to me," she explained. "When I came to Michigan for the interview it was my first time away from home. I had never visited the Midwest and I quickly found the people to be very friendly. I liked the environment and I knew I would be happy here. I've made my own surrogate family from classmates, faculty and staff from whom I get wonderful support." High added.

It was after High's first three weeks here that she decided to extend her program to five years, a popular option for many MSUCOM students. Typically, extended students take the second year of classes over a two-year period.

"I was starting to drown in all the information, plus this gives me time to reflect longer on the information and have more time for fun stuff. I didn't know about the extended program until I got here and have found that it suits me. I'm young and not in a rush to finish school," says High.

Being an extended student has also given High more time to become involved in many different projects at MSUCOM. As president of Sigma Sigma Phi she oversees all of the programs that go on, such as clothing and food drives which benefit Cristo Rey Community Center. She's also involved with Tobacco Free Michigan Active Doctors which gives her the opportunity to go into area schools and speak to fourth through eighth graders about the dangers of tobacco, especially smoking. High belongs to the Association of Black Osteopathic Medical Students and through them she helps put together thanksgiving baskets for needy families. High has been invited to sit as a student representative on the COM Diversity Council with four other students and is one of this year's peer mentors.

High said she loves to sing and has been in choir since she was five years old. She comments that she likes Michigan but wishes the weather could be more consistent.
Dave Lyon, Rob Aquino Named 1996 Peer Mentors

by Pat Grauer

MSUCOM students Rob Aquino and Dave Lyon have been named 1996 Peer Mentors of the Year.

Nominated by faculty and students, the awardees are selected by the program director, Dr. Celia Guro, director of counseling and academic advising at MSUCOM.

Guro began the award in honor of her mother, Bessie Molly Marks, and the MSUCOM Student Council has supplemented the funding. This is the third year in which peer mentors have been honored.

“The winners are those students who are recognized by their peers as best exemplifying the goals of the program and embodying the principles of the osteopathic philosophy,” Guro said.

MSUCOM’s Peer Mentor Program was begun to help students in the entering class adjust to the issues of medical school, whether academic or personal, Guro noted. They serve as guides, role models, advocates and resource persons to help the new students, she said.

In nominating Aquino, students noted his commitment both to osteopathic medicine and to teaching. A tutor for several classes and for board examinations, Aquino was cited as “always friendly and helpful,” “always there with encouraging words and a smile.”

“Rob is very easy to talk to and I feel I can confide in him in any matter,” said one nominator. “His love for medicine is definitely an inspiration to all osteopathic physicians,” noted another.

Lyon’s nominations note his “very positive mental attitude,” “excellent empathy skills,” and “incredible pharmacology tutoring” that “prevented many from failing.”

“He has the ability to help when help is desired – and the ability to discern when help is desired,” a nominator wrote. Said another, “From day one, during orientation, Dave has offered friendship, support, and a listening ear . . . He makes me feel special just for being who I am.”

As award winners, Aquino and Lyon each received $250.

A photo of Rob Aquino was not available at press time.

Student News Briefs

The MSUCOM chapters of the Association of Black Medical Students and the Student National Medical Association for their efforts to provide holiday assistance to two families at Thanksgiving. “The food drive was an overwhelming success,” said second-year student Sophie Beyene.

Hats off to the more than 30 MSUCOM students who volunteered their time at a day-long health screening held at Meridian Mall in Okemos, Mich., during National Osteopathic Medicine Week. Students offered a general health screening including blood pressure checks, ideal body weight calculations, and glucose and cholesterol screenings to nearly 300 people. Several MSUCOM faculty members and residents also participated in the event.

The Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy raised $7,500 during its recent auction. The money will be used to underwrite the cost of attending the AAO convocation March 19-22 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Four MSUCOM students spent part of their winter break in rural Peru. Students Jeff Chapman, Rich Martin, Jenny Lee and Alecia Bradley drove to Miami and then flew to Peru, where they traveled along the Amazon by dugout canoe for almost six hours to provide medical care to the underserved. The students, led by Chapman, organized the entire trip themselves, and gathered the necessary equipment and medical supplies required. A student from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine traveled with the MSUCOM students. Watch the next issue of COMmuniqué for the story of their travels.

