The concept of excellence in education at MSUCOM is a lot like breathing. It’s so pervasive we tend not to think about it. But that concept is also as vital to the survival of our college as oxygen is to our bodies. When our educational programs are healthy, they nurture and invigorate all that we do—research, clinical care, community service, administration, and more.

College faculty, staff, and students all teach—in a kaleidoscope of educational settings and opportunities. Though our primary emphasis is to prepare 500-plus osteopathic students to become excellent physicians, we also teach:

- Nearly 1,000 interns and residents in our Statewide Campus System, including those in family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecological surgery, general surgery, orthopedic surgery and emergency medicine
- Continuing medical education courses for more than 1,000 health care providers each year
- A cadre of elite D.O./Ph.D. joint-degree students in our Medical Scientist Training Program, educating physician-scientists for the profession
- Postdoctoral fellows in both clinical specialty areas and research
- Undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students in our basic science departments
- Health promotion for children and adults in schools and community settings in the U.S. and abroad
- High school students in our OsteoCHAMPS program in a number of Michigan cities
- MSU undergraduates in our Osteopathic Medical Scholars program and a variety of for-credit classes
- MSU Evening College through our Mini Medical School

Continuing and enhancing this commitment to educational excellence is the primary goal for MSUCOM. This issue of Communiqué will introduce you to some of the faculty, students, staff, and others who make these programs work so well that it seems as easy as breathing. Thanks to each of you for your contribution to ensure a future of educational excellence for the osteopathic profession!
A Journey Through Osteopathic Education

by Steven D. Bevier

The road to becoming an osteopathic physician is long, but rewarding. There are many hours spent in the classroom and in the hospitals, reading books and studying patients. It is that dedication to learning and growth that turns hard working students into successful doctors.

Here are several people – each at a different stage in their educational careers – who demonstrate the variety of experiences that the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine offers in the education of a D.O.

Preparing for Medical School
Undergraduate Marshall Poole

For some doctors, the choice to become an osteopathic physician is long and difficult process. For Marshall Poole, the choice became clear very early.

It was during his time in the Boy Scouts that Mr. Poole first learned about osteopathic medicine. While earning a medical merit badge, his troop leader, Michael Wieting, D.O., associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, taught him what being a doctor was all about, and how the osteopathic philosophy set D.O.s apart. He certainly took it to heart.

“When you treat patients,” Mr. Poole says, “you have to address the mental and spiritual issues that people have.”

Mr. Poole jumped at the chance to earn a medical merit badge, his troop leader, Michael Wieting, D.O., associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, taught him what being a doctor was all about, and how the osteopathic philosophy set D.O.s apart. He certainly took it to heart.

So when the Osteopathic Medical Scholars (OMS) program was created in 2000, Mr. Poole jumped at the chance to participate. OMS is an honors program for MSU undergrads who are interested in a career in osteopathic medicine. OMS students participate in unique programs and community service activities. They also receive academic advisement from MSUCOM faculty and take special classes on doctor/patient relationships and osteopathic specialties. If the students complete all the requirements of the program they are guaranteed admission into the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

However, that doesn’t mean that they get a free ride. The application process for OMS is as rigorous as any med school. In addition to having good grades and a commitment to community service, applicants must also submit a personal statement and references and be interviewed by MSUCOM faculty and staff. OMS began its recruitment during Mr. Poole’s sophomore year, and he was among the first admitted to this elite group. Only 10 students are accepted as Osteopathic Medical Scholars each year.

He may not be in medical school yet, but Mr. Poole has already proven his commitment to health issues. He volunteers at Olin Health Center as a sexual health mentor, working with other students to provide health awareness programs in the dorms and on the campus radio station. He also works part-time as a nursing assistant and as a home care worker.

“I like working with older people,” he says. “They’re fun and there is so much you can learn about life from them. Also, when you are doing rehabilitation, you see your patients getting better and that is rewarding.”

Medicine is his only interest. He also enjoys art and philosophy, which is his undergraduate major. It’s too soon to know where osteopathic medicine will take him, but no one will be able to say he wasn’t prepared.

Hitting the Books
Second-Year Osteopathic Student Natalie DeNooyer

The first two years of medical school are a busy time for students. With classes all day and studying all night, it is tough to find time for yourself. It’s even more difficult to find time to help others.

For second-year student Natalie DeNooyer, finding that extra time doesn’t seem to be a problem. In addition to a full class load, she is an active member of several student organizations where she displays a devotion to helping communities and promoting osteopathic medicine.

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sends delegations to professional conferences, including the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) conference in Las Vegas. It doesn’t stop there. She is also a student liaison to the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA), where she participates in programs like the Capitol House Call. The annual event brings doctors and students together with state legislators to discuss health care issues.

After all that, she still finds time to go to class – where she does quite well. After receiving a degree in kinesiology from the University of Michigan, her mother suggested that she become a D.O. That led her to MSUCOM, where the people quickly won her over. Ms. DeNooyer considers her classmates to be a tightly knit group. “I know many of them will be friends for life.” Let’s hope she can fit them all into her busy schedule.

