Osteopathic Medicine: An American Phenomenon Goes International
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

When Andrew Taylor Still "flung to the breeze the banner of osteopathy" in 1874, his influence was limited to a small group of people in a then-unknown community in Missouri.

Today, osteopathic medicine is a thoroughly American phenomenon, but not for long. The fastest-growing health care profession in the United States is poised for international acceptance and growth as more and more nations are beginning to recognize the unique benefits osteopathic physicians can bring to their communities.

In many ways, MSUCOM has been at the vanguard in international expansion for the profession. Early in the college's history, its charter dean, Myron S. Magen, was establishing educational and clinical relationships in Africa and Asia. Former Senior Associate Dean Philip E. Greenman, Professor Robert C. Ward, and Professor Emeritus Myron Beal were among the first DO participants in organizations such as the International Federation of Manual Medicine. Many of our basic scientists and our clinicians have established collaborations and reputations that are internationally recognized, or have areas of specialization, such as research into tropical diseases, that have carried them abroad.

Beginning with an international conference on manual medicine in the late '70s, MSUCOM continuing medical education programs have received international recognition, drawing from around the globe participants to the manual medicine tutorials.

Our osteopathic medical students have, particularly through the International Health Project, been active in clerkships, volunteer work, and missions to countries that needed their care and medical assistance. In addition, a growing number of MSUCOM students are either immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants and wish to return to their native countries to set up practice.

With the establishment of MSU's Institute for International Health, a multi-college organization led by MSUCOM, the coordination of initiatives around the globe has been codified. IIH provides an infrastructure for our college and the university to continue our relationship-building – and consequent positive impacts – around the world.

Evidence of this success can be found in the fact that IIH's director, Evangelos Petropoulos, and MSUCOM malaria researcher Terrie Taylor have both received the Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs at MSU.

During the last year, our faculty have carried MSUCOM's work around the globe, including Korea, Turkey, Bulgaria, Africa, Australia, France and Denmark.

This international impact of the college is a reflection of the MSUCOM mission: "commitment to excellence in osteopathic education, research and service." While we continue to serve the people of the State of Michigan and the nation, we are also international. We proudly reflect the university promise for globalization in the 21st century.

Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD
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Editor's note to campus readers: You may note that Communiqué is now coming to you via U.S. mail. Ironically, due to sorting requirements and campus mail regulations, it is actually less costly (and, admittedly, easier) for us to send your publication this way. Please know that we are doing all we can to restrain costs.
A FOCAL POINT FOR GLOBAL CONCERN — INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

There's no doubt that the focal point for international efforts in the College of Osteopathic Medicine is the MSU Institute for International Health. This organization is a coalition of eight colleges on campus — MSUCOM, Communication Arts and Sciences, Human Ecology, Human Medicine, Nursing, Social Science, Veterinary Medicine and International Studies and Programs.

Key activities for the College of Osteopathic Medicine include:
- The participation of our students in the Minority International Research Training (MIRT) program in Brazil and Zimbabwe.
- The teaching of osteopathic manipulative medicine on the MSU campus to 30 students from the Medical Trainer College in Japan; these students have visited for four summers.
- The development of a medical informatics system to support malaria research and training in collaboration with Dr. Terrie Taylor, DO, in Malawi, in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University.

At the helm of IIH is Director Evangelos Petropoulos, MD, PhD, who has served in that post for a decade.

"The Institute began when Dr. Roy Gerard of the Department of Family Practice received $4.2 million from the Kellogg Foundation to implement the Kellogg International Fellowship Program in Health," Petropoulos said.

Petropoulos was serving at the time as dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe, and was appointed as one of the fellows in the program. What followed was a series of exchanges between that institution and MSU, with a number of our faculty teaching in and visiting Zimbabwe and Petropoulos taking a sabbatical to serve as a visiting professor in physiology at MSU.

By 1989, the fellowship program had grown into a full-fledged institute, with Gerard as interim director and administered by the Council of Deans. Petropoulos said. Dr. Herbert Whittier, associate director since the beginning, was instrumental in establishing the institute, he noted. Petropoulos was hired that year as permanent director.

"Our first tasks were administrative," he said. "We established an advisory committee with representation from each college, set criteria for core and adjunct faculty, established bylaws, created a bimonthly newsletter (now reaching 900 persons worldwide), set up biweekly seminars, and hosted international visitors."

In about four years, the program emphasis shifted, with elimination of the seminars and priority given to externally funded programs and projects. Among those currently funded are:
- The Minority International Research Training (MIRT) Program from Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health.
- Training and Research in Environmental Health: The Balkans, also from Fogarty International Center, and
- Environmental Health Training for the Balkans, from the Soros Foundation.

Past studies have included grants from USAID to improve prevention and management of cardiovascular diseases in the Balkans and to train Egyptians in the molecular biology of schistosomiasis. A preliminary study under NATO focuses on the causes of endemic nephropathy in the Balkans.
PETROPOULOS RECEIVES SMUCKLER AWARD

Evangelos A. Petropoulos, MD, PhD, director of the Institute of International Health, received the Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs at a ceremony April 14.

Petropoulos was nominated by MSUCOM Dean Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, for creating “a unit known for the excellence of its programs and a broad array of international contacts.

"Under his leadership," Jacobs said, "faculty contacts overseas, opportunities for student clinical education, exchange programs, cooperative ventures and international communication have been facilitated."

Petropoulos serves as a director of three significant grants, has served a number of high-level consultancies to organizations (such as the World Bank, the National Institutes of Health and a number of educational institutions), is the author of more than 50 professional publications, and has been a member of a number of international committees for health and education planning.

The nomination cited Petropoulos for "his dedication, leadership and concerted efforts to improve health and health systems worldwide through the resources and expertise of Michigan State University's faculty, students and staff."

SCIENCE AS A CASUALTY OF WAR

One of the hidden costs of the tragic conflict in Yugoslavia strikes very close to home — in activities being conducted by MSU's Institute for International Health.

The IIH faculty, who conduct several research and training projects in the Balkans (see page 2), can safely assume much of their work has been hampered by war. The programs, which focus on environmental health issues, include, ironically, a preliminary study funded by NATO on the causes of endemic nephropathy in the Balkans.

"We deeply regret this turn of events," said Dr. Evangelos Petropoulos, IIH director. "It's very problematic. The environments we are studying have changed dramatically, and the environmental problems are not going away — in fact, they are increasing. Some of the villages in which we were planning to work have been destroyed, and the people are gone."

Dr. Petropoulos noted that the environmental impact of war can be global, citing the fact that soot from Iraqi oil wells destroyed in 1990 travelled as far as the United States.

"We so much regret this turn of events," Dr. Petropoulos said. "We're trying to help scientifically as much as we can."

Dr. Evangelos Petropoulos
MSUCOM Faculty Carry Osteopathic Principles to Turkey

by Sandra Ward,
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

The Turkish Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation welcomed Donald Stanton, DO, Michael Wieting, DO (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation), and David Grimshaw, DO (Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine) to Ankara, Turkey in October. The MSUCOM physicians were joined by Jacqueline Stoken, DO (University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences, Des Moines) and Michael Shell, DO (Western Integrative Treatment Center, Boulder).

The group of physicians journeyed internationally to conduct a course in “Principles of Manual Medicine.” The course was taught in conjunction with Hacettepe University, which is the largest university and medical center in Turkey.

The purpose of the course was to provide teaching physicians’ knowledge and skills to be used in clinical practice, and provide a foundation for future training. The emphasis was on rehabilitation and increasing function to optimal levels. Basic topics discussed included manual medicine, biomechanics, therapeutic procedures and exercise, muscle imbalance, and chronic pain rehabilitation.

Turkish physicians have a considerable interest in osteopathic principles. One objective of this group of American physicians was to provide knowledge and to introduce Turkish physicians to manual medicine and the principles of American osteopathy. A further objective was to have the principles integrated into residency training programs and their system of continuing medical education and to open the doors to osteopathic physician licensure in Turkey.

Dr. Wieting has actively represented MSUCOM and the osteopathic profession to Turkish physicians as speaker at two previous meetings of the International Congress on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and as a consultant to several Turkish medical schools and residency programs. Further exchange of resources and ongoing instruction in manual medicine and osteopathic medicine is planned.

Touring central Turkey were (1 to r) Dr. Donna Brooks, Shelley Wieting, Dr. Jacqueline Stoken, Dr. Ali Kemal Oguz, Dr. Donald Stanton, Dr. David Grimshaw, Dr. Michael Shell, and Dr. Michael Wieting.

Fourth-century Christians lived at this site in the Goreme Valley in the Cappadocia region of central Turkey.
TEACHING OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATIVE MEDICINE WORLDWIDE

From the bonesetters of Germany to shiatsu in Japan, hands-on techniques have been a part of medical practice for millennia.

But MSUCOM faculty since the earliest days of the college have been in demand to teach osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) to physicians and other health care professionals around the world.

MSU osteopathic physicians gained substantial international recognition in the 1970s when the college held an international research conference on manipulative medicine in East Lansing. That reputation was bolstered by the organization and continuation of two-day to week-long continuing medical education tutorials that focus on manipulative medicine. Since their inception, each year a number of health care providers from several continents have traveled to MSUCOM programs in the United States to learn osteopathic techniques.

Of recent note are the annual visits to MSUCOM for education in manipulative medicine of large numbers of students from the Medical Trainer College in Tokyo, Japan.

But MSU faculty from the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine are also traveling abroad to conduct seminars and offer their expertise. Recent examples include the following.

