COMMUNIQUÉ

One of the greatest pleasures of leading a first-rate medical school is to watch the transition that occurs from the moment our students walk into orientation to the moment they walk across the stage at hooding. Over the course of four or five years, committed, compassionate, intelligent people are transformed through hard work into committed, compassionate osteopathic physicians.

Often it’s easy to forget the enormous variety of effort that is required to achieve this. The best students must be recruited, admitted, nurtured, and supported with financial, intellectual and emotional resources. Faculty must plan, implement and evaluate curriculum, staying abreast of the tsunami of new knowledge in medicine and new methods for instruction. Faculty must maintain viable clinical practices to keep their skills honed, to provide settings for education, and to provide much-needed income for the college. Faculty also work to discover new medical knowledge and techniques, seeking to enhance health care for future generations.

Hospitals in our Statewide Campus System partner with us to provide one of the best clinical education systems in the nation, with opportunities for third- and fourth-year students, interns, residents and fellows. Administrators and staff must facilitate all the processes of coordination, communication, relationship-building, funding and personnel.

Literally thousands of individuals, some who are compensated and some who are not, participate in this process, the spectrum of which begins with high school students in our OsteoCHAMPS program and extends through continuing medical education for practicing physicians.

In this issue of Communiqué you’ll find stories of our students at different levels of their predoctoral education. Though, of course, each student’s experience is unique, they represent a process nearly 3,200 people have successfully completed at MSUCOM – that transition into an osteopathic physician.

William D. Strampel, D.O.
Dean

FEATURES

Learning to Heal ......................................................................................................... 2-6
Students at MSUCOM face a variety of challenges – from biology exams to pathology labs to treating real patients – on the road to becoming osteopathic physicians.

Anatomy of a Teacher .......................................................................................... 8-9
William Falls, Ph.D., is a teacher, a mentor, a counselor and a friend to hundreds of students who have passed through the halls of MSUCOM.

Research in a New Vein ...................................................................................... 12-13
A team of dedicated researchers looking at the causes of hypertension brings Michigan State University a $9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Amazing Grace .................................................................................................... 17
A profile of alumna Darrell Grace, D.O., Class of 1992, who returned to her hometown of Youngstown, Ohio, to create healthier lives for those in need.

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Learning to Heal

Osteopathic students in the classroom and in the clinic

by Steven D. Bevier

If you want to know what training is like for the typical osteopathic student, the first thing you need to learn is that there is no such thing as the typical osteopathic student. There are more than 500 men and women currently pursuing their D.O. at MSUCOM, and each has a different story to tell. Their experiences in class, in the hospital and with each other are as varied as the students themselves. Taken together, they present a group of learners committed to the three pillars of the college’s motto: the science of medicine, the art of caring, the power of touch.

Year One: Getting started

The first year of medical school is an extended lesson in hard work. “Everyone told me that the first semester is the hardest,” says Chris Butler, Class of 2007. After his experience so far, he finds that he has to agree with that assessment. Mr. Butler came to East Lansing with a degree in biology, but while the subject matter was familiar to him, the experience so far, he finds that he has to agree with that assessment. Mr. Butler came to East Lansing with a degree in biology, but while the subject matter was familiar to him, the experience so far, he finds that he has to agree with that assessment.

Classes in the first year – also known as Unit I – fall into two basic categories. The first category is instruction in the basic sciences. Lectures and labs in anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, and other subjects give students underlying knowledge about the human body. For most of them – who come to MSUCOM with a background in life sciences – these courses build on what they already know to create a foundation for deeper study.

The second group of classes is about clinical skills and the tools doctors need to work well with patients. Clinical skills give students the fundamentals of health care, like how to take blood pressure, listen to heartbeats, and use basic medical equipment. In addition, students attend sessions on doctor-patient relationships where they work on the interpersonal skills necessary for a successful physician. These classes also strive to impart the osteopathic philosophy and how it translates into patient care.

First-year students learn quickly how to manage their time and resources and how to find an approach to learning that works best for them. With so much material to absorb, free time is at a premium. They also learn to rely on each other, and all students seem to agree that the camaraderie among classmates is the greatest feature of MSUCOM.

“I didn’t apply to some other medical schools because I thought that the students were too competitive,” says Katie Sloan, Class of 2007. “There is a lot of cooperation here. People share notes and help each other out. I love our class.”

The first year is also a time to find ways to get involved. “There are dozens of student organizations associated with MSUCOM, and most students are involved in at least one, if not several. Groups like the Emergency Medicine Club, the Islamic Medical Student Association and the Pediatric Interest Group, just to name a few, not only provide social activities for students, they also enhance the curriculum by bringing in guest speakers, arranging shadowing opportunities, or participating in health fairs or other community events. Still, the focus is on education and class work dominates.”