Meeting Patients
Third-Year Osteopathic Student
Heather Stamat-Valente

After their first two years of medical school, most students have had their fill of books. They spend all their waking hours reading texts and taking notes while loading their brains with facts and figures. Those long days and nights of studying are hard, but they are laying the groundwork for a more rewarding experience. When the student makes it to Unit III – the program for third- and fourth-year medical students at MSUCOM – that’s when things get interesting.

“I love it,” says Heather Stamat-Valente, Class of 2004. “It is the first time to work in the field of medicine. After that, she’ll finally realize a lifetime ambition by adding a ‘D.O.’ to the end of her name.”

She began her higher education at Albion College where she received a B.A in Spanish with a pre-med concentration. After graduation, she took a few years off to work, but she never gave up on her dream of becoming a doctor. She earned a master’s degree from Wayne State University before enrolling in MSUCOM in the fall of 2000. She believes those extra years in the workforce helped prepare her for the current challenge of working long hours in the hospital. “I’m used to getting up every day and going to work. It also helped to prepare me for the variety of the rotation experience.”

It’s still too early for Heather Stamat-Valente to know where her medical career will take her. For now, she’s just happy to be out in the field putting all that fancy book learnin’ to practical use.

The New Doctor
Third-Year Resident
Karen Speirs, D.O.

With some residencies lasting as long five or six years, the journey from undergraduate to full-fledged physician can be a long one indeed. For one new doctor the path from student to D.O. is a story that spans two decades.

When Karen Speirs, D.O., grew up in Goodrich, near Flint, her career plans were focused on becoming a doctor. She attended the University of Michigan at Flint and received a bachelor's degree in pre-med. She got married and began applying to medical schools. Then a surprise changed everything when she became pregnant with her first child. She decided to put medical school aside and devoted herself to her new family. That was twenty years ago.

She passed on medical school, but continued to work in the field of medicine. She earned a master’s degree in public health administration from Central Michigan University while working at local hospitals in Flint. She was also a supervisor in the microbiology lab at St. Joseph’s Hospital, now known as Genesys Regional Medical Center.

Then in 1996, with her two children reaching their early teens, Dr. Speirs decided it was time to give medical school one more shot. She applied to MSUCOM and was accepted, joining the Class of 2000. Though she was one of the oldest students entering that year, she had no trouble fitting in and was even elected class president.

She moved to East Lansing to attend classes, while her husband, Dave, and her sons stayed behind in Flint. “It was the hardest two years of my life,” she says, “but they have totally supported me.” Her sons – Andrew, 20 and Christopher, 18 – not only supported her career move, they also seem to have agreed with her choice of schools. Both followed in her footsteps and are currently attending Michigan State.

She headed back to Flint for her final two years of medical school and is now back at Genesys in the third and final year of her residency in internal medicine. “The first (postdoctoral) year was very nerve-wracking. You are taking the lead with patients and the responsibility is now on your shoulders.”

“IT’s only been a couple of years, but medical school seems like such a long time ago. It’s a joy to see people you went to school with and they feel like such old friends.”

While Dr. Speirs’ educational experience was certainly not a typical one, she is perfectly happy with the way things turned out. “You go through different stages in your life and there are times when you make sacrifices. That’s what life is.” The sacrifices Karen Speirs has made are ones she won’t regret.
Above and Beyond
Fellow
Gary Branch, D.O.

When the residency years end, doctors are fully prepared to take on whatever challenges they seek out. For some, the chance to pursue their education even further is too tempting to pass up. One doctor who knows that well is Gary Branch, D.O. The 1998 graduate of MSUCOM has completed his residency requirements, but before he sets out on his own, he’s taking his learning to yet another level.

Dr. Branch is currently a fellow in both physical medicine and rehabilitation and sports medicine at MSUCOM. The fellowship lasts one year and gives him an opportunity for more in-depth study of his chosen specialty. He’s learning more about specific treatments and techniques, like osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), and how to incorporate them into his patient care. It’s an experience that will be immensely valuable to his career.

“A practice that is only sports medicine is rare,” he says, “but I plan to work in a musculoskeletal and rehabilitation practice and to make sports medicine a component of that.”

What better place is there to study sports medicine than on the campus of a Big Ten university? Dr. Branch spends much of his time in the sports training rooms, working with MSU athletes. “Michigan State is unique because there are very few sports medicine programs that use OMM to the same degree,” he adds. There are plenty of Spartans who get regular treatments from MSUCOM doctors and appreciate the extra care that helps keep them on the field or court where they belong.

Dr. Branch divides the rest of his fellowship time between his clinical office, where he finds many high school athletes among those seeking treatment, and the EMG lab at Ingham Regional Medical Center. EMG machines are used to help diagnose and treat a variety of nerve and muscle problems. Dr. Branch is currently using EMG in a research project that is looking at ulnar nerve injuries at the elbow. The goal is to identify the most reliable methods for studying such injuries.