- Dr. Robert C. Ward spent his sabbatical in The Netherlands, and traveled to Denmark and Germany to teach osteopathic manipulative medicine to physicians there. He also spent several weeks last summer in Russia teaching OMM
- Dr. Raymond Hruby, Dr. Ann Dean, and Dr. Paul Rennie last June presented a one-day symposium for 300 and a three-day hands-on workshop for 30 for the Korean Academy of Rehabilitative Medicine in Seoul. The demand to attend was so high the organization had to hold a lottery for admission
- With MSUCOM alumnus Dr. Wolfgang Gilliar, Dr. Hruby presented a three-day course on counterstrain techniques to the German Society of Manual Medicine near Frankfurt
- Dr. Hruby has also conducted courses in Belgium, where practitioners there are members of the American Academy of Osteopathy
- In April, Drs. Hruby, Ward, Gilliar, MSUCOM alumnus Dr. Harry Friedman and Professor Emeritus Dr. Walter Mill traveled to the International Federation of Manual Medicine conference in Australia. Drs. Ward and Hruby were presenters, Dr. Hruby table-trained in two workshops, and Dr. Gilliar made a presentation to the entire group.
International Osteopathic Licensing
Educating the International Community

by Dawn Wonders

As a growing number of DOs become interested in practicing outside the US, the AOA Council on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs works to educate the world about osteopathic medicine.

"In most countries outside the US, physicians apply on an individual basis to become licensed physicians in that country. They may or may not be accepted in certain countries," said Douglas Ward, PhD, consultant to the American Osteopathic Association and former associate executive director of the AOA and its Department of Education. "In some countries, osteopathic physicians are arbitrarily dismissed by officials who say, 'you're a DO and we don't recognize you.' In others, they receive full practice rights, or limited practice rights on an individual basis."

American osteopathic physician.

"The presence of these British osteopaths further confuses the issue when an American osteopathic physician goes overseas and wants to practice in the style we do here," according to Gerald Osborn, DO, MPHill, professor of psychiatry at MSUCOM. Dr. Osborn said much of the misunderstanding between British osteopathy and American osteopathic medicine comes from the story of J. Martin Littlejohn, DO, former dean of the now Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. In the early 1900s, Dr. Littlejohn, who was originally from Great Britain, wanted to return home and bring osteopathic medicine with him. Because of prior British laws placing any medical practitioner who was not an MD under an alternative medicine umbrella, Dr. Littlejohn could not establish an American-style osteopathic school, or claim to be a physician.

"The only thing he could teach was the manipulative therapy aspects because he couldn't get the facilities or recognition in Great Britain to develop American programs," Dr. Osborn explained. The image of an osteopath as someone who only practices osteopathic manipulative therapy is ingrained in British culture, and this perception has been passed along internationally.

Established in 1997, The AOA Council on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs addresses international issues of image perception, licensing, and osteopathic medical education, said Larry Wickless, DO, chairman of the council and member of the AOA Bureau of Professional Education.

"We want to promote long-term licensure processes in different countries—where you apply and, by virtue of your degree, you are accepted," Dr. Wickless said. "In addition to the many countries that already recognize American-trained DOs, we have an ongoing list of things we are working on, including a recent contact with the information officer for the European Union. We've also made direct contact with the Australian and Irish embassies," he said.

"The challenge for the council is to understand how each of the settings might be different from each other," Dr. Ward explained. "It's not the same to apply for a license in Russia as it is in Canada. We need to take different approaches."

"There seems to be an increased interest in pursuing and continuing the pursuit of international practice opportunities," Dr. Ward said. "Whereas in the past when the American-trained DOs were turned down outside of the US, they would just quietly turn away. Now there are increased requests for AOA assistance."
Students Experience Cultural and Medical Differences with International Health Programs

by Dawn Wondro

Lynn Serrano, Class of 2001, spent five weeks last summer working at a rural hospital on the outskirts of New Delhi, India.

“Overall, the experience was outstanding, I wouldn’t change a thing,” Serrano said. “You see a different world of medicine, in the way they treat things and the way they treat patients. It will be easier for me to understand and listen when a patient has concerns based on a cultural experience that is different from mine,” she said.

Serrano found the Cross Cultural Solutions’ Project India, by searching the Internet, using such keywords as “volunteer services,” “medical volunteers,” and “international medical internships.”

“I found other programs through the World Health Organization, religious organizations and universities,” Serrano said, “but Cross Cultural Solutions, which is a private organization, had what I was looking for.”

Her search for an international health program was aided by her involvement with the USA-IHP program which is part of the International Federation of Medical Students.

The MSU Chapter of the USA-IHP, (a joint organization with the MSU College of Human Medicine) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association International Health Program, (SOMA IHP) are two resources for MSUCOM students looking for international health programs and international physicians, said Christopher Beal, co-director of the MSU-IHP and national director of the SOMA-IHP. “MSU is a wealth of resources as far as international connections for health programs is concerned,” Beal said.

According to Beal, the MSU SOMA-IHP sponsors monthly luncheons with speakers that are often either faculty or students, like Serrano, who sought out international medicine opportunities. “The SOMA-IHP is functioning as more of a resource, providing a place for students to establish contacts,” Beal said. “Being a member helps you establish relationships with people who’ve already gone, and physicians and organizations who are planning trips,” he said. “It lets you learn more about things to expect as a medical student, or what the culture is like.”

Serrano agreed learning about the culture is important. “It was very hard for me to console some of these patients, because I didn’t understand their situation,” she said.

Medical differences can also be a problem. “Here, when a medical student is in a hospital setting, there are physicians around, teaching and making sure the student is doing things right,” Serrano said. “There, I was the only person on their staff, besides two doctors. I might not have the training, but I was the only choice.”

Learning on the run during her twelve-hour days in the hospital, Serrano discovered much about diseases, and what to do when you have to use only whatever medicine is available, but you have to help people. “I definitely learned how to make do,” she said.

After his first year at MSUCOM, Beal spent time with a family practice physician in Nogales, Mexico, an underserved town just south of the Arizona border. “It’s enlightening to be able to come back after you’ve worked in an underserved area,” Beal said, “and realize you’ve become proficient with basic physical examinations, something that is used a lot when you don’t have the technology we have in our hospitals.”

The real rewards though, are intangible. “Even if they’ve done something small,” Beal said, “all of the students who experience international health programs come back saying the program had a profound impact on their views of medicine, and their lives.”

Some MSUCOM students have taken rotations at the hospital in Malawi.
Wolfgang Gilliar - Life in Many Colors

by Dawn Wondero

Artist and physician Wolfgang Gilliar, D0, Class of '86, uses bold strokes on canvas and in his work to explore the human condition and the condition of osteopathic medicine.

“My painting and practicing dovetail. My art complements what I’m doing because by subscribing to art, you enhance your thinking,” said Dr. Gilliar, a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician originally from Karlsruhe, Germany. “In the end, the physician is an artist.”

Physician and artist, German and American, Dr. Gilliar, who now practices in San Mateo, Calif., embraces the many different hues that make up his own life.

“I am a person who prefers to think in the different shades of gray and color—instead of either black or white polarities,” said Dr. Gilliar, whose artistic work has been shown at various exhibitions.

“Because of the profound paradigm shift that is going on right now in the world, not only in the field of medicine, but in the way economies and governments work together or against each other, we need to define ourselves in much broader, yet distinct terms,” he said.

Dr. Gilliar believes this applies to osteopathic medicine as well. An example of this is his work with the San Francisco International Manual Medicine Society, which he co-founded with two other MSUCOM grads, Harry Friedman, D0 and Jerel Glassman, D0. Recently, the society assisted in establishing a 480-hour osteopathic continuing medical education curriculum for German medical doctors.

“The program, implemented by the German Osteopathic Medical Society, is at the continuing education level for fully licensed [allopathic] physicians, who have already additional education in manual medicine. Such a program to this extent and breadth, and at that high level, has never been established before in Germany,” he said.

“It’s very doubtful that we will be able to change the political climate, but it is possible to integrate the osteopathic philosophy and practice into the existing medical world, which is something I think A.T. Still would’ve liked to see happen,” Dr. Gilliar said. “D0s have practiced in Germany while stationed there in the US Army, and recently, at one level, D0s were approved. But licensing is on a case-by-case basis, and due to the various governing bodies and misunder-

standings, there has not been a consensus,” he said.

Dr. Gilliar asks, “The question is, wouldn’t it be ideal if the osteopathic philosophical thoughts penetrated orthodox medical thinking, rather than osteopathic thinking being introduced as something totally new?”

“Osteopathic medicine is complementary rather than competitive with orthodox medicine. It is my experience that whenever things arise out of fearful competition, rather than efforts of cooperation, senseless arguments can prevent real progress,” he said.

“In my opinion, osteopathic physicians ought to be on the forefront internationally in the field of manual medicine. First, having adhered to and emphasized the philosophy of a hands-on approach, we have a unique heritage of skillful touch within the medical setting which we need to continue to respect and foster. Second, as osteopathic physicians, at least the way I was taught, we should always be mindful of the bio-psycho-social aspects of the patient, and thus we should be the proponents of comprehensive health care. Thus, merging the artful use of the hands and the mind should stand as an example for how to put the pieces of the puzzle together so as to reveal a discernible patient picture. This approach then leads us back to the human side of our job—making our tasks as physicians a comprehensive process. Ultimately, if every physician were allowed to practice in a more ‘whole-istic’ way, then we could really talk about comprehensive health care,” he explained.

Dr. Gilliar’s interest in international medicine and manual medicine began his first year at MSUCOM, which was also his first of four years spent as a research assistant for Philip Greenman, D0. Also a founding member of the MSUCOM chapter of International Health Programs, a division of USA-IHP and the International Federation of Medical Student Associations, Dr. Gilliar set up his own three-month medical education trip to Senegal, West Africa in 1985. Dr. Gilliar, who speaks German, English and French, also began translating and editing an edition of a German-Swiss manual medicine text under Dr. Greenman, that has since become standard literature. Since then, he has edited or co-authored about 10 medical books, and taught at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, and currently at Stanford University.
Friends in High Places

by Dawn Wondero

Arnis Pone, Class of ’83, says it’s not a big deal—but how many people do you know that are personal friends with the president of Latvia?

“My father was friends with President Ulmanis’ father,” said Dr. Pone, an emergency medicine physician from Kalamazoo. His father, Janis Pone, graduated from the University of Latvia in 1943, and worked as a physician against the Russians during World War II. “Before he was elected, President Ulmanis would stay with my parents in Kalamazoo when he visited the US and Michigan,” Dr. Pone said.

Now the president calls on Dr. Pone and his father to be translators when he meets with Gov. John Engler or the Michigan National Guard.