Victoria Hoff was selected to receive the Walter J. Laird Memorial Endowed Scholarship for the 1996-97 academic year.
Legislation Introduced to Attract Physicians to Practice in Rural Areas

Sen. Walter H. North, a Republican from St. Ignace, Mich., recently introduced legislation offering primary care physicians an annual $5,000 personal income tax credit, over the course of five years, if they locate in a Michigan county that has a shortage of primary care physicians.


"A very high percentage of my district in Northern Michigan is affected by this physician shortage," Sen. North said. "A lot of hard work has gone into drafting a bill that will address the shortage of primary care physicians in rural Michigan."

Sixteen of Michigan's 83 counties are designated as full county primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas. The ratio of population-to-physician in these counties ranges from 3,500-to-1 to 7,000-to-1. In one Michigan county, Keweenaw (including Isle Royale), there are no primary care physicians. Other counties with shortages are: Alcona, Alger, Alpena, Arenac, Crawford, Gladwin, Hillsdale, Iron, Lake, Mackinac, Mecosta, Montmorency, Oceana, Oscoda, and Presque Isle.

The legislation was designed to attract and retain primary care physicians to these shortage areas. Key points of the bill include:

- A $5,000 personal income tax credit for five consecutive years for primary care physicians who are located in a designated full county primary care Health Professional Shortage Area.
- An extension of up to three additional years, if a physician is absent for an extended medically-related sabbatical, or similar professional need during these five years.

Primary care physicians participating in the Michigan Essential Health Provider Grant Program will be eligible to claim the credit after fulfilling their service obligation. (As part of the grant program, a physician works in a shortage area as payment for a medical school loan.)

MAOP&S has planned several meetings with key health care groups in the state to gain input and support for the legislation.

"Although this is only one bill, it is part of a larger effort to attract primary care physicians to Michigan's rural areas," said MAOP&S Executive Director Dennis Paradis.

Osteopathic physicians have a history of providing care in rural areas. MAOP&S feels strongly about this issue and asks you to contact your legislator and make your views known.

### Shortage Areas

The following 16 Michigan counties are designated as full county primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas. The ratios of population-to-physician in these counties are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcona</td>
<td>4,058-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alger</td>
<td>5,063-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpena</td>
<td>3,231-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arenac</td>
<td>2,871-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford</td>
<td>more than 50 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladwin</td>
<td>4,149-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsdale</td>
<td>3,554-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>3,522-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keweenaw</td>
<td>zero primary care physicians (including Isle Royale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>6,456-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackinac</td>
<td>5,167-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mecosta</td>
<td>3,159-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montmorency</td>
<td>6,229-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceana</td>
<td>3,561-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscoda</td>
<td>7,042-to-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presque Isle</td>
<td>3,594-to-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HPIS data taken from the Primary Health Care Profile of Michigan Data Book, June 1995.

### MAOP&S House Speaker, Jerry Margolis, Dies

A pillar of the MAOP&S community, Jerry Gordon Margolis, DO, died Jan. 4 of cancer at the age of 66. Dr. Margolis was an active MAOP&S member, well known for his abilities as speaker of the MAOP&S House of Delegates, a position he held for the past 12 years. He was also vice speaker of the house for 9 years.

"We are really going to miss his leadership," said Carl Pesta, DO, parliamentarian of the MAOP&S House of Delegates since 1980. "He had the ability, in his own quiet way, to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Dr. Margolis graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa in 1958. He served an internships at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital, where he later became chief of staff.
about an important initiative under way at MSUCOM. Both Allen Jacobs, DO, PhD, acting dean at MSUCOM, and Karen Hruby, coordinator for health policy and planning, provided a preview of the Osteopathic Communication Campaign, a project designed to educate people from all walks of life about osteopathic medicine. This campaign is a joint venture between the college and the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOP&S).

