Student Leaders
from the classroom to the capitol
Dean’s Column

There is no doubt that in all of my years at the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine as a faculty member and an administrator, there is nothing that brings me greater pride than our students.

It’s cliché to note that to become admitted to any medical school students must be the crème de la crème. Medical students are among the brightest, most accomplished and most hard-working people of their generation. Most osteopathic medical students, however, seem to have in addition an intangible quality, an active “other-centeredness” that creates a remarkably collegial atmosphere and a positive activism. MSUCOM students are replete with this quality!

Just recently our local community recognized our students' accomplishments. Out of a field of 64 candidates, our entire student body received the prestigious Crystal Award from the City of East Lansing for their community service, including health screens, health education and the Student OMM Clinic. (The full citation, including the award-winning activities, can be found on page 19.) Student leaders Pat Florence, Denise Klemczak, Karen Nielson and Chris Pohlod received a beautiful crystal bowl on behalf of our students at the ceremonies.

This issue of Communiqué is an editorial celebration of the students of MSUCOM. The stories are only representative of a great student body of more than 500, but I know you’ll enjoy their tales of achievement, challenges met, service, self-sacrifice and great humor. Today’s students carry on the tradition of community service and outreach which was established by the 2,942 alumni who preceded them at MSUCOM. Enjoy!

Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, Dean
FEATURES

Community Outreach ............................................................. 2-3
They’re everywhere! Our students are teaching, testing, healing, helping, giving. It’s ’60s activism with a positive twist – a powerful combination.

The College’s Present, the Profession’s Future .......................... 4-11
MSUCOM students come from all walks of life, but they share compassion, hard work and excellence. Here are eight representative stories.

Good Morning, Vietnam .......................................................... 12-13
Alumnus Phuc Huynh returns home to memories and a chance to heal old wounds.

Etched in Crystal ................................................................. 19
The entire MSUCOM body received the prestigious Crystal Award from the City of East Lansing for their extraordinary voluntarism.

CONTENTS

Departments

Research & Innovation .......................................................... 14
Michigan Osteopathic Association ......................................... 21
Staff Matters ........................................................................ 23
Development ....................................................................... 24
Calendar of Events .............................................................. inside back cover

ON THE COVER
MSUCOM student Mia Flor Wimberly checks the blood pressure of Michigan Representative Gretchen Whitmer (District 70) at the recent Legislative Health Fair.

MSUCOM appreciates the generous and continuing support for COMMUNIQUÉ offered through the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. Thank you!
The Community as Classroom
MSUCOM Student Outreach

By K. Friday

Thinking and behaving like an osteopathic physician is not something that can be learned entirely in a classroom or lab. Certainly DOs must know their anatomy, physiology, and chemistry, but it is the hands-on practice and instruction that shapes this knowledge into the recognizable skills of an osteopathic physician. With this in mind, MSUCOM has long prided itself on providing early clinical experience for its students. As a complement to the academic curriculum, MSUCOM's student organizations play a key role in this education by fostering an extracurricular student culture devoted to voluntarism, outreach, and community service.

Although formal, off-campus clerkships, externships, and rotations typically occur in the third and fourth years, most students begin participating in student outreach as early as their first year. According to William Falls, PhD, associate dean of student services, "Over 95% of the students at the college are involved in some sort of student organization, and in many cases, more than one." Dr. Falls explains that the organizations help students identify professional areas of interest, develop an ethic of community service, and practice the medical and interpersonal skills they are learning in school.

There are many student organizations at the college, most of which promote community outreach in some form. For instance, applicants to Sigma Sigma Phi osteopathic honor society must demonstrate excellence in both academics and community service. Sigma Sigma Phi asks its members for a minimum of four hours of community service per semester, and the honor society organizes weekly clothing drives for the needy, a bread donation program, and bone marrow drives.

Of all the student organizations, the Community Integrated Medical Student Organization (CIMSA) is the entity
specifically created for community outreach. Established in 1995 by the late Professor Joseph Papsidero and winner of the MSUCOM Student Council’s Outstanding Organization of the Year award, CIMSA provides basic health screening and preventive education to the medically underserved population in the Lansing area. Today, CIMSA consists of four programs. Patch Goes to School educates elementary school children on heart and cardiovascular health; Towar provides health and lifestyle counseling, as well as immunizations, for teenagers at an alternative high school; the Diabetic Counseling Program works with Cristo Rey Community Center and the Ingham County Health Department in providing health assessments, glucose testing, and nutritional counseling for at-risk populations; and the Unity Health Fairs provide basic medical screenings and health information for the public at local events.

According to Patricia Florence (Class of 2003), president of CIMSA, these public venues are invaluable for osteopathic students: “CIMSA gives us a chance to put some of our clinical skills to work. It also makes us better prepared for our preceptorships by giving us the chance to learn at our own pace and develop our own style and process for working with patients.”

Once an informal student organization, CIMSA has evolved into a program providing consistent opportunities for students and reliable service for community organizations and events like CATA, Cristo Rey, the City of Lansing, Gier Community Center, and the Ingham County fair. Last summer alone, CIMSA recorded over 300 student hours of community service. “If students want to do something in the community, they know to come to CIMSA,” explains Chris Pohlod (Class of 2003), one of CIMSA’s program directors, “and this year has been particularly strong. I am impressed with the interest in community service the new class has shown.”

As the success of CIMSA shows, the students at MSUCOM come to the college with a commitment to community health. As Denise Klemczak (Class of 2003), student council president, puts it, “the students here are all very smart and overwhelmingly genuine in their desire to be caring physicians.”
It might be an understatement to say that John Crisler is a jack of all trades. In this era of educational tracking and career specialization, it's refreshing to meet somebody who, at age 42, has improvised several careers and done more professionally than most of us do in a lifetime.

He worked as a bouncer, a private security consultant, a factory worker, an independent limousine chauffeur, a personal trainer, and a property manager. He patented an automotive aftermarket product and even worked as a guard in Jackson Prison’s maximum security ward.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Crisler developed a plan to market a little-known cleaning technology used in the oil business to the maritime shipping industry. The technology, which separates oil from water, could make the cleaning of ship bilges efficient, safe, and environmentally friendly. As if this plan weren’t ambitious enough, in order to support himself while he developed his marketing company, Mr. Crisler decided to become a self-employed professional painter. The only catch? He’d never lifted a brush in his life.

Despite his successes, nothing could prepare Mr. Crisler for the most decisive event of his life: the death of his fiancée in 1992 from leukemia. Mr. Crisler says the pain of that event left him “staring into the abyss,” but it also started him thinking about a career in medicine as he worked through his grief. He also credits Dr. Barry Dehlin, the internist at Ingham Regional Medical Center who treated his fiancée, with demonstrating the importance of compassionate care. Years later, in 1997, Mr. Crisler entered MSUCOM’s Class of 2001.

