As part of its strategic positioning under new leadership, Michigan State University has implemented a program called “Boldness by Design.” It includes a working mission to “advance knowledge and transform lives” through outstanding education, research of the highest caliber, and outreach that enhances the quality of life for individuals and communities.

We at the College of Osteopathic Medicine have adopted the five strategic imperatives that are part of MSU’s “Boldness by Design.” As part of a great university, there is enormous benefit to our college and our profession in being Spartan team players. Over the next few years, you’ll be able to see us growing in these areas.

• Enhancing the student experience: MSUCOM has always been known for the excellence of its medical education, but we keep developing the curriculum to meet both the demands of knowledge and society for physicians. We’re proud to let you know that this year we are ranked fourth of 144 medical schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for our primary care education — up five rankings from last year.

• Enriching community, economic and family life: Outreach — whether it’s educating elementary students about their bodies or giving flu shots to legislators — is an important part of our college’s mission. Our alumni are outstanding examples of persons who make the lives of others better, not only in the clinic, but in the community.

• Expanding international reach: Our faculty include outstanding researchers and clinicians in Malawi and Zambia, and in January we will place the first MRI in Malawi. MSUCOM students, faculty and staff regularly offer medical missions in developing countries, or provide basic necessities to enhance life for others.

• Increasing research opportunities: Justin McCormick, our associate dean for research, has been asked by MSU to lead the university’s effort to multiply its National Institutes of Health funding across all colleges — a concrete testimony to the quality of our research leadership in the college.

• Strengthening stewardship: MSU has undergone stringent cuts in the last decade, but the College of Osteopathic Medicine, through greater efficiencies, cost savings, entrepreneurship, and the generosity of our supporters, has continued to thrive.

Perhaps our most visible “Boldness by Design” initiative — one that intersects all five imperatives — is the expansion of our entering class, and the ultimate creation of a satellite campus in the southeast Michigan area. The next step in the plan is site selection, and the college is being courted by a dizzying array of institutions, vendors, architects, and advertisers. Determining the best home for the satellite campus is critical to its success, with a great number of factors and a wide variety of interests needing to be considered. Ultimately the decision will rest with the MSU president and provost, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the other major stakeholders. Trust, teamwork and our continuing mutual commitment will allow this new part of MSUCOM to return to its roots in southeast Michigan — stronger as a college, stronger as a profession, and stronger in our ability to serve the people of Michigan.

William D. Strampel, D.O., Dean
Learning and Assessment Center Offers New Approach to Medical Education

March 16 marked a new chapter in the training of MSUCOM students with the grand opening of the Learning and Assessment Center (LAC) in East Fee Hall. Located on the sixth floor, the $1.8 million facility was created through the combined efforts of all four health care colleges at the university — Osteopathic Medicine, Human Medicine, Nursing and Veterinary Medicine. The 8,600-square-foot facility has 14 simulated examination rooms, two critical care areas and four hospital rooms as well as mock waiting rooms. Thanks to the technology within these rooms, the LAC fills a gap in the process of training today’s health professionals.

“The LAC was created as a place to teach and assess the skills of students from the four colleges, residents and other health care professionals affiliated with the colleges,” said Ruth Hoppe, M.D., director of the LAC. “Students will use the facility to demonstrate their proficiency before they work with patients within a hospital setting.”

Inside the LAC, students work with a combination of partial models and computerized manikins called “SimMan” which can simulate a host of medical complications, including heart murmurs, seizures, breathing problems and more. To assess a student’s ability to interview patients, the LAC has professional actors called “standardized patients” with whom the students interact.

“This facility is a fine example of what can be accomplished when we work in collaboration with the other health care colleges on campus. The LAC will help us improve the quality of our education as we continue our role as leaders in medical education.”

—William Strampel

In the past, students learned most of their skills on real patients with the old ‘see and do’ method, where the students would observe a skill several times, and then begin practicing on patients,” said William Strampel, D.O., dean of MSUCOM. “With the creation of the LAC, students will enter into the hospital already equipped with the skills they need to perform their duties proficiently.”