Michelle Suppnick, Class of 2006, takes notes as students listen to the day’s lecture in the OMM lab. Second-year students in the course can choose an elective class that helps the community. Michelle Suppnick, Class of 2006, includes an elective class that helps the community by providing free care and helps her by providing patients from whom she can learn.

“I plan to use OMM in my practice, but it’s really a collaboration among all faculty members,” she says. “What we teach is really a departmental decision,” he says. “For first-year students, we give them the basic techniques. Over time, they learn to diagnose dysfunction and, hopefully, feel comfortable providing treatment.”

“We teach is really a departmental decision,” he says. “For first-year students, we give them the basic techniques. They should learn to diagnose dysfunction and, hopefully, feel comfortable providing treatment.”

OMM, but he explains that it is really a collaboration among all faculty members.

Profile Faculty member Debra Duxbury, M.D., listen to fellow students discuss their experiences during a class on the interpersonal skills necessary for a successful physician.

Year Two: Building blocks

As the first year progresses into the second, subjects turn from the basic knowledge of medicine to its application. Courses are devoted to individual body systems, like the cardiovascular system, endocrine system and others. Instruction begins to focus on specific examples of diseases, how to identify them and how to treat them. The lessons build on top of another to provide a complete picture of the human body.

Students also get more exposure to patients themselves. A significant feature of Unit II is the preceptorship. During the fall semester, each student spends one day a week for five weeks shadowing an osteopathic physician and getting their first experience with real patients in a clinical setting.

The preceptorship is part of a course in family medicine and is an important part of the college’s emphasis on primary care. Steven Dupuis, D.O., joined the Department of Family and Community Medicine two years ago, but he served as a preceptor for many years before that, welcoming students into his private practice. As an MSUCOM alumnus, he has been on both sides of the relationship and appreciates the value of the experience.

“My goal is to help them feel confident in the skills they have,” says Dr. Dupuis. “I assess the students strengths and weaknesses, to see what they can handle and help them in the areas they need it.”

Vladimir Cortez, Class of 2006, is one of the students who worked with Dr. Dupuis at MSU’s Family Medicine Clinic. He really got to know the patients and learn how to draw information from them.” The clinical experience allowed him to see many different kinds of cases and provided invaluable training in evaluation and treatment of patients.
Here’s what a week of classes might look like for a first-year student at MSUCOM...

Monday:
- **Biochemistry Exam**: Exams are frequent in Biochemistry Exam under the complex knowledge needed to build the basic courses build the basic knowledge needed to understand the complex workings of the human body.
- **Anatomy 551**: Medical Gross Anatomy An introduction to anatomy for all medical students. Large group lectures combine with hands-on lab work to give students a full understanding of the human body and the technology used to study tissues under the microscope.
- **Physiology 534**: Cell Biology and Physiology I Modern cell biology as an introduction to human tissues, organ systems and their relationship to health and disease. The class includes time in the histology lab studying tissues under the microscope.
- **OST 501**: Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine I Introduction to basic osteopathic palpatory skills, which are at the heart of what it means to be a D.O. Students also learn skills in the treatment areas of counterstrain and muscle energy.
- **OST 504**: Doctor-Patient Relationships I Studying the variables that physicians deal with in the doctor/patient relationship, and how to use personal awareness as a clinical tool. Students work with instructors in small group sessions.
- **COMMUNIQUÉ**: Here’s what a week of classes might look like for a first-year student at MSUCOM...

Year Three: “You can’t be prepared enough.”

After six semesters of preparation, students move to Unit III, the final two years of predoctoral education. Now, students shift out of the classroom and put their knowledge to work in clinical settings. Each student is assigned to a base hospital where they rotate through the various departments, gaining experience and learning directly from physicians working in all areas of medicine. MSUCOM has relationships with more than a dozen base hospitals throughout the state of Michigan.

It is here where students discover just how much they learned in the classroom and just how much more there is to know about being a doctor. “It’s hard to be prepared for your first trauma,” says Veronica Kemerko, Class of 2005. Fellow third-year student Nathan Lenneman agrees. “There are a lot of cases you’ve never seen before. You can’t be prepared enough.”

Like most third-years, Rejina Injety, Class of 2005, was nervous about her first hospital assignment. Her base hospital is Ingham Regional Medical Center, and she was quickly thrown into action. For the first time, she performed invasive tasks on real patients, and even delivered a baby with guidance from an obstetrician. She took on duties that, hopefully, would one day become second nature.