As part of his grieving, Mr. Crisler decided to fight leukemia with the means at his disposal. As a National Guardsman, he was aware that the National Guard provided HIV screening and other health services for its personnel, but unlike the full-time armed forces, reservists were prevented from participating in the military’s bone marrow donor program. With the advocacy of Major General E. Gorden Stump, adjutant general for the State of Michigan’s Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Mr. Crisler persuaded the US Secretary of Defense to change an act of Congress and thereby founded, in 1993, the Reserve Component Marrow Donor Program. The program continues to this day, and Mr. Crisler still directs the program for the State of Michigan.

“We have saved a lot of lives with this program,” Mr. Crisler says. “I was the catalyst, but a lot of people got on board very quickly to make it happen. It just goes to show you, when you totally commit yourself to a project that is good, good people will always step in and help. Such is the value of total commitment.”

So what is next? Believe it or not, after Mr. Crisler finishes his internship at Ingham Regional, he plans on going to law school, believing that he can best serve the profession by defending physicians against malpractice suits. Hearing him talk about his plans, it is clear that Mr. Crisler still has a great many things left to do.
Helping the Underserved

Walid Faraj - Class of 2001

by K. Friday

Walid Faraj believes that the medical profession has a moral obligation to underserved populations. He should know; he has lived, worked, and volunteered in these communities since he was a child. "I see health care as a human right, it's not a commodity," he says simply.

Mr. Faraj was born in Venezuela, and when he was six his family immigrated to San Diego. Raised in a low-income community where health-care resources and services were "sketchy" at best, Mr. Faraj was already interested in community health issues and social policy by the time he was an undergraduate at the University of California at San Diego.

During his senior year in college, he conducted an independent study of youth risk behaviors in southeast San Diego and reasoned that after-school activities could change attitudes and behaviors among the young. However, he also found that there was little coordination among what few resources existed in the community. That summer, Mr. Faraj and other volunteers started the San Diego Revitalization Program, an effort to locate, coordinate, and publicize after-school opportunities for area youths. The program published a manual that was eventually distributed to libraries, community centers, and other area institutions.

"I SEE HEALTH CARE AS A HUMAN RIGHT; IT'S NOT A COMmodity"

Mr. Faraj's commitment grew into a desire to become a primary care physician, and in 1997 he joined MSUCOM's Class of 2001. He says he decided to become a DO because he believes the holistic emphasis of osteopathic medicine will help make him the best primary care physician he can be.

In 1998 Mr. Faraj won a National Health Service Corps Scholarship. Designed for students interested in providing primary care in areas that have health professional shortages, the scholarship funds medical school in exchange for a commitment to work in underserved areas after graduation.

But Mr. Faraj is not waiting to contribute to public health. In 1998, he and several other students decided to start a series of diabetic health screenings for indigent populations in the Lansing area. An interdisciplinary group of nursing students, human nutrition students, and osteopathic students developed the prototype of what would later be the Community Integrated Medical Student Association's (CIMSA) Diabetic Counseling Program.

Mr. Faraj says MSUCOM is very conducive to these kinds of projects. "Generally speaking, the students who decide to go into osteopathic medicine already have a heightened interest in these kinds of communities and social issues," he said. Mr. Faraj should know; he is one of these students.
Willa Fornetti’s interest in sports medicine and women’s health grows out of a lifelong participation in athletics. A former competitive figure skater and skating instructor, Ms. Fornetti knows first-hand the physiological changes female athletes undergo. In October 2000 she ran in the Chicago marathon. She has also coached figure skaters for almost a decade, taught group lessons, and even taught ice skating to students at MSU’s Munn Ice Arena.

Her research interest in female athletes began when she was a master’s student in the exercise physiology program at MSU, working with Jim Pivarnik, PhD, professor of osteopathic surgical specialties and professor of kinesiology.

Ms. Fornetti was interested in the effects of exercise on bone density and body composition in women. She knew that women athletes who trained hard and subjected themselves to prolonged physical stresses often had very low body-fat indices, risking decreased estrogen production and the interruption of their menstrual cycles, possibly leading to premature osteoporosis.

After her initial research, Ms. Fornetti realized that there was a more pressing problem: the lack of standard, reliable formulas for determining body fat composition for women athletes. Although there are several reliable techniques for measuring body composition, the gold standard being dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA), they are based on expensive technologies that are not portable or widely used on site in athletic venues.

Ms. Fornetti saw a need to develop simple and accurate formulas for determining body composition in women athletes in standard physical examinations. She believed that body fat percentage, rather than weight, should be used to determine an athlete’s progress, and to prevent some of the physiological side effects women athletes face.

In 1998 Ms. Fornetti and Dr. Pivarnik used a DEXA machine to measure the body composition of 135 female varsity athletes from MSU. In the process, Ms. Fornetti composed her own portable equations and tested their accuracy against the DEXA results. The formulas produced valid measurements, and she and Dr. Pivarnik published their findings in the Journal of Applied Physiology and presented the work at the Midwest American College of Sports Medicine in October 1998.

Ms. Fornetti became president of the MSUCOM Sports Medicine Club and began doing physcials for high school sporting events and the Special Olympics.

In 1999 Ms. Fornetti assisted and co-authored, with Larry Nassar, DO, and Dr. Pivarnik, another study on women athletes, examining bone density in female gymnasts from MSU. The researchers found that the gymnasts significantly increased bone density in their arms as a result of repetitive, load bearing activity.

For the time being, Ms. Fornetti has eased up on the athletics. She says that with her clerkship at Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids, there is less time for skating, instructing, and research, but she knows that she will return to them soon.
He's lived in Poland, worked in psychiatric hospitals, practices yoga and meditation, and studies osteopathic manipulation every chance he gets.

After graduating from college in 1993, Greg Esmer moved to Warsaw for six months. A college friend of his was returning to the country, and Mr. Esmer, who is half-Polish, decided to go with him in order to learn more about his cultural roots. He found both a modest living teaching conversational English and a society in transition from its Communist past.

Mr. Esmer enjoyed his life in Poland, even though he lived in a closet-sized apartment during a season when darkness begins at 3 p.m. He says one thing many Americans might not realize is that there still exists a palpable "sense of grief" over events during World War II. "Many Poles still live in the shadow of the war," he explains, "and this shapes their outlook on a great many things."

Returning to the US, Mr. Esmer was considering getting his doctorate and becoming a clinical psychologist. He started working at a series of psychiatric and chemical dependency units at several hospitals in Michigan. It was these experiences that got him thinking about becoming a physician.

"There are a lot of people who are having a hard time, we would like to wave a magic wand and make their pain go away, but we can't. Working with these people raises the bigger question, 'how do we make our lives meaningful?"

Mr. Esmer saw that the physicians in these institutions had enormous potential to effect change, and so he decided to enter the osteopathic profession as the best means to help people with their pain.