“Now, we’ve been going to Latvia to try to help in small ways with health care,” Dr. Pone said. “We just did something like this because we are friends—he needs regular friends too, you know.”

Dr. Pone also mentioned that while in Latvia last summer, he was responsible for training the Latvian Secret Service detail on first response medicine and equipment, which is the first aid that the President may need in an emergency where he is injured.

“When President Ulmanis comes here, he receives US Secret Service protection,” Dr. Pone explained. “I got to meet these agents, and ask them about first responder procedures. President Ulmanis and I said ‘why don’t we set up something similar with the Secret Service in Latvia?’”

On his trip he was also accompanied by his father, who is involved with international aid and helping the tuberculosis problem in Latvia, and friend, Douglas Raedy, DO, an otolaryngology surgeon, also from Kalamazoo, who had performed ear surgery on President Ulmanis about four years ago.

“While Dr. Raedy was teaching at the hospital, I was training these men, getting their security detail geared up, and I lectured on first responder-type medicine,” Dr. Pone said. “The response was good. They are very well trained people, all armed and dangerous. It was fascinating comparing the US Secret Service and theirs.”

Being friends with the president allowed the doctors from Kalamazoo to get a closer understanding of the health care problems Latvia faces.

“Their medical care is improving dramatically,” Dr. Pone said. “The Latvian physicians are very well read, and they know their medicine very well. But the problem in a lot of the Eastern European countries that have been independent since 1991 is equipment and technology. They are now getting up to date,” he said.

“The wrong thing to do for any physician is to go to a country like Latvia and say, ‘we’re here to save you,’” Dr. Pone said. “They are quite smart, and very good at their physical examination skills—something we lose in our high tech world.”
Farewell Column from President John Tower

MSU EXPERIENCE - "PRICELESS"!

As I pondered early one morning about what to write for my last president's column, I began to recall the great friends I have made and many fond memories I have been afforded through my experiences at MSU. Many mornings when I log on to the Internet and check my email I jump over to the MSU home page and immediately get a view of a familiar path, walking down the Red Cedar with the beauty of the landscape as it begins to awake in the springtime. The fondest of those memories were recently revisited when our tough Spartan basketballers almost repeated that magical feat that Earvin "Magic" Johnson was able to pull off just a brief 20 years ago at MSU. As I walked into Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, decked smartly in my Spartan green, I truly was proud to be a Spartan. The outcome of the game, now history and still another great memory, was not what we all wished but still, as I have since described it, a MasterCard experience... "priceless." I can truly say that about many of my experiences at MSU, which have at times included service-related duties which I have really enjoyed.

The last few years as the leader of our alumni group I have been able to experience a number of firsts for MSUCOM and the university, including the first Silverfest, a very special experience and one that I hope becomes a tradition at our school. There was the changing of the guard with the interim and now permanent dean who has served us all very well in a brief tenure — certainly there are more great things to come under Al's helm. The development (just recently) of a new and improved MSUCOM alumni scholarship, just beginning, I hope, to build a greater relationship between students and alumni. These are three very different experiences but only a few of many fond and priceless memories at MSU.

So as I step down as the president of MSUCOM alumni, I would like to thank all that had even a small part in adding yet another great MSU experience. One last request before I hand over the baton would be that all of our alumni continue to be a part of the MSU experience. Give back just a little, in whatever way you can, as a small "thank you" to our great university for not only a great education but also many priceless experiences.

Thank you!

Silverfest Alumni Weekend

Friday and Saturday
October 1-2, 1999

Come to the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine Silverfest Alumni Weekend and join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1974 as well as reunions for the classes of 1979 and 1989.

Activities include Friday evening dinner/dance featuring the Teen Angels; CME course on Saturday, Osteopathic Open Golf Tournament, pre-game tailgate, MSU Homecoming Football Game MSU vs. Iowa, and fun, fun, fun!

Leave your worries behind and attend the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association

SEMINAR IN THE SUN
February 19-26, 2000

Royal Gala Resort
Playacar -Cancun Mexico
CME Program included
Alumni News Briefs

1973

David R. Mandy, DO, has been in pediatric practice for 22 years in Mt. Clemens, where he recently merged his solo practice with another solo physician. “I have a wonderful and patient wife and three lovely children,” he said.

Silvana Martino, DO, is the medical director for The Breast Center in Van Nuys, Calif. Dr. Martino practices medical oncology and breast cancer research. From 1979 to 1993, Dr. Martino was assistant professor and then associate professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology. She has held many hospital and other professional appointments including full-time staff at Harper-Grace Hospitals, and university affiliate at Hutzel Hospital and Detroit Receiving Hospital. She was also medical director for the Breast Cancer Prevention Program with Wayne State and Harper-Grace Hospital, and Westlake Comprehensive Breast Center, and is on several national and international boards and committees. Dr. Martino has received funding for 20 grants, and has published hundreds of works on breast cancer including abstracts, review articles, books and chapters, case reports, presentations, and over 40 original observations in refereed journals.

Charles Miller, DO, Clark Lake, has retired from private practice, but continues to work at a walk-in clinic, as medical director at a medical care facility and as medical director for hospice.

Charles Perakis, DO, Scarborough, Maine, is working part-time as an insurance reviewer.

Ronald L. Rhule, DO, FACEP, is chairman and medical director of emergency services for Sparrow Health System. Dr. Rhule was also appointed by Gov. John Engler to sit on the Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board. He lives on a 36 acre farm in Williamston, Mich. with his wife Sally Rhule, his son Wade, daughter Jennifer and granddaughter Elizabeth.

David S. Rosenberg, DO, has been on the staff of Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, since graduating from MSUCOM. He is certified and was recently recertified in family practice, and is also certified in geriatrics. He is interested in working with children, adolescents and adults with attention deficit disorder. Dr. Rosenberg is married to Ann Rosenberg, and they have four children. Their oldest child began medical school this fall.

Roger Schwartzberg, DO, Seminole, Fla., practices internal medicine. He has been married to Vicki Schwartzberg for almost 22 years. Their 20-year-old son is studying computer science at The University of Florida and their 16-year-old son is the drummer in a local rock and roll band. Dr. Schwartzberg is also in a rock and roll band, The Delusions of Grandeur, singing and playing keyboard for the past eight years.

Ira L. Snider, JD, DO, FCLM, is president and CEO of International Health Care, Ltd., a global owner, operator and manager of health care facilities and physician services. Its headquarters are located in the historic Peabody Mansion in Birmingham.

Shepard H. Splain, DO, is professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is also vice chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center. He was listed in the June 1998 issue of New York Magazine as one of the 1200 best doctors in New York.

Douglas J. Wigton, DO, is a family practice physician who practices alternative medicine in Traverse City. Has been married for 26 years and has 10 children. His oldest child is a third-year theology student who is currently studying in Rome.

Photographs illustrating “Alumni News Briefs” compliments of Shelley Wieting.
1974
Gerald E. Stopczynski, RPh, MS, DO, JD, Tamarac, Fla., Dr. completed his law degree in 1996 and is licensed in Florida and Georgia. His law work includes medical malpractice, tax law, wills and trusts and medical and pharmaceutical advocacy. He is also still practicing mostly emergency medicine and trauma locum tenens.

Ken Stringer, DO, Okemos, was re-appointed to the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports by Gov. John Engler. Dr. Stringer is the only physician on this council. This past summer, he was also the physician for 600 campers and 200 staff at Spring Hill Camp in Evart.

1975
Mary Jo K. Voelpel, DO, has two sons, John and Nick, who are currently attending MSU.

1976
Thomas J. Olsen, DO, continues to work part-time in a small emergency room in Orlando, Fla., after coming out of retirement in December 1993.

Myral R. Robbins, DO, Shelby Township, recently affiliated her family medicine practice with Rochester Medical Center, and she continues serving on the MSUCOM Alumni Board.

John Thornburg, DO, PhD, East Lansing, is a MSUCOM professor, department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. He is also a COMLEX Level 1 coordinator.

1977
Muriel Marshall, DO, MPH, TM, DrPH, Fort Worth, Texas, is an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Also, she successfully passed the certification exam in clinical tropical medicine and traveler’s health in December 1997.

John Rowda, DO, is developing a refractive surgery practice and performing PRK and LASIK at the University of South Florida for the past two years. He is also president of a group practice which includes four allopathic physicians and an optometrist.

Donald W. Smith, DO, has a busy clinic practice, is a nursing home director and provides emergency room coverage. He is no longer specializing in obstetrics, and passed the family practice boards this past spring.

Margaret Sorrel, DO, has been engaged in extensive research regarding the work of Charlotte Weaver, DO (1884-1964), a pioneering thinker in cranial osteopathy. The lecture Dr. Sorrel delivered about Dr. Weaver’s contributions was published in the August 1998 Cranial Letter.

Col. Phillip Todd, DO, Monterey, Calif., assumed command of the US Army clinic in the Presidio of Monterey Health Clinic after serving a one year tour in Sinai, Egypt as the Force Surgeon, where he was assigned to the command staff of the Multinational Force Observer.

1978
Ron Marino, DO, Mineola, N.Y., is director of general pediatrics at Winthrop University Hospital, with 32 residents and two fellows, and director of a pediatric residency at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip, NY. Dr. Marino is also professor of clinical pediatrics at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and State University of New York, Stony Brook. He practices behavioral as well as general pediatrics, plays jazz saxophone and guitar, and enjoys gardening, swimming, boating and surfing.

John Papsidero, DO, Marathon, Fla., is director of the Nasal-Sinus Center, with Integrated Medical Services of the Florida Keys, which is a multi-specialty group in Key West and Marathon, affiliated with Sinai Hospital in Miami.

Tedde Marie Rinker, DO, is an associate clinical professor at Touro Osteopathic Medicine College in San Francisco, and is in the process of becoming among the first in the country to be board certified in anti-aging medicine. Dr. Rinker lives in Belmont, Calif. with her husband Dr. Brad Davis and their one-year-old daughter and two-year-old son.
Alumni News Briefs

Ruth A. Robinson, DO, is completing 18 years in the Air Force with plans to retire in two or three years and try civilian medical practice in Maryland. Her husband, Sebastian Vogt and children, Marianna, 18, Alex, 13, survived a move to the US after spending 15 years in Germany.