Still, that familiarity does not come all at once. For example, she struggled with starting intravenous lines in patients. This is one of the many things that can’t be taught in a lecture, but must be practiced on real people who bleed real blood when you stick them. A rotation in anesthesiology gave her many opportunities to practice, and guidance from nurses and doctors helped get her through.

“Students come here looking to do procedures,” says Raymond Sohn, D.O., an anesthesiologist at Ingham, who also serves as a clinical faculty member. “We trade that experience for a chance to teach them something. We show them techniques and give lessons on drugs and other treatments.”

With some rotations as short as two weeks, it can be tough to work it all in. Osteopathic students also have to compete with residents, interns and classmates for the chance to handle certain cases. With students at the bottom rung of the ladder, they often must watch and learn from the sidelines. Fortunately, for some, there are nurses like Connie Blodeau, L.P.N., who can guide them to where they can learn the most.

“Fortunately, for some, there are nurses like Connie Blodeau, L.P.N., who can guide them to where they can learn the most.”

Family and Community Medicine faculty member Steven Dupuis, D.O., watches over Vladimir Cortez as he examines a patient. Dr. Dupuis serves as a preceptor for students in training.

First-year students follow a lecture in the histology lab.
their own answers and put in extra work when and where they need it.

“I read a lot on my own and follow residents on other cases,” says Jamie Eberhart, Class of 2005. “You get out of it what you put into it.”

While it isn’t quite as thrilling as your average episode of “ER,” students do find the clinical experience enlightening. “You see anything and everything,” says Mr. Lenneman. “The blinders are off.”

Over time, students become more confident and begin to accept greater responsibility. However, other pressures mount, like the pressure to choose a residency. Competition for resident positions, particularly in certain specialties, can be tough and students often feel compelled to choose and apply early.

Year Four: Putting the puzzle together

As the third year becomes the fourth, the experience and knowledge grow and the finish line begins to come into view. “I feel comfortable,” says Matt Flanagan, Class of 2004, “I’m ready for more responsibilities.” However, he does admit to the additional stress of the final board exams, the last hurdle.

One wonders, after so much time in the hospital, when do students begin to feel like doctors? “Eight months ago,” says Angela Dawson, Class of 2004. “Now, I can start to see myself there. I’m really ready for the next step.”

She explains that as the program progressed, the rotations built upon each other to create something bigger than the sum of its parts. “It’s like a puzzle. Now I can see the whole picture, not just the individual pieces.”

For those first- and second-year students, that puzzle may feel like something they’ll never solve. Yet, those who have gone through it offer some hope and a little advice. “Find the picture, not just the individual pieces.”

Ms. Injety starts an intravenous line on a patient awaiting surgery, as anesthesiologist Raymond Sohn, D.O., looks on.

Highlights

Third-year student Rejina Injety starts an intravenous line on a patient heading into the operating room. Later, she scrubs up before heading into the operating room.

Looking to the Future

Admissions officer helps prepare MSUCOM’s next generation

by Steven D. Bevier

Know someone who wants to become a D.O.? Send them to Lorie Culham.

She is an admissions officer at MSUCOM and before prospective students even apply, they come to her for advice on college requirements, how to get their applications in order, and how to present themselves as attractive candidates.

For the students who don’t know where to turn, she sends them out. Part of her job involves traveling around the state, visiting colleges under graduates, talking to student groups, and meeting with school counselors in an effort to find prospective students and let them know what osteopathic medicine has to offer. For her, promoting the college is not hard. “I think this is a really unique place,” she says.

But the key part of her work is counseling students to help them understand what the college is looking for in a potential doctor.

She says that many students get inaccurate information about requirements or assume that all medical schools are looking for the same thing. “I really try to provide good customer service. I want them to have good advice.”

She not only advises them on how to get in, but on what to expect once they arrive. “A lot of people think just getting into medical school is the ultimate goal. They may not understand how difficult it can be once they enroll.” Once the applications are submitted, she reviews them to ensure all is in order before turning them over to the admissions committee.

Ms. Culham has been at MSU since 1983 when she came to East Lansing to pursue a graduate degree in animal science, after serving in the Peace Corps in Africa. Her first campus job was as a Peace Corps recruiter, a position very similar to the one she holds now. She has also worked in a genetics lab, doing screenings to support genetic counseling for families, on small business start ups with the Food Industry Institute, and in a histocompatibility lab that keeps a running database of potential transplant patients and helps match them to donors.