Coming to MSUCOM, Mr. Esmer developed an intense interest in the therapeutic value of OMT. "If that's an interest of yours, you can really take advantage of the resources here," he said. He has worked in the Student OMM Clinic and taught the next round of student volunteers, shadowed DOs at the MSU Clinical Center, and picked the brains of some of the OMM specialists at the college.

He credits the faculty at MSUCOM for being accessible and allowing him to indulge his interest in OMM. "It's nice to have faculty here you can spend time with and learn from—even in informal settings."

Although he is unsure where his professional interests will take him, one thing remains certain: Mr. Esmer will continue to learn and grow.
Ia Kue’s journey spans from Laos to Michigan State University, from being a refugee to becoming the first female Hmong osteopathic medical student in the United States.

The Hmong are mountain dwelling people that live in Laos, Thailand, China, and Vietnam. During the Vietnam conflict, they assisted the U.S. Army, often engaging in guerilla warfare or intelligence operations, in order to regain their freedom. When the U.S. Army left Saigon in 1975, the Hmong were outcast, treated as war criminals, and hunted by the communist Vietnamese and Pathet Laotian government.

In 1979, when Ms. Kue was 8 years old, her family fled Laos to Thailand, a walking journey of 30 days. Once there, Ms. Kue and her family stayed for six months before being sponsored to come to the U.S.

Ms. Kue struggled through primary school, as she knew no English, but by junior high her English level reached that of her peers. When Ms. Kue turned 17, around 10th grade, she married Xing Zer Kue, leaving high school with a 3.9 GPA. The Kues had three children — Venus, Eden, and Maia — in three years.

Ia studied at home and received her GED while raising her children. She then went to Wayne County Community College, earning an associates in science degree with a 4.0 GPA. Ms. Kue attended Wayne State for two years, graduating cum laude with a bachelors of science in biology and then remained there for two additional years doing research. “I had a strong curiosity for science and medicine,” says Ms. Kue. “I never thought I’d have the opportunity to study the art of healing.” It was with the encouragement of her instructors and family that Ms. Kue followed her dream to become a doctor.

Ms. Kue sees a resonance between her culture and the osteopathic philosophy of holistic medicine and the body healing itself. She applied and was accepted to MSUCOM in early 1998. However, two weeks later, she learned she was pregnant with her fourth child, and gave birth to Evan one month before her classes were to begin.

At first, Ms. Kue commuted from Warren to East Lansing two to three times a week, a three-hour round trip. “My first semester was very hard on me,” says Ms. Kue. “I would cry all the way up here because I had to leave my family, and I would cry all the way back because I was frustrated with my work load. As blessed as I was, it was really difficult.”

Ms. Kue now lives in an apartment in East Lansing and commutes home for the weekend. “Being away from my family for a week at a time is rough, but it has brought us closer together,” says Ms. Kue. At home, Ms. Kue spends as much time as possible with her children, including studying with them as well as giving each of them piano lessons.

In her free time, Ms. Kue enjoys running, playing the piano, film, and spending time with her family. “Always keep the big picture of life in mind,” says Ms. Kue. “Never lose sight of people over studying. I know God has a plan for me, and I wouldn’t be here if that was otherwise.”
Engineering Success
Pat Florence - Class of 2003
by K. Friday

Before studying structure and function in the human body as an osteopathic student, Patricia Florence had a successful career studying structure and function in manufacturing.

With a degree in industrial engineering technology and a minor in computer science, Ms. Florence spent 16 years as a computer simulation specialist and engineering consultant for the auto industry. As an advanced engineering specialist with Electronic Data Systems (EDS) she helped design and use computer programs that could predict the slight variations—or errors—in manufacturing automotive components. In many ways, this could be considered preventative manufacturing, because those variations, regardless of how small, become enormously significant in higher stages of the manufacturing process if left undetected. In other words, small irregularities in one area of a process can lead to exponential problems in another. Does this sound familiar?

With her skill in engineering, her knowledge of manufacturing processes, and her work ethic, Ms. Florence reached the top of her field while working with Saturn. Offered positions within EDS’s company management, she turned them down, having developed an aversion for the politics of management.

So Ms. Florence continued to work as an engineer and expand her consulting activities, while at the same time thinking about starting her own business or changing careers. Unsure of what she would do, she kept a list on her refrigerator of the characteristics of the ideal job.

The most important characteristic was helping people improve the quality of their lives. For over 20 years, she had spent much of her spare time working with many different community organizations. “I received more self-satisfaction out of helping people than I did from my work,” she explained.

She coached little league teams and Special Olympians, delivered meals to the elderly on holidays, worked with the American Red Cross, and participated in many fund-raising events for national and local community programs.

PAT FLORENCE WAS NAMED
STUDENT D.O. OF THE YEAR BY
THE COUNCIL OF OSTEOPATHIC
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
PRESENTERS

Despite this lifelong activity of compassionate voluntarism, Ms. Florence had not thought about a career in medicine until seven or eight years ago, when she says she had a sudden realization.

“It was a discussion during a consulting project,” she recalled. “We were asked to describe three people we most admired. I started describing two of my own physicians, and then I realized that I was describing those characteristics I had hanging on my refrigerator.”

Suddenly thinking seriously about medical school, Ms. Florence volunteered in the Telemetry Unit and Emergency Room at Mount Clemens General Hospital before joining MSUCOM’s Class of 2003. “I chose the osteopathic profession because of its preventive philosophies, and because many of my own doctors were DOs. I have seen first-hand the quality of care DOs can provide.”

As an MSUCOM student, Ms. Florence has continued her work in the community. She is the president of the Community Integrated Medicine Student Association (CIMSA), which provides outreach services for the Lansing area, and she runs CIMSA’s diabetic counseling program. With her business experience she has helped expand and formalize the CIMSA program, and as a result there are more opportunities for MSUCOM students like Ms. Florence to experience the satisfaction of volunteering and serving.
Brilliant Past, Promising Future

Clarence Nicodemus - Class of 2004

by Kelly Bertoia

For Dr. Clarence Nicodemus, life is certainly unpredictable. Who would have thought this 57-year-old with a PhD in biomedical engineering would change career paths, join MSUCOM’s Class of 2004, and find himself side-by-side with 22- and 23-year-old medical students? From graduate school at the University of California, Davis, to the war in Vietnam, to the study of occupational biomechanics, he’s now pursuing a degree in osteopathic medicine while concurrently teaching biomechanics at MSU.

After completing his PhD, Dr. Nicodemus found himself in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, where he was an intelligence officer.

Although this experience was intense and extremely unpleasant, it created two important convictions: one, if he survived the war in Vietnam, he could survive anything, and two, he must have a purpose on this earth.

Shortly after his return, Dr. Nicodemus faced another life-changing event. He learned his father had been diagnosed with Huntington’s disease, an illness that affects the normal functioning of the brain. After his father’s diagnosis, Dr. Nicodemus decided that he wanted to “bridge the gap between engineering and other physicians.” He had always paralleled engineering with the human body, seeing the human body as a “working” organism.

