This year marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, established in 1969 by the action of the Michigan legislature to increase the number of physicians for the state. We’ve filled that mandate without question as presently 2,172 alumni, more than two-thirds of our graduates, have remained to practice in Michigan.

But we’ve done much more. We’ve become the exemplar nationally among all osteopathic (and more than 90% of allopathic) colleges for our primary care education. We’re producing specialists who are serving in the top medical institutions in the nation. We founded the first joint D.O./Ph.D. program in the world, the Medical Scientist Training Program, which continues to produce excellent physician-scientists for the osteopathic profession today.

Our graduates are of the highest caliber; for example, last year more than 97% of our students passed the national boards on their first try. We’ve maintained our commitment to fundamental osteopathic principles and practice, using the resources of the Lynn F. Brumm, D.O., Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Laboratory to teach our students.

Recently receiving $1.5 million dollars in support from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation (see p. 7), we are enhancing and expanding research. The endowed chair being created with these funds complements the Walter F. Patenge Endowed Chair in Osteopathic Medicine to create a major Neuromusculoskeletal Research Institute. In addition, we continue to make world-recognized contributions in carcinogenesis, cerebral malaria, and cardiovascular disease research.

Our Statewide Campus System serves as the model for graduate medical education consortia nationwide, and constantly grows in numbers of hospitals, clinical faculty, interns and residents.

Ironically, at this, our 35th birthday, we find ourselves revisiting our initial mandate, facing health workforce shortages for the people of Michigan. Accordingly, in the last two years, we’ve increased the size of our entering class from 125 to 148, and anticipate its expansion to 200 in a short time. This move will allow us many options to ensure a thriving, creative osteopathic college for the future of our state, our nation and our profession.

We want you to be a part of that future, whether through your teaching, presence, gifts, advocacy, or partnership. There are many ways in which you can participate. Please contact us. We’re your MSUCOM.

ON THE COVER
Dean William Strampel, D.O., teaches first-year students in a clinical skills class.
(Pictured, l. to r. Lauren Chung, Luke Dyvas, Zachary Love, model patient and MSU senior Mark Tarnavsky. Dr. Strampel, Emily Gargol and Sara El Husein.)
Forward Thinking

Dean Strampel Leads MSUCOM into the Future

by Steven D. Bevier

It’s been more than two years since William Strampel, D.O., was named dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. That’s just a short blip on a long and distinguished career in osteopathic medicine, but in that time he’s already made his mark on the college. His tenure so far has been based on a simple philosophy: “If you’re not moving forward,” he says, “you’re stagnating.”

Forward is definitely the direction he’s moving after setting his goals two and a half years ago, even if things don’t always move as fast as he would like. “Making change is never as easy as you think it will be,” he confesses. After some time on the job, some of his goals have shifted and new ones have emerged. “The climate of higher education has changed. We can’t just rely on state funding anymore. We need to improve our own revenue streams. That’s the only way to have real growth.”

Speaking of growth, the incoming class size has been raised from around 125 students just two years ago, to nearly 150 this year. That number could be even higher in the next few years. Dr. Strampel says that’s simply a matter of supply and demand.

“If you look at it this way, our customer is the graduate medical education system in Michigan,” he explains. “Our students leave here to enter residencies. Hospitals seek out our students, and they need more to fill their programs. There is a big demand for our graduates and we need to meet that demand.”

At the same time he brings in more students, Dean Strampel hopes to make it easier for them to pay their own way. Endowed scholarships are a major priority, not only because they attract quality candidates, but because they also give students more options. Medical school is expensive and many students take on so much debt that “cost forces them to choose subspecialties based on the money that they can earn. If that could be eliminated, they would have more freedom to pursue what’s best for them.”

Enlarging the college’s research profile was another one of Dr. Strampel’s goals when he first became dean, and that is still high on his list. That can be difficult, however, in a world where the rich always seem to get richer.

“It’s hard to get grants without experience,” he explains. “My job is to recruit experienced faculty whom our younger researchers can work with and learn from.” The college now has two research chairs, the Patenge Chair and the new Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Chair, to help attract experienced researchers, and the Medical Scientist Training Program, the premier joint D.O./Ph.D. program in the nation. He is also looking to build on the work of leading researchers already in the college, like Terrie Taylor, D.O., who is heading a Program Project Grant proposal for the National Institutes of Health. Dean Strampel also touts recent grants in family medicine, internal medicine, neurology and ophthalmology, as more evidence of progress.

Another ongoing goal is to continue to refine the curriculum. With new medical advances coming every day, particularly in fields like genetics, staying current is a challenge. “We have to constantly update what we teach so that it remains relevant for the future,” he says. That includes enhancing pre-medical school curricula, so that all students arrive with a solid foundation in the basic sciences.

