THE FACE OF MEDICINE
OUR GRATEFUL PATIENTS
COMMUNIQUÉ
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This issue of Communiqué celebrates grateful patients and the physicians who honor their physicians with a gift in their names to MSUCOM’s Grateful Patient Fund, ensuring that this kind of quality osteopathic health care will continue. (Please see page 24.)

We at MSUCOM are working to continue to expand this kind of care for the state, the nation and the world. Last year we increased our entering class size, which had stood at 125 for decades, to 143, and this year we are raising it again to 147 – addressing the deficit in the number of physicians projected for this decade. In addition, the odds are very high that most graduates will remain in Michigan. Of MSUCOM’s 2004 graduating class of 132, it’s anticipated that 124 (95%) will take osteopathic or military internships and residencies. Of these, only six students are known to be moving outside of the state – a healthy sign for Michigan because physicians overwhelmingly remain to practice near where they take their postgraduate training.

Our students are continuing to provide concrete proof of their quality. For example, MSUCOM students achieve outstanding success on their national board examinations for licensure. Over the past five years, 95% passed the COMLEX Level I exam on the first try and 94% of them passed the Level II exam on the first try.

It’s not only our patients who are grateful. What we’ve been able to achieve in this college could never have happened without the support of the osteopathic profession – those who have made gifts, those D.O.s who have volunteered their time and expertise to teach, those who have spoken out in advocacy; and those partner institutions of the Statewide Campus System who have provided the necessary infrastructure for excellent clinical education. Thank you all. I’m grateful for the future we’re going to be able to build together.

Over the years the largest single group of persons MSUCOM has produced is a huge cadre of grateful patients – persons who have been on the receiving end of the high-quality compassionate care our alumni and faculty are offering. From Hawaii to Malawi are hundreds of thousands of lives made healthier, safer and happier because of the work our alumni are doing.

Closer to home, MSUCOM campus faculty, interns and residents are providing quality care in the Lansing area in 58 clinics that provide services ranging from health care for immigrants to treatment for muscular dystrophy.

Healthy and happy patients are the goal of every physician and the reason our college exists. Here are stories of osteopathic care told through their eyes.

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ON THE COVER
Thomas Mohr, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, with his patients, Amy Eifert (right) and her daughter, Linda Morrow

MSUCOM appreciates the generous and continuing support for Communiqué offered through the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. Thank you!
Four years ago, Ken Eifert’s health began to fail. He was suffering congestive heart failure. When his doctor suggested putting him in a nursing home, his wife, Amy, balked. “The doctor seemed too quick to send him to a home,” she says. “I felt he was very pushy because I know he’s listening to a patient, and he’ll do the same when it’s my turn.”

Amy Eifert, with her physician, Thomas Mohr, D.O., her daughter Carol Graves and her son, Walt Eifert. Several members of Ms. Eifert’s family have turned to Dr. Mohr as their primary care doctor.

The experience formed a bond between Dr. Mohr and the rest of the Eifert family. Ms. Eifert was so impressed with the care her husband received that she decided to make Dr. Mohr her physician as well. It wasn’t long before other family members followed.

One of the Eiferts’ daughters, Carol Graves, came to his clinic for treatment for diabetes. Their other daughter, Linda Morrow, developed breast cancer and her husband, Bob, got cancer as well. Both turned to Dr. Mohr, and both are now cancer-free. Their daughter Tonya followed them to his office. In all, seven members of the Eifert clan—three generations worth—are currently his patients.

“Unfortunately, the family has a lot of health problems,” says Dr. Mohr. “Some of it is genetics and some of it is just bad luck. They have had a lot of obstacles to overcome.”

The Eifert’s son, Walt, did not switch physicians, but he still stands by Dr. Mohr 100 percent. “I have my own doctor whom I have seen for many years,” he explains, “but if I was asked to recommend somebody, I would send them to Dr. Mohr.”

The family members whom Dr. Mohr has treated say that they are most impressed with the personal attention that he gives each of his patients. “He takes his time and asks a lot of questions,” says Ms. Graves. “Sometimes when I come for an appointment, I end up waiting awhile. But I don’t mind because I know he’s listening to a patient, and he’ll do the same when it’s my turn.”

Dr. Mohr says that giving that kind of attention is just part of doing his job. “I find that patients will tell you what’s wrong with them, if you just take the time to listen.”