Dr. Nicodemus studied the mechanics of the body’s joints and their movements. He worked for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Texas at Galveston, where he was the director of spine research. His job included testing of fixation devices placed on the spine during surgery, developing and testing new fixtures, and researching the best way to rehabilitate patients who had been through surgery. Dr. Nicodemus discovered that surgery was not always the best option, and that “there was no alternative like osteopathy.” He states, “I just felt, based on my research and from my observations during surgery, that surgery is only the very last resort and that I would like to learn how I could help find alternatives as a physician.” However, he was unable to treat the patients because he was “just an engineer,” and this desire to be more involved in the patients’ treatment and rehabilitation led Dr. Nicodemus to MSUCOM.

Dr. Nicodemus chose MSUCOM in part due to the influences of Dr. Philip E. Greenman and Dr. Allen W. Jacobs, and also because he believes that the DO philosophy of treating the whole person is a logical complement to his engineering training. According to him, a holistic approach is much more effective than looking at people as “watches with separate parts,” as he puts it. He says he also chose MSUCOM because it “provides a wonderful opportunity for collaborative research,” the value of which is confirmed time and time again in the biomechanics course he currently teaches for the MSU College of Engineering.

When asked if it was difficult to be in a setting with so many younger students, Dr. Nicodemus responded, “Not at all. In fact, the age differences complement, rather than hinder, each other.” He points out, for example, that his experiences bring a different perspective to medical school. “After you’ve been in war, things like taking or failing an exam don’t seem quite as important.”
Making Her Dream Reality

Angela Dawson - Class of 2004

by K. Friday

Sometimes a chance encounter with a stranger can change someone’s life. Just ask Angela Dawson.

In 1989 she was working the midnight shift as a respiratory therapist at Detroit Receiving Hospital. She liked working with her patients and fantasized about becoming a physician, but believed she didn’t have the credentials to go to medical school.

“I didn’t think I had the abilities,” Ms. Dawson explained. “I thought you had to be a traditional student, come from a perfect educational background and even look the part. When I pictured a doctor, I didn’t see me.”

Contemplating a career change but still diffident, 12 years ago Ms. Dawson would get off work in Detroit and drive up to East Fee Hall to look around, wonder, and spend time studying the pictures of the graduating classes that adorn the first floor. It was there, in front of the pictures, that Ms. Dawson met Darryl Grace (Class of 1992).

The two struck up a short conversation, and Ms. Dawson learned she shared a similar background with Ms. Grace, who encouraged her to apply to the college. At least a decade later, when Ms. Dawson joined the Class of 2004, she contacted Darryl Grace, DO, to thank her. “She remembered who I was,” Ms. Dawson said. “We still keep in touch.”

As a student, Ms. Dawson eventually found herself drawn to the volunteer and community service opportunities at MSUCOM. "At first I studied exclusively. I thought a good medical student was a narrow one, always in the books. But the DO philosophy emphasizes the whole person, so I started to get involved in helping people and showing communities what the profession could do for them."

Ms. Dawson has continued this interest, joining the Emergency Medical Club, the Geriatric Interest Group, SOMA, and Sigma Sigma Phi. She also joined CIMSA and is a regular participant in the organization’s health fairs. She has worked with Dr. Margaret Aguwa and others in organizing the OsteoCHAMPS program for the high school students from Crockett Technical High School in Detroit, and she has written in the ADMIT, a pre-medical newsletter, on the importance of minority recruitment and reaching out to underserved populations. In recognition for her achievements in academics and community service, Ms. Dawson was awarded the Edgar Harden Memorial Scholarship for 2001.

But above all, Ms. Dawson plans on returning to the Detroit area and the patients she left several years ago. If all goes according to plan, she will make the return trip to Detroit as a family practice DO.
Fleeing to Survive, Returning to Help

Phuc Huynh, DO, Visits Vietnam

by K. Friday

Phuc Huynh, DO, is a man whose hardships have only increased his compassion and generosity toward others. This February, after 26 years, he returned to his native Vietnam as a physician, teacher, and friend.

In 1975, Dr. Huynh (MSUCOM 1998) fled war-torn Vietnam at the age of six with his sisters, mother, and a brother. His father, a soldier for the South Vietnamese army, had recently died as a result of combat wounds. As the North Vietnamese army advanced on Saigon in April of that year, the family decided it was time to flee. Among the last South Vietnamese evacuated from Saigon, they eventually boarded a naval vessel bound for the United States.

After spending some time in a refugee camp at Camp Pendleton, California, the family got church sponsors to help them move to Chicago and then, a year later, to Redlands, California, where the family settled. Even after this long journey, there were still more challenges. Dr. Huynh and his siblings were thrown into the public school system without knowing English, and occasionally his mother, working multiple jobs to support her family, had to rely on public assistance to make ends meet.

Dr. Huynh never forgot any of this, and at a young age decided to become a physician as a way of giving something back and helping others.

"My father’s death could have been prevented with better medical care," Dr. Huynh recently told an interviewer for the Lansing State Journal when asked about his career choice.
This past year, Dr. Huynh, now the chief resident of family medicine at Ingham Regional Medical Center, received a two-week teaching scholarship from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation, allowing him to take part in the largest physician delegation from the US to visit Vietnam since the war.

Sponsored by the AAFP, the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, Physicians with Heart, and Heart to Heart International, 23 family physicians traveled to Vietnam in February for a two-week humanitarian and medical outreach mission. The group distributed nearly $5 million in medical supplies and equipment and spearheaded symposiums on family medicine and training in three cities — Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), and Thai Nguyen. Working with the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, the group advised the Vietnamese on the advantages of a health care system based on family practice, and they talked with local physicians about setting up residency programs for the country’s medical students.

For Dr. Huynh, one of two DOs in the delegation and one of two residents in the group, the trip home was more than just a humanitarian or diplomatic mission. Dr. Huynh was reunited with family members, most of whom he did not remember, in a very emotional homecoming. He met his aunts, as well as two cousins, two nieces and one nephew — most of whom were born after he left.

“Professionally, the trip has helped some people in need and enhanced the future of communication and diplomacy between the United States and Vietnam. But the trip also changed me personally. It helped me appreciate my background, my people, my culture. I finally touched base with my roots, and that has helped me understand who I am and why I do what I do.”
CORI MILLEN CONTRIBUTES TO RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

by K. Friday

Even before she enrolled at MSUCOM, first-year student Cori Millen made an important contribution to research methodology involving alternative medicine.

In December 2000 the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine published a study co-authored by Opher Caspi, MD, Ms. Millen, and Lee Sechrest, PhD. The study proposed a reclassification of the methodology commonly used in evaluating the efficacy of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) interventions.

Ms. Millen and her co-authors examined 40 studies involving CAM interventions and found that all claimed to be double-blind, either in their titles or abstracts, even though a slightly different methodology was in fact being used. Double-blind studies, considered the "gold standard," involve a methodology in which both the experimenter and the subject are unaware of the make-up of the test and the identity of the control groups.