“In addition to allowing students to hone their technical and patient skills, the LAC provides an opportunity for students to experience what it’s like to work in various hospital settings. “Until now, the students from each college didn’t have an opportunity to interact,” explained Mary Kay Smith, R.N., B.S.N., simulation lab coordinator for the LAC. “In real life, these students are going to be working together to treat patients. It’s important for future doctors and nurses to understand how to work within a team and get them accustomed to working in that environment.”

Students are not the only ones benefitting from the LAC’s resources. Thanks to a network of computers and camera systems, instructors are also beneficiaries. “After a student is assessed in the center, we’ll have immediate feedback for the professors as to what we’re doing well, and what we need to improve,” said Strampel.

“We’re currently fleshing out the first phase of the LAC,” said Hoppe. “The facility has been designed so that it can be used later for recertification of professionals. We also hope to use the LAC for teaching advanced surgical procedures as well as performing distant assessment.”

Thanks to a high-tech camera system, faculty can get instant feedback on their students’ assessments.

Mock hospital rooms in the LAC have sophisticated manikins hooked up to monitors which show the patient’s “vital signs.”
Eastward Growth:  
MSUCOM Plans Expansion into Southeastern Michigan

by Craig Reed

As the fourth-ranked medical college for primary care education in the nation, MSUCOM’s success has depended on its ability to address the constantly changing needs within the medical profession. One of the concerns at the top of the college’s list is site selection. “The benefactors for expanding into the southeastern portion of the state are numerous. Fourteen of the 23 Statewide Campus System hospitals are located in this region. The site is also expected to act as a catalyst for programs designed to address the medical needs of underserved persons in the area, and it is expected to increase the number of recruiting this region. The next step in the plan is site selection,” explained Strampel. “The college is being courted by a large variety of institutions. Determining the best location for this campus will be a major factor in its success.” Each potential location has to be looked carefully, analyzing everything from the space and neighborhood demographics to how each site can address the needs of the faculty, students, Statewide Campus System partners, and other stakeholders.

The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is ranked fourth among all 144 medical schools in the nation for primary care education, according to U.S. News & World Report’s annual evaluation of the top graduate schools in the United States. The rankings are based on a variety of factors including peer assessments, student achievement, school selectivity, success at obtaining extramural research funding and — in this particular category — the number of graduates who go on to work in primary care.

The students I worked with had more experience with patients than I had,” said Urbanczyk. “They had been working with patients from the very start of their medical training.” So what does a hospital in Malawi commonly see? “Our patients suffered from malnutrition, advanced stages of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. Also, ailments that are pretty rare in the United States. Yet for the staff here, these are the problems they see every day.”

“The strangest part was who was coming into the hospital,” explained Urbanczyk. “I’m used to seeing older people using the hospital regularly, but here, all the patients were quite young. My first patient was a young woman with a beautiful face, but when she turned to me, I saw the other half of her face was terribly scarred by herpes zoster.”

Another difference Urbanczyk discovered was the way the people utilized the hospital. “Most people when they first get ill go to a traditional healer. They avoid coming to the hospital. By the time they come to us, many are in advanced stages of a disease, and all that we can do for them is try to manage their pain. So in a way, the hospital is acting more like a hospice or nursing home.”

Not only does the hospital struggle with this cultural stigma, it often finds itself short on supplies. “I’d never before been to a place where they had to stop performing surgeries because they had run out of sterile gloves,” stated Urbanczyk. “It made me realize how lucky we are in the United States.”

Though Urbanczyk was there for a short time, these memories continue to stand out in his mind. “The experience really changed me,” said Urbanczyk. “It has opened me up to issues like poverty. I now see that poverty is truly the worst disease we face.”