Even when he has to send them to a specialist or for a stay in the hospital, his patients feel that he is looking out for them. Ms. Graves says, “He let us know that he wouldn’t send us to this doctor if he didn’t trust him. I’ve always had good experiences with people he has sent me to.” “They are very loyal to me,” adds Dr. Mohr. “If a specialist suggests a course of action, they often want to get approval from their primary doctor. I also try to help them understand what the specialist is saying.”

After four years, the relationship is going strong. The Eifert family alone could keep Dr. Mohr in business for a long time. Amy Eifert has nine grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. The family also tends to think of Dr. Mohr as one of their own. “He’s more than a doctor to us,” says Ms. Eifert.

For Dr. Mohr, the feeling is mutual. “I genuinely enjoy working with this family. They are very loving and devoted to each other. People like this are the reason I got into medicine.”

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Knowing that the clinic would need outside funding in order to grow further, Dr. Mohr turned to Perman Parkhurst, Ph.D., for help writing a new grant proposal. “I had never written a grant before, and he basically taught me how to do it,” says Dr. Mohr. “This would not have happened without him.”

The grant provides federal funding that will enable the clinic to hire three new faculty internists as well as a behavioral scientist. The clinic already has one psychotherapist—Laura Mohr, Ph.D.—Dr. Mohr’s wife—and the doctors consider such therapy to be an important part of the practice’s mission.

“Patients with serious illnesses have to deal with a lot of emotional issues,” says Dr. Mohr. “I’m not trained in therapy, so it helps to have someone right in the clinic who can work with them. It’s a true holistic approach.”

One of the new faculty positions has been filled by Paul Entler, D.O., a graduate of the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, who will join the clinic in July. The department is currently searching for candidates to fill the remaining spots and
by Steven D. Bevier

Sometimes, when you really want to know what it’s like to be a part of the medical profession, it’s best to talk to a patient who’s seen it all.

Glynice Mrozek found more than her fair share of doctors and hospitals. She has been paraplegic since suffering a spinal cord injury more than 30 years ago. She spent four months in a full body cast. Over time she learned how to sit up, get dressed and use a wheelchair. She battled bladder infections, kidney stones, ulcers, and osteoporosis.

Yet through it all, she has been an active participant, not only in her own care, but also in the care of others. She has worked in rehabilitation hospitals around the country and been an advocate for persons with disabilities. She also embraced and supports the principles of osteopathic medicine.

After her injury, she moved back to her hometown of Sault Ste. Marie. She enrolled at Lake Superior State University (then College) at a time when there were no handicapper accessible buildings on campus. She relied on fellow students to get around campus, especially during the harsh Upper Peninsula winters.

There were also no physicians in her area who could treat her spinal cord injuries. So every three months – for eight years – she made the drive from Sault Ste. Marie to Ann Arbor to the hospital and the first D.O

Dr. Prokop is a 1980 alumnus of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and had been on the faculty before moving to Oklahoma. Ms. Mrozek had seen his name on patient files while working at Mary Free Bed, but was finally meeting him in person. They soon became friends, and eventually she became his patient.

Their first session got off to a rough start, when he took the arm rests off her wheelchair and forced her to hold herself up. “I was not happy with him,” she explains. “I thought that I would fall out of my chair because I had no back muscles. It turns out that I did have muscles, I just hadn’t used them in years. I had no idea that I could.”

Working with Dr. Prokop and other D.O.s for the first time, gave her a new perspective on osteopathic medicine.

“As a teenager, I spent a summer working at an osteopathic hospital in Oklahoma,” she says. “There was a lot of prejudice against osteopathy. It was considered ‘voodoo medicine.’ I was told that if I worked there, I would never get into a good nursing school or get a job at a ‘regular’ hospital.”

By the late 1970s, she was finally able to return to full-time work and made a career out of helping others with disabilities. Her first job was working on disability records for the State of Michigan, and later she worked for Mary Free Bed Hospital in Grand Rapids, a center devoted to rehabilitation.

In 1985, she moved to Washington, D.C., to work at the brand new National Rehabilitation Hospital. The hospital itself had not even been built when she was hired to set up the admissions office. It was there that she first met Lawrence Prokop, D.O., who was the third doctor hired for the hospital and the first D.O.