Mark R. Rosenberg, DO, has been married to AJ for 24 years. They have three children. Hillary attends the University of Michigan, Jennifer attends Columbia University, and Zac is a junior in high school.

Harold A. Tabaie, DO, is a primary investigator from Sarasota, Fla.—one of the current five centers in the world experimenting on the use of robotics in cardiac surgery.

Linda Welch, DO, has a solo family practice in San Antonio, Texas, and has four children: Sarah, 14, Gabriel and Harry, 10, and Abigail, 3.

1979

John G. Mills, DO, has one son, Joshua G. Mills, who is almost two years old.

Carol Monson, DO, FACCOP, Okemos, recently completed the AOA Health Policy Fellowship and authored a paper entitled “Osteopathic Distinctiveness: Is it Alive and Well?”

Judith S. Moore, DO, thanks to her large osteopathic practice, is now retired and raising Tennessee Walking Horses in Tennessee. “I saved and invested well, and the profession treated me well.”

Chris Nevin-Woods, DO, Pueblo City, Colo., is working in public health with special interests in maternal/child health, and is director of the Pueblo City County Health Department. Dr. Nevin-Woods also provides primary care and teen prenatal care at a local community health center, and is medical director for a new sexual assault program and child abuse center. She is married to Phillip Wood, DO, and they have four great children, ages 7 to 22.

Anne Pawlak, DO, was named to NOMBE level I. She also continues to actively participate in the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Susan M. (Swindler) Rose, DO, is in family practice in Brighton with Ross Morell, DO, a fellow MSUCOM graduate. She has been on the Michigan Osteopathic Licensing Board for six years, appointed by Gov. John Engler. During this time she's served as vice chairperson and chairperson of the board, on the disciplinary subcommittee and on the state controlled substance advisory committee. At the national level, she has been active with the Federation of State Medical Boards, and has a mission to get them and the state of Louisiana to accept the COMLEX-USA, the osteopathic examinations.

Mary Ann Skiba, DO, Fort Worth, Texas, works part time for On Care Group, Texas Cancer Care. She practices hematology and covers for the oncologist at the group. She has two small boys, ages 5 and 2.

Mark A. Sloane, DO, Portage, recently completed a two-year fellowship in adolescent medicine at MSU-KCMS in Kalamazoo. He has co-authored two chapters in a newly published textbook of adolescent medicine and co-authored two journal publications in Pediatric Clinics of North America, and Office Clinics for Primary Care. He is currently practicing in a group pediatric practice in Kalamazoo, and at Sincence Health Center at Western Michigan University.

1980

Alice R. Shanaver, DO, Trenton, is still practicing OMT and general practice Downriver, including hospital consultation at Riverside Osteopathic Hospital in Trenton. She is enjoying teaching interns and externs in the hospital and office.

Pierre (Peter) Sherrill, DO, and his wife operate Meadowcroft, a catering/baking business out of their farmhouse in their “spare” time. He is also executive vice president of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. “With all those hats to wear, I’m not collecting much dust!”
Alumni News Briefs

Kathryn Wright, DO, Detroit, after completing her pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, moved outside of Boston, Mass., to pay back her public health scholarship. She then went to Seattle, Wash., for an adolescent medicine fellowship and returned to Detroit in 1990 where she is currently an adolescent medicine staff attending at Children’s Hospital. She is also medical director of the adolescent HIV/AIDS program, supervising direct care and preventive program in adolescent HIV.

1981

Mark Russell, DO, has a son, Jacob, who was born in February 1997.

Arthur H. Schurgin, DO, continues to work exclusively in the practice of pain medicine. This allows him to combine his experience in anesthesiology, OMT, family practice and psychology. He is also pursuing music more seriously, participating in a performing rock band, writing and doing a little recording in the studio. He’s been married since 1984 and has a nine-year-old son.

Capt. Charles E. Simpson, DO, MS, FACPM, retired in December 1998 from the US Navy Medical Corps. He is currently head of the Branch Medical Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., and was relieved in February 1998 after serving as the commanding officer for the past three years at Flat Hospital, Jacksonville.

Gary Visner, DO, is associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Florida. He is also director of the Pediatric Lung Transplant Program, a member of the Society of Pediatric Research, a member of the American Heart Association Peer Review Committee, and a member of Pulmonary and Critical Care Training Committee for the American Thoracic Society.

1982

Michael Verrilli, DO, Holyoke, Mass., retired from nine years of practicing clinical infectious diseases in hospital in June 1998. After at least one year of rest and healing, Dr. Verrilli said, “I’m looking towards re-crafting my practice as an outpatient practice devoted to all types of energy healing—Reiki, color, light, sound, Shamanism, etc. This will be wonderful preventive medicine for people.”

1983

Joyce Michael, DO, and her husband Michael Trumbull had their third daughter, Rosemary Michael-Trumbull on June 6, 1998. “Our twin daughters, Laura and Elizabeth, are big helpers.”

Thomas Naegele, DO, is working on Physician Data Entry Electronic Medical Records. “Thirty sites are up and running, all sites have cut costs, increased physician efficiency, and malpractice gives a cut on premium.”

Arnis Pone, DO, instructed the Presidential Security Service for the Republic of Latvia in Emergency Medical and Trauma Techniques, while in Latvia in April 1998.

Raul A. Rodas, DO, published an article in the August issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery, “Intraluminal Thrombosis in Brain Tumor Vessels Correlates with Postoperative Deep Vein Thrombosis.” He is an attending neuro-oncologist/neurosurgeon at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, State University of New York at Buffalo, one of the top 15 cancer hospitals in the US, according to US News and World Report. He also received a scholarship for methods in clinical cancer research and essentials of clinical trials design from the American Society of Clinical Oncology/American Association for Cancer Research, and has received grant support from the National Institutes of Health.

Rhonna (Rosenberg) Shatz, DO, was re-elected chairperson of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of the Alzheimer’s Association, Detroit Chapter. She has also completed a chapter on behavioral neurology for the book, Medical Speech Pathology; and received a medical students’ teaching award for 1997-98 from Chicago Medical School. Dr. Shatz organized Neurocare, a chronic disease, multi-disciplinary model for dementia, movement disorders, stroke, headache, and neuro-muscular disorders.
Ross VanAntwerp, DO, has his pilot's license and is working on an instrument rating. His oldest daughter, Rachel, 22, is a first year student at PCOM, and his youngest daughter, Laura, 19, is a music major at Hope College. "We still have my co-pilot, Daniel, 13, at home," he said.

1984

Richard A. Miller, DO, has been practicing dermatology for eleven years, beginning as a solo practitioner and now in a group of five physicians. He is also program director for NOVA Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine dermatology residency at Sun Coast Hospital, and is an executive board member of the American College of Dermatology. Dr. Miller is married to Joann and they have three children, Sara, Lauren and Lindsey.

Ronald C. Miller, DO, is practicing with Dr. Mark Hatch at Mid-Michigan Dermatology in Lansing. Dr. Miller was also inducted as a fellow into the ACOCD in November 1998 and was named Preceptor of the Year at Sparrow Family Practice in 1992, 1994, 1995 and 1998.

Jeanne Scheddel, DO, is practicing emergency medicine at Parkview Hospital in Brunswick, Maine.

Rita M. Seck, DO, Gladwin, has a practice with her husband, Frank T. Seck, DO. She also coaches girls basketball (grades 4-6), 7-to-10 year old girls softball and has three children, Nathaniel, 12, Emily 10, and Joe, 5.

Elliot S. Stern, DO, worked as a medical malpractice trial lawyer until 1985, when he moved to Seattle and started his restaurant, JackSprat's Low-Fat, and EPICure, Inc., a program to teach nutrition and healthy cooking skills. He is currently writing a diet book, scheduled for release this year. The book examines regional dietary differences and their effect on health. "Diets here in Seattle tend to be higher in fish, soy protein, fruits, vegetables, whole grains and dairy products and yes, coffee. The book emphasizes those foods with special attention paid to phytochemical-rich produce. Think Fee Hall's cafeteria. Not!"

James D. ZeBranek, Jr., DO, completed a physical medicine and rehabilitation residency in June 1998 at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center and Affiliated Hospitals, Bronx, NY. He also received the 1997 Outstanding PM&R Resident Award from the American Osteopathic College of Rehabilitation Medicine. His paper, "Effects of Vitamin B6 Treatment in Carpal Tunnel Syndrome" was submitted to the New England Journal of Medicine in 1998. Dr. ZeBranek is married to Daciana Efta ZeBranek, MSN, PA and they have one son, Andre Alexander who was born in September 1997.

1985

Michael A. Ogboh, Marlette, ran the Chicago Marathon in October, his sixth marathon.

Stephan (Steve) E. Osterman, DO, is entering his third year as director of residency training at the Department of Defense's largest residency training program, Naval Hospital Jacksonville Family Practice Residency Training Program in Jacksonville, Fla.

John B. Rasor, DO, released a new medical software documentation package called "DocDoc." It is designed for easy, fast, accurate patient chart and prescription generation for urgent care/ambulatory clinic settings.

Wayne Ross, DO, moved to Atlanta, Ga., where he is opening a chronic pain clinic.

Jay H. Sandberg, DO, has opened a new 12,000-square-foot office in Troy. The office is multi-specialty. He practices with Jeffrey Sonenstein, DO, Angela Hamlin, DO, Beth Eisenberg-Dubin, DO, Walter Long, DO, and David Rebens, DO. He and his wife, Alissa Goldfaden, have two young boys — Maxwell Louis Sandberg and Alec Toby Sandberg.

James J. Wallace, DO, was recently appointed to the Wisconsin Medical Society Commission on Addictive Diseases.
Richard H. Wilkins, DO, MPH, is currently the medical director of workers’ compensation and manager of US clinics for Mobil Business Resources Corp. in Fairfax, Va.

Barbara Walters, DO, Bedford, N.H., received her MBA from Duke University in August 1998. She has accepted a position at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center as regional medical director in charge of medical management and medical operations.