Dr. Branch is a native of DeWitt, Michigan, and received bachelor’s degrees in biology and chemistry from Central Michigan University.

Continuing Medical Education
Carl Steele, D.O.

One of the unique things about being a doctor is that long after you have earned your degrees, it is still vitally important that you continue to study all the latest advances in medicine. In fact, it is that commitment to education which can lead one to become a doctor in the first place.

Carl Steele, D.O., began his career as a physical therapist. He graduated from Ohio State University with a B.S. in physical therapy and an M.S. in anatomy. In the late ’70s he was on staff at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, which just happened to be an osteopathic hospital.

It was through his colleagues at the hospital that he began to learn about the osteopathic profession and osteopathic manual medicine in particular. He was impressed with what OMM could do for his patients and was eager to use it in his own treatments. That led him to the continuing medical education office at MSUCOM.

Dr. Steele was the first physical therapist to be allowed into MSUCOM’s CME program. He completed all the courses in manual medicine, and learned from the best.

“What drew me to MSU was its total commitment to manual medicine. Dean Magen deserves a lot of credit for gathering virtually every important figure in the field – like Fred Mitchell Jr., Philip Greenman, Bob Ward – and putting them all on one campus. It was a rare opportunity to learn from all the leaders in OMM.”

After a few years of CME courses, Dr. Steele decided to take his commitment to manual medicine even further. He enrolled in MSUCOM and got his very own D.O. in 1988.

Today, Dr. Steele lives and works in Port Clinton, Ohio, as a family practitioner who uses OMM extensively. He is still deeply involved with MSUCOM and returns to East Lansing regularly – not to take CME courses, but to lead them. His experiences as a student make him an ideal instructor and he has taught dozens of manual medicine courses through the CME program.

What started out as a desire for learning turned into a whole new career path for Dr. Steele. Now that desire helps others to fulfill their lifelong commitment to education.
Quality in the Classroom

Academic Physician Leader Program

by Steven D. Revier

Everyone knows that good schools need good teachers. The question is: Who teaches the teachers?

When it comes to the doctors who make up the backbone of the Statewide Campus System (SCS), that job falls to Karen Busch. She is an academic specialist at MSUCOM and her job is to help train the physicians who serve as instructors and mentors to the hundreds of residents who are educated at hospitals all across Michigan.

Her latest project is known as the Academic Physician Leader Program. The program is funded by a three-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. She and a team of education specialists spent the first year designing curricula and training a group of six Academic Physician Leaders (APLs). The next year was devoted to working with the APLs to teach local residency programs the ins and outs of the curriculum and how best to implement it in their hospitals. APLs—together with Ms. Busch and her colleagues—go out into the field to help local instructors develop the teaching skills needed to make that knowledge more effective. She sits down with the instructors to work on presentation and classroom techniques, and to refine the material to meet the needs of the learners. “It’s a unique approach,” she says. “It’s not just about giving the knowledge. It’s also about applying the knowledge.”

Ms. Busch admits she knew little about medical education when she first came to Michigan State 11 years ago. However, she was forced to learn quickly when she was hired to direct COGMET—the Consortium for Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education and Training—the precursor to SCS. She went into the clinics and hospitals to see firsthand how doctors work and interact with their patients. Ever since, she’s been developing educational programs that have benefited many an MSUCOM student. In 2001, she was honored with the MSU Distinguished Academic Specialist Award.

Now she spends much of her time working with residency directors to ensure that MSUCOM can continue to develop quality physicians. At the same time, she is refining the curriculum, always looking for ways to make it more useful to residents. “It’s rewarding to see you’ve made a change in how residents perceive teaching and learning.” The key, she says, is watching ideas get put into practice and learning what works and what doesn’t.

All the while, she has continued to further her own education. Ms. Busch defended her Ph.D. thesis in medical education in December 2002. Even the teacher never stops learning.

Mini but Mighty Medical

by Pat Grauer

Did you know that some cancer treatments can actually cause cancer, that having healthy teeth protects your cardiovascular system and that your immune system has its own memory?

The nearly 70 persons attending MSUCOM’s Mini Medical School do! For the third year, faculty from the College of Osteopathic Medicine have provided up-to-date health information for mid-Michigan men and women, including helpful tips for prevention of disease and treatment options. Each topic, all selected by the year’s previous class, includes brief discussions of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the condition so students can understand the causes of the illness and why prevention and treatments may work.

Topics and speakers for this year’s six-week program included:

“Cancer Update” two presentations by Peter Gallick, D.O., associate professor of internal medicine
“Aging Gracefully” by David Neff, D.O., clinical assistant professor of family and community medicine
“Autimmune Terrorists” by Carla Guggenheim, D.O., clinical assistant professor of internal medicine
“Eating Ecology” by Shirley Harding, D.O., chairperson and associate professor of osteopathic surgical specialties
“Maintaining a Healthy Heart” by David Strohl, D.O., professor of internal medicine.

The Mini Medical School is offered by MSUCOM in cooperation with the MSU Alumni Association’s Evening College, MSU’s Healthy U, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division.