In 1992, Dr. Prokop moved to Pensacola, Florida, to set up a private practice. Ms. Mrozek decided to join him and help manage the clinic. They worked together for a decade before Dr. Prokop decided that he wanted to get back into teaching. So he returned to his alma mater, and accepted a position at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. She stayed behind to close thebooks on the clinic, then moved back to Michigan herself.

Dr. Prokop treats patients in MSU’s Rehabilitation Medicine Clinic, but works closely with other departments to make manipulative medicine a key component of his work. "I don’t think you can do good physical medicine without OMM. We have in-services for our physical therapists. All our residents are required to know how to conduct structural exams, even the M.D.s. Between the two departments (OMM and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) we have a lot of depth." According to Dr. Prokop, during World War II a spinal cord injury was generally considered fatal, as patients were at such high risk for serious infections. As knowledge has increased and technology has improved, so has the quality of life for those with paralysis.

"We know how to treat the side effects, like infections," explains Dr. Prokop. "Technology has given us adaptive equipment that allows patients in wheelchairs to move lifts, control electronics in their house, and drive cars. Even patients with very little function can take care of themselves and have a normal lifespan."

"Rehabilitation medicine has been on a big upswing in the last twenty years," he adds. "When I started there was one textbook and very few journals. Now, it has expanded into every area: the brain, spine, chronic pain, pediatrics."

At the time of her spine injury, Ms. Mrozek was told her life expectancy would be 52. She passed that mark two years ago and is looking ahead to many more years. She continues to support Dr. Prokop and other physicists who do so much for those living with disabilities.

"Another doctor once told me, ‘A cardiologist will ask you about your heart, a neurologist will ask about your head, and so on, but a rehab doctor will ask about you.’" says Ms. Mrozek. "I know that’s true."
All Smiles
How osteopathic manipulative medicine made one family very happy

by Steven D. Bevier

At a newborn, Brendan Naimy was not exactly a bundle of joy.

It wasn’t Brendan’s fault. His parents, Norm and Julie, were thrilled when their first child was born, but he began suffering from a number of health problems as soon as he arrived. “He was very irritable,” his mother explains. “He didn’t sleep. He was always crying. He was not very happy.”

Brendan had colic, and his system couldn’t handle breast milk. He also had reflux disease, serious constipation, and was generally not getting enough nutrition. On top of that, he had torticollis, causing his head to tilt at an awkward angle. All these problems combined to make him quite miserable.

His pediatrician treated his condition with medications, but nothing seemed to work well enough.

Then Ms. Naimy talked to a friend of hers, whose baby had suffered problems very similar to Brendan’s. She had taken her child to see Lisa Vredevoogd, D.O., at MSUCOM’s Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine clinic, and she swore by the treatment that had been given.

The Naimys quickly made an appointment.

When Brendan came into the clinic, Dr. Vredevoogd says the first thing she noticed was plagiocephaly, or an asymmetry in his head. Dr. Vredevoogd devotes several asymmetry of the skull. In his case, this may have been due to the awkward position he was in while in the womb. His asymmetrical head shape altered the function of the cranial nerves leaving the base of the skull. These particular cranial nerves controlled gastroesophageal function and also powered certain muscles in the neck.

Brendan received manipulative treatments to his skull to restore the function of these cranial nerves and correct the asymmetry in his head. Dr. Vredevoogd devotes several hours each week to treating children, many of them with ailments very similar to Brendan’s.

His parents noticed the change immediately. “After the first visit, he was sleeping better, he was eating better,” says Ms. Naimy. Even his appearance changed. “You could see the difference just in the way he looked,” adds his father.

Dr. Vredevoogd continued to see Brendan, about once a week for a little over two months. By the tenth treatment, his GI problems had gone away; he was sleeping through the night, and his head had taken on a more natural, rounded shape. “There’s no way to know what he would look like if he had been left untreated,” says Dr. Vredevoogd.

The Naimys were thrilled with the results. “Now a little over a year old, Brendan is as happy as can be. He no longer takes any medication for his intestinal problems and Mom and Dad report that he sleeps, well … like a baby.”

“He’s definitely a happier guy now,” says Ms. Naimy. “If I have another baby, I will go straight to Dr. Lisa.”