1986

Jesse Monestersky, DO, MPH, is working as a regional medical officer at the American Embassy in Dakar, Senegal, covering also Mauritania, Cape Verde and Gambia, and remains active in the Navy Reserves as commander, Medical Corps, including aviation and dive medicine. Dr. Monestersky practices a mix of primary care, preventive medicine and tropical medicine, and said, “Come visit West Africa!”

James Ploucha, DO, is an anesthesiologist and a commercial pilot. He presented a lecture at the annual meeting of American College of Osteopathic Anesthesiologists in West Palm Beach, titled “Anesthesia Safety, What Can We Learn from the Aerospace Industry,” in which he compared airplane crashes with anesthesia crashes and applied techniques to reduce aircraft accidents to the operating room. It was a fun lecture, mainly about airplanes, not pharmacology, he said.

Rebecca Poetschke-Snider, DO, Tecumseh, has a solo, private practice in general neurology. Affiliated with Herrick Memorial Hospital in Tecumseh and Bixby Medical Center in Adrian, Dr. Poetschke-Snider is board certified and manages a broad range of patients. She is also the Tecumseh community representative on the Lenawee Health Alliance Board, chairperson of the medical staff committee, and is involved in quality care/management committee for her PHO. Dr. Poetschke-Snider is mom to two wonderful children, and enjoys clogging—a type of dancing—for balance in her life.

Jeffrey Proudfoot, DO, completed a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine.

Laurie Rowan, DO, is doing well with a busy practice.

Stephen M. Swetch, DO, was awarded CAQ in occupational medicine on November 5, 1997 by the AOBPM. He is also president-elect of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians, and secretary of MCOS, and was appointed chairman of the reference committee to the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates at the April 1998 meeting. Dr. Swetch was anticipating opening an office in Clinton Township in the fall of 1998.

Hassan Tavakkoli, DO, has been in private practice as an ophthalmologist in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. since 1993, and began a solo practice in 1994. Dr. Tavakkoli has two daughters. Anna, who is 13 years old, and Donna, 17, who is interested in medicine and wants to attend MSU this fall.

Michael J. Valle, DO, Centerville, Ohio, is in a group practice with three other physicians. His practice is 85 percent general neurology and 15 percent sleep medicine. Dr. Valle is also director of the neurology residency training program at Grandview Hospital and Medical Center, where the first resident began in July 1998.

Alicia Williams, DO, Plainwell, is involved in a community based cardiology practice in Kalamazoo, and is actively involved in a program that tries to aggressively cover cardiac risk factors. Her big area of interest is lipid lowering and reversing heart disease, especially through lifestyle measures.

1987

Andrew Maser, DO, is an orthopedic spine surgeon at The Florida Spine Institute in Clearwater, Fla.

Timothy Piontkowski, DO, was elected chief of staff at Lapeer Regional Hospital.

Patricia A. Schmidt, DO, completed the master teacher program through MSUCOM/COGMET, and now is in the clinician educator track through the same program. She is working on a project teaching evidence based medicine through cooperative small groups in the internal medicine journal club at Garden City Hospital. She also has an active 4-year-old son, Matthew.

Mark E. Sikorski, DO, was awarded a fellowship in the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians at the national convention in New Orleans in October 1998. Dr. Sikorski also was elected vice speaker of the ACOFP congress of delegates.

James S. Wagenaar, DO, took over as vice president of medical affairs at King’s Daughters’ Medical Center at the beginning of 1998. He oversees physician recruiting and is the medical director of the Family Care Centers. Dr. Wagenaar also continues to work part-time in the emergency department to keep clinically active.

Deidre Wickham, DO, Novi, is in a six person OB practice (two others of whom are MSUCOM alumni, Judith Jostin Page, DO, and Neysa Bartlett, DO), in Livonia, affiliated with Botsford Hospital. With her husband David, she has a six-year old daughter, Kelsey Anne, who started first grade fall 1998.

1988

Jay Sandweiss, DO, has taught a series of seminars for the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital System of Michigan at the Ann Arbor hospital. The seminars were titled: “Integrative medicine: An overview of complementary and alternative therapies.”

Robert Schiliz, DO, PhD, Shaker Heights, Ohio, is a transplant physician and clinical associate staff at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Schiliz is also chairman of the hospital CPR committee. He was a Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow at Yale University School of Medicine, and is working on several grant research projects and publications.

Christopher Tucker, DO, completed his physical medicine and rehabilitation residency at Wayne State University in 1992, and shortly after started his private practice in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. He has been married to Susan Campbell since 1993, and their first child, Zachary Campbell Tucker, was born March 10, 1998.

Sanford J. Vieder, DO, was appointed a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine.

Kevin W. Wilson, DO, is finishing a year as chief of staff at Marrus J. Lawrence Hospital in Cottonwood, Ariz. Dr. Wilson and his wife Barb are building a house in Sedona, Ariz., and have two young girls—Annie and Eva.

Kate Worden, DO, Tucson, Ariz., was part of the effort to receive a $5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish a Center for Integrated Pediatric Medicine in Arizona. The grant proposal included osteopathic medicine on two of the three initial projects, which were written by Dr. Worden.
David G. Wright, DO, is now serving as the senior medical officer at the Branch Medical Clinic in La Maddalena, Sardinia, Italy. He will be joining the faculty of the Family Practice Residency Program at the Naval Hospital, Pensacola, Fla., in August 1999.

1989

Kay McMillan, DO, and her husband Richard Nicholas love living in Las Vegas where the weather and practice opportunities are terrific. They are the proud parents of three beautiful young boys—Conrad, Daniel, and Adrian. “Hi to all my DO friends!”

Rick Novoa, DO, and Cindy Lukasiewicz, DO, were married in 1992 and have a beautiful daughter, Chandler Luke Novoa. Both doctors are in private family practice in sunny Ft. Myers, Fla. Over the last 6 1/2 years they’ve enjoyed traveling to France and Spain, and love living in the sunshine year-round.

Michael Papenfuse, DO, has been practicing full time anesthesia and pain management medicine in Rochester, Ind. for the past four years. Dr. Papenfuse said he has been doing exciting work with pain medicine utilizing manipulation and prolotherapy.


Pam Rockwell, DO, Ann Arbor, was recently promoted to clinical assistant professor, Department of Family Medicine, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Marilyn Schneider, DO, practices osteopathic manual medicine in Traverse City. Her husband, Sam P. Copeland, DO, joined her in practice in December 1997. They have two sons, Ross, 16, and Max, 3.

Robert Tubben, DO, is married with kids and living in East Lansing. He is in anesthesia practice at Ingham Regional Medical Center, and would love to hear from former classmates and colleagues, “especially if they’re in town for MSU football—Go Green!”

Michael Vredenburg, DO, was elected chief, Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, St. Mary’s Hospital, in Grand Rapids in July 1998. He moved with his family of four children to Grand Rapids in 1996.

David Z. Wang, DO, is director of the Comprehensive Stroke Program and the OSF Stroke Network with the OSF HealthCare System, in Peoria, Ill., (Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis), one of the largest Catholic health care systems in the US. Dr. Wang joined OSF after completing a fellowship in strokes. At OSF, he has developed a 19-hospital stroke care network to fight brain attacks. The OSF Stroke Network has emerged to be one of the most successful stroke programs in the nation in stroke care and conducting stroke trials. Dr. Wang presented the TPA experience at the 50th Annual Meeting of American Academy of Neurology in April.

Thomas J. Zymewicz, DO, was appointed vice chairman of his emergency department in 1997, and elected secretary/treasurer of the Medical Executive Committee for his hospital. Dr. Zymewicz also started the Clark County Airlife in 1998.

1990

Lynn McCurdy, DO, has been reassigned to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, where she will be chief of mammography. Dr. McCurdy will become a Lieutenant Colonel in May 1999. She is “happy to be back in the midwest and out of hurricane range.”

Shawn McGahey-Pertunen, DO, lives in TupperLake, NY. “We’re hiking the Adirondacks three years now with our two sons, Brett, 5, and Adam, 3.” Dr. McGahey-Pertunen would love to hear from other MSU and MSUCOM grads in the upstate New York area.
Alumni News Briefs

Peter E. Metropoulos, DO, MPH, has recently joined Crittenton Hospital, Rochester, as medical director of occupational medicine and employee health. His additional training includes occupational medicine at The University of Michigan and internal medicine at Henry Ford Hospital. He holds a Master of Public Health in epidemiology from the University of Michigan.

Wayne Fiers, DO, has a busy solo orthopedic practice in Portland, Maine, for the past two years.


Kimya Nguyen, DO, is currently finishing an internal medicine residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, which is affiliated with the University of Michigan. Dr. Nguyen will be starting a GI/hepatology fellowship at the University of Michigan in July 1999.

Gregory W. Reinhold, DO, is the proud father of four children under 7 years old—Leah Megan, Lauren Melissa, Jenne Marie, and Justin Gregory.

David S. Schneider, DO, Vernon Hills, Ill., began a private practice last May at Lake Cook Orthopedic associates in Barrington, Ill. Board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, Dr. Schneider is co-author of "Anatomical and Technical Considerations in Needle Electromyography of the Lumbar Spine," a paper published in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinics of North America, Nov. 1998. Dr. Schneider and his wife, Dahlia, are expecting their first child in May.

1991

Nancy Ann Meachum Provan, DO, Landsdale, Pa., completed a family practice residency in June 1997, and won the 1997-98 Bristol-Myers Squibb Outstanding Resident Award. Her son, Alexander Patrick Provan was born August 11, 1997, and she has taken a sabbatical from medical practice to be a full time mom. "I love my new job and look forward to part-time medical practice in the future. Alex will become a big brother next year!"

Denise Murphy Stadelmaier, DO, joined Atlas Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Indianapolis, Ind. in June 1998 after completing a one-year fellowship in sports medicine at Baylor in Houston, Texas. Denise and her husband Joe have three daughters, Rachel, Shauna and Murphy.

Trinh D. Nguyen, DO, is practicing at a clinic for low income and uninsured people in Lansing.