I feel this program is very comprehensive and provides our alumni with a unique perspective on both our college and the osteopathic profession. We must try in our daily routine to become ambassadors for our profession.

Various college and professional literature and videos that help promote both the college and the profession are available upon request. For more information, contact Hruby at (517) 355-9617.

In perhaps one of the most important aspects of life at the college, the search for a permanent dean continues with the acting dean, Dr. Jacobs, being asked back for a second interview scheduled for early March. Two other candidates also have been invited back for second interviews. (See related story on Page 3.)

At the American Osteopathic Association convention held last fall in Las Vegas, Nev., the third Dean's Alumni Community Service Award was presented to Pedro Rivera, DO. Unfortunately, Dr. Rivera fell ill a couple of months before the award was presented. Because he is in the midst of a long recovery, his sons accepted the award on his behalf. An article sharing Dr. Rivera’s story appears on Page 32 in this issue of COMmuniqué.

With stories such as these that highlight the outstanding contributions of our alumni, and our concern for one another during difficult times, it is easy to see the strong sense of community that exists in our college. This is a special quality that should not be forgotten when talking about our school.

This sense of family and closeness became even more apparent recently as many of us watched people from all areas of the college family come together to support one another following the tragic death of one of our students in December.

In closing, I hope that 1997 finds all of you happy and healthy. I look forward to seeing you this spring at the MAOP&S convention.

Have You Got News to Share With Your Classmates?
Send it to COMmuniqué,
MSUCOM Office of Public Relations
A314 East Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1316
Information also may be faxed to (517) 353-9862, or sent by e-mail to pub-rel@com.msu.edu.
Submissions for the summer issue, which will be published in early July, need to be received by April 25, 1997. For more information, please contact the Public Relations Office at (517) 353-0616.
Celebrating the Green and White:

Alumni and students proudly display the MSUCOM banner at the tailgate on alumni weekend. Joining them is Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, acting dean of MSUCOM. (fourth from left).

Betty Wilson, director of CME for MSUCOM, joins her sister Pam Thompson, at the tailgate.
MSUCOM Alumni Weekend

Nearly 100 alumni gathered on the MSUCOM campus in October for the annual alumni weekend festivities. Events included a CME conference on Friday afternoon, a social Friday evening, a presentation on the Osteopathic Communication Campaign on Saturday morning, and a tailgate party prior to the football game Saturday afternoon. Alumni received a special treat when a plane flew over the football stadium with an MSUCOM banner. Photos by Cathy Kearns and Harley Seeley.

Stephen Swetch, ’86, his wife Grozda listen during the Saturday morning presentation.

Even the youngest Spartans, including the daughter of ’85 graduate Peter Walsh, got into the spirit of the weekend.

The cake says it all. Welcome COM Alumni.
MSUCOM Alumna Secures $9.2 Million Grant

by Karel Juhl
Juhl Communications

"I think it's really scary, as a woman approaching menopause, to be told you can take a drug that's been on the market for 50 years with absolutely no idea if it puts you at risk for certain diseases," said Susan Hendrix, DO.

Dr. Hendrix has numerous reasons for her involvement in a nationwide Women's Health Initiative study aimed at answering questions about women's health.

She became involved in the 15-year, $628 million study through her position as assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and Hutzel Hospital in Detroit. (For details on the study, see the accompanying story on Page 31.)

Following her graduation from Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1983, Dr. Hendrix spent four years on the faculty of the college's OB/GYN division. When she and her husband left Lansing to join the gynecology division of Wayne State, she focused her practice on menopause. That interest led to Detroit's $9.2 million share of the government research effort.