To 205 in 2005, discussion has also turned to creating a satellite campus. “We’re planning to teach 50 additional students in each class at an off-campus site in southeastern Michigan,” said Strampel. The final plans will still need to be approved by the American Osteopathic Association as well as the MSU Board of Trustees.

The first thing I noticed when I arrived was the airport,” said Urbanczyk. “It was composed of a landing strip and a tiny building and a couple of people running it.”

Once at the hospital, Urbanczyk noticed a number of other differences. “The hospital was large, but it was all on one floor,” he explained. “There were no private rooms for patients. Some patients were lying on the floor. All the ventilation we had was coming through the windows so it was always hot. I’m used to that sterile, bleach scent whenever I’m in a hospital. Here, the place was saturated with the smell of vomit and urine.”

While he was there, Urbanczyk learned a lot by working side-by-side with the Malawi medical students. “The students I worked with had more experience with patients than I had,” said Urbanczyk. “They had been working with patients from the very start of their medical training.”

Going through your third and fourth years as a student at MSUCOM can be an eye-opening experience, especially if you decide to do one of your hospital rotations outside the United States. Nick Urbanczyk, a 2005 MSUCOM graduate, took advantage of an opportunity to do a rotation at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi.

The next step in the plan is site selection,” explained Strampel. “The college is being courted by a large variety of institutions. Determining the best location for this campus will be a major factor in its success.” Each potential location has to be looked at carefully, analyzing everything from the space and neighborhood demographics to how each site can address the needs of the faculty, students, Statewide Campus System partners, and other stakeholders.

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New Faces Bring Expertise to MSUCOM

by Brittany Sheets

As the incoming classes to MSUCOM have grown, so too has the number of individuals who have joined the ranks of prestigious faculty working to continue making this the best osteopathic college in the nation. Here are some of the individuals who are now part of our college.

Diane Abby FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE Diane Abby, D.O., is an ’87 MSUCOM alumna who has joined us as an assistant professor. Dr. Abby spent 16 years within the U.S. Army Reserves as an ear, nose and throat specialist and has spent many years in private practice in Jackson, Michigan.

Michael J. Boivin NEUROLOGY AND OPHTHALMOLOGY Michael J. Boivin, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A., was a two-time Fulbright senior research scholar to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Kenya. His research has focused on experimental analysis of behavior, and he published an abstract titled “Neuropsychological Outcomes of Cerebral Malaria in Ugandan Children” in May 2005.

Rachel Bronzan INTERNAL MEDICINE Rachel Bronzan, M.D., M.P.H., is an assistant professor of internal medicine who is working with Dr. Terrie Taylor in Malawi. A graduate from Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Bronzan spent many years working for the Epidemic Intelligence Service Office, studying and evaluating health programs which target HIV and sexually transmitted diseases in both domestic and international settings.

Sylvia Mustonen FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE Sylvia Mustonen, D.O., F.A.C.O.F.P., A.H.R.M.Q.R., comes to us from Gunderson Lutheran Clinic in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Dr. Mustonen is an ’79 MSUCOM alumna whose most recent presentation was the “Application of Osteopathic Principles in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Fibromyalgia.” She is joining us as an associate professor.

Mangala Sadasivan PSYCHIATRY Mangala Sadasivan, Ph.D., C.C.C., is an MSU alumna with an extensive history in speech and language pathology. Before joining MSUCOM, Dr. Sadasivan was part of the Board of Directors for Learning Connections, a non-profit agency designed to help disabled students work their way through college. She is also in the process of publishing two manuscripts, one which focuses on traumatic brain injury cases.

John Peter Ferris Jr. OSTEOARTHRIC SURGICAL SPECIALTIES John Peter Ferris Jr., D.O., comes to us from Ferris Orthopedics and the Center for Orthopedic Surgery in Clinton Township, Michigan. Dr. Ferris is a graduate of the Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, CA. His research has focused on topics such as spinal derotation and comparing findings obtained through MRI scans verses arthroscopic methods.