Ten or fifteen years ago, patients diagnosed with multiple sclerosis could not have expected much assistance from their doctor. There were few effective treatments and the workings of the disease were largely unknown. Today, however, patients and their physicians are fighting back, thanks to places like MSU’s National Multiple Sclerosis Society Clinic.

The National MS Society is a patient-run organization that provides educational programs, raises money for research and serves as a clearinghouse for information about the disease. They get the word out about treatments and advocate on behalf of MS patients across the country. The clinic is a collaboration between the MS Society and the physicians in the community.

There are hundreds of MS Society affiliated clinics in the United States, including six in Michigan. Eric Eggenberger, D.O., directs the one at MSU. He is a neuroophthalmologist and associate professor of neurology and ophthalmology at MSUCOM.

One of the things that makes MS particularly hard on those who have it, is that it strikes without warning. “The disease is incredibly unpredictable,” says Dr. Eggenberger.

The first attack can happen at any age, and patients can go years before having another one. Also, there is no cure. MS itself is not fatal, but attacks can be quite disabling and over time can seriously debilitate patients.

Margaret Peterson is just one of those who has turned to Dr. Eggenberger for help. She has what is known as Devic’s disease, which is a rapidly debilitating form of MS. She has been treated at several clinics in the region, and was referred to MSU by the Mayo Clinic.

Dr. Eggenberger has been treating her aggressively, and she says that in the two years she has been his patient, her attacks have dropped off and her quality of life has improved dramatically. “He has helped me tremendously,” she says.

“He’s a fabulous doctor.”

Multiple sclerosis is a difficult disease for doctors as well. There is no definitive test that can diagnose multiple sclerosis. One of the most common indicators is optic neuritis, a painful loss of vision in one or both eyes. Another technique that doctors have developed in recent years is looking at MRIs of the brain.

The images of patients with multiple sclerosis will show white spots of varying size.

Unfortunately, the spots do not reveal the severity of the problem or a prognosis, but they do help identify patients who are at high risk. This allows physicians to start treatment early, which is key to combating the disease.

“Ten years ago there were no drugs,” says Dr. Eggenberger. “Now there are six key medicines that doctors have available to slow down the disease and control the rate of attacks. The drugs are generally administered by way of injection and patients must learn to deliver the shots themselves. “It’s not easy for them at first, but over time it becomes routine,” he adds.

The drugs he refers to include steroids that are used with acute patients to help shorten attacks, interferons and glatramer acetate that are used prophylactically, and mitoxantrone for progressive disease. These drug therapies have been quite effective at cutting down the number and severity of attacks. The MSU clinic has been actively involved in research of these medications, including major studies that have shown the benefits of early treatment.

Dr. Eggenberger says his most important message for patients is one of hope. “There are treatments available and our knowledge keeps growing.” He believes that in time a cure will be found. “There is reason for optimism.”
Both Ends of the Stethoscope

HOW A CHILDHOOD ILLNESS INSPIRED AN OSTEOPATHIC STUDENT

by Steven D. Bevier

Cara Streff grew up in a medical family. Her father, Gregory, is a pulmonologist. Her mother, Nicki, has a nursing degree. So it shouldn’t be surprising that she herself would choose a career in medicine. Cara Streff was in the unique situation of having both parents in the medical profession. For doctors it can be difficult to treat the child of a colleague. “These were people I knew well,” says Dr Streff. “They were doing their best to diagnose her correctly and provide treatment.”

She was stabilized and because of her parents’ experience caring for patients, Cara was allowed to go home. After the endoscopy, Cara was rushed back to the hospital when her mom found her without a blood pressure and unable to respond. It was a trying time for the family. “You really look at life differently,” says Cara’s mother. “I began to wonder, ‘Do I have to come to grips with the fact that we could lose her?’”

Meanwhile, her illness remained a mystery. She was being fed through a tube, was still losing weight, and continued to fall into deep sleeps. One theory was post-traumatic stress disorder, yet there was no trauma that could have triggered it. Another physician suggested anorexia nervosa, but she had never shown signs of an eating disorder.

After eliminating several other possible causes, Cara was eventually diagnosed with a neurological condition known as Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Her father explains that there is no definitive test for recognizing GBS. “You determine what it is by deciding what it is not,” he says. “It’s really a question of ruling everything else out.”