Despite her love of science, Ms. Culham prefers the human aspect of her current job. “Working in the labs was very interesting,” she says, “but I like working with people.” Having a background in science also helps her appreciate what doctors in training have to go through. “I can empathize with these students,” she adds.

She also enjoys music, and even plays a few folk instruments, including the military fife and full Scottish regalia. She has been playing them for seven years and is a part of two bands that perform regularly at parades and festivals. “It’s really the hardest instrument I’ve ever learned to play, but I love the challenge and the music.”

Ms. Culham lives in Webberville, with her husband, Alan, and their two children, David, 15, and Scott. She can empathize with these students,” she adds.
by Steven D. Bevier

When MSUCOM alumni are asked to name the teachers they remember best, they all have stories of the professors who spent a little extra time with them or went out of their way to help with a difficult problem. But if there’s one name that comes up more than any other, it has to be Dr. Falls.

William Falls, Ph.D., is the associate dean for student services and a professor of anatomy. As associate dean, he oversees admissions, counseling and academic advising, the student records office, and multicultural services, and works closely with the student government and other student organizations.

As an instructor, he has taught anatomy to nearly every D.O. to come out of MSUCOM in the last 25 years.

Dr. Falls first joined the college in 1979 after four years at the National Institute of Dental Research. He came on board in the Department of Anatomy and continued with his research on oral and facial pain. In addition, he taught gross anatomy courses for all the osteopathic students.

Today, he continues to teach anatomy and neuroscience to students and residents.

Since anatomy is one of the key components of the first year of classes, the medical students at both the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Human Medicine become familiar with Dr. Falls very early. For many, he is the first professor that they encounter, so naturally, students look to him for guidance, and the occasional help with a tough exam.

Former student Mitzi Amelon, D.O., Class of 1992, recalls an incident with Dr. Falls after taking her first exam.

“Their grades were nowhere near those of their peers. They asked Dr. Falls for his help. He didn’t just give it, he gave them the confidence to succeed. He showed them that they could do it.”

The students have equally high praise for Dr. Falls.

What is that transformation like? “They mature tremendously,” he explains. “They learn to communicate and interact with people. They listen to patients, which is one of the most important things a doctor can learn.” “They also learn to work with each other,” he adds. “You can’t do it all by yourself.”

The students have equally high praise for Dr. Falls.

“He truly loves his students,” says second-year student Michael Callan. “He lobbies for us. If you have a problem, he doesn’t just say ‘That’s the way things are.’ He helps you look for an answer.”

He’s not above tutoring students one-on-one, or leading review sessions before exams – even for sections where he was not the instructor. “He can present the most complicated concepts in a simple and relevant way,” adds Emily Smith, Class of 2006.

“For Dr. Falls, such a close relationship to the students is only natural. ‘The best part of working here is the rapport between faculty and students,’ he says. ‘They treat one another as colleagues, which I think is something you won’t find at some medical schools.’”

“I’m very fortunate that I get to meet over 100 new people each year and follow them through four years of medical school,” Dr. Falls adds.
OLD FRIENDS, NEW MEMORIES

Silverfest Alumni Weekend

MSUCOM's Class of 1978 was honored at this year's Silverfest Alumni Weekend, September 26 and 27. The celebration began on Friday with the fifth annual Osteopathic Open at Hawk Hollow Golf Course in Bath. The event, sponsored by Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids, raised funds for MSUCOM's student loan program, educational improvements and the MSUCOM Alumni Association. This year's tournament was the biggest ever, with 36 teams competing.

The biggest ever, with 36 teams competing, the MSUCOM Alumni Association's Osteopathic Open was a big success as Saturday morning's CME course was a big success as the MSUCOM Alumni Association's Osteopathic Open was a big success as Saturday morning's CME course was a big success as Saturday morning's CME course was a big success.

Tammy Born, D.O., (center) accompanied by members of the MSUCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors, presents the first donation for the Alumni Endowed Professorship fund to Dean William Strampel, D.O., all classmates of the late Holly Kabakovich, D.O., with her cousin Carolyn Callerd, and William Callerd. The Callerds presented a gift to the college in Dr. Kabakovich's name. (See Page 20.)

Bob Gleffe, D.O., Geri Navarre, Colleen Kneff, and William Cunningham, D.O., make up the Metropolitan Hospital foursome at the Osteopathic Open.

Kenn Richter, D.O., whoops it up on stage with The K.G.B. band.