Jeffrey T. Postma, DO, after completing a residency in orthopedic surgery at Flint Osteopathic (now Genesys), married Sheryl and moved to South Haven, where he started a solo practice.

Gary Michael Rooker, DO, a specialist in psychiatric evaluation and psychopharmacology, relocated from Michigan to Virginia with his wife Nancy Johnson Rooker, RN, and children Melissa and Shane, in April 1998, where he opened a private practice in Roanoke and Christiansburg, Va.

Dan Sheesley, DO, has two young children, Jonathan Michael and Noah Reed. He is graduating in June 1999 from an emergency medicine residency at POM Medical Center.

Laila Shehadeh, DO, became board certified in OB/GYN and has worked at Bicounty Hospital for the last three years. Dr. Shehadeh is married and has a two-year-old daughter named Mariah.

Valerie Sheridan, DO, recently returned to Mt. Clemens General Hospital as a general surgeon and gynecology surgeon. Dr. Sheridan is married with three sons, Jonathan, 9, Sean, 7, and Michael Jr., 3.

Eric Smith, DO, is currently working at the emergency room at Bronson Vicksburg Hospital. He has been the team physician for the Michigan K-Wings IHL hockey team for the past seven years, and gets to travel quite a bit with them. He has been married five years to Krysten.
Robert M. Soltysiak, DO, is currently in private practice in Grand Rapids. His daughter Shannon, is a freshman at MSU this year in pre-med/natural sciences. “Go Green!”

Audrey Trainer, DO, completed 100-mile and 25-mile bike tours for the American Diabetes and Multiple Sclerosis societies during the summer of 1998. “It's a great way to stay in shape and financially benefits others in need.” Dr. Trainer continues to enjoy specialty practice in emergency medicine in Albany, NY, where she has four MSU graduates on staff.

Beth Wendt, DO, married Timothy Rinke on September 11, 1998 at Martha Mary Chapel in Greenfield Village, Dearborn.

1992

Jayesh Patel, DO, is starting a solo ENT/facial plastics practice in Thusville, Fla.

Steve Prefontaine, DO, Ada, has a four-year-old son, Michael, and his second son, Jacob, was born in 1998.

Vesna L. Roi, DO, is in private practice with Dr. Melinda Karam in Roseville, with admitting privileges at St. John Hospital and Bon Secours Hospital. “It’s a dream come true.”

Ricky L. Sedgwick, DO, completed a residency in anesthesia at the University of Iowa June 1996, and completed a fellowship in cardiac anesthesia at Vanderbilt University in June 1997. Presently, Dr. Sedgwick is in private practice with Anesthesia and Analgesia PC in Davenport, Iowa, working at Genesis Medical Center and Davenport Medical Center. He and his wife Janet have two young children, a son Alex and a daughter Rachel.

Marianne Soden Serjanej, DO, Binghamton, N.Y., is associate medical director of an urban primary care clinic and residency teaching site for internal medicine at State University of New York Health and Science Center. She is also a nurse practitioner facilitator, and practices complementary medicine and craniosacral manipulation.

Mark Wein, DO, joined the Goddard Clinic, an established osteopathic private family practice in Allen Park. He also has staff privileges at Riverside Osteopathic Hospital, Garden City Osteopathic Hospital and Oakwood Hospital.

1993

John Macksood, DO, just started practice in gastroenterology in Grand Blanc, Mich.

Daniel Ortiz, DO, joined Port Huron ENT, specializing in ear, nose, throat, facial plastic surgery and head and neck surgery.


Michael P. Schuhknecht, DO, graduated from Detroit Riverview Hospital in general surgery, in June 1998. He is in private practice with Caine, Wood and Associates, P.C., and is also an academic trainer for a new residency program at Detroit Riverview Hospital. His first child, Mikaela Monet was born July 8, 1997.

Robert Walker, DO, opened a new practice in Lansing. "It is a Christian family practice office," Dr. Walker said.

Kevin S. Witt, DO, lives in Jackson.

Thomas Watts, DO, is currently working at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana in Fort Wayne, specializing in emergency medicine. He has passed both the written and oral board exams of American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine, and the written portion of the American Board of Emergency Medicine. He also works as medical director of the Aboite Township Fire Department and serves on the board of EMS for the local EMS medical control authority in Fort Wayne. Dr. Watts and his wife Maureen now have three young children, Kristen, Ryan, and Megan. He loves returning to MSU for football games.

1994

Sharon McManus, DO, is in the process of opening the first pediatrics office through the outreach program at William Beaumont Hospital.

David Mohlman, DO, has started an internal medicine/primary care practice in Owosso, and reports that he is “enjoying my professional career choice and busy putting osteopathic principles to practice every day.”

Arif Patni, DO, joined two other physicians in family practice at Georgia Highlands Medical Services, a community health center in Cumming, Ga.

Suzette Sanchez, DO, finished a family practice program at Garden City Hospital and became board certified in family practice medicine. Dr. Sanchez is now in her first year of a dermatology residency program in Fresno, CA.
Scott Sauer, DO, Mt. Pleasant, S.C., started a fellowship in chronic pain management.

Michael A. Velasquez, DO, is completing a fellowship in nephrology at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

Lisa A. (Miller) West, DO, received the Bristol Myers Squibb 1997 Resident of the Year Award, and married James R. West in June 1997. She went on a medical mission trip to Honduras in September 1998.

1995

David B. Pinelli, DO, completed an internal medicine faculty development fellowship with COGMET in June 1998, and is now on staff at Pontiac Osteopathic Medical Center, and beginning an internal medicine practice in Ortonville. He has been married to Michele Pinelli since June 1997.

Kathleen Smela, DO, Elgin Air Force Base, Fla., is serving in the United States Air Force in family practice.

Spencer Solomon, DO, has a daughter who is one year old. "I won first place in the Birmingham City Golf Tournament."

J.B. Stricker, DO, is a pathology resident at Texas A&M, won first place poster and second place podium presentation at the Texas Society of Pathologists Annual Meeting in February 1998. Dr. Stricker also presented "A case of Rhinosporidiosis in an HIV positive male" at the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Ga. in May 1998, and in October 1998 Dr. Stricker presented "Fecal Lactoferritin: A new screening test?" at the College of American Pathologists Fall Meeting.

1996

J. Polizzi, DO, Saranac, developed a patient education module for hospital web sites working for an East Lansing based company—Medical Net, specializing in web applications for hospitals and health systems. Med Net developed the Ingham Regional Medical Center website.

Kristine K. Spence, DO, is currently looking forward to graduating from family practice in June 1999, from Bay Medical Center. She survived the three years of training and the addition of her two young sons, Connor and Eric. In addition to her husband and two sons, she has four Siberian huskies. "I've decided to go back for an OB/GYN fellowship when I graduate—this should prove a challenge with a full house."

1997

Judith McElhinny-Raap, DO, is doing a residency in family practice.

Vinh D. Nguyen, DO, recently started an internal medicine residency at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Anthony Peters, DO, completed a DO internship at Grace Hospital in Detroit in June 1998, and is currently doing a family practice residency in Spokane, Wa.

Brett Zimmerman, DO, is currently doing a residency at the Medical College of Ohio in OB/GYN. He has two sons, Alexander and Jacob.

Michael E. Sheehy, DO, Madison Heights, Mich., currently works as an emergency medicine resident at St. John Health System, Oakland Hospital.

Matteo Valenti, DO, was accepted into an internal medicine faculty development fellowship through COGMET. As part of the fellowship, Dr. Valenti was appointed clinical faculty, Department of Internal Medicine.

Scott Weeks, DO, Clarkston, Mich., is a resident at POH Medical Center.

Amjad M. Yaish, DO, is currently at Mt. Clemens General Hospital, working on a residency in orthopedic surgery.

Transportation near Göreme Valley, central Turkey
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE IN EVERY MOVEMENT

by Laura McCartney, public relations intern

Although Colleen Vallad-Hix is a practicing pediatrician, an associate professor at MSUCOM, in charge of the pediatric residency and a single mother of three, she still has the time and energy to devote to her success as a nationally acclaimed ballroom dancer.

"Ballroom dancing is my way of re-energizing and staying centered," she said. "I do believe it helps me because if I'm not healthy in mind, body and spirit I'm not a good physician. If I take care of myself and pay attention to these things I can take care of my patients."

As an osteopathic physician, Vallad-Hix believes in the philosophy that all of the body's systems are interconnected and can affect each other. Treating the body as a whole and recognizing that the health of the musculoskeletal system plays an important part in the health of the entire body are important osteopathic concepts.

Ballroom dancing is excellent cardiovascular and aerobic exercise that helps keep the body strong, supple and flexible. Since all body parts are moving while dancing, it's also an effective way of working out somatic dysfunctions or muscle spasms resulting from bones that are out of alignment.

Vallad-Hix sometimes prescribes dancing — usually ballet — to some of her young patients who suffer from such problems as cerebral palsy. Dance movements can increase muscle strength, improve flexibility and strengthen arches.

Ballroom dancing has also helped Vallad-Hix communicate with her patients on a different level. Understanding and listening is crucial for osteopathic physicians. Through ballroom dancing, Vallad-Hix is responsive not only to verbal expressions but also to body language.

Aside from the many health and communication benefits there is also a level of spirituality to ballroom dancing. Recently a baby died under the care of Vallad-Hix. To deal with the loss and feelings of powerlessness, she found symbolism in the act of allowing her ballroom dancing partner to lead her into the next move and take over control.

"It allows me to give up control. God controls my life. Sometimes I think I'm in control and somehow ballroom dancing helps me deal with situations in my life that I don't have control over," she said.

LANGUAGE, DANCING, FOOD AND FUN: MSUCOM's SPANISH CLUB

by Dawn Wondero

The laughter can be heard down the corridor from Room E-106 Fee Hall every Wednesday from 5 to 6 p.m., where MSUCOM students, faculty and staff meet to learn Spanish.

"We are integrating the language and culture and having fun together," said Sara Burga, Class of 2001, The Spanish Club, which began in October, is open to anyone who wants to learn Spanish, or Spanish speakers who would like to share their language and culture. "I think it's important because there are a lot of people and patients who speak only Spanish," Ms. Burga said.