That also translates into a higher standard of education. Dr. Strampel says he’s pleased with the recent faculty decision that all students must pass their boards to graduate. “I’ve been very fortunate with the faculty and staff. We don’t always agree on everything, but they’ve been supportive of my efforts. They are still with me so far.”

Finally, Dean Strampel is learning to deal with the challenge of managing a college that is just one piece of a larger university. “I get great support from the administration, and I do what I can to support their goals as well. Anything that helps MSU ultimately helps us and improves our reputation.”
Homeward Bound

by Steven D. Bevier

Who says doctors don’t make house calls anymore? Benneth Husted, D.O., has been making house calls for more than a decade, and wouldn’t have it any other way. In fact, for her there is no other way. She is the founder and executive medical director of Housecall Providers, Inc., a non-profit medical practice devoted to bringing care to homebound patients in Portland, Oregon.

There is an enormous need for this kind of service,” says Dr. Husted. “A large portion of the population is homebound. You could have a homebound person living right next door to you, and would never know it.

Patients can be homebound for a variety of reasons. Some have chronic or degenerative diseases, such as multiple sclerosis or Alzheimer’s. Some have head injuries or paralysis. Others have developmental or emotional disabilities. Whatever the case, these patients generally don’t require full-time medical care, but their condition prevents them from making house calls.

Unfortunately, they often fall under the radar. “They stop making appointments at the doctor’s office, but their physician doesn’t always notice. They don’t ask, ‘Why haven’t I seen this person in a while?’” Housecall Providers’ primary patients are senior citizens, although they have some as young as 14. The median age of Housecall Providers’ patients is 81 and 80% of their patients are over 65. Most of them rely on Medicare, but it’s the group’s policy not to turn anyone away because of inability to pay. They rely on public donations to keep the practice going.

Dr. Husted grew up in southern California in what she describes as an “osteopathic family.” Her father, uncle, and aunt were all D.O.s. After graduating from Long Beach State University, she worked for the state welfare department, helping people with their Medicare claims.

“It was very frustrating for me,” she says. “I was trying to be an advocate for these poor people, but the system wasn’t really helping them. I felt that if I really wanted to change things, I needed to do something else.”

That’s when she revived her dreams of becoming a doctor, deciding to follow in her father’s footsteps. “My father told me that if I went to an osteopathic medical school, I would never be sorry.” She came to MSUCOM and fell in love with the school. “It was a perfect match for me. I got the best education possible.” She graduated in 1981.

After finishing her residency she moved to Ashland, Oregon, where she worked solo, seeing patients exclusively in their homes, and taking referrals from social workers and other doctors. Soon the word got out and she was overwhelmed. In just three months, she went from zero patients to 100. “I had to close down periodically, because there were just too many people to handle.”

Eventually, she did get a handle on the practice and it continued to grow. She brought in other physicians and nurse practitioners to help with the workload. (In Oregon, nurse practitioners are licensed to make house calls and see patients on their own.) In 1995, Housecall Providers was incorporated as a non-profit organization. It now has 16 clinicians on staff as well as other administrative employees. At any given time, they have a roster of about 700 patients.

Housecall Providers also takes a strong interest in end-of-life care. They work closely with families and caregivers to improve the quality of life for patients in their final days. “We talk with them about pain management and hospice options. Then we work with hospice to coordinate care. They are still our patients and we continue to see them until the end. That’s what we do best.” Dr. Husted will give a speech on quality at the end of life to the AOA Convention in November.

For the tremendous work that Housecall Providers has done, in May of this year, the American Academy of Home Care Physicians honored Dr. Husted as House Call Doctor of the Year.

Here’s been a model for other home care organizations and many are springing up around the country. Some medical schools, like the one at Thomas Jefferson University, are even incorporating home visits into their curricula. However, Dr. Husted stresses that, with our aging population, the need for doctors who make house calls will only continue to grow.

For Dr. Husted, the holistic philosophy that she learned at MSUCOM comes together in her work. “That means treating the whole person. I don’t think I really understood that until I started doing house calls. When you see a patient in their home you can learn things that you might never learn during an hour at a clinic. You see who they are, how they have lived their lives, and how they are functioning now.”

A large portion of the population is homebound. You could have a homebound person living right next door to you, and would never know it.

Eighty percent of Housecall Providers’ patients are over the age of 65.

To learn more about Housecall Providers, Inc., contact: 4610 SE Belmont Suite 60 Portland, OR 97215 Ph: (503) 988-5303 Fx: (503) 988-5112 www.housecallproviders.org

Benneth Husted, D.O.
Students prepare for new clinical board exams

by Steven D. Bevier

Students on their way to becoming physicians face a lot of hurdles, and now a new one has popped up before them. An addition has been made to the rite of passage known as board exams. Starting this year, all medical students – both osteopathic and allopathic – must pass a clinical competency exam in order to earn their licenses. The Class of 2005 will be the first group to meet this new requirement.