Ms. Millen and her co-authors found, in fact, that the studies in question all used a variation of double-blind methodology, one in which the caregiver is not blind but the subject and an external investigator are. The article introduced a new classification, coined by Dr. Caspi, for such methodologies: the "dual-blind study."

Ms. Millen believes that the article is important for showing that there is a reliable and acceptable methodology other than double-blind. According to Ms. Millen "when it comes to alternative modalities, there is a general perception that they lack the support of clinical research. I think this study was one attempt to show that that doesn’t necessarily need to be the case."

Piqued by the writings of Dr. Andrew Weil, a leader in the field, Ms. Millen moved from her home in Colorado to first volunteer and then work at the Program in Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona as an assistant to the fellowship program. It was there where she got the chance to participate in the research that led to the article on dual-blind methodology.

After moving back to Colorado in 1999, Ms. Millen worked at an osteopathic clinic, where she helped compile data for a book on integrating alternative modalities into a primary practice.

Since coming to MSU, Ms. Millen has shadowed MSUCOM alumnus Will-Page Echols, DO, who also integrates alternative modalities into his practice. She has also, along with fellow student Jennifer Marnik (Class of 2003) and Terrie Haggard, DO, pioneered a club for students interested in combating stress. The goal of the Prevention Club, Ms. Millen explains, is to help students implement techniques in their daily lives to become "well-rounded" and "better-balanced" beings.

"After all," Ms. Millen says, "we are studying how to direct our patients toward healthier lives; shouldn’t we lead by example?"
Building Bridges for the Entering Classes

MSUCOM Mentoring Programs

by David S. Warden

When students first come to MSUCOM, the adjustment from life as an undergraduate can be rough. Several resources, including the Peer Mentoring and Faculty Mentoring programs, have proven to be successful in assisting with the transition. Both programs began in 1993 under the guidance of Celia Guro, PhD, who admits they are “very near and dear” to her heart.

With the peer-mentoring program, first-year students can contact more advanced students who have volunteered to help in non-academic areas. Mentors assist areas such as budgeting money, balancing time between family and school, or dealing with sexuality issues, among others. Peer mentors are listed on a board on the first floor of East Fee Hall, along with their mentoring specialty and e-mail address, so interested students can contact them directly.

Peer mentors fill out an application and survey, explaining why they want to mentor. A potential mentor is then interviewed several times before being selected.

Peer mentors choose to get involved with the program for a variety of reasons. “I became a peer mentor because of the difference peer mentors made for me during my first year,” said Ia Kue, an MSUCOM student.

Other mentors get involved for other reasons. “I wanted to help first year medical students adjust, and make their transition to medical school as easy as possible,” said Ali Saad, co-Peer Mentor of the Year for 2000.

Every year one or two outstanding peer mentors receive the prestigious “Peer Mentor of the Year” award, which was started by Dr. Guro in 1993. The award comes with $500, which is split when there is more than one winner.

Another option is the faculty mentoring program, where first-year medical students can work with the instructors of their core classes both inside and outside of class. All the faculty mentors teach in either the doctor/patient relationship courses or in the clinical skills course, and there are approximately six students per mentor.

Also available is Big Sib/Little Sib program offered through the MSUCOM Student Council. The application includes a form listing interests, and is designed to pair a first-year student with an older student mentor. When the applications come in, the second-year class secretary goes through them, matching interests along with the desire for certain backgrounds or genders. For the entering class of 2004 there were over 100 pairings, indicating the program’s popularity.

For further information on the Peer Mentoring or Faculty Mentoring programs, contact Dr. Celia Guro at guro@msu.edu. For more information on the Big Sib program, contact Katherine Hansul at hansulka@msu.edu.

Melissa Boehm (left), Class of 2004 mentoring
Melissa Cook, Class of 2003
Foreign Exchange Rotation

The Value of the Global Classroom

by K. Friday

Benjamin Busch has experienced first-hand the value of the global classroom. His travels have helped him grow as a student and as a person, and now he wants to make it easier for others like him to do the same.

Although most osteopathic students obtain their off-campus, clinical training in their third and fourth years, in October 2000 Mr. Busch, a second-year MSUCOM student, arranged a month-long, independent study with the faculty of Victoria University of Technology in Melbourne. Committed to advancing his skills in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), Mr. Busch traveled to Australia at the recommendation of MSUCOM’s Philip Greenman, DO. As Mr. Busch explains, although DOs in Australia are not fully licensed physicians, they are considered experts in OMM, their specialty by law. In fact, Victoria University uses teaching literature and curriculum materials authored by Dr. Greenman.

In December 2000 Mr. Busch traveled to Costa Rica to deliver more than 240 pounds of medical supplies and clothing to the children of Robleato Orphanages in San José. For two weeks Mr. Busch and a friend conducted medical exams, made referrals, provided basic OMM treatments, and offered medical advice and training. They also spent hours doing what most physicians don’t have the time to do: playing and bonding with the children. According to Mr. Busch, this was probably the most important thing they did at the orphanage.

Mr. Busch’s world travels and experiences in several continents—he once taught muscle stretching to a man in the street in Marrakech, Morocco—have impressed upon him the importance of working with patients from different cultures and learning how these cultures practice medicine.

In the belief that such experiences can only enhance medical education, Mr. Busch and fellow second-year student Marcin Kociuba are leading an effort to increase student participation in the MSU International Health Project (IHP-MSU), an MSUCOM student organization devoted to facilitating clinical elective and unilateral volunteer opportunities for medical students who want to study abroad. Founded in 1982 by students at MSUCOM and affiliated with the MSU Institute of International Health, an organization which facilitates clinical exchanges and other international research opportunities for MSU faculty, the IHP-MSU provides and updates contact information, hosts presentations given by international health groups, and advises students on international travel. In short, the organization wants to make it easier for students to study abroad.

According to Allen Jacobs, DO, PhD, dean of MSUCOM, the program represents part of the college’s commitment to MSU President Peter McPherson’s effort to make MSU an international university. “Since 1974, when MSUCOM student Mira Marshall went to Nepal,” he explains, “this college has been sending students abroad to
study and work. In keeping with this tradition, I think the International Health Project has promise.”

Evangelos A. Petropoulos, MD, PhD, director of the MSU Institute of International Health, agrees. “We encourage and support IHP’s ideas of internationality in medical education, collegiality and camaraderie among all medical students of the planet, and learning across national and educational boundaries. These wonderful students need our wholehearted encouragement and support in their international activities.”

Since international travel can be expensive, Mr. Busch and Mr. Kociuba are seeking recurrent funding in order to provide, on a consistent basis, a month’s free room and board for foreign exchange students. In exchange, MSUCOM students will receive the same. Currently the program has enough money for one exchange, although it would like to provide opportunities for about ten students a year. According to Mr. Busch, if all goes according to plan, “MSUCOM will become the first osteopathic college to participate on a consistent basis in bilateral clinical exchanges.”