Guillain-Barré is an inflammation of the nerves that causes weakness and paralysis in the arms and legs, and also in the face and chest. Symptoms vary from mild to severe and can leave the patient virtually paralyzed. The greatest danger is a weakening of the breathing muscles, which can require patients to be put on a ventilator to survive.

Unfortunately for GBS sufferers like Cara, there is no cure and no effective treatments. Even the exact cause is not known. Patients must simply be supported and monitored while the disease runs its course. The length and severity of the illness is unpredictable, with some patients hospitalized for months and — in the most severe cases — left with permanent paralysis.

Cara recovered, but faced several weeks of intensive physical therapy. The illness caused some nerve damage, and she had to train her brain and muscles to walk again. It took nearly three months from the time that she first became ill before she was able to walk again under her own power. She made a nearly complete recovery, though to this day she still has restrictive lung disease and slight hearing loss as result of the illness.

Cara admits that she never had much interest in medicine until her illness gave a firsthand perspective. Even though her father was a D.O., she didn’t really understand that distinction until she saw other D.O.s in action.

“She saw how they treated me,” she says. “The D.O.s who worked with me were very compassionate and explored all the options, instead of trying to label me.”

After her recovery, she took a greater interest in the field. She began going into work with her father, shadowing doctors and residents, and even got a job working in a doctor’s office. She studied biology and premed at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, before being accepted into the Class of 2007 at MSUCOM. “I shadowed a lot of D.O.s and watched how they approached medicine. I realized that this is what I am supposed to do.”

Her parents are certainly proud of her decision. “Cara is so excited about medicine,” says her mother. “It’s so great to hear her talk with her father about something she’s learned at school.” Dad agrees. “She was created to be a doctor,” he says.
Enhancing Patient Care
Michigan’s New Orthopedic Hospital

Photo courtesy of Dave Courey

Paramedic Ric Maldonado works with a patient at the new Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital.

by Steven D. Bevier

People in the Lansing area who suffer from bad bones just got their big break.

Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital opened its doors to the public in January 2004. The newest addition to Ingham Regional Medical Center, it is the largest hospital in Michigan dedicated to bone and joint disorders. The facility is the newest addition to Ingham and professor of osteopathic surgical specialties at MSUCOM. He collaborated with administrators at Ingham to help bring the new hospital to life. "This hospital is unique," he says. "It combines the best orthopedic programs with top research and a great residency program.

The plan was years in the making and involved major renovations to Ingham’s Pennysylvania Avenue campus. The idea was to organize all orthopedic services in one central location and provide the best experience possible for patients. Instead of traveling all over the building to fill each need, patients can now find labs, operating and recovery rooms, and a host of other services all in one place.

From the clinical side, the hospital provides a broad spectrum of orthopedic surgical specialties as well as many non-surgical musculoskeletal services. At the MSU Orthopedic Clinical Research Center (soon to be located next to the hospital) Dr. Mysliwiec’s spinal surgery patients, for example, will also have immediate access to a rheumatologist, pain specialists, a pain psychologist, an orthotist, physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists, and an OMM specialist. Radiology and fluoroscopy services will also be located at the site for complete x-rays and diagnostic procedures requiring accurate imaging.

According to Dr. Mysliwiec, the hospital itself is a model of osteopathic principles. "This allows us to collaborate at one site and use all our methods to find exactly what is wrong with a patient, fix the problem effectively and maintain health. That’s how you get the best outcomes."

Ingham has a great tradition of pioneering orthopedic medicine. It was the first hospital in the nation to perform arthroscopic knee surgery, a procedure that is now routine for orthopedic surgeons around the world. The new hospital now boasts 32 surgeons and 12 orthopedic residents, as well as a sports medicine program, physical and occupational therapists, and hand specialists.

For Dr. Mysliwiec, who is also the orthopedic residency director at Ingham, the hospital will also be a tremendous boon to education. "It’s a great environment to teach in. It will be a hub for research and education, and a great clinical hospital. This has huge potential."

Lawrence Mysliwiec, D.O., is the director of orthopedic research at Ingham and professor of osteopathic surgical specialties at MSUCOM. He collaborated with administrators at Ingham to

Carolyn Suddeth checks the vital signs of a patient at MSU’s Rehabilitation Medicine Clinic.