So far, the participation level in the study is disappointing. "It's frustrating," says Dr. Hendrix. "In any other study we would be very successful—having 1,000 women in a study is almost unbelievable. But we're supposed to have 2,000 by now, and almost 4,000 by the end of recruitment, so we're behind. Why? That's an interesting question. This is Detroit's first large, study of healthy men or women, so we're breaking new ground. That could be why our numbers are down."

Responding to a comment that it is unusual for an osteopathic physician to receive such a large grant, Dr. Hendrix acknowledges that "most DOs aren't at a place that could compete for that size of a study. We tend to be good family doctors or good one-on-one docs. Research is not our goal, as a medical profession. I sort of took a different track. I really felt the need to help answer some unanswered questions."

One issue she's most interested in is determining which women are at an increased risk of breast cancer with hormone replacement therapy. "A lot of other questions are very intriguing, but that's my favorite. Hopefully it will be answered."

Because she chose the path less traveled, Dr. Hendrix has met some resistance. "I'd like to think that everybody doesn't see the DO after my name as a drawback, but in research there is some negativity associated with the degree. I'm very dedicated to the DO profession and, because I'm in an MD institution, it's very hard for me to be viewed that way."

"I'm very loyal to Michigan State for giving me the opportunity to have my degree, and to the profession for allowing me the space to be a physician. I think sometimes osteopathic physicians who go into the research track are viewed as traitors because they've 'left the profession, but that's certainly not the way I want to be viewed. It's certainly not the way any of us should be viewed."

So Susan Hendrix, DO, intends to keep making her way on the path she chose. "There need to be different types of role models, and I would like to be a role model for the young men and women who want to go into more of an academic career that's a little more high-powered than you might see in a DO academic career—where research is the major focus of your career, not just something you do when you have the time."

Susan Hendrix, DO, Photo courtesy of Hutzel Hospital.
The Women's Health Initiative

by Karel Juhl
Juhl Communications

The $628 million, 15-year Women's Health Initiative is the largest U.S. study ever conducted, aimed at finding answers to unanswereds questions concerning the health of women. Detroit joins other large cities throughout the nation in the government research effort.

Detroit's $9.2 million share is the largest, and longest, grant ever received by the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Nearly 4,000 Detroit area women are being recruited to participate in the study, led by Susan Hendrix, DO, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. Her clinic is at Detroit's Hutzel Hospital.

Women ages 50 through 79, who have completed menopause, are assigned to one of three groups to study:
- The effect of hormonal supplements. Based on computer selection, women will receive either a real supplement or a placebo.
- The effect of better nutrition. Some women will receive special dietary information, others will receive no specific information.
- The third group will answer an annual questionnaire.

The goal of the study is to determine whether women who receive hormone replacement therapy experience fewer heart attacks and strokes, as well as breast and colon cancers.

Hendrix says other studies have been, and are expected to be, added to the Women's Health Initiative.

Recruitment in Detroit is behind schedule, however, and Hendrix is at a loss to explain why. Unless the number of participants increases dramatically, Hendrix says Detroit's ability to attract future grants will be affected.

"When you're a success, you get all kinds of money. When you're not, you don't," she said. "I'm not talking about my success, but the success of women in Detroit to get further funding. If there is an impression by whomever that women in Detroit just aren't interested in participating in studies, they'll just leave Detroit out of the equation.

Hendrix says Detroit is not the only site that is behind, and worries that women's studies in general could be jeopardized. "But I think that is why this funding was created, to address the issue of getting women to participate in studies which will benefit their own daughters and granddaughters."

To participate in the Initiative, or to receive more information, call (313) 966-8000 anytime. To be transferred to the nearest study center for your area, call 1-800-549-6636.

Alumni News Briefs

John Tower, DO, '85, and his wife Kelly Allen announced the birth of their son, Christopher John, who arrived Nov. 19, 1996.

Stephen Swetech, DO, '86, has received the fellow award from the American College of Osteopathic Family Practitioners (ACOF), which was presented at the American Osteopathic Association convention held in Las Vegas, Nev. Dr. Swetech serves as the medical director of an occupational clinic in Chesterfield, Mich., near Mt. Clemens.