Next year’s Mini Medical School will be held on Thursday evenings from October 2 to November 6, 2003. For information, contact Pat Grauer, director of public relations, grauer@msu.edu, 517-353-0616.

WILDERNESS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Not Just a Walk in the Woods

by Steven D. Revier

You may have seen adventure races on television, but you’ve never seen anything like the MedWAR.

Three teams from MSUCOM competed in the first ever Midwest Medical Wilderness Adventure Race (MedWAR) in Pinckney, Michigan, on October 19. Adventure races are grueling contests where competitors hike, climb, swim, paddle, and navigate their way over unfamiliar and often unfriendly ground. MedWAR adds an extra challenge by testing the medical knowledge and resourcefulness of the racers.

During the race, competitors faced several staged scenarios, in which teammates “suffered” injuries, like broken legs or concussions. Teams were judged on how well and how quickly they responded to the mock emergencies. Over the course of the daylong race, teams were tested on nearly every situation imaginable, from hypothermia to bug bites to diabetic attacks.

The MSUCOM students who competed in MedWAR are also members of the Wilderness Medical Society (WMS). The nationwide organization is dedicated to training health care workers on how to use their skills in remote settings, far from your average hospital. It is also a great way for friends to team up and practice their profession with their love for the outdoors.

Races like MedWAR provide the perfect opportunity to practice their skills and have fun doing it.

If you’d like to know more about WMS, contact Janelle Hendrin at howejane@msu.edu
There is nothing more essential to sound education than the work of quality teachers. MSUCOM has always made it a priority to acquire and develop the most talented faculty members possible. Below are just a few of the dedicated professors who make the College of Osteopathic Medicine one of the top medical schools in the country. The teachers pictured here have all received awards for excellence that were voted on by their students. Included are a selection of quotes from their colleagues and students.

**Mark Gugel, D.O. Associate Professor of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine**

“Dr. Gugel is extremely skilled in OMM. He is a wonderful and fun instructor with a personal approach to teaching. Always to the point, he makes sure all the students get a firm grasp on the material. His demonstrations include a variety of techniques and the students find his methods extremely engaging and helpful.”

**Mary Hughes, D.O. Professor of Internal Medicine**

“Dr. Hughes’ involvement in the entire education of our medical students is undeniably the gold standard. She serves as an outstanding role model for young osteopathic physicians and inspires our students to uphold high academic and moral standards. Her own enthusiasm for learning is projected to the students, who appreciate her innovative approach. She upholds the strictest standards of excellence for herself and for the students she teaches.”

**Shirley Siew, M.D. Professor of Pathology**

“With a reputation for rigorous expectations for her students… Dr. Siew is known by some as the ‘mother of pathology’… D.O’s who graduate from MSUCOM come away with a strong background in pathology owing to their experience in her classroom. Dr. Siew is highly respected by students throughout COM and CHM.”

**Robert Stephenson, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Physiology**

“Dr. Stephenson is among the most dedicated and effective medical educators in the business. He is constantly trying new approaches to illustrate very difficult material. He has a reputation as a master lecturer and a dedicated teacher. The students adore him and the enormous effort he puts into his teaching.”

**David Strobl, D.O. Professor of Internal Medicine**

“Dr. Strobl spares no expense in helping students learn and understand the material that he presents. He is always open to questions and is willing to listen to any concern a student might have. He strives to provide a fun educational environment in which students can learn. As a practicing physician, Dr. Strobl has one of the busiest cardiology practices in the city, yet still makes time for his students.”
committed
to the
Curriculum

Academic Programs Staff

by Steven D. Bevier

If the College of Osteopathic Medicine were a body, then the Office of Academic Programs would be its heart. The unit is responsible for assisting faculty in the planning, organizing and implementing the entire pre-graduate curriculum for MSUCOM students. Without the work of the dedicated staff, the college itself simply wouldn’t function.

“I don’t think people realize how much work goes into planning the curriculum,” says Patricia Horn, a curriculum assistant in academic programs. “We do everything we can to make things manageable for the students.”

On a typical day, one staff member may be helping a faculty member prepare notes for his class. Another could be assembling an exam. Another might be counseling a student who is choosing electives. There is a wide variety of ways that staff contribute to work of the faculty and students, but the goal is always the same: the smooth operation of the college.

“One of our most important functions is to serve as communicators,” says Paulette Lovell, pre-clinical curriculum coordinator. Academic programs is the primary line of contact between the students and the faculty. Whether it is an issue of scheduling class time or making up a missed test, the staff is there to help folks get the assistance they need for a successful education.

The group also feels very close to the MSUCOM students with whom they have a lot of personal contact. Not only do they prepare the students’ class schedules, but the students come to them with academic problems and the staff reaches out to those who may be struggling with the workload.

“Somebody is always watching out for the students,” says curriculum assistant Sherri Balmer.

Gail Riegle, D.O., the associate dean for academic programs, has high praise for the group. “I am privileged to work with a motivated staff, with unquestioned commitment to and support of faculty and students, who believe in team work and believe in having a good time while doing it.”