CAROLYN SUDDETH: A Real Caregiver

by Steven D. Bevier

When it comes to Michigan State’s Clinical Center, Carolyn Suddeth has just about seen it all.

For more than 20 years, she has worked at the Clinical Center helping patients and their doctors. Ms. Suddeth started at the center in 1981, working at the main information and registration desk. Since that time, she has been all over the Clinical Center, serving in various departments. She was an assistant at MSUCOM’s pediatric clinic as well as at the family medicine clinic. As she talks, she lists the many doctors with whom she has worked over the years and it is a “who’s who” of MSU physicians: “Dr. Ward, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Brumm. They all worked up there and I remember them well.”

For the last eight years, she has been supporting the physicians in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The Rehabilitation Medicine Clinic offers a number of different services for sufferers of a wide variety of injuries. The clinic includes occupational and speech therapists, psychologists and neuropsychologists, and specialists in rehabilitation and even sports medicine.

In her current job as a health care assistant, Ms. Suddeth helps manage the clinic and ensures that patients get all the care they need. Patients come through the doors needing help with everything from chronic pain to traumatic brain injuries. They often need to see more than one specialist. Ms. Suddeth checks patients in, takes vital statistics, schedules appointments and follows up to see that they get the right kind of treatment with the right doctor.

“I really like the patients,” she says. “We see all ages, all nationalities. I enjoy talking to them and learning their stories.”

Born and raised in Lansing, Ms. Suddeth now lives in Jackson with her husband, James. He works for the Jackson Transportation Authority, but he is also a minister at Bethel Family Worship.

The Suddeths have three daughters: Jahn, Janise, and Jamesha. They also care for three foster children: Marquis, Marquian and Markiethus, all of them brothers. The family has fostered about a dozen children over the last seven years.

“We want all these kids to have a good head start. It’s tough to let them go, especially the babies.”

The whole family stays active, with the girls interested in gymnastics and ballet and the boys into basketball. The Suddeths also like to pack up the kids for long driving trips around the country. They are especially active in their church activities, including the choir and prayer network. Ms. Suddeth is also the vice president of Women Aglow, a support group for older women.

It certainly seems that taking care of those in need is what she does best. “The most important thing,” she says, “is to let people know that there is hope.”
The College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Hooding and Commencement Ceremony took place on May 6 at the Wharton Center. Four years of dedication and training came to a close for the 132 graduates of the Class of 2004.

This year’s commencement speaker was Rear Admiral (Ret.) Joyce Johnson, D.O., M.A., who recently retired as the chief medical officer of the U.S. Coast Guard. Dr. Johnson graduated from MSUCOM in 1980.

Graduation

Joyce Johnson, D.O., speaks to the graduates.

Ramsey Hammond, D.O., with his father, Ali, and his brother, Richard.

Gloria Van Kloppeberg, D.O., celebrates with her daughters.

Heather Stamat-Valente, D.O., was hooded by her husband Victor Valente, D.O.

Mary Chao, D.O., with her

Cori Millen, D.O., and her father, Steven Millen, M.D.

(left to right) Andrew Galbreath, D.O., with Felix Fernandez, M.D.,


Nathan Kopek, D.O., and family

Mario Alvarado, D.O., and his new baby.

Joseph Singerman, D.O., with family members including his father, Arnold Singerman, D.O., who took part in the hooding.

Nathan Kopek, D.O., and family
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by Dennis M. Paradis, M.P.H.
MOA Executive Director

Tom Brokaw called them “The Greatest Generation” in his book of the same name. They were the young men and women who willingly dedicated years of their lives and in some cases their very lives, when their country called them to defend democracy in World War II. Brokaw coined the phrase “The Greatest Generation” partly in recognition of the sacrifice made by these individuals, but in greater part due to their humility and selflessness. They returned with no demands or expectations of their country other than the desire to get on with their lives and “make up for lost time.” Even the few who were recognized for their heroism repeatedly told Brokaw that “they didn’t do anything any different than all of their buddies.” Brokaw was clearly touched by not only their heroism, but also their selflessness.

At the end of his book he laments that thousands of this generation are exhibited itself again, this time for the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation (MOCF). The MOCF founders did not attend MSUCOM so they were not supporting their alma mater, now were they supporting their children or families. They made this contribution with no expectation of recognition or personal gain. They made this contribution to support their profession.