Congratulations to Isidro Amigo, DO, '79, and Scott Donnelly, DO, '80 for being recognized as fellows in the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (ACOS) during a hooding ceremony at the ACOS Ceremonial Conclave in October in San Diego, Calif. The fellow designation is granted to members who have demonstrated voluntary activities and service to advance osteopathic medicine and surgery.

Ian Fox, DO, '91, and his wife, Shawn Bolton, DO, '92, announced the birth of their daughter Mollie Anne, who arrived July 25, 1996. Dr. Fox is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He completed his internship at Botfords General Hospital and his residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan at Wayne State University. He practices general pediatrics in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and is on staff at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and Troy, as well as at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. Dr. Bolton completed her internship and neurology residency at Botfords General Hospital. She is serving a fellowship in movement disorders at the Clinical Neuroscience Center affiliated with Sinai Hospital and Wayne State University. The couple lives in Farmington Hills.

Henry Szelag, DO, '87, has been named chief of staff at Central Michigan Community Hospital in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Dr. Szelag completed his internship and residency in family practice at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital. He and his wife, Carla, have three children — Freddie, Benjamin and Lee Ann.

Phyllis Popp, DO, '84, has joined the staff of Family Care at Scottsdale Memorial Health Systems in Scottsdale, Ariz. She completed her internship at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital and recently left her position as medical director of Prompt Care II in Clinton Township, Mich, to assume her current position in Arizona. Phyllis lives with her husband, George, and stepdaughter, Ann Marie.
Commitment to community is a theme woven through the life and practice of Dr. Pedro Rivera, who was named the recipient of the 1996 MSUCOM Dean’s Alumni Community Service Award in ceremonies at the American Osteopathic Association meeting in Las Vegas last fall.

Dr. Rivera, who became seriously ill last summer, was unable to be present for the award, and has been unable to continue his work.

For nearly a decade at the Cristo Rey Health Center Dr. Rivera, Class of ‘78, was prominent as a caring physician for a significant portion of Lansing’s Hispanic community. Serving first as a health care provider, he later volunteered as medical director. Colleagues at Cristo Rey note his sensitivity to the cultural issues of practice, his understanding of Hispanic perspectives on health, and his commitment to health education for his patients.

Dr. Rivera also was very active in the Migrant Health Program, which provided temporary clinics to serve the health care needs of mid-Michigan’s migrant farm workers. Even his vacations have been dedicated to service. For the past several years he has traveled to the Yucatan Peninsula to offer health care to the Mayans through an international osteopathic organization known as DO-Care.

As chief of family practice for Blue Care Network—Health Central, Dr. Rivera proved himself an exemplar in the use of osteopathic manipulative medicine for the treatment of musculoskeletal problems. This skill has won him recognition in the area of sports medicine, highlighted by his recent appointment as a physician for the Lansing Lugnuts baseball team.

“More than 40 percent of the team are Hispanic,” said Jim Weigel, vice president and general manager of the Lugnuts. Dr. Rivera, who is bilingual, “made it very easy for the players to adjust,” he said.

Prior to his appointment at Health Central, Dr. Rivera maintained a solo practice in Lansing, and had served as an assistant professor in MSUCOM’s Department of Family Medicine. He began his career as a physician with working for the United States Public Health Service in Casa Grande, Arizona, later moving to the Pueblo Neighborhood Health Center in Colorado.

The high level of energy he committed to patients, family and home was noted as one of Rivera’s “most endearing qualities” by colleague Donald Hillman, DO. Citing a long list of activities ranging from coaching youth baseball to his involvement with Lansing’s Hispanic community, Hillman said that Rivera “as a family practitioner always involved himself with the grieving and the joys of his patients.”

MSUCOM Admissions Director Kathie Schafer said that Dr. Rivera has been a “role model for our students: patient, thorough, devoted to his patients.”