The lessons include conversational and medical language. "This will help English-speaking students to communicate with their Spanish-speaking patients better. I find that just knowing any second language helps you try to find ways to communicate with someone who speaks a different language than you," she said.

Spanish Club activities also include Latin ballroom dancing lessons by MSUCOM minority affairs advisor Norma Baptista, PhD, who was a dance instructor for 15 years. "Our next big activity will be to go to a local Mexican restaurant and order in Spanish. After dinner, we will have a Latin dance class at the restaurant so people can practice their language and physical skills." Dr. Baptista said. "If you want to just learn Spanish, or just learn the dance steps, you should come!"

Spanish Club, E-106 East Fee Hall, Wednesdays 5-6 P.M.

Contact Sara Burga at burgasar@pilot.msu.edu or Walid Faraj at farajwal@pilot.msu.edu
STRAMPHEL NAMED SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN

William D. Strampel, D.O., special assistant to the surgeon general for force protection, has been named senior associate dean of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Strampel assumed his new duties February 15. He also recently served as director of quality management in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and as chief medical officer for the TRICARE Management Activity. At the Pentagon, Dr. Strampel was responsible for health care policy for the uniformed services concerning credentialing, privileging and adverse actions. He also represented the assistant secretary of defense (health affairs) for clinical services at all national meetings and committees.

"Both my wife and I are extremely honored at being offered this position," Dr. Strampel noted. "I am excited about becoming part of the outstanding team at the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dean Jacob's vision and strategic plan sets a direction for the future, which I fully support.

"The changing paradigm of medical practice in this country and the increasing demand for accountability and managing outcomes makes it imperative we equip our future clinicians with the appropriate skills now," he said. "I am looking forward to working with all the outstanding professionals in the college, the university and the community."

At MSUCOM, Dr. Strampel assumes the post held by long-time Senior Associate Dean Philip E. Greenman, D.O., who retired. The senior associate dean serves as the chief operations officer of the college.

"We are delighted to have a physician and administrator of Dr. Strampel's caliber join the team at the College of Osteopathic Medicine," noted Dean Allen W. Jacobs, D.O., Ph.D. "He brings to the job the discipline of a strong military background, a high level of knowledge about managed care, and a demonstrated ability in administration. Most importantly, his values about medical care and the importance of family strongly resonate with the values of this college."

From 1996-97, Dr. Strampel served as commander of Brooke Army Medical Center and Great Plains Regional Medical Command, where he was responsible for eight community hospitals and a medical center. From 1994-96, he led 25 fully accredited graduate medical education programs as deputy commander and director of medical education at Brooke.

As chief of the Quality Assurance Division, Headquarters Department of the Army, Office of the Surgeon General, Dr. Strampel was consultant to the Surgeon General for quality assurance and risk management from 1991-94.

Prior to 1991, he served as deputy commander and director of medical education at Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado, and at Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, Kansas; as division surgeon of the First Infantry Division, Fort Riley; as pulmonary staff and director of intensive care at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado, and staff internal medicine service and director of intensive care, 121 Evacuation Hospital, Seoul, Korea.

He received the B.A. from Hope College in 1966, the D.O. from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1976, was president of his intern class and chief resident in medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Washington, and served as a pulmonary fellow at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.
BILL FALLS: BUILDING TOWARD A NEW JOB FOR TWO DECADES

Whether following up with students after a lecture, teaching in the gross anatomy lab, counseling advisees or participating in extracurricular activities, Bill Falls has demonstrated well his assertion that students are his number-one priority.

An anatomy professor, Dr. Falls has served MSUCOM students for 20 years, garnering 17 awards for teaching.

Now student support is his full-time job, as he steps into the position of associate dean for student services.

Dr. Falls says that his focus is on meeting student needs, the most immediate of which include enhancing communication, providing students with needed mental health and insurance services, establishing protocols for exposure to infectious agents, and expanding the use of technology for admissions, academic files, and communication.

"I'm grateful for having been involved as a teacher"

In addition, Dr. Falls wants to increase student, staff and faculty awareness of diversity issues, strengthen student organizations, increase the funding available for scholarships and loans, and improve students' physical environment and educational resources.

He wears his respect for the osteopathic medical students on his sleeve.

"The osteopathic students have great rapport among themselves, helping one another instead of being competitive," he said. They are definitely 'people persons' — friendly people interested in each other and society.

"I'm always impressed at how willing our students are to give to the community," Falls noted, "whether it's conducting high school physicals, helping Special Olympics, counseling at Cristo Rey or doing health screening at the malls.

"I'm grateful for having been involved as a teacher," Falls said, "for friendships made that will help me now in this position to work for our students, to promote the college, and to get good students admitted. I urge everyone at MSUCOM to get involved as much as possible, and to help in any way possible to support our students."
INTERNAL MEDICINE ADOPTS THREE ALUMNI AS NEW FACULTY
by Dawn Wonders

Three MSUCOM alumni are glad to be back at their alma mater, this time as faculty members in the Department of Internal Medicine. Peter Nock, DO, Class of 94, Catherine Kerschen, DO, Class of 92 and Ronald Maio, DO, Class of 76 have returned to MSUCOM to teach, research and practice medicine.

Peter Nock, DO
Graduating only four short years ago, Dr. Nock joined the department July 1 as an assistant professor.

“It's nice to have an opportunity to give something back to the institution that's given me so much,” said Dr. Nock, a general internist who completed his internship at Sparrow Hospital and his residency through the MSU College of Human Medicine Internal Medicine program.

“It's also very nice having the opportunity to work with medical students—their enthusiasm and energy invigorate you,” he said, "and I'm not too far off to be in touch with issues that might be significant for them.”

Currently Dr. Nock is teaching first-year osteopathic students basic physical examination and diagnostic skills in OST 502: Clinical Skills II and is conducting a symptoms seminar for third-year students. Next year he hopes to teach more on genitourinary systems.

In addition to teaching medical students and internal medicine residents at Ingham Regional Medical Center, Dr. Nock spends three half-days a week at the Ingham County Health Department and a half-day a week at his own clinic in Lansing.

"Representing the department and the college well and trying to live up to the standards of the college and the university are very important to me,” he said. "It's also important to do a good job teaching, and above all, to provide high quality medical care to the patients that I'm responsible for.”

While he enjoys his work with the university community, Dr. Nock finds balance in his life by spending time with his wife Jeannine and their three young children.

"We like to ride bikes and are on the Lansing rivertrail almost every weekend in the summer,” he said.

Catherine Kerschen, DO
Dr. Kerschen, a gastroenterologist, hasn't been back long but so far she likes what she sees. "It's hard to tell how different it will be from private practice," said Dr. Kerschen, who spent almost two years in Port Huron between her internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship at Genesys Hospital in Grand Blanc, and her return to MSUCOM. "I think academic medicine will give me more of a variety of things that I’ll be involved in throughout the course of the year.”

Dr. Kerschen said she looks forward to working with the gastroenterology course coordinator and lecturing for next year's course; this year's course was finishing as she arrived.

For now, however, Dr. Kerschen is training residents and building a clinical practice with Shireen Gadallah, MD, and James Mayle, MD, of the MSU Gastroenterology Clinic.

"I like the university atmosphere and being involved with teaching residents—it keeps you up to date on the most current medical practices, and I think it will be fun and interesting to teach medical students," she said.

"To me, the most important thing is giving top quality patient care," she said, "and teaching the future physicians to give that quality of care also.”

A Spartan fan who grew up in West Michigan, Dr. Kerschen was also glad to be back in town for a winning season. “I'm a huge Spartan basketball fan!” she said.

Ronald Maio, DO, MS
Dr. Maio, an emergency medicine specialist and researcher funded by the National Institutes of Health, began a part-time appointment with MSUCOM in March.

"I'm very excited to be coming back,” said Dr. Maio, who is also an associate professor at the University of Michigan, Section of Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery. "I think my training here was outstanding. It has really led me to look at medical care and health from a broad perspective,” he said, "and I think it has also driven my interest in prevention research.”

While at MSUCOM, Dr. Maio hopes to develop a two-way research effort between MSU and U of M for investigating injuries.

"We are in the process of developing an injury research center, and one of the many reasons that I came out here is to work with MSU as an affiliate site to do more clinical research in the area of alcohol and other drug-related injury," said Dr. Maio. "In particular we’re interested in determining what are the most effective ways to identify and treat alcohol and other drug-related problems in injured patients," Dr. Maio explained.

"The thing that makes us unique is that we are really looking for ways to deliver interventions in the emergency department. We think that the post-injury time period in the emergency department is a teachable moment for people that.

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NINA BLATT
Her work always has an international flavor

Nina Blatt’s fondness for people of every ilk holds her in good stead as the secretary for the Institute of International Health (IIH). On any given day she may be greeting guests from around the globe, working with students and faculty, scheduling meetings and travel.

“I like people, so it’s never difficult to talk about things,” Blatt noted, “though you quickly learn in dealing with international guests that there are certain behaviors it’s necessary to avoid in certain cultures.”

Blatt, who’s been an MSU employee for more than ten years, started in the Office of the Provost, but moved to IIH two months later.

“I came to the university as a real novice as far as educational systems are concerned,” she said. “But I quickly found out that doctors are really human, and I learned a lot by watching my bosses pick up the phone and call heads of state and international agencies.”

Blatt, a self-taught floral gardener and landscaper, also likes to sew and read.

“I’m going to be an RA (a Real Artist) when I grow up,” she said, noting that she’s taking watercolor classes at Lansing Community College and will be exhibiting her work July 4 at an event in Westphalia.

The mother of five and the grandmother of eight, Blatt showed her true colors when she said “You don’t have enough paper to write how wonderful they are.”

She and her husband of 39 years are also developing a condominium subdivision of nine two-acre lots near Muir.

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have alcohol or other drug problems.”

Dr. Maio said he is looking forward to working with colleagues that he has known from the past, and establishing new programs at MSUCOM. “Our first year our main mission will be to see if we can develop an educational program for the undergraduates, and to develop a research plan for projects here at MSU,” he said.