As for Mr. Busch, you can bet that he will continue to travel, even after medical school. “I would be remiss to stay in the US, where there are more doctors per capita than anywhere else,” he explains.

---

**Golden Apple Awards**

**MSUCOM Faculty**

by K. Friday

Each year, the first and second year classes at MSUCOM select two faculty to receive the Golden Apple award for outstanding teaching. This year’s winners were Peter Gulick, DO, associate professor of internal medicine, and James Rechtien, DO, PhD, acting chairperson of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine.

Dr. Gulick received the award for his instruction in OST 521, a course designed to provide the basic science and clinical medical framework for understanding the hematopoietic system. He is also the coordinator for OST 523, the genitourinary system course. Dr. Gulick has taught at MSUCOM for 16 years and has won the award before.

When asked about his teaching, Dr. Gulick explained that he doesn’t try to outsmart his students or trick them with obscure facts. “I don’t see medical education as a memorization game. I want the students to learn principles and to be able to think about and analyze common scenarios and problems.”

Dr. Rechtien received the Golden Apple award for his instruction in Anatomy 551 and his lectures in OST 511. Dr. Rechtien, who has taught for 30 years, has been teaching anatomy since 1995. Like Dr. Gulick, he has won the award before.

When asked about his teaching, Dr. Rechtien explains that he tries to teach anatomy with a real-world context in mind. “Anatomy can be intense, because of the lab component, but I try to make it a user-friendly course and give them anatomical information with a clinical bent. I think the students appreciate that. After all, they are here to be physicians.”

---

Examining a young patient in Costa Rica

Peter Gulick, DO

James Rechtien, DO
The Lighter Side of Student Life

by Pat Grauer

FOLLIES DE FEE 2001

UnNSYNC, photos of MSUCOMers purported to have been separated from celebrity twins at birth, Shirley Siew impersonations and multiple instances of “unusual” costuming populated the program of the 2001 Fee Follies, held at the The Dollar in Lansing.

Since its inception, the Follies have been a night of uninhibited, sometimes ribald fun for students, faculty and staff, and this year’s event was no exception.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS BIG WINNERS AT VEGAS NIGHT

From the bluster of a Michigan winter evening, MSUCOM students, faculty, staff and friends stepped through a doorway into LasVegas with an Hawaiian theme — replete with blackjack, roulette, craps, a money wheel, leis, wild tropical shirts and luau fare.

It was the annual Vegas night, sponsored by the Michigan Osteopathic Association and hosted by the MSUCOM Student Council. The event this year raised $6,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lansing.

Sponsors included Dr. Oliver Hayes, Internal Medicine; Dr. Mark Cummings, Statewide Campus System; Thomas Caulfield, Horizon Health System; Dr. William Falls, Student Services; Dr. William Strampel, senior associate dean; Dr. E. James Potchen, Radiology; Dr. Allen W. Jacobs, dean; Dr. James Rechtien, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine; L&L Shoprite of Haslett.

MSUCOM students, Dean Jacobs and Dennis Paradis try their luck for charity.
ETCHED IN LIFE, CELEBRATED WITH CRYSTAL

On April 23, in a surprise ceremony, the entire MSUCOM student body was recognized for its voluntarism by the City of East Lansing with its prestigious Crystal Award. The citation read:

"The student body of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is a community of students dedicated not only to their academic pursuits, but to improving and advancing health care education in the City of East Lansing.

These students believe that serving the community and community outreach are important and natural components of becoming well-rounded, caring and compassionate osteopathic physicians. More than 80 percent of osteopathic medicine students volunteer their time continuously throughout the year. Their activities include conducting free health screens and health assessments to the public at local events. Students provide glucose tests, cholesterol checks, blood pressure checks, and health promotion literature. In addition, the students present health education programs at the Gateway Community Center and work with at-risk teenagers at Towar alternative education high school, counseling them in the areas of alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy, and depression. MSUCOM students are also involved in diabetic counseling in underserved communities, educating East Lansing school-age children about AIDS, and providing sports physicals to Special Olympians as well as East Lansing High School athletes.

The MSUCOM students are very proud of the free Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Clinic they offer one evening a week to the public and the university. This clinic is staffed by student volunteers with faculty supervision. The students also have been active in supplying bread/bagels to the area homeless and serving Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat for Humanity."

THE MSUCOM FAMILY

OBITUARIES

William Burnham Carnegie, DO. Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 1933. Professor Emeritus, MSUCOM Department of Internal Medicine. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Carnegie-Shillinglaw Endowment Fund for Excellence in Internal Medicine at MSUCOM Department of Internal Medicine.

Joseph A. Papsidero, MPH, PhD. Case Western Reserve University, Class of 1970. Professor, MSUCOM Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Pedro Rivera Jr., DO. MSUCOM Class of 1978. Assistant Professor, MSUCOM Department of Family Practice. Memorial Contributions can be made to the Blue Care Network of Michigan Endowed Scholarship in honor of Pedro Rivera, DO.

Eugene L. Sikorski, DO. Des Moines College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery Class of 1956. Former President of AOA. Former President of Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS). Ex officio Member of Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board.

RETIREMENTS


Donald F. Stanton, DO. Professor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Bertram Stoffelmayr, PhD. Professor, Psychiatry.

Howard S. Teitelbaum, DO, PhD, MPH. Professor, Internal Medicine.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Kari Lyn Atkins, Clerical Aide, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine.

Julie Marie Brewer, Secretary II, MSU Institute for International Health.

Austin W. Coleman, PhD. Post-doctoral fellow, Neurology and Ophthalmology.

Frank Michael Ditt, Professor Emeritus, MSU Institute for International Health.

Cheryl Bunt Deane, DO. Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine.

Jennifer Novak Gilmore, DO. Assistant Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine.


Tirza Greer, MD. Assistant Professor, Pediatrics.

Ann M. Jones, Health Care Assistant, Neurology and Ophthalmology.

Sackdinnah Keomahath, Instructor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Jeffrey R. Kovan, DO. Assistant Professor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Judith L. Kunke, Office of the Dean.

Francis A. Komara, DO. Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine.

Daniel Koop Liechty, Office of the Dean.

Michelle Marie Miller, Medical Billing Assistant, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Jillian Leigh Rancour, Health Care Assistant, Radiology.

Bethann W. Ripley, Professional Aide, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Patricia Jo Rodgers, DO. Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine.

Melanie Patricia Sanchez, Office Assistant II, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Taylor Scott, DO. Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine.

Mohamed A Sharif, MD. Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine.

Cresha M. Sleep, Technician, Radiology.

Christi S. Sovis, Administrative Assistant, Internal Medicine.

Mary Carol Thiel, Physical Therapist, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Deborah D. Vannowtow, Health Care Assistant, Osteopathic Surgical Specialties.

Robin L. Weathers, Clerical Aide, Office of the Dean.

Joyce M. Wesley, Accounting Clerk, Office of the Dean.