Alumni Spirit
Research in a New

MSU’s Program Project Grant

by Pat Grauer

They’re not just passive pipelines to return blood to the heart and lungs. Our veins act as the major storage depot for blood in the body and may also hold the key as to why one in five Americans suffers from hypertension. Five scientists from the MSU Colleges of Osteopathic and Human Medicine have been awarded a $9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to explore the function of veins – a grant important because of its size, its prestige, and its standards for collaboration.

Researchers include Professors Gregory Fink, Ph.D., and James Galligan, Ph.D. (co-directors of the project), Associate Professor Stephanie Warrs, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor Alex Chen, Ph.D., from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. Also included is Professor David Kreulen, Ph.D., who is jointly appointed in the departments of Neurology and Ophthalmology, and Physiology.

The team was awarded the specialized Program Project Grant (PPG) from NIH’s Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. PPGs are rare, and according to the NIH, are given “to stimulate and expand a program of research that is expected to contribute significantly to the improvement and/or maintenance of human health, or that is expected to result in substantial improvements in the understanding or possibly to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of a disease or condition.”

In addition, the PPG funds research that will examine how veins may contribute to other diseases such as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), stroke, and chronic fatigue syndrome, Dr. Fink says.

College and university administrators credit the MSU team with following a research development process that helped to ensure the grant. (See sidebar.) “The process used demonstrates the way we all should do it,” noted MSUCOM Associate Dean for Research Justin McCormick, Ph.D. “You have to show that the university supports the effort in a real way. This is,” he says, “the best $20,000 I’ve ever committed.”

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. Also included is Professor David Kreulen, Ph.D., who is jointly appointed in the departments of Neurology and Ophthalmology, and Physiology.

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Dr. Fink studies the literature in his office.

Dr. Fink oversees one of his experiments.

Dr. Watts (left) with graduate students Keshari Thakali and Wei Ni.

Dr. Galligan at work in the lab.

Dr. Kreulen oversees one of his experiments.

Dr. Watt's study in his office.

Dr. Galligan at work in the lab.

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Dr. Watts (left) with graduate students Keshari Thakali and Wei Ni.

Dr. Galligan at work in the lab.
What’s Important Now?

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

Lou Holtz, one of the most successful coaches in college football, once said that the word “WIN” was an acronym for “What’s Important Now?” If Michigan is going to emerge from the current economic downturn as a winner, our policymakers need to look into the mirror and ask themselves, “What’s Important Now?”

The Michigan Legislature adopted a 2004 state budget that was reduced by $1.7 billion from the previous year. As I write this, the state government is deciding how to deal with an additional $920 million shortfall in anticipated revenues. Since the constitution requires a balanced budget, the state might cut $920 million in expenses, raise $920 million in taxes or do both in some manner that totals $920 million. Despite all the previous posturing and tactics, these are some facts that must be considered for Michigan’s future:

- Michigan’s budget has a structural deficit. This means that our expenses grow faster than our revenue. It also means that the solution can’t be a one-time fix. We must either decrease expenses or increase revenue (or a combination of both) for the long term.
- Those who call for the state to address the shortfall by cutting expenses have not come up with a list of proposed cuts. This is because the public likes the idea of cutting state expenses, but doesn’t like the cuts that would have to occur to achieve that goal.
- No one believes you can cut $920 million from the state budget without cutting essential services. While people differ on what constitutes essential services, $920 million in cuts will affect everyone’s definition.

It is the role of the state to provide essential services, but different people have different opinions of what constitutes essential services. The current budget shortfall will force our policymakers to decide what are essential services — for them to decide, “What’s Important Now?” Because this is a democracy, we can all have input in that decision. Now is the time to contact your legislators and tell them “What’s Important Now.”

AOA Site Visit

The American Osteopathic Association Accreditation Committee conducted a site visit at MSUCOM this past September. The college completed a year-long self study in preparation for the visit, which occurs every seven years as a major step of the accreditation renewal process. MSUCOM received high marks across the board, and the AOA gave out two commendations for exceptional service.

The first was for the support and development of the Statewide Campus System. According to the AOA, “The increased educational opportunities provided by the SCS benefit all levels of the osteopathic profession.” The other commendation was given to Associate Dean for Student Services William Falls, Ph.D., who was recognized for his “leadership skills and ability to work well with others” in the management of his entire unit.

MSUCOM Alumni Network

Upcoming Events

January 22-25: MAOFP Conference
Shanty Creek Resort
Bellaire, Michigan

January 24: MAOFP-MSUCOM Reception

March 6-11: Seminar in the Sun
Melia Azul Beach Resort, Ixtapa, 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
e-mail: camp@msu.edu
www.com.msu.edu/alumni

MSUCOM Heads North…

Staff from MSUCOM’s Alumni Office journeyed to Northern Michigan in October to connect with alumni from the region. On October 22, the college held a reception and dinner at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City and hosted another dinner with alumni in Cheboygan. The dinners offered a great opportunity to meet with alumni who don’t often make it back to East Lansing. The Alumni Office plans to hold more regional meetings throughout the year, so look for MSUCOM coming to your area.