Since no one has ever taken the clinical exams before, the College of Osteopathic Medicine is doing what it can to prepare students. They recently conducted a pilot program that was designed to simulate the new board exam. All fourth-year students at MSUCOM were invited to participate for a “dry run.”

Dr. Taylor Scott, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine at MSUCOM, helped write many of the cases that will appear on the actual COMLEX exam, so his experience was valuable when it came time to craft the pilot program. “The purpose of the test,” says Dr. Scott, “is to evaluate their clinical skills: history taking, observation, palpation. Communication with the patient is very important.” D.O. students are expected to evaluate and treat using osteopathic principles, and some of the cases will even ask them to call on their OMM skills.

Dr. Scott adds that the exam is not designed to trick anyone. “Those are typical cases that you would see in a normal family practice.”

The exam is set up to mimic a real doctor’s office. Cameras and microphones in the exam room allow observers to watch without disturbing the process. The “patients” undergo hours of extensive training, so that their presentations are as authentic as possible. It can still be nerve-wracking for the students, who know that their every move is being watched and judged, especially since this is the first time it has been done.

“We’re guinea pigs,” says Molly Craven, Class of 2005. “We can’t ask anyone what it’s like, because no one has ever done it before.” She was one of about 90 students from MSUCOM’s fourth-year class to take part in the pilot program. They gave it high marks and expressed their appreciation for the chance to practice. Andy Long is another student who was glad to take part. “It relieved a lot of uncertainty,” he says.

Also adding to the stress: there is only one testing center in the entire United States, so all osteopathic students must travel to Pennsylvania in order to take the exam. Testing begins in September and each student has one year to make the journey.

“Gail Riegle, Ph.D., senior associate dean for MSUCOM, helped to bring this test program to life. ‘The goal,’” she says, “is simply to make sure the students are as prepared as they can possibly be.”

The program served another purpose, as it was also a useful trial for a planned Learning and Assessment Center. MSU’s four health professions colleges (Osteopathic, Human, Veterinary and Nursing) are working on plans for a permanent center, where students from all the colleges can practice clinical skills in a controlled environment. It would allow faculty to evaluate students on their ability to work with patients in a clinical setting. Such a center would help ensure that graduates would have not only the knowledge to excel in their field, but have the tools to put it to effective use.

Research

A major gift has created a new opportunity for the College of Osteopathic Medicine to expand its research portfolio. The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Ohio has awarded a $1.5 million grant to MSUCOM to establish a new endowed chair, dedicated to biomedical research. The position will be known as the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Endowed Chair.

Justin McCormick, Ph.D., associate dean for research, was instrumental in bringing this grant to MSUCOM and is excited about the potential it holds. “This endowed professorship offers MSUCOM the opportunity to hire a world-class researcher who will serve as one of the foci for biomedical research within the college. This furthers our mission to bring scientific findings from bench to bedside.”

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation is based in Columbus, Ohio, and was established from the proceeds of the sale of a local osteopathic hospital in 1998. Since that time, the foundation has committed itself to improving health care in the community, by supporting osteopathic education and research and promoting healthy living. The Foundation’s efforts are concentrated in central Ohio, but as the gift to MSUCOM shows, they are supporting osteopathic medicine wherever they are needed.

The college is conducting a nationwide search to fill the new position, but is also looking for a second researcher to fill the existing Walter F. Patenge Endowed Chair. Dr. McCormick and his team are conducting the search for both positions simultaneously.

This will allow the college to not only find two quality candidates, but also two new faculty members who will complement each other in their roles. MSUCOM hopes to have both chairpersons on board by the start of the next school year.
Alumni in Action

RONALD MILLER, D.O., TRADES IN CARS FOR PATIENTS

by Diana Cassidy

Ask Ronald Miller, D.O., F.A.O.C.D., who was responsible for all of the success he has enjoyed throughout his lifetime and the answer might surprise you. Instead of patting himself on the back, he insists that everything he has accomplished he owes to the most “compassionate and kind woman I ever met.”

After working for General Motors in a highly skilled trade for 17 years, Dr. Miller came home one day and told his wife Diane that he had decided he was going to medical school. She supported him without question. Volunteering in an emergency room every Sunday for three years had made him realize that was what he truly wanted to do. He initially thought that he wanted to attend the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. However, it was his own doctor, an M.D., who convinced him to look into the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Once he researched the principles and practices of osteopathy, he felt that the focus on the whole person and the holistic nature of the practice best suited his ideals of a well-rounded physician.