All the members really do think of themselves as a team. They put a strong emphasis on cooperation. They work closely with each other and no matter what their assigned duties, they are always willing to help out others when needed. No job is too small. “Even Dr. Riegle loves to help out with the smallest things,” says Robin Hastings. Adds Ms. Balmer, “We all have a contribution and that contribution is appreciated.”

That kind of camaraderie makes work a much better place to be. “We laugh a lot,” says administrative assistant Kathy McLeod. “We work hard, but we have fun doing it.”

New Faces at MSUCOM

by Pat Grauer

A senior editor from Excite.com has joined MSUCOM as the publications and Web editor, a new full-time position in the Office of Public Relations.

Steven D. Bevier, the new editor of Communique and other publications, has assumed responsibility for writing and for maintaining the college’s Web site, duties performed most recently by graduate assistant Kristie Friday and Ben Schnurr. Mr. Friday has taken a position as a health policy analyst at the General Accounting Office in Washington, D.C., and Mr. Schnurr is doing third-year clinical rotations at Mount Clemens General Hospital.

Mr. Bevier’s work at Excite.com included developing original content for its news, sports, entertainment, computers, games and lifestyle sections, writing a weekly on-line newsletter, producing short films and creating other Web content.

Since graduating from MSU in 1997, he has held posts as a high school teacher in Kentwood, an administrative assistant with Philip Morris in New York City, and as a member of the MSU Libraries support staff.

He’s bemused by the fact that a senior-year stint on the “Jeopardy!” game show is what most people seem to remember most about him. He placed third of 15 in their college tournament that year, and became a mini-celebrity on the MSU campus.

“I’m still surprised at how excited people get about it,” Mr. Bevier said. “It seems to have some sort of momentum of its own.”

The ability to absorb a lot of detail is serving him well in his new position, which has a steep learning curve. “I didn’t know much about osteopathic medicine when I started here,” he said, “but everyone has been very friendly, going out of their way to help me.”

“Mine is a real business orientation,” she said, “I believe in the power of the personal approach. I believe in being nice to people.”

It’s a orientation that well serves Sharon Wallace Snyder — a professional with a career spanning 25 years in fund-raising, management and marketing — as she takes the reins as director of development for MSUCOM.

Ms. Snyder spent 12 years as the national director of external affairs and marketing for Northwood University, interacting extensively with top management of Fortune 500 companies. Since then, she has served as the senior development officer for the Wayne State University School of Business Administration, and as the vice president of development for Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit.

The daughter of an automobile dealer and a nurse, Ms. Snyder learned the personal approach from her mother. “Her philosophy was always, ‘If you treat people well, they will treat you well,’” Ms. Snyder said.

As president of the auxiliary at St. John Hospital Medical Center in the early ‘80s, she led that group to contribute $1 million to the hospital’s capital campaign, and assumed a position on the hospital’s board of trustees.

Active in her community, Ms. Snyder is a sustaining member of the Economic Club of Detroit, a member of the American Association of University Women, and numerous other professional associations. She serves as a member of the University of Michigan Kresge Center for Communication Disorders Advisory Board, and is active with children’s service and arts organizations.

Ms. Snyder has two grown daughters and a granddaughter, and enjoys traveling to Europe, South America and throughout the U.S. She also discovered quite by accident a passion for deep-sea fishing when she won a ladies’ tournament in Florida.

“After several weeks at MSUCOM, I’ve found that the college and the profession are at a point in their history when there are great opportunities for us to showcase what we have to offer. That means that this is also a time of great opportunity to give to programs for which we are passionate.”

Sharon Snyder

STEVEN D. BEVIER

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Sharon Snyder

STEVEN D. BEVIER
The College of Osteopathic Medicine Presents

Slavery to Freedom
An American Odyssey

The Third Annual Visiting Minority Faculty Lecture Series

Thursdays, February 6 through 27, 2003

The intent of the MSU Visiting Minority Faculty Program is to provide opportunities for interaction with minority scholars from education, business, industry and government who spend time on a visiting-appointment basis at Michigan State University.

The MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is extremely pleased to host these notable scholars who, in addition to making the presentations advertised in this publication, will also be dedicating time to teaching MSU students on campus.

Sponsors

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services, Office of Assistant Provost for Academic Student Services and Multicultural Issues, Urban Affairs Program, Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, Library and Computer Technology, Undergraduate University Division, College of Social Science, The Graduate School, MSU Extension, Women's Resource Center.

The college expresses its appreciation to the following for their support:

- MSU Office of the Provost
- MSU Assistant Provost and Assistant Vice President for Academic Human Resources
- MSU Vice President for Student Affairs and Services
- MSU Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Monitoring
- MSU Black Faculty, Staff and Administrators Association
- MSU Black History Committee
- College of Osteopathic Medicine Committee on Diversity.

Special Thanks

to William G. Anderson, D.O., whose invaluable participation enhances the excellence of these programs.