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MSUCOM had another terrific alumni turnout for the American Osteopathic Association’s (AOA) Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar on October 12 through October 16 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The college held its regular Alumni Luncheon, which included the presentation of alumni awards. John Everett, D.O., Class of 1987, and Darrell Grace, D.O., Class of 1992, both received the Dean’s Award for Meritorious Contribution. MSUCOM also held a “Tailgate Party” for alumni, faculty, students and friends.

Flu Shots
Doctors from MSUCOM and the Michigan Osteopathic Association took their practice to the Capitol on Wednesday, October 8, to provide flu vaccinations for state senators, state representatives and legislative staff. The yearly event helps raise awareness of medical issues — such as immunization — and allows MSUCOM faculty members and other osteopathic physicians a chance to meet and interact with state legislators.

New Officers
The MSUCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors has elected new officers for the upcoming year. Myral Robbins, D.O., Class of 1976, will serve as the new president beginning in May. Also, for the first time the board will have a vice president in Michael Weiss, D.O, Class of 1978. MSUCOM would like to welcome the new officers and offer thanks to outgoing President David Neff, D.O., Class of 1980, for an outstanding year of service.

Seminar In The Sun
It’s not too late to find an escape from the winter blues. Seminar in the Sun will make its annual getaway March 6-13 at Melia Azul Beach Resort in Ixtapa, Mexico. Twenty hours of CME credit are available to participants and while in Mexico you can enjoy sun, surf and a relaxing time with friends. For more information, visit www.com.msu.edu or call the alumni office toll free at (877) 853-3448.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

It has been a challenging and rewarding year for all of us. I thank you for the opportunity that I have had to serve you and the college as Alumni Association president. I’ll be moving on from the board soon, but I plan to stay involved and will continue to help the College of Osteopathic Medicine in any way that I can.

That’s where you come in. The goal for this fund has been set at $3 million. This amount will ensure that the professorship remains fully endowed and that it will continue to create educational opportunities for years to come. It is a lot of money, but consider this: If 1,000 alumni give $50 each month, our goal could be reached in just five years.

Donations have already started flowing in, but we have a long way to go. Please consider making a gift to this endowment. Every dollar counts, and all of us working together can make this a reality.

The Alumni Endowed Professorship will have a tremendous impact on the college. It will help attract the best and brightest faculty. It will reward faculty for innovative research, excellence in the classroom and advancements in public health. Finally, it honors the alumni of MSUCOM – past, present and future.

At the AOA convention in October, Dean Strampel announced the creation of the new Alumni Endowed Professorship. This is a named faculty chair that will become an important tool for recruitment and recognition of what the college has to offer. The college is making this new endowment a top priority.

By Steven Bevier
Youngstown, Ohio, is not the kind of place where many people choose to move. For much of the 20th century, it was a thriving city, but in the 1970s the steel mills shut down, taking away the area’s biggest industry. Since then the population has dwindled, unemployment has gone down, taking away the area’s biggest industry. Since then the population has dwindled, unemployment has gone.

For Darrell Grace, D.O., however, Youngstown is home. Five generations of her family have lived and worked in this area. She left to come to MSUCOM for her medical education, but she knew that she would return to serve this community. While many people leave Youngstown looking for good jobs and education, but she knew that she would return to serve this community. While many people leave Youngstown looking for good jobs and education, but she knew that she would return to serve this community.

“This is my home.”

Dr. Grace showed off her Michigan State University pride.

Amazing Grace

by Steven D. Bevier
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For Darrell Grace, D.O., however, Youngstown is home. Five generations of her family have lived and worked in this area. She left to come to MSUCOM for her medical education, but she knew that she would return to serve her community. While many people leave Youngstown looking for a better life, she returned, hoping to make life better for those left behind.

“I needed to come back to this area,” she says. “It’s my home.”

Dr. Grace knew quite a bit about medicine before coming to East Lansing. She was a nurse for 14 years, including 10 at an osteopathic hospital in Warren, Ohio. It was there that she learned about the osteopathic philosophy and determined that she herself would become a D.O. She took advantage of MSUCOM’s strong training in primary care to become the doctor she needed to be to help the community.