Dr. Miller graduated from MSUCOM in 1984, and began his internship at Flint Osteopathic Hospital. While he was there, A.L. Messenger, M.D., whom he describes as “the best dermatologist and caregiver he has ever had,” introduced him to the practice of dermatology. (It is interesting to note that his son Andrew Messenger is a D.O. and graduated from MSUCOM in 1997.) Despite Dr. Miller’s interest in this area, he chose to go into family practice. After five years he realized that he was still most interested in dermatology and decided to do another residency.

He now has his own highly successful practice in Lansing and is also the 2004 president-elect of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology. Dr. Miller feels that his osteopathic training allows him to be a more understanding physician who always treats the patient as number one.

As a true testament to the profession he loves so much, when asked about his hobbies, dermatology is the first on the list. He also enjoys golfing, fishing, and spending time with “the nicest wife and children anyone could have.”

Dr. Miller uses laser technology to treat patients in his practice.

With his office staff (left to right) Lyn Ackley, Elyse Liptak, Dr. Miller and Myka McFadden
A T A G L A N C E
Michigan State University  College of Osteopathic Medicine

Continuing Medical Education
MSUCOM provides continuing medical education classes and credit for all of Michigan's osteopathic physicians and other health care providers. During 2002-03 MSUCOM offered 64 CME programs providing a total of 1,131 hours of CME credits. A total of 1,628 health providers attended these courses.

At Home In Mid-Michigan
Community service is part of the College of Osteopathic Medicine's mission. The Department of Pediatrics is the largest single provider of pediatric care to poor children in the Lansing area. MSUCOM faculty provide services at the Ingham County Health Department and at clinics serving the homeless, persons with substance abuse problems and the indigent. The college provides medical services for the Michigan Special Olympics, maintains a special muscular dystrophy clinic, facilitates an immigration clinic, and conducts numerous health screenings and immunization clinics each year.

A Voice In the Community
MSUCOM works closely with the Michigan Osteopathic Association in areas such as government relations, public relations and advocacy. The college also has close ties to the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation that is primarily supported by Michigan D.O.s, and provides financial assistance for scholarships and other college programs. The Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board, appointed by the governor, actively advocates on behalf of the college in the areas of external relations.

FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT PUBLIC HEALTH FAIRS THROUGHOUT THE LANSING AREA, CONDUCT DIABETIC COUNSELING IN THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL EVENTS, MENTOR YOUNG STUDENTS, AND CONDUCT A FREE OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATIVE MEDICINE CLINIC IN FIE HALL.

Alumni in Action
Wherever MSUCOM graduates live and work, their caring and commitment have made an impact on the communities they serve. They have made significant contributions to health and medicine, primarily within the state of Michigan, but also throughout the world. Barbara Ross-Lee is dean of the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and vice president of health sciences and medical affairs at the New York Institute of Technology. Joyce Johnson is the former surgeon general of the U.S. Coast Guard. L. Bing Liem is a nationally recognized researcher on cardiovascular disease, and Andrea Amalfitano has become a leader in the cutting-edge field of genetic medicine. John I. Jackson has provided medical care to some of the poorest people in the United States — in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Illinois, and abroad in Honduras, Kenya, and Nepal.

Sister Anne Brooks, who provides care in Tutwiler, Mississippi, one of the poorest communities in the nation, has been nationally featured in print and broadcast media. Julie Dixon has spent her entire career providing much-needed care to Native Americans. Susan Hendrix leads the Detroit site for the Women's Health Initiative, the largest U.S. study concerning women's health. Kathleen Kleinert has been seminal in developing a faith-based initiative to increase access to health care for 15,000 medically underserved people in Detroit. Steven E. Pitt is a forensic psychiatrist who worked on the JonBenet Ramsey and the Columbine High School murder investigations.

From East Lansing to the World
MSUCOM is involved with a wide variety of international health programs, including the Institute of International Health; malaria research and clinical care in Malawi; health care consultation in the United Arab Emirates; establishment of a medical clinic in the Belizean jungle; studies of hypertension in Zimbabwe; neurology in Zambia; and development of clinical clerkships abroad by the International Health Project, a student organization.

Margaret Morath, D.O., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, has led students on several medical missions to Central America, where volunteers provide basic and vital medical care to those in need.
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

STUDENT PROFILES

by Steven D. Revier

JASON BEATTY

Jason Beatty’s journey to MSUCOM was certainly not that of a typical medical student. A high-school dropout from New Brunswick, Canada, he overcame alcoholism to earn a spot in the Class of 2008.