Sylvia Mustonen

René Weber RADIOLOGY René Weber, Ph.D., M.B.A., is an assistant professor of communication and telecommunication and is an expert on the effects mass media have on people. Weber, who has spent much of his time in national and international meetings.

Igor V. Zlatkin OSTEOARTHRIC MEDICINE RESEARCH Igor Zlatkin, Ph.D., M.S., is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, and MSUCOM’s Research and Advanced Study Programs. He received his degrees from Shemyakin’s Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry Academy of Science, and Moscow State University. Dr. Zlatkin is published in more than 20 international scientific journals and books, and is a frequent presenter at national and international meetings.

Costa Rica for “Topics in the Tropics.” This four-day seminar and retreat combined a comprehensive schedule of neurological topics related to clinical practices with the opportunity to zip-line through the jungle, soak in natural hot springs, and shop. Participants had the opportunity to take advantage of the 20 hours of Category IA CME credit while getting away from the long, cold winter weather. Look for an opportunity to join our next seminar in February 2007.

Seminars with a Costa Rican Twist

In February, 50 participants joined the MSU Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology in Costa Rica for “Topics in the Tropics.” This four-day seminar and retreat combined a comprehensive schedule of neurological topics related to clinical practices with the opportunity to zip-line through the jungle, soak in natural hot springs, and shop. Participants had the opportunity to take advantage of the 20 hours of Category IA CME credit while getting away from the long, cold winter weather. Look for an opportunity to join our next seminar in February 2007.

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Adventures in India and at Home

Taking a trip to India is an exciting adventure by itself. For Stephanie Wise Grosvenor, it was also a chance to see what it’s like to work in hospitals in other areas of the world. “What fascinated me was how varied the hospitals were,” explained Stephanie. “The urban hospitals were similar to what you would see in the U.S., but in the rural villages, they had a lot fewer doctors and facilities. I worked with Dr. Robin who was the only physician for a 30-bed hospital, and was available 24/7 for emergencies. It was amazing how much energy she had.”

Now in her third year, Stephanie is already thinking about her future as a physician and mother. “We’d like to go back to the Upper Peninsula, where my husband and I grew up, to raise our family,” she said. “My passions are women’s health and sports medicine, and I’m anxious to see where that will lead me.”

Returning to Family Roots in Kenya

If you bump into Jon Nzoma, you’ll find him to be a cordial, laid-back gentleman with a mind-set on helping others. “I’ve been involved in after school programs since I was 13,” said Jon, who is in his second year as a student at MSUCOM. Born in Detroit, Jon started AFYA International in 2003, a non-profit organization focused on healthy lifestyles and tobacco prevention. “We brought in pig lungs and hearts which we dissected with the kids,” said Jon. “They learned a lot from the experience.”

Jon has also turned his attention to what was happening overseas. His parents, both immigrants from Kenya, have steeped Jon in the richness of his Kenyan heritage. “Before I came to school here, my father and I traveled together to Kenya. He explained cultural and historical changes over time and the evolution process to current day conditions. Our journey took us many places and demonstrated opportunities for improvement in health education.”

Rebuilding Mississippi: Students Commit to Serving Others

While many students see the breaks in the school year as a chance to kick back and relax for a while, it can also be a time to give back to the community. About 35 MSUCOM students spent winter and/or spring break in the Gulf Coast region, working with other volunteers on the Katrina disaster relief. “At the first house I went to, the water line was up in the attic. There were so many houses damaged in our area, many hadn’t been touched since the hurricane came through. Everyone was so nice and really grateful for the help. It was an amazing experience for me and put everything I saw on television into perspective. The people down there literally have nothing.” - Rachel Rosenbaum

“I was sleeping during the last leg of our trip down there. When I woke up, all the houses I could see were devastated. The people there have a strong sense of unity and courage. I was at one work site and a guy came up to me and talked about how he had lost 17 people from his church and one uncle during the storm. He was still struggling with his loss, but he was going out every day, helping people to rebuild.” - Mike Mangan

“I couldn’t get a grasp of the destruction. I mean to think that everywhere we drove while we were down there was affected. I talked with a lot of people who simply had no money to rebuild. They were grateful that there were young people willing to come down and help. I’d like to go back and help some more. It’s going to take years before there is any real improvement.” - Tim Long

“I’d never done any roofing before I went down to help, but there I was, working with orphans and looking at ways to address the area’s economic woes. “The biggest problem I see is funding. Non-profit organizations need to be more independent, generating more funds via investments, and become less donor funded,” said Jon who is actively studying this problem.