For more information call 517-355-4608

Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon
Founder, "Sweet Honey In the Rock"; William and Camille Cosby Endowed Professor at Spelman College

"Songs of Freedom"

Bernice Johnson Reagon is a scholar, singer, composer and producer. She founded "Sweet Honey In The Rock," a world-renowned a cappella ensemble. She started her freedom music career as one of the original members of the history-making, world-traveled "Freedom Singers." Among her music consulting, composing and performing credits are the award-winning "Eyes on the Prize, We Shall Overcome, Roots of Resistance, The Lion Who Wrote History," and the Emmy-nominated "The Songs Are Free," with Bill Moyers on PBS. Reagon is curator emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. She served as principal scholar, conceptual producer, and host of the pathbreaking and Peabody Award-winning PBS series, "We Shall Overcome: An African American Sacred Music Tradition." Reagon's publications include "We Who Believe In Freedom: Sweet Honey In The Rock...Tell Oh My Journey, Will I Understand It Better By And By; Pioneering African American Gospel Composers: Voices Of The Civil Rights Movement; Black American Freedom Songs, 1960-1965" and "We Who Believe In Freedom Rider; civil rights activist; former legislator and author

Mr. Tom Hayden
Freedom Rider; civil rights activist; former legislator and author

"The White Perspective from the Inside"

Tom Hayden – freedom rider, civil rights activist, legislator, and author – is well known for his dedication and commitment to human and civil rights. As a freedom rider in Mississippi and Alabama, Hayden was beaten, jailed and expelled. As a civil rights activist and legislator he spent many years fighting racial, ethnic and gender bias and discrimination and for the preservation of the environment. He was elected to the California State Assembly and Senate seven consecutive times and was regarded as one of the strongest and most effective legislators in California's history. Hayden has been honored for his works by the American Lung Association, California League of Conservation Voters, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, University of California and California State, Jewish National Fund, and the Irish American "Top 100.

February 27, 2003, 4:00 p.m., Big Ten B, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Reception following.

For more information call 517-355-4608
Michigan OPTI Sets Pace for Osteopathic Educational Quality

by MOA Member Michael Opipari, D.O.

The Consortium of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education and Training (COGMET) in 1988 and officially transitioned into the Statewide Campus System of MSUCOM (SCS/MSUCOM) in 1996 and in 1999 met the AOA accreditation requirements as an OPTI. The SCS has been continuously accredited since that time.

Currently, the SCS/MSUCOM is an organization reflecting a consortium methodology of sharing resources discussed above. The goal ultimately is the improvement of the quality of care delivered to the people of our Michigan communities.

The SCS/MSUCOM is a true collaborative partnership, which consists of one voting member from every one of the training institutions, MSUCOM, and our academic member (KCOM). All bylaws, operational policies and budgets are approved by the full membership. The annual budget is $2.1M in addition to in-kind contributions from MSUCOM.

The OPTI in Michigan takes its role very seriously, as the overseer of quality osteopathic graduate medical education. In addition, we understand the significance of the continuum between the predoctoral and postdoctoral programs in our relationship between the college and our training community hospital sites.

In demonstrating the commitment and accountability to our interns and residents and the osteopathic profession for training of excellent physicians, a strategic plan was approved by the membership in May 2001. A plan provision calls for an annual self-assessment to evaluate progress. The five-year plan goals are:

1. Emphasize educational quality in its activities and operations
2. Provide educational services as needed to member institutions and all medical disciplines
3. Promote and integrate osteopathic principles and manipulative therapy into the educational programs of SCS
4. Encourage and participate in the development of core competencies for interns and residents
5. Increase levels of support and cooperation in SCS activities by clinical chairs at MSUCOM
6. Operate in a cost-effective manner in the provision of educational services to SCS members
7. Emphasize cooperation and collaboration among MSUCOM, member institutions, medical disciplines and other educational consortia
8. Be innovative in the delivery of educational materials, including the use of computer technology in delivering new knowledge

The consortium of osteopathic education programs in Michigan has served as a model for the osteopathic profession in the development of the OPTI concept. The accountability to quality clinical training exists and is continually strengthened by creating innovative educational models. The SCS/MSUCOM has truly established the pace of consortium medical education both within and outside of the osteopathic profession.

Michigan OPTI sets the pace for osteopathic educational quality by sharing resources and enhancing the quality of medical education.

MSUCOM ALUMNI NETWORK

Upcoming Events

January 23-26: MAOFF Conference
Shanty Creek Resort
Belgrade, Michigan

January 25: MAOFF-MSUCOM Reception

March 1-8, 2003: Seminar in the Sun
Plaza del Carmen
Mexico

WHERE ARE YOU?

Please keep us informed of recent moves or changes in your practice. It is important for college reports, grant writing, etc., that we have up-to-date information on our alumni.

Changes to your information can be made on the COM website under the alumni section or by calling 877-853-3448.