The MOCF played a critical role in the early years of MSUCOM’s development, first in bringing the college to MSU and supporting the activities necessary to create a world-class college of osteopathic medicine. In later years, the MOCF funds were used for student loans and to fund priority projects like the Kobylak Center, MSUCOM communication vehicles and, most recently, the OMM Clinic. In 1997, MSU President Peter McPherson presented the MOCF with the Kedzie Award for making over $1 million in contributions to MSU.

The MOCF is still very active, and to pass the torch of leadership to a new generation – a generation of osteopathic physicians.

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The MOCF represents the finest tradition of the osteopathic profession – reaching out to help the next generation of osteopathic physicians. The foundation has been a cornerstone of MSUCOM since its inception and will continue to be in the future. What will change in the coming years is the leadership of the MOCF.

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Commitment to the osteopathic profession exemplified by the practice, teaching or research of osteopathic principles and techniques

Commitment to public service demonstrated by active leadership in the community

Outstanding achievement including those leading to better understanding of key clinical issues in the practice of medicine

Alumni Awards Nominations

The MSUCOM Alumni Office is seeking nominations for the Alumni of the Year Award and the Dean’s Award for Meritorious Contribution. Both awards recognize individuals who have made notable achievements in the field of osteopathic medicine and will be awarded at the MSUCOM Alumni Luncheon at the AOA Convention in November. Applications can be found on the MSUCOM Web site at http://www.com.msu.edu/alumni or by calling (877) 853-3448.

Alumnus of the Year Criteria

- Commitment to the osteopathic profession exemplified by the practice, teaching or research of osteopathic principles and techniques
- Commitment to public service demonstrated by active leadership in the community
- Outstanding achievement including those leading to better understanding of key clinical issues in the practice of medicine

Dean’s Award Criteria

- Should be an alumna or alumnus of MSUCOM
- Should be nominated by MSUCOM alumni, faculty, staff or students and selected by the Dean
- Should have exemplary professional achievements, either in professional or personal life
- Should be recognized as either a personal or professional role model for others
Alumni Endowed Professorship

The campaign for the new Alumni Endowed Professorship is off to a great start. This endowed faculty chair is being funded by alumni and friends and will honor the thousands of D.O.s who have graced the halls of MSU. It will also serve as a terrific tool to recruit and reward the best and brightest faculty members. With a campaign goal of $3 million, it will take the efforts of many MSUCOM graduates to make the professorship a reality. However, if 1,000 alumni give $50 a month the goal will be met in just five years. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Office of Development at (517) 355-8355.

Seminar In The Sun

Another winner, another successful Seminar in the Sun. The annual gathering is fast becoming a tradition for alumni and their families, who use this unique opportunity to take a CME course while also enjoying warm weather and sunny sights. This year’s gathering was at Melia Azul Beach Resort, in Ixtapa, Mexico. Swimming, golf, volleyball and an evening cruise were just some of the activities that were available at the resort, although many chose to just relax and enjoy the view. For more photos, check out our Web site at: http://www.com.msu.edu/alumni

GREETINGS ALUMNI!

This is my first opportunity to talk to you as the new president of the MSUCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors. I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to helping the college grow its alumni relationships for the benefit of D.O.s everywhere.

As a college, we have one of the most active alumni groups on campus. Still, there are many more alumni who we hope will become involved. By joining the MSU Alumni Association and choosing Osteopathic Medicine as your constituent group, you can draw support for MSUCOM’s programs and stay in touch with the entire Spartan community.

Our alumni activities are not limited to those who live in the Lansing area or even the state of Michigan. I understand the challenge of staying connected when you’re far away.

In March, I attended the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians conference in Tampa, Florida, and was pleased with the strong turnout of MSUCOM grads. This is just one of the nationwide opportunities – like the AOA Convention in San Francisco this November – that allow all alumni to reconnect with their alma maters, wherever they live or work.

Finally, I want to remind all alumni that Silverfest Weekend is an excellent opportunity to return to East Lansing and reunite with your classmates. This year’s Silverfest falls on the weekend of the MSU-Notre Dame football game and promises to be one of the biggest events yet. I hope to see you there!