After graduating from MSUCOM, Dr. Maio was in the Army for three years, completed a specialty training in emergency medicine, and received a master’s degree in clinical research design and statistical analysis from U of M.

“If you would’ve told me when I graduated from medical school that I’d be in the position I’m in now as an academic physician, I would’ve said, ‘you’re crazy.’ But as I started to practice I saw more and more issues that needed to be addressed from a scientific standpoint. I realized that with research you can impact upon people for generations to come, and for maybe hundreds, maybe thousands of years,” he said. “You really have an impact on people’s health.”
GROWING UP GLOBAL

by Dawn Wondore

Fourth year MSUCOM student Robin Pedtke believes living around the globe left her with a strong commitment to primary care medicine and community service. She found both in osteopathic medicine.

"I lived in the Philippines in high school, and worked as a nurse's aide in a United Nations refugee camp. I helped deliver babies, taught prenatal and hygiene classes and distributed malaria medications," said Ms. Pedtke, who also lived in Turkey, Japan and the US while growing up.

"My experiences with medicine include surgery as well as acupuncture and manipulation—Chinese herbal medicine as well as western pharmaceuticals," she said. "Eastern medicine in particular is very holistic and patient-oriented, and primary care is the foundation of medical care most everywhere overseas. So for all these reasons, osteopathic medical training fit perfectly with my personal vision of the kind of physician I wanted to be."

Growing up in different cultures also gave Ms. Pedtke, whose father is Turkish and mother is American, a sense of security around different people, something which has already helped her throughout her medical education.

"Constant exposure to new people, places, and ways of life as a child was such a gift—I am comfortable with anybody, anywhere. Instead of fearing unknown situations, I look forward to them. Traveling widens your views and deepens your understanding of human nature," she said.

Ms. Pedtke, who graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a dual major in Middle Eastern studies and journalism/communication, spent time soul-searching about her career choices after graduating from college. Originally planning to join the foreign service, she instead returned to Japan to work and live with her mother. She finally decided she could no longer ignore her desire to become a physician, and returned to the US to complete her pre-med requirements.

Although preparing for medical school was difficult, Ms. Pedtke said she knew she wanted to practice osteopathic medicine. She fell in love with the staff of MSUCOM at their first, chaotic encounter.

"On the day of my interview, my car broke down. I called the admissions office in a panic. They were so kind to me, telling me not to worry, to drive safely and take my time. I was thinking how these people had my future, my life's dreams in their hands! I didn't want to make a bad impression. But they were so compassionate, I decided right then that this was the school for me," she explained.

Pedtke began her time with MSUCOM at a run. During her active first year, she was class president and a member of the College Advisory Committee and the MSUCOM Communication and Advocacy Committee.

"I decided from day one that I would divide my time 50/50 between extracurricular and academic activities," Ms. Pedtke said. "I always encourage new students to get involved. The osteopathic profession is still small and personal. Involvement with clubs, attending conferences and organizing events gives student the opportunity to interact with the founders of our profession! It's so important to be exposed to strong role models, develop relationships with mentors, and exercise leadership skills with guidance.

There's really no other way to get a real sense of where the profession's going and what you want to be when you grow up."

Her list of activities continued, and continues, to grow. Her second year she became a member of the Dean's Search Committee, the national liaison between the Student Osteopathic Medical Association and the American Medical Student Association, and chairperson of the Student Council Community Health and Service Committee. Currently, she is the base hospital leader for Riverside Osteopathic Hospital, an MSUCOM peer mentor, and an invited member of the Circle of Life, an end-of-life resource group.

Her latest passion is to facilitate OMM hands-on training for third- and fourth-year students. She is working with MSUCOM and Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids to design a research project and training program for manipulation review and utilization.

How does she do it all? "First and second year were a major struggle. I was an average student due to my involvement in extracurricular activities," Ms. Pedtke said "but I wouldn't change a thing. Being involved in the profession gave me direction that I wouldn't have found on my own."

After graduation, Ms. Pedtke begins a family practice internship at Grand Rapids Metropolitan Hospital July 1. She is also planning a September 25, 1999 wedding to fourth-year student Jaret Beane. Both students hope to work in a medically underserved area in Michigan and eventually overseas.

"There's something in me that needs to do that," Ms. Pedtke said. "I was brought up with a mother who taught me that, relative to the majority of the world's population, I was born into a privileged situation. I don't have to live in poverty, but I do need to give back to the world. That's something you do for life."
Physicians Treating People, Not Just Symptoms

by Dennis Paradis, executive director, Michigan Osteopathic Association

In March, I had the pleasure of accompanying MOA President Wayne C. Meech, DO, and Professor of Psychiatry Gerald Osborn, DO, to represent Michigan at the American Osteopathic Association Family Summit Meeting. The Family Summit was an opportunity for all of the components of the osteopathic family to come together to hear the progress of the Unity Campaign and plan for the future.

One of the first fruits of the AOA Unity Campaign was the development of a tag line: a phrase that captures the concept of the Unity Campaign. The tag line, which was the result of numerous interviews and focus groups, is "Physicians Treating People, Not Just Symptoms."

The first question asked by many of the participants was "Why does this phrase, which doesn't even include the word 'osteopathic', represent the profession?" There is a logical answer to this question, perhaps so logical that we tend to overlook it. The tag line resonates with the public because it characterizes the qualities that patients seek in their physicians.

"Physician" reinforces that complete medical training of the DO.

"Treating People" reinforces the message that the patient will be cared for as a person and not a disease process.

"Not Just Symptoms" reinforces that the doctor will look at the whole picture, answer patient questions and explain treatment options.

"Osteopathic" was not included in the tag line because the public doesn't understand the word, and that which is not understood is regarded with suspicion or uneasiness. While this message had a certain "sting" to those of us who care deeply about the osteopathic profession, there is a sense of déjà vu to this message.

The osteopathic profession began in part as a social movement of protest to the medical practices that were prevalent in post-Civil War America. Patients were not receiving an appropriate level of care due to the traditional practices that treated the disease not the person. A careful reading of the tag line and related research shows us that the appeal of osteopathic medicine is the same today as it was 100 years ago—patient-centered care.

Perhaps all osteopathic physicians should have this tag line on a sign in their offices as a reminder of what patients want from their physicians. It is the patient-centered approach that is and always has been the distinguishing feature of the osteopathic education.
MAGENS ESTABLISH MILLION-DOLLAR FUND TO STRENGTHEN INTELLECTUAL ENVIRONMENT

Myron S. Magen, DO, has made a career of honing scholarship in the osteopathic profession. MSUCOM's charter dean, Magen worked for two decades to cultivate research in the profession, bringing to the college as faculty a number of highly recognized scientists. He encouraged basic research in biomechanics to establish baselines for osteopathic principles and practice. He stressed academic excellence, urging the profession to make the most of MSUCOM's ties to a world-class university. He established programs for ongoing faculty development, and nurtured the profession's first joint DO/PhD program.

Now Magen's at it again. As dean emeritus and the Walter F. Patenge professor of pediatrics, he and his wife Ruth have established a million-dollar endowment. Its purpose is to "assist faculty and students in attaining career goals or providing support for research projects that will strengthen the intellectual environment of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Michigan State University."

The Dr. Myron S. and Ruth Magen Fund will be administered by the dean of the college, who will create the processes for distribution.

"It's our intention that the fund would provide great flexibility to the dean," Magen said. "It could be used by faculty and students to strengthen scholarship, provide seed money for research, or assist with additional education. "It's an effective way of betting on people," he said.

Margaret Aguwa, DO, professor of family and community medicine, received the Michigan State University Excellence in Diversity Award in ceremonies in April. Dr. Aguwa was cited for her example, and achievements which included her clinical work with the poor, her service as director of the Medical Access Support Program for MSUCOM admissions, and for authoring videotapes to teach women of color breast self-examination for cancer prevention.

Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, dean, has been chosen to serve as a consultant-evaluator for the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, an agency that accredits educational institutions in a 19-state region.

Kim Camp, secretary in the MSUCOM Alumni Relations Office, received the university's Distinguished Staff award this spring. Ms. Camp was cited for her customer service, her interpersonal skills, her helpfulness, and her community service.

Shirley Siew, MD, professor of pathology, received one first-place, one second-place and one third-place award for her photomicrographs in a national competition held by the group Research in Pathology Education.
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine 1998 Honor Roll

Many thanks for the generous support of alumni, faculty, retired faculty, staff and friends, as well as foundations, corporations and associations who have made a vital and significant difference in the life of the college and the educational opportunities provided to our students.

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is proud to recognize its supporters through the 1998 Honor Roll. This honor roll acknowledges all donors to the university-wide donor groups whose gifts were made from January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998 and were designated in whole or in part to the college.

We carefully reviewed the lists, and included your input from the draft honor roll mailing to ensure 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 MSU COM Development office by calling (517) 355-6355.

- Dee Telman, Director of Development, MSU COM

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Calendar of Events

July 14-18
Principles of Manual Medicine. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. Tuition is $1250; $900 for interns and residents. 40 hours Category IA credit. For information, call Office of CME, 800/437-0001.

August 19
Last day of full- and second-session classes.

August 23-27
MSUCOM Class of 2003 orientation.

August 27
MSUCOM Convocation to welcome the 1999 entering class and to award the Walter F. Patenge Medals of Public Service. 2 p.m., Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, followed by a reception in E105 Fee.

September 10
Mid-Michigan Primary Care Conference. East Lansing. 6 hours Category IA credit. For information, call Office of CME, 800/437-0001.

September 22

September 22-26
Muscle Energy: Level I. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. Tuition is $1250; $900 for interns and residents. 40 hours Category IA credit. For information, call Office of CME, 800/437-0001.

September 24-25
Integrative Medicine: What You and Your Patients Want to Know. East Lansing. 7 hours Category IA credit. For information, call Office of CME, 800/437-0001.

September 29-October 3
Direct Action Thrust: Mobilization with Impulse. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 32 hours Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,000; $750 for interns and residents. For information, call Office of CME, 800/437-0001.

October 1-2

For a complete look at all MSUCOM major activities check out our Web calendar: http://www.com.msu.edu/calendar
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