“I grew up in a small costal fishing town, where there was a lot of problems with alcoholism,” he says. “I was no exception.” Those problems eventually led him to leave school in the 11th grade, and at age 17, he moved to Lansing with “nothing but a six pack.” Soon after arriving he began to turn his life around, by giving up alcohol and returning to education.

He earned his GED and began talking classes at Lansing Community College. Though he had had problems in grade school, one class he did very well in was anatomy. He took that interest and decided to become a physician. While at LCC, he visited MSUCOM and met with William Falls, Ph.D., associate dean for Student Services. It was that meeting that first sparked his interest in the osteopathic profession.

“Dr. Falls sat with me for over an hour just talking about osteopathic medicine,” he explains. “That really meant a lot that he would take that much time to talk to someone like me.” Working and going to school full-time, he slowly built up credits and eventually transferred to MSU, where he finished his pre-medical studies.

Mr. Beatty has a wife, Shaina, and two children, Brayden, age eight, and Cage, age five.

ERIC SCHAUBERGER

Few universities in the country are fortunate enough to have a medical school and a veterinary school on the same campus. First-year student Eric Schaubberger is certainly happy that MSU is one of them.

Eric is married to Katie Schaubberger who is currently in her second year at MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine. The couple first met in an undergraduate chemistry class at Iowa State University. Upon graduation, they both wanted to pursue medicine – he wanted to work with people, she wanted to work with animals — so they searched for a place where they could pursue their dream together. When he was accepted to COM and she was accepted to CVM, there was no doubt this was where they wanted to be.

His choice was also influenced by his father, who is an M.D., and encouraged him to consider osteopathic medicine. “He knew many D.O.s and had a lot of respect for them,” says Eric.

Since Eric is originally from Wisconsin, he deferred his entry to MSUCOM so he could establish Michigan residency, while Katie (who is from Holland, Mich.) began her studies. That extra year added another dimension to his educational path. He took a job as a lab technician on campus at MSU, and discovered a love for research. He applied and was accepted to the Medical Scientist Training Program, and will earn his D.O.

THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS PROVIDES CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT, COMPUTER SUPPORT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF, NETWORK DEVELOPMENT, MEDIA SERVICES, AND SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENT KOBILJK COMPUTER AND RESOURCE CENTERS.

THE Institute of International Health is dedicated to facilitating disease management system, and curricular and practice-related uses of handheld computers.

DR. GREGORY FINK, JAMES GALICIAN, STEPHANIE WATTS and DAVID KREIDAN recently received a $9 million Program Project Grant from the National Institutes of Health for their groundbreaking work in the study of hypertension.

MSUCOM

AT A GLANCE

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Medical Informatics

The Office of Medical Informatics (OMI) provides a broad array of computing and communication technology services in support of the college and its Statewide Campus System. Recent research activities include bioinformatics training in Malawi, studying interactive communications among health providers, development of a web-facilitated disease management system, and curricular and practice-related uses of handheld computers.

Excellence in Research

Medical research is an essential function of MSUCOM. Our college received nearly $11 million last year in outside funding for research on a wide spectrum of medical issues ranging from malaria to the causes of cancer. MSUCOM faculty are recognized internationally for their research, teaching, and clinical practice of osteopathic manipulative medicine, and receive clinical referrals from around the globe. Among our recent accomplishments:

- The Carcinogenesis Laboratory, under the leadership of University Distinguished Professor J. Justin McCormick, Ph.D., and Veronica Maher, Ph.D., has achieved international recognition for its studies of the causes and treatments of cancer and has been awarded more than $18 million in external funding support.
- The Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology conducts clinical research in areas such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, visual disorders, and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease and has had continuous funding from the NIH since 1988.
- University Distinguished Professor Terrie Taylor, D.O., from the Department of Internal Medicine, spends six months of every year in Malawi, Africa, where she has earned an worldwide acclaim for her work on childhood cerebral malaria. The Medical Scientist Training Program offers MSUCOM students the opportunity to receive joint D.O. and Ph.D. degrees. It is the first program of its kind at an osteopathic college, designed to create qualified physician-researchers.
- The Institute of International Health is dedicated to multidisciplinary research on health issues faced by other nations and those relevant to MSU and the U.S. Its projects include environmental health research and training for Balkan scientists; the Minority International Research Training Program in seven overseas countries; biomedical informatics development in sub-Saharan Africa; and an annual osteopathic manipulative medicine workshop for students from the Medical Trainer College of Tokyo.

MEDIA SERVICES, AND SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENT KOBILJK COMPUTER AND RESOURCE CENTERS.

THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS PROVIDES CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT, COMPUTER SUPPORT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF, NETWORK DEVELOPMENT, MEDIA SERVICES, AND SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENT KOBILJK COMPUTER AND RESOURCE CENTERS.
The College of Osteopathic Medicine held its annual Convocation and White Coat Ceremony at the Wharton Center on August 27, 2004. The ceremony is the official welcome to the new Class of 2008. First-year students were introduced and presented with white lab coats by faculty members, as a symbol of their entry into the world of medicine.

This year’s entering class has expanded to include 148 students, the largest in MSUCOM’s history.

The convocation address was delivered by Peter Ajluni, D.O., one of this year’s recipients of the Walter F. Patenge Medal of Public Service. Student Council President Jeffrey Fountain, Alumni Association President Myral R. Robbins, D.O., and Michigan Osteopathic Association President Lewin Wyatt Jr., D.O., also addressed the students.

Patenge Medals

The College of Osteopathic Medicine has honored four individuals with the Walter F. Patenge Medal of Public Service. This year’s recipients are Peter Ajluni, D.O., Lawrence Bass, Prince Holliday (posthumously) and William Johnston, D.O. (posthumously).

The Patenge Medal is given each year to salute those who have given great service to the osteopathic profession and public health. The awardees received their medals at a luncheon at the Wharton Center on Friday, August 27 and were also recognized at the Convocation and White Coat Ceremony that same day.

All four Medal recipients have long and distinguished careers in medicine and public health. Dr. Ajluni is an orthopedic and hand surgeon from Mt. Clemens, who has served many osteopathic organizations, including the board of the American Osteopathic Association. Mr. Bass is chair emeritus of the Sparrow Health System Board of Directors, and helped the hospital establish urology and neurology residencies with MSUCOM and attain AOA accreditation.

Mr. Holliday retired as a corporate vice president after 25 years of service for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and was a leader of the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. Dr. Johnston was a professor at MSUCOM almost since its inception, and was a pioneer in the research and practice of osteopathic manipulative medicine. Mr. Holliday’s and Dr. Johnston’s medals were awarded posthumously to their families.
Saving Our Nation’s Health Care

by Dennis M. Paradis, M.P.H., MOA Executive Director

As we come to the 2004 elections, what is the best word to describe our nation’s health care system? My choice is “unsustainable.” The Medicare program has grown from eight percent of the state’s budget in 1967 to almost 30 percent of the state’s budget in 2005. It has repeatedly reduced payments to doctors and hospitals to the point of causing bankruptcy for high-volume Medicaid providers. Policy makers are unwilling to take the political hit for reducing Medicaid benefits or for raising the revenues to fully fund Medicaid services. Policy makers fear to take action, meanwhile, the Medicaid program continues to grow by 5,000 people each month.

The Medicare program faces a similar dilemma. The federal government has adopted a “sustainable growth rate,” or SGR, formula for Medicare funding. The SGR calls for a 5% reduction of physician payments for three years. It seems that we are trying to “sustain” the federal budget—not the Medicare program.

Employer-based health insurance faces the same constraints. Smaller employers cannot afford to provide health insurance or, if they do provide health insurance, are shifting more of the cost to their employees. The larger employers are reeling under the burden of retiree costs, which, they accurately point out, puts them at a competitive disadvantage with their global competitors who do not bear these costs.

The most cataclysmic impact on our health care delivery system won’t arrive for seven years. In 2011, the “baby boomers” will begin to turn 65 and every year from 2011 to 2026, there will be more senior citizens needing health care than the previous year. This will increase the demands on Medicaid, which currently funds care for low-income elderly and nursing home services. Medicare, which has primary responsibility for the elderly, and business, which will be funding more retirees.

Once we get past the November elections there will be a brief opportunity to make some progress on health care issues. Health care ranks as the fourth most important issue to Americans after the war, jobs and the economy, and politicians feel the growing call for action. Hopefully post-election we will be able to step back from partisan ideology and address the issues of health care.

This is a crucial time for health care in our country. The opportunity exists to address some issues that will have catastrophic future consequences if left unchecked. Our job as health care advocates is twofold: 1) advocate for health care with candidates at all levels. Make them understand that health care is important and “unsustainable” and 2) vote for the candidates who understand this message.

Rural Health Practitioner Award

John K. Everett, D.O., Class of 1987, was named “Rural Health Practitioner of the Year” by the National Rural Health Association. Dr. Everett was recognized during the NRHA’s annual conference in San Diego, California, in May. He was nominated by MSUCOM’s Dean William D. Strampel, D.O., who noted that Dr. Everett’s practice was characterized by “excellent clinical care in a variety of venues, numerous activities to enhance health education in the community, international medical mission trips and statewide political impact and leadership.”