“He does all of the things we ask our students to do and that we promote about the osteopathic profession,” she said, “just because he believes that’s the way physicians should practice.”

“Pedro Rivera is the ideal graduate of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, a servant to his community,” said Acting Dean Allen W. Jacobs. “His patients consider him to be the most caring, competent and qualified doctor they’ve known.”
Nominees Requested for MSUCOM Distinguished Alumnus Award

The MSUCOM Alumni Association wishes to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves by their contributions to their profession, community, and alma mater. Nominations may be made by alumni, staff, faculty, students and friends of the college. To nominate someone, please use this form and briefly describe the nominee.

You may copy this form and return it to the Alumni Office at A306 East Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1316. Nominations also can be faxed to Jan Falls at (517) 353-9862.

All nominations must be received by April 25, 1997.

For more information, please contact Falls at (517) 353-9714.

Selection Criteria for Distinguished Alumnus Award

- Commitment to the osteopathic profession exemplified by the practice, teaching or research of osteopathic principles and techniques.
- Commitment to public service demonstrated by active leadership in the community.
- Meritorious achievements including those leading to better understanding of key clinical issues in the practice of medicine.

Nominee’s Name: __________________________
Home Address: ________________________________________________________________
Office Address: ________________________________________________________________
Daytime Phone: ___________________________ Year of Graduation: __________
Name of Nominator: __________________________
Address: __________________________________________ Phone: __________________________

1). Personal attributes that distinguish the nominee________________________________

2). Community service_________________________________________________________

3). Professional accomplishments________________________________________________

4). University involvement_______________________________________________________

5). Statement as to why person deserves award____________________________________
March

March 3-7
Spring Break

March 10
Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, one of three final candidates for the MSUCOM dean position, presentation open to faculty, staff and students, 4:30 p.m., E105 Fee Hall; Reception 5:15-6:15 p.m., Patenke Room — C102 East Fee Hall.

March 8-12

March 14-16

March 5
"Enhance Your Self-Esteem and Increase Your Self-Nurturing." MSUCOM’s Celia Guro, PhD, director of counseling and advising, will lead a workshop from 12:10-12:50 p.m. in Spartan Room C in the Crossroads Food Court at the MSU International Center. There is no cost to attend the seminar. Reservations are encouraged, but not required. Contact the Women’s Resource Center at 353-1635 for more information.

March 18-22
AAO Convocation, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Kris Bobish, UAAO president, at (517) 355-3925 for more information.

March 22
Las Vegas Night. Contact Beth Courey at (517) 355-4608 for more information.

April

April 5
COM Open House. Call the office of public relations at (517) 353-0616 for more information.

April 11
COM Awards Ceremony, Kellogg Center. Contact Beth Courey at (517) 355-4608 for more information.

April 18-20

May

May 2
Spring semester ends

May 2
COM Commencement. Contact Mary Anderson at (517) 353-7741 for academic information or Beth Courey at (517) 355-4608 for general information.

May 12
Summer semester begins for class of 2000

May 14-16

May 19-21
Functional Indirect Technique: Level I, Kellogg

June

June 9
Summer semester begins for class of 1999.

June 18
Summer Medical School Olympics/Dinner with Docs, contact Beth Courey at (517) 355-4608 for more information.

June 18-22

June 23-27

July

July 9-13
Principles of Manual Medicine, Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Mich. Chairperson TBA. Call the continuing medical education office at (517) 353-9714 for more information.

July 11-12

July 25
Summer semester ends for class of 2000.

Mission Statement

The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to osteopathic philosophy, principles and practice, and to excellence and innovation in the education of osteopathic physicians to practice community-integrated primary medicine. By providing an exemplary educational continuum that integrates osteopathic undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education, we will establish our leadership in the transformation of medical education. We maintain our commitment to address the health care needs of the people of Michigan, and, through research, to contribute to the biological, behavioral and clinical science knowledge base fundamental to medical education and practice.