MSUCOM Alumni Office
A310 E. Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-432-4979 or toll free 877-853-3448
email: camp@msu.edu
www.com.msu.edu/alumni

AOA Convention Recap

MSUCOM alumni attendance broke all previous records this year at the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) convention in Las Vegas. Almost 200 former Spartans attended the alumni luncheon on October 8 to hear Dean William Strangell’s update on the college. Alumni Association President David Neff, D.O., Class of 1980, also spoke to the graduates and encouraged their participation in college events such as Silverfest and Seminar in the Sun.

Two alumni received the Dean’s Award for Meritorious Contribution during the luncheon. Steven Karageanes, D.O., Class of 1995, was honored for his service in the days immediately following the September 11 terrorist attacks. He went to New York City to provide medical care to the rescue workers at Ground Zero. Steven Pitt, D.O., Class of 1986, was recognized for his outstanding reputation as a forensic psychiatrist. Dr. Pitt has provided valuable help to such high-profile cases as the Jon-Benet Ramsey death and the Columbine shootings.

New to college convention activities this year was a “tailgate” reception for alumni and friends, held on October 6. The standing room only crowd had a great time reminiscing about their days at MSUCOM. The college exhibit, which ran throughout the convention, was also well attended.

Dean William Strangell (center) poses with Dean’s Award recipients Steven Karageanes, D.O. (left) and Steven Pitt, D.O.
Flu Shots for the Legislature

MSUCOM alumni and faculty, in conjunction with MOA members, administered flu shots for over 130 Michigan senators and legislative staff at the Capitol in November. This yearly event is part of the joint government advocacy program between MSUCOM and MOA. It provides an opportunity for MSUCOM and MOA to showcase the profession and interact with the legislature.

Seminar In The Sun

This year’s Seminar in the Sun will be held March 1-8, 2003, at the Gala Resort in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Physicians will earn 26 Category I CME credits. Make your plans now to take a break from winter and join us in Mexico. Package includes: round trip air from Detroit to Cancun, transfers to and from the hotel including baggage handling, seven nights all-inclusive accommodations at the Gala Resort Playacar including all meals, drinks, tips and a private welcome cocktail party as well as all hotel taxes, fees and a daily hospitality desk with services. For an additional price, golf and scuba enthusiasts will find the finest opportunities in all of the Caribbean and Mexico.

HONORING EDUCATION

In recent months, I’ve had the personal opportunity to visit every medical school in the Midwest. In several of these institutions, I’ve seen graduates from MSUCOM performing in a superb manner. We can all be proud of the reputation MSUCOM has achieved nationally. As graduates of MSUCOM, we understand the value of excellence in education. It means more than just earning a diploma. It is an experience that influences every part of our lives.

As physicians, we also appreciate the importance of continuing our education by staying on top of current trends and exploring the newest developments in the field. The pursuit of maintaining medical expertise is never-ending. The MSUCOM Alumni Association is dedicated to serving the college and helping its students – both past and present – get the most out of their education. Through CME courses and alumni gatherings, we help graduates connect with each other. In the process, we are building a strong community within the osteopathic profession. In addition, by donating time or money we can give back to the place where we got our start, and where many more continue to learn and grow.

I know that you will continue to further your own education and we hope that you can help others to do the same. You’ve seen for yourself what MSUCOM can do for osteopathic education and for the profession itself. Through your involvement in the Alumni Association, you can help support the college and its commitment to excellence.

One of our key themes for this upcoming year is finding ways to “keep it a two-way street” between the alumni and the college. I would gladly accept any suggestions that any of you might offer on how to establish and maintain better communication with the college. Feel free to email me at neff@msu.edu.

David Neff, D.O., President
MSUCOM Alumni Association

OLD FRIENDS, NEW MEMORIES

Silverfest Alumni Weekend

by Steven D. Bevier

The MSUCOM family honored its past at the Silverfest Alumni Weekend in September. This year’s event celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1977. The Classes of 1982, 1987 and 1992 were also honored.

The festivities began on Wednesday with the Osteopathic Open. Forest Akers Golf Course hosted a four-person scramble tournament that helped raise money for the Alumni Association and for student loan funds. The Open was sponsored by Metropolitan Hospital.

Friday night featured a dinner dance sponsored by Ingham Regional Medical Center. The band Teen Angels performed classic hits as friends and classmates reunited for a night of food and fun.

Folks came back on Saturday morning for a tailgate party before the Spartan football team’s win over Northwestern. The tailgate was held near Demonstration Hall and was sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. The alumni were joined in all the activities by current students as well as faculty and staff.

CME course, including presentations from MSUCOM alumni and friends, was also offered on Saturday morning before the game. In all, the weekend was a tremendous success as old friends reminisced and new friends were made.


Folks fill up on food at the tailgate party before the football game vs. Northwestern.

At the dinner dance, members of the Class of 1977 included (left to right) Joe Cook, Nick Abid, Shirley Harding, Jorge Luna, Sara Myers-Dora.

Mike McCell, D.O., Frank Belitto, D.O., Jim Lang, D.O. and Tim Crowley enjoy a day on the links.