An clinical assistant professor of family medicine at MSUCOM, Dr. Everett practices in Indian River, Michigan, where he demonstrates tremendous commitment to the community. He has served as a team sports physician for local high schools, provided a free clinic for the uninsured, and participated in two medical missions, the latest to Guatemala. He began a yellow ribbon program to prevent teen suicide and Healthier Hearts, a coronary disease prevention program. In addition, his advocacy efforts earned him his recent term as president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association.
The City By The Bay

The American Osteopathic Association will be heading west for its 109th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar. This year’s event will be held in San Francisco, California, from November 7 to November 11. As usual, the College of Osteopathic Medicine has several events planned for alumni who be attending.

On Monday, November 8, the college will hold its Alumni Luncheon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Argent Hotel. The luncheon will be open to all alumni and their guests. In addition, two important alumni awards will be presented: The Dean’s Award for Meritorious Contribution and the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Also on Monday, MSUCOM will host a “Tailgate Party” for all alumni, faculty, students and friends, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Argent Hotel. The locations for both events will be available at the hotel.

California has more alumni than any other state after Michigan. We hope to find many of them at the convention and at our MSUCOM gatherings. See you there!

Alumni Professorship Grows

MSUCOM continues its campaign for gifts to the Alumni Endowed Professorship. Donations have been pouring in from alumni, as the college makes progress toward its goal of $1.5 million to establish a new endowed faculty position. To make a donation or to learn more about this unique opportunity, contact Chris Surian, Director of Development at (517) 355-8355.

Alumni Gather at MOA


Beyond East Lansing

Greetings, once again. Summer has flown by and the college is well into another school year. This is an exciting time for me personally. I have been recruited to join the faculty of the Family Medicine Residency Program at the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (KCMS). It will be my responsibility to gain accreditation for an osteopathic family medicine residency program. This will be a dually accredited residency program, for which I will serve as the osteopathic program director. KCMS has long been a base hospital for the College of Human Medicine and is also a member of the Statewide Campus System. We hope this develops into a closer partnership between KCMS and MSUCOM.

I hope this also serves as a reminder that the reach of our college stretches far beyond East Lansing. Our alumni live and work in every corner of the state, across the country, and even around the world. Regardless of where you live and practice, you can find ways to help out. Any effort that you can give to further the profession – be it advocacy, teaching, or donations – can enhance osteopathic medicine, promote our alma mater and improve the reputation of D.O.s everywhere.

Within Michigan, particularly, there is always a need for clinical faculty to work with our students. As you know, without the work of these dedicated volunteers, the college would not be able to function. They are the bedrock of osteopathic education. If you are interested in joining the clinical faculty, contact Colleen Kniffen at (517) 355-9616. I am looking forward to the AOA convention in San Francisco in November and I hope to see many of you there. I know MSUCOM will be well represented at this important event.

Myra R. Robbins, D.O.
President, MSUCOM Alumni Association

Alumni Special

Old Friends, New Memories

Silverfest Alumni Weekend

by Steven D. Bevier

Alumni from all across the country came home to East Lansing for the annual Silverfest celebration, on September 17 and 18. The guests of honor were members of the Class of 1979, as they marked the 25th anniversary of their graduation from MSUCOM.

The weekend began as usual with the Osteopathic Open at Hawk Hollow Golf Course (sponsored by Metropolitan Hospital), which raises money for student scholarships and loans. Friday evening’s Dinner Dance allowed alumni from all eras to reunite with old friends and classmates, as they enjoyed food, music and dancing, at the University Club. The Classes of 1974, 1984, 1989 and 1994 were also recognized at the dance.

On Saturday, many alumni took part in a five-hour CME course at the Kellogg Center. That was followed by a tailgate party on Demonstration Field to get fans ready for Michigan State’s football game against Notre Dame. A huge turnout of alumni and their families made this year’s Silverfest the biggest alumni weekend yet.


The Class of 1984’s Silverfest celebration included a special golf tournament to commemorate the Class’s 20th year. The team of (l. to r.) Dan Angeli, Neil Okamura and Glenn Delong (all Class of ’84) prepare to hit the golf course.


The team of (l. to r.) Dan Angeli, Neil Okamura and Glenn Delong (all Class of ’84) prepare to hit the golf course.


A New Face on Development

by Steven D. Bevier

Chris Surian has been named the new director of development for the College of Osteopathic Medicine. He comes to MSUCOM after nine years in MSU’s Office of Development, where most recently, he served as director of development for the College of Human Ecology. Mr. Surian’s development roots go back to his student days at MSU. He began as a telemarketer raising money for the university and eventually became a manager. After graduation, he worked on fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society and the American Red Cross. He returned to MSU in 1995, working in corporate development, eventually moving to Human Ecology and taking a lead role in the Campaign for MSU.