Jami Wichert, MD. Assistant Professor, Pediatrics.
Hooding 2001

Crossing the Threshold

by Pat Grauer

The band played. Dignitaries encouraged and praised. Excellence was recognized. Friends cheered, parents wiped their eyes, babies dozed. One hundred twenty graduates in robes and hoods were applauded by nearly an equal number of faculty in robes and hoods.

MSUCOM’s hooding, a celebration of achievement that occurs only once in the lifetime of a physician, was held at the Wharton Center May 3.

The keynote speaker was American Osteopathic Association Executive Director John Crosby, who shared with the graduates his “Short Guide to a Happy Life.” He urged them to focus on four positive attributes: will, vision, commitment and belief. Noting that projections for 2020 predict as many as 87,000 osteopathic physicians, Crosby said “We can make ‘D.O.’ a household word. We can dedicate ourselves to provide quality care to every household in the United States.”

Other speakers included Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, dean; William M. Falls, PhD, associate dean of student services; Andrew J. Schorfaar, class president; and Dan L. Hunt, DO, MSUCOM Alumni Association president. Hooding the students were faculty Mark R. Gugel, DO, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, and William J. Pintal, DO, Family and Community Medicine.

Graduate award winners included

- Robert B. Balbis, DO, Richard L. Alper Memorial Award
- Stephanie L. Crain, DO, Judith K. Weisswasser Memorial Award
- Claudio M. Carvalho, DO, Dean’s Recognition Award and
- Mary G. Veremis-Ley, DO, Michigan Osteopathic Association Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
A Strong MOA-Student Relationship

by Dennis M. Paradis, MOA executive director

There are moments, even during some of the most hectic months, that you can’t help but stop and look in amazement at the strength of the osteopathic profession. Every year, I have such a moment when I attend the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) commencement ceremony. It was during some of these moments that I have witnessed the strengthening of the MOA-student relationship.

Under the direction of 2000-01 president, Gerald E. Brenton, DO, we recently created the MOA/MSUCOM Student Liaison Committee. Our student liaison committee, chaired by William Reeves, DO, and the Michigan Minority Liaison Committee, chaired by Dale Sanders, DO, have provided much needed stability and organization in our efforts to communicate and interact with our student members.

Today, we have active student representatives as well as many other active students who carry the message of MOA and educate others about the efforts of the profession and the impact it will have on the practice environment and patient care. It is because of students like Paul Brown, John Duhn, Mike Kolinski, Pegah Mehdizadeh, Penny Hiipakka, Bill Sanders, Barb Karenko, Clarence Nicodemus, Benjamin Schnurr, Chris Steinacker and Patrica Florence that we have achieved so much over the last few years. Their efforts allowed us to have numerous clinics, lectures, and programs as well as complete several enormous projects such as the osteopathic medicine calendar. Their ideas and action are priceless.

It goes without saying that much of our gratitude is also reserved for Dean Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, and all of the other staff and faculty at MSUCOM, for continuing to engage the MOA leadership and membership in student activities. Without an open door to reach these fine students, we could not serve them.

But our work is far from done. We will continue to enhance the benefits of MOA membership and find new ways to reach out to all students. In the years to come, we look forward to the new and exciting possibilities that each of you bring to the profession.

Bridge to the University

ALUMNI

Fun, outstanding CME, opportunities for research and teaching, advocacy, clinical referrals, communication, and sharing resources to meet common goals — there are many important reasons that alumni should maintain ties to their alma mater.

The MSUCOM Alumni Association provides one of the best bridges between alumni and the university, a direct route of fellowship and communication that can keep you close to what’s important.

Whether it’s Silverfest (see back cover) or next winter’s tropical Seminar in the Sun, MSUCOMAA values your participation in all of our activities together – a chance to renew old friendships, create some new ones, and provide important professional liaisons.

We especially welcome our 120 new graduates to participate from the beginning of their careers, to stay in the network to provide a wonderful springboard for your professional life.

Interested in joining? Please contact Kim Camp (camp@msu.edu), toll-free 877-853-3448.

See you in September!
Dan L. Hunt, DO
President, MSUCOM Alumni Association
In Fall 2000 MSUCOM instituted a new recruitment program designed to attract elite high school students to MSU and osteopathic medicine.

The Osteopathic Medical Scholars program offers conditional admission to approximately 10 MSU entering freshmen who have demonstrated scholastic and extracurricular excellence, have an interest in osteopathic medicine as a career, and who will apply to MSUCOM upon graduation. In addition to monitoring and advising the scholars’ undergraduate progress at MSU, the program provides the students with on-going, participatory exposure to both the college and the principles and practices of osteopathic medicine.

According to Dean Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD, the Osteopathic Medical Scholars program is the only program of its kind nationally among osteopathic medical schools.

The chief architect of the program is its director, Norma Baptista, PhD, of Minority Student Services. She helped establish the selection criteria, and she developed an osteopathic “enrichment” program for the scholars that complements their undergraduate studies.

Although the baseline criteria for admission to the Osteopathic Medical Scholars program include a 3.5 GPA and 1280 or higher on the SAT, Dr. Baptista emphasizes that the program requires more than just academic performance. “We are looking for elite students, but not just scholastically, the students must also have a record of community service, leadership, and volunteerism.”

According to William Falls, PhD, associate dean of Student Services, the college has received applications from as far away as Virginia and Massachusetts.

Once enrolled in MSU, the scholars begin four years of “enrichment” activities at the college. They meet with Dr. Baptista once a month, compile a four-year portfolio of assignments, reports, interviews, and activities relevant to osteopathic medicine, attend college lectures and presentations, shadow physicians and medical students, participate in student organizations, and enroll in a new course, OST 401, specifically created to introduce pre-medical students to the basic principles and practices of osteopathic medicine.

The scholars themselves have found the program valuable and exciting.

According to MSU senior Michael Callan, “The program gives us insight into how things will be as medical students. We are exposed to the interviewing process, introduced to the faculty and staff, and experience many of the other things you can’t learn from books.” Mr. Callan was equally impressed with the reception he received from the college: Everybody was really supportive, especially the medical students, it felt like being welcomed into a family.”

According to MSU freshman Shannon Camp, the program has intensified her interest in osteopathic medicine. “I am having a great time with all of the activities we do, and I’m learning more and more about osteopathic medicine. I love spreading the word about what I am doing, and I think this program will really help raise awareness of the profession.”
From a small, cramped room in the basement of East Fee Hall, John McDaniel performs a vital service for the students, faculty, and staff of MSUCOM.

The academic technology coordinator in the medical informatics unit, Mr. McDaniel is an audio specialist who provides recordings of lectures and other presentations. With nine classrooms and three labs at the college that have extensive audio systems, Mr. McDaniel is also responsible for equipment maintenance and training. In a typical day there are lectures to record, tapes to duplicate, equipment to set up in various meeting rooms, and perhaps even a video conference or two to run. Mr. McDaniel also does video editing for the college and researches new presentation technologies for faculty, staff, and students.