After graduating in 1992, she kept her promise to herself and moved back to Youngstown to set up a private practice. Dr. Grace admits that life is hard in this town “There’s not a lot to do here. When the steel mills closed, all the businesses that depended on them closed too. It’s been tough for everyone.” That’s why she strives so hard to support those in need.

For the last four years, Dr. Grace has volunteered her time and energy to help establish Grace Place Medical Services (named after “God’s grace,” not the doctor) This community clinic is the work of the Greater Youngstown Coalition of Christians, a group of 65 inner-city and suburban churches that have banded together, in association with Forum Health, to provide services to those in need. Dr. Grace is the assistant medical director and also serves on the Board of Directors.

The clinic provides services on a sliding fee scale, and patients pay only what they can afford. Because of this, it relies heavily on donations from churches, community groups and doctors who give time and supplies. When the clinic first opened, Dr. Grace began contacting fellow physicians and asked them to donate unused drug samples given to them by pharmaceutical companies. In three months, she collected over $100,000 worth of medications for those who couldn’t afford the high-priced prescriptions.

Grace Place includes clinics for podiatry, dermatology, surgery, and hypertension. High blood pressure and diabetes are major problems among the residents they serve. “We try to teach the patients,” she explains, “but we also do a lot of scaling. It’s hard for them to stick to healthy diets.”

It also serves as a teaching hospital, taking students from area universities and educating them on the challenges of urban medicine.

“The one thing I try to teach students is that you can’t be everything to everyone. You always feel that you can give more, but you have to know your limitations.”

Dr. Grace was recently honored by MSUCOM for her efforts. Last October, she received the Dean’s Award for Meritorious Contribution. For Dr. Grace, however, all credit goes to the college for giving her the education that has allowed her to help so many others. “They will never know how many lives they touched,” she adds. “I love my school.”
THE FOURTH ANNUAL VISITING FACULTY LECTURE SERIES
THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH 26, 2004

The intent of the MSU Visiting Faculty Lecture Series is to provide opportunities for interaction with multicultural 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 Affirmative Action Compliance and Monitoring
Office of Assistant Provost for Academic Student Services and Multicultural Issues
Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health
Honors College
College of Human Medicine
Libraries, Computing and Technology
Metropolitan Hospital, Grand Rapids
Office of the Provost
Undergraduate University Division
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services
Women’s Resource Center

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

For more information call (517) 355-4608

Ms. Juanita Jones Abernathy
Civil rights activist and widow of Southern Christian Leadership Conference co-founder Ralph David Abernathy

“The Civil Rights Movement, from the Inside”
No one is better qualified to give a first-hand account of the Civil Rights Movement of the ‘50s and ‘60s than Juanita Jones Abernathy. As the wife of Ralph David Abernathy, she was intimately involved from the beginning of the movement in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. The experiences that she shared with her husband and Martin Luther King Jr. are unparalleled in American history. Ms. Abernathy is a graduate of Tennessee State University and did further study in a master’s program at Alabama State University. She has vast experience as an educator, entrepreneur, corporate board director and community activist. She is widely traveled and in demand as a speaker on religious, civil, educational, motivational and business themes. Her work and personal sacrifices throughout the revolutionary Civil Rights Movement have inextricably connected her to a lifelong struggle in pursuit of human rights and peace around the world.

FEBRUARY 26, 2004, 5:00 P.M., Big Ten A, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Reception following.

Dr. Aldon Morris
Author and Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University

“Origins of the Civil Rights Movement”
Dr. Aldon Morris is author of this prizewinning book, Origins Of The Civil Rights Movement. He is recognized as a leading authority on social movements and has done extensive research on the effects of these movements on the transformation of America from slavery to freedom, a continuing saga. Dr. Morris holds degrees in sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Bradley University, and Olive-Harvey College. He is currently professor of sociology at Northwestern University, where he teaches sociology of religion and ideology. Dr. Morris has written extensively on social movements, social inequality, race and religion. He has received numerous awards and honors for his works as a researcher, teacher, writer and leader in social issues that have changed the course of history. Among the many works of Dr. Morris are The Historical Black Freedom Struggle, The Black Protest Movement, The Genius Of The Civil Right Movement and Sustaining The Fight: The Importance Of Local Movements.

FEBRUARY 12, 2004, 5:00 P.M., Big Ten C, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Reception following.