Since joining MSUCOM, he says he’s “very impressed with the loyalty alumni have to this college and even the loyalty of D.O. students who didn’t graduate from here.” He adds, “I love my job because it really feels good knowing money I helped to raise might help a student who otherwise wouldn’t be here.”

He and his wife, Rebecca – who is the director of development for the MSU College of Arts and Letters – are members of MSU’s President’s Club. They live in Haslett with their two daughters.

Development

A True Spartan

by Steven D. Bevier

Robert Snyder, D.O., F.A.O.C.A., says he can hardly believe that it has been 25 years since he graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine. His class – the Class of 1979 – celebrates its silver anniversary this year.

“I had the most wonderful classmates,” he says. “They were all bright, caring people. We really accomplished a lot when we were in school.”

He has accomplished quite a bit since then too, both personally and professionally. Dr. Snyder is an anesthesiologist at Mid-Michigan Medical Center – the same hospital in which he was born – in his hometown of Midland. He lives there with his wife, Shelley, a senior financial analyst at Dow Chemical. They have two children, Ken, a junior at Michigan State University, and Kacie, who studies at the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Snyder was the first D.O. to practice anesthesiology at Mid-Michigan. Now, he is a part of a team that includes five other D.O.s, all fellow graduates of MSUCOM.

His dedication to osteopathic medicine goes beyond the operating room. He has a clinical faculty appointment in the Department of Anesthesiology and serves as a board examiner.

Dr. Snyder is a dedicated Spartan as well. His Green and White roots go back to his grandparents, who both graduated from Michigan State. Since getting his bachelor’s degree and D.O. from MSU, he has contributed a great deal of time and money to his alma mater. The

Snyders have donated several gifts, including one given at the request of MSU’s former dean Allen W. Jacobs, D.O., Ph.D., to benefit the construction of the Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building. They are also active members of the alumni association and can often be found cheering at Spartan sporting events.

Robert and Shelley have been recognized for their efforts as members of the Jonathan L. Snyder Donor Society. “Becoming a doctor was a dream for me, and MSUCOM gave me the opportunity to make it come true. I want to make MSU as strong as I can.”

Free of the anesthesiologists in Dr. Snyder’s practice are MSUCOM alumni. (l to r) Thomas Olsen (’92), Dr. Snyder, Gregory Marcose (’87) and Wayne Bedell (’90). Not pictured: Thomas Tarn (’91)

2004 Calendar of Events

October

5, 12, 19, 26 (also 9/28 & 11/2) Mini Medical School, E105 Fee Hall. Every Tuesday evening from September 28 to November 2, MSUCOM faculty members will offer two-hour health presentations for community members. All six sessions for $35; Contact Pat Grauer at (517) 353-0616; grauer@msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/pub-rel/2004minimedical.html

20-24 CME: Craniosacral Techniques Level II. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 40 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,250; $900 for residents and interns. Course chairperson is Barbara Briner, D.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001, or (517) 353-9714; cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

November

3-6 CME: Exercise Prescription as a Complement to Manual Medicine. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 32 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,000; $750 for residents and interns. Course chairpersons are Lisa Vredevoogd, D.O., and Mark Bookhout, M.S., P.T. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001, or (517) 353-9714; cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme


8 MSUCOM Alumni Luncheon at the AOA convention. Argent Hotel, San Francisco, California. Contact Kim Camp at (877) 853-3448; camp@msu.edu

8 Tailgate Party for MSUCOM alumni, faculty, students and friends at the AOA convention. Argent Hotel, San Francisco, California. Contact Kim Camp at (877) 853-3448; camp@msu.edu

December

17-20 CME: Direct Action Thrust: Mobilization with Impulse. Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 32 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,000; $750 for residents and interns. Course chairperson is Carl Steele, D.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001, or (517) 353-9714; cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

January

1-5 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 Lisa Vredevoogd, D.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001, or (517) 353-9714; cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

March

15-19 CME: Craniosacral Technique: Level I. Smuggler’s Inn, Tucson, Arizona. 40 hours of Category IA credit. Tuition is $1,250; $900 for residents and interns. Course chairperson is Barbara Briner, D.O. Contact the Office of CME: (800) 437-0001, or (517) 353-9714; cme@com.msu.edu; http://www.com.msu.edu/cme

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

Calendar of Events

2004
College of Osteopathic Medicine
presents

SEMINAR IN THE SUN

March 5-12, 2005

General Topics Include:
Cardiovascular Fitness, Men’s and Women’s Health, Office Procedures, Psychiatry/Anxiety, Stress and Wellness

Questions:
MSUCOM: 517-432-4979 or toll free 877-853-3448 or e-mail: camp@msu.edu
Classic Travel: 517-349-6200 or toll-free 800-643-3449
www.com.msu.edu/cme/seminar_sun

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