A graduate of MSU, Mr. McDaniel has worked for MSU for almost 21 years. He started working for recording services at the School of Music as an undergraduate and was then hired full-time. As he describes his responsibilities, it becomes clear that Mr. McDaniel has done a little of everything when it comes to audio recording.

“I recorded all band, orchestra, choral and jazz ensemble performances, along with faculty and student recitals. I also did recording sessions for audition tapes and compact disc production, analog and digital editing for LP and CD release, and sound reinforcement for both electronic music performances and jazz concerts.”

For 18 or so years, Mr. McDaniel worked at the School of Music, before coming to MSUCOM. Here, he seems to take pride in going the extra distance to help others.

First year student Benjamin Schnurr recalls that when he and some fellow students were having problems mixing the sound for their Fee Folles video, Mr. McDaniel volunteered his equipment and expertise immediately. “He really helped us out, and he didn’t need to do so.”

According to Sandra Kilbourn, MA, director of External Programs, Mr. McDaniel is really good anticipating users’ needs and possible complications. “John is always looking at the calendar, contacting me before events, and making the necessary arrangements. He takes the worry out of my hands and allows me to concentrate on other things.”

Although he might not be the most visible of MSUCOM’s staff, it is clear that Mr. McDaniel’s good work can always be heard around the college.

Ed. Note: Jessica Astrom is a MSU undergraduate student working with the Office of Public Relations through a partnership with the MSU Service Learning Center.
Developing A Path To Health Careers

Gerson Cooper from Botsford General Hospital, Mr. Hodges, Dr. Aguwa and Dean Allen W. Jacobs (left to right)

by Pat Grauer

The MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine has a number of programs – some long-standing, others brand-new – to encourage students who are from underrepresented minority groups or who are disadvantaged to become osteopathic physicians.

These efforts are important not only because diversity helps students and the profession, but because it helps patients – developing osteopathic physicians who return to communities where they are most needed, providing care in a cultural context that’s familiar and comfortable.

A program new to this year, called “OsteoCHAMPS,” (Osteopathic Careers in Health and Medical Professions) forging partnerships with Michigan high schools to encourage capable young students who might not initially know about osteopathic medicine to consider it as a career. In addition, these students are taught ways to enhance their study skills, motivation, leadership and basic science knowledge.

OsteoCHAMPS’ first iteration was a long-term partnership with Ethelene Jones Crockett Technical High School in Detroit. Under the leadership of Margaret Aguwa, DO, chairperson of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Norma Baptista, PhD, director of Minority Student Services, the Crockett program expanded from initial presentations about the profession to a ten-day mini-medical school. This program will soon be expanded to Muskegon schools and then to other sites around the state with students eligible to attend a summer academic enrichment program on campus.

Any medical education is extremely expensive, and the college successful in recruiting these applicants must be able to offer financial aid to disadvantaged students. To that end, two endowed scholarships have been established.

The Margaret Aguwa, DO, MPH, Endowed Scholarship was created to honor the founder of OsteoCHAMPS. Students, particularly those in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and the Association of Minority Osteopathic Medical Students (AMOMS), joined forces with MSUCOM’s Office of Minority Student Services and alumni in this initiative.

The Edward N. Hodges III, JD, Endowed Scholarship was established by Botsford General Hospital and its medical staff to honor the chairperson of its board, who is also an ex officio member of the governor-appointed Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board. The hospital board and medical staff have each pledged $2,000 a year for the next five years, fully endowing the scholarship at the end of that time. In addition, members of the Botsford administration are challenging other Statewide Campus System hospitals to match their contribution.

“Helping to raise the money for and awareness of these programs to allow underrepresented minority students and students from the underserved areas of Michigan to be exposed to the philosophy of osteopathic medicine, our faculty, and our staff is truly a rewarding experience for me both personally and professionally,” noted Barbara Ball-McClure, director of development. “It allows me to help those who might not normally be able to afford an advanced degree to pursue their dreams, hopes and aspirations.”

Both scholarships will be given each year to one or more MSUCOM students, with preference given to minority students.

To contribute, contact Barbara Ball-McClure, MSUCOM Director of Development, A310 E. Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1316, 517-355-8355, ballmcclu@msu.edu
13
MSUCOM Awards Ceremony, E105 Fee Hall, 3:30 PM. This sixth annual ceremony celebrates the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students and their contributions to the college. Open to MSUCOM faculty, staff, students, friends, and families. Sponsored by the Office of External Programs. For more information contact Beth Courey at courey@msu.edu

18-22
Summer Public Health Research Videoconference of Minority Health. Video Feed at MSU, 1:30 PM, Kellogg Center. Keynote speaker: Camara P. Jones, MD, MPH, PhD, research director on social determinants of health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For information, contact Martin Furey, management analyst and editorial consultant, MSUCOM Office of Research, at fureymar@msu.edu or visit www.minority.unc.edu/institute/2001/

23-27
Muscle Energy Level II. Kellogg Center, East Lansing, 40 hours Category IA credit. Tuition is $1250, $900 for residents and interns. Call CME at (517) 353-9714 or (800) 437-0001 or visit www.com.msu.edu/cme

18-22
Principles of Manual Medicine. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 40 hours Category IA credit. Tuition is $1250, $900 for residents and interns. Call CME at (517) 353-9714 or (800) 437-0001 or visit www.com.msu.edu/cme

19-22
MAOFP Annual Summer Update. Soaring Eagle Resort, Mt. Pleasant. Reception Hosted by MSUCOM Friday, July 20 6-8 PM. For more information, contact Kim Camp, External Programs, at 877-853-3448 or camp@msu.edu

12-15
Silverfest Alumni Weekend. East Lansing, MI. Weekend activities include Wednesday Osteopathic Open Golf Tournament, Friday evening dinner/dance, Saturday CME course, Saturday pre-game tailgate and MSU vs. Missouri football game. For tickets, reservations, or more information, contact Kim Camp, External Programs, at 877-853-3448 or camp@msu.edu or visit www.com.msu.edu

For a complete listing of MSUCOM events check out our Web calendar: http://www.com.msu.edu/calendar
Silverfest 2001

Wednesday, September 12 through Saturday, September 15, 2001

featuring
Osteopathic Open Golf Outing
"Fall Kaleidoscope: CME for Osteopathic Physicians"
Dinner Dance
Pre-game Tailgate
MSU vs. Missouri Football Game

Sponsored by:
Fifth Third Bank (formerly Old Kent Bank)
Ingham Regional Medical Center
Metropolitan Health Corporation
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan State University Federal Credit Union
Sparrow Health System

For further information, please contact Kim Camp, toll free at 1-877-853-3448 or e-mail camp@msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
A306 East Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1316

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ANN COOK
COM EXTERNAL PROGRAMS
A314D EAST FEE HALL, MSU
EAST LANSING, MI 48824