Rev. Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor
Senior Pastor Emeritus of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York

“The Church in Slavery and in Freedom”
There are few preachers in history that are characterized as “the preacher’s preacher.” None are more deserving of such a distinction than Gardner Calvin Taylor. Rev. Taylor is senior pastor emeritus of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York. He has earned through his works numerous academic and honorary degrees culminating with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, awarded by President William Jefferson Clinton in 2002. His preaching career spans the Civil Rights Movement and he has been a source of inspiration to many of its leaders. Rev. Taylor was recognized as one of the nation’s 15 Greatest Black Preachers by Ebony magazine in 1993. He is widely known nationally and internationally as a preacher, teacher, lecturer and writer. He has held leadership positions in many religious and civic organizations, including American Baptist and Progressive National Baptist Conventions and the Council of Churches of New York and the Urban League. He has been in demand as a preacher in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Copenhagen, Tokyo, China and Africa.

FEBRUARY 19, 2004, 5:00 P.M., Auditorium, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Reception following.

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr.
Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, Morehouse College

“The Hidden History of Civil Rights”
Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., Ph.D., D.D., the first dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, has been a tenured professor of philosophy and religion, college archivist and chief of ceremony at Morehouse College since 1979. He has distinguished himself as an active administrator, builder, counselor, curator, historian, educator, minister, organizer, publicist, researcher and preacher. Prior to assuming the deanship of the King Chapel, Dr. Carter held positions at Boston University, Harvard University and Simmons College. He has received over 300 speaking engagements from coast to coast in the United States and abroad that include colleges, universities and seminaries and for 10 different denominations. He has published 52 articles and has contributed to numerous books on a variety of subjects that relate to religion, civic and social issues impacting on our lives, most especially those of African Americans. Dr. Carter has received 27 honors and recognitions and is listed in Who’s Who in Religion and Who’s Who Among Black Americans. With his extraordinary educational background and a wealth of experience, no one is better qualified than Dr. Carter to participate in this series, From Slavery to Freedom – An American Odyssey.

FEBRUARY 26, 2004, 5:00 P.M., Big Ten BC, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Reception following.

Mr. Gardner Calvin Taylor. Rev. Taylor is senior pastor emeritus of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York.

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FEBRUARY 19, 2004, 5:00 P.M., Auditorium, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Reception following.
When Mark and Toula Guilfoyle first arrived at MSUCOM in 1980, they knew that the experience would change their lives, but perhaps they didn’t know how much. After all, they didn’t yet know each other.

Still, they met at first-years, and the rest, as they say, is history. By the time they graduated with the Class of 1984, they were already married. Both have since gone on to successful careers in osteopathic medicine. Mark is a board-certified radiologist and Toula is board-certified in family medicine. They live in the town of Sand Point, in the “thumb” of Michigan.

“Everything that we have, we owe to the college,” says Toula. “It is because of this school, that we have achieved so much.”

The Guilfoyles have certainly demonstrated their appreciation for their alma mater. They recently pledged a substantial gift of $100,000 to the college, to be used to refurbish the student lounge in the basement of Fee Hall. This is just one of several donations and planned gifts that they have pledged a total of $455,000 to MSU.

The Guilfoyle family history with MSU doesn’t end there. Their eldest daughter, Anastasia, is a freshman in Lyman Briggs. She is also a member of the Osteopathic Medical Scholars, an honors program for undergraduates who have demonstrated a strong interest in pursuing a career in osteopathic medicine. Her sister, Dorothea, is a senior in high school who has also been accepted to Lyman Briggs and plans to attend State in the fall.

The memory of a former student is creating a lasting legacy at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. A $275,000 gift was recently presented to MSUCOM from the estate of George Kabakovich, the father of Holly Kabakovich, D.O., a 1986 graduate of the college.

Holly Kabakovich grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and earned a dual degree in biology and psychology from Loyola University before coming to MSUCOM. After graduation she completed her residency in the Department of Family Medicine, and she literally wrote the book on it, by helping to put together the residency manual and establish objectives for the program. She also received a master’s degree in public health from Harvard University.

Dr. Kabakovich passed away in 1995, but is remembered fondly by former classmates and friends. “She was a good student, very conscientious,” says Kay White, MSUCOM’s former associate dean for student services. “She was never too busy to help someone out.” Adds Pamela Thompson, D.O., Class of 1986, “She was a good friend.”

The money from the family trust will be used to set up a scholarship fund for future osteopathic students with an interest in family medicine. The gift was presented to the college by Dr. Kabakovich’s cousin, Carolyn Callerd, at the annual Silverfest celebration in September.
LAS VEGAS NIGHT
& CHARITY RAFFLE

Hawk Hollow Golf Course
Saturday, March 27, 2004
7:00 p.m. To Midnight

For more information see our web site at:
www.com.msu.edu/pub-rel/vegas2004

Sponsored by: Michigan Osteopathic Association
Hosted by: MSUCOM Student Council