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

Embracing Diversity through College Programs

by Steven D. Bevier

Slavery to Freedom

The Visiting Faculty Lecture Series returned to MSUCOM for the fourth annual “Slavery to Freedom: An American Odyssey.” The series brings noted civil rights activists and scholars to campus to meet with students and the community and talk about their experiences with the struggle for civil rights.

This year’s speakers were Juanita Jones Abernathy, widow of Southern Christian Leadership Conference co-founder Ralph David Abernathy, A. Aldon Morris, professor of sociology at Northwestern University, the Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, senior pastor emeritus of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, NY, and the Rev. Dr. Lawrence Carter Sr., dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, MSUCOM sponsored a presentation by Vence Bonham Jr., J.D., on January 20. Mr. Bonham is senior advisor to the director on societal implications of genomics at the National Human Genome Research Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health. He is also an associate professor in the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties and the Department of Medicine.

The presentation – titled “Race, Genetics and Health Disparities: Why We Must All Be Engaged” – focused on the current debates in the scientific community over genomics and how recent discoveries in genetics relate to race, biology and medicine. The talk was a continuation of the Diversity Education Series, which brings noted speakers to the college to discuss race, gender, religion and other multicultural issues.

Martin Luther King Jr. Endowed Scholarship Banquet

On January 24, William G. Anderson, D.O., F.A.C.O.S., was honored at the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Endowed Scholarship Banquet. The black-tie affair raises money for the scholarship fund, which recognizes individual students who have demonstrated a commitment to equality and the continuation of Dr. King’s legacy.

A friend and colleague of Dr. King’s, Dr. Anderson founded the Albany Movement, which spearheaded the civil rights movement in southwest Georgia. He is currently clinical professor of osteopathic surgical specialties and associate dean of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he is responsible for the development of osteopathic medical education programs within the St. John Health System in Michigan.
Development

A New Way to Say “Thanks”

by Steven D. Bevier

There is a special bond that exists between doctors and their patients. Talented physicians do more than just treat disease. They can be supporters, confidants, and friends. So sometimes patients feel that the word “thanks” is not enough to express their gratitude.

That’s why the College of Osteopathic Medicine has established the Grateful Patient Fund. It is part of a new campaign that allows patients to show appreciation for physicians by supporting the community that creates them. Maybe their doctors are MSUCOM alumni, or perhaps they just want to contribute to the growth of osteopathic medicine. The Grateful Patient Fund is a unique opportunity to recognize their physicians and, at the same time, help ensure future generations of D.O.s.

Donations can be made in honor of a favorite doctor or to support a particular program or research area. The college’s development office can assist donors who have specific requests for their contributions.

As part of the campaign, the college is distributing brochures to MSU clinics to inform patients and provide information about contributions. To obtain brochures for yourself or your practice, or to learn more, contact the College’s development office at (517) 353-9714, cme@com.msu.edu, or visit www.com.msu.edu/cme.

Supporting Students

Osteopathic students at MSUCOM have received a new opportunity courtesy of the spouses of area D.O.s. The Ingham County Osteopathic Auxiliary has established a new endowed college scholarship to help future physicians pay their way through medical school.

The ICOA has been an active player in the osteopathic community for more than 30 years. For many years, the ICOA maintained a loan program for osteopathic students. Students borrowed money while in school, and then paid back into the fund after graduation.

“Dean Strampel approached us with the idea of perpetuating the fund by establishing an endowment with the college,” says Jill Young, the president of ICOA, whose husband David is a clinical faculty at MSUCOM. The amount of money necessary to establish an endowment at MSU is $30,000. ICOA had the same amount available in the loan fund and used it to set up a permanent college scholarship. The scholarship committee will present the first award this spring.

Much of the ICOA’s efforts are devoted to philanthropy. They have raised money for organizations such as Gilda’s Place, a women’s cancer support group, and Harvest House, a Lansing-area family support center. They also provided one of the founding donations for Ele’s Place, a group that provides counseling and other services for grieving children.

The ICOA is also involved with the profession on the state and national level. Shelley Wieting – wife of MSUCOM professor Michael Wieting, D.O. – is the president-elect of the Auxiliary to the American Osteopathic Association, and the second Ingham County auxiliary member to head that group. “We may be small in number,” says Ms. Young, “but we have made an impact.”
Silverfest 2004
Alumni Weekend
Friday, September 17, through Saturday, September 18, 2004

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