At Silverfest Alumni Weekend – 25 years of excellence in education. It means more than just earning a diploma. It is an experience that influences every part of our lives.

In recent months, I’ve had the personal opportunity to visit every medical school in the Midwest. In several of these institutions, I’ve seen graduates from MSUCOM performing in a superb manner. We can all be proud of the reputation MSUCOM has achieved nationally.

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David Neff, D.O., President
MSUCOM Alumni Association
by Pat Grauer

With the inaugural celebration of The Campaign for MSU on September 20, MSUCOM’s Dean William D. Stampel, D.O., has established goals for the college’s portion of this university-wide capital drive. These include:

- Student scholarships: For a single in-state student living on the frugal budget established through financial aid, the total cost to graduate from MSUCOM is $153,528, for out-of-state students it is $322,728. Though the college has created a number of endowed scholarships and loan funds for our students, the annual awards are usually less than $5,000 and many more are needed.
- Osteopathic Medical Scholars: This program provides conditional admission to MSUCOM for ten entering freshmen at MSU who have demonstrated scholastic achievement and who intend to pursue a career in osteopathic medicine. Additional funds would allow us to broaden this initiative.
- Nationally renowned faculty: We need to create a series of endowed chairs, preferably one for each department, to attract renowned faculty. Around these foci of excellence, the highest quality of education, research and clinical care can be conducted.
- Outstanding research: Funds are needed to build a collaborative research effort with other osteopathic colleges and hospitals, to develop the new Center for Neuromusculoskeletal Research, to continue support for a core of excellent researchers, and to promote new research initiatives.
- Diversity: Because the pool of diverse students and faculty is very small for the osteopathic profession, it is imperative that we develop and continue to expand programs to enhance it, particularly in an environment where physicians are being called upon to practice medicine with increasing diversity among their patients.
- Medical informatics: With the rapid growth and change of technology, it is imperative that the college develops resources that will both allow us to keep abreast of technology for education, and teach our students, faculty, and alum to utilize technology in their practice settings.
- College infrastructure: A new building designed specifically for osteopathic education would assist in attracting the highest level of students and faculty, enhance the operations of the college, reduce renovation costs, and increase our flexibility. In addition, the college is developing a proposal for a clinical assessment center in conjunction with other campus medical units, which offers both educational and revenue opportunities.
- Medical Scientist Training Program: MSUCOM’s D.O./Ph.D. program was the first of its kind in the world, and has remained paramount for the training of elite students to be osteopathic physician-scientists. Graduates of the program have gone on to work in the foremost education and research institutions in the nation. Additional funding would allow us to expand and enrich this educational program in our college.
- “The generosity of our donors to the capital campaign can give MSUCOM the margin of flexibility needed to allow us to innovate and to achieve new levels of excellence,” Dean Stampel noted. “This kind of partnership with the college is imperative to our continued growth in service to our patients and profession.”

Interested in participating in these initiatives at MSUCOM? If so, please contact Sharon Snyder, director of development, (517)355-8355, or use the enclosed gift envelope.

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2003 Calendar of Events

January

- 11-15 CME: Craniosacral Technique: Level I. Windmill Inn, Tucson, AZ. 40 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,250; $900 for residents and interns. Course chairperson is Barbara Brine, D.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001 or (517) 353-9714, cme@com.msu.edu; www.com.msu.edu/cme

February

- 6-7 CME: Tri-City Primary Care Update. Zehnder’s, Frankenmuth, MI. 6 hours of credit. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001 or (517) 353-9714, cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

- 16-18 CME: Manual Medicine Related to Sports and Occupational Injuries to the Extremities. Windmill Inn, Tucson, AZ. 24 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $750; $450 for residents and interns. Course chairperson is Philip Greenman, D.O., F.A.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001 or (517) 353-9714, cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

March

- 1-5 CME: Muscle Energy: Level I. Windmill Inn, Tucson, AZ. 40 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,250; $900 for residents and interns. Course chairperson is David Grimshaw, D.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001 or (517) 353-9714, cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

April

- 9-13 CME: Principles of Manual Medicine. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 40 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,250; $900 for residents and interns. Course chairperson is David Grimshaw, D.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001 or (517) 353-9714, cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

May

- 1 College hooding ceremonies. Wharton Center, East Lansing

For a complete listing of MSUCOM events check out our Web calendar: www.com.msu.edu/calendar
Save the Date

**Upcoming Alumni Events**

**SEMINAR IN THE SUN**
Saturday, March 1 to Saturday, March 8, 2003
Playa del Carmen, Mexico
Sponsored by the College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association
20 hours of AOA Category 1 credit

**SILVERFEST ALUMNI WEEKEND**
Friday, September 26 to Saturday, September 27, 2003
East Lansing, Michigan
Activities include: Friday Osteopathic Open Golf Tournament, Friday evening dinner/dance, Saturday CME course, Saturday pre-game tailgate and MSU vs. Iowa football game

For further information, please contact Kim Camp, External Programs, camp@msu.edu or log on at www.com.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
Office of Public Relations
A306 East Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1316

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