For Jon, becoming a D.O. is another way to help others both here and abroad. “I know as a person you can do so much,” he said, “but I feel like I have already started to make a difference and can do more.” - Sheel Tolia

Wishing to give something back, Jon returned to the area, this time working with orphans and looking at ways to address the area’s economic woes. “The biggest problem I see is funding. Non-profit organizations need to be more independent, generating more funds via investments, and become less donor funded,” said Jon who is actively studying this problem.

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“Returning to Family Roots in Kenya”

Stephanie (second from left) and her husband, Andrew (left), have enjoyed learning about the health care system in India and starting their family together.

The trip to India hasn’t been the only interesting experience for Stephanie. During the following fall semester, Stephanie was injured. “I broke my right ankle so I couldn’t drive to school,” said Stephanie. “People really helped out by offering me rides and picking me up for class.” Thanks to her classmates’ support, Stephanie was also able to balance school and motherhood when her daughter, Ella, was born in March. “Ella has been with me to quite a few classes,” said Stephanie. “My classmates would help baby-sit while I was at mandatory labs. It’s been great to have such support from everyone.”

Now in her third year, Stephanie is already thinking about her future as a physician and mother. “We’d like to go back to the Upper Peninsula, where my husband and I grew up, to raise our family,” she said. “My passions are women’s health and sports medicine, and I’m anxious to see where that will lead me.”

Jon (middle) has made trips to Kenya and East Africa to not only help the area’s children, but to deepen his knowledge of his family heritage.

Rebuilding Mississippi: Students Commit to Serving Others

by Craig Reed

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A handful of students from the College of Human Medicine also traveled to help. Here are a few words from the students reflecting on their experiences:

- Rachel Rosenbaum

- Mike Mangan

- Tim Long

- Sheel Tolia
Zhenjun Lou, as co-inventors.

Companies interested in developing anti-cancer therapy based on this finding can obtain a license from MSU.

This discovery is one part of an integrated series of studies which were begun in 1989. In these studies, they have identified 14 cancer cells. What is more, by using various molecular techniques, McCormick and his colleagues have been able to cause cancer cells to lose their ability to form tumors. Essential to all of these studies is the presence of athymic mice that are used to determine whether human cells can form malignant tumors. Equally important are the researchers who work with the mice as one of a handful of doctors in the area, Birbeck is often called upon to treat problems ranging from snakebites to tuberculous meningitis as well.

While her expertise is in neurological disorders, Dr. Veronica M. Maher, Ph.D., has been treating patients in Zambia as their only neurologist. "I first went to Africa while I was a medical student at the University of Chicago," said Birbeck, an associate professor of neurology and ophthalmology. "I hadn’t been there long before I knew this is where I wanted to be." For Birbeck, the biggest question for her was whether or not there would be a place for a neurologist in a country whose health care system was focused on treating HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. "It’s not often that neurologists would find a place for themselves in Africa. Not many specialists get involved," Birbeck said, before arriving in Zambia. Before Birbeck arrived, Zambia had no neurologists.

Imagine for a moment you’re a neurologist. You’ve been asked to work in a hospital without an MRI/CT/EEG/EMG to assist you. Your patients have no health care coverage and many of the treatments you would normally prescribe are not possible due to price or lack of supplies. These are the circumstances Gretchen Birbeck, M.D., M.P.H., deals with during her annual six-month visits to Zambia, a small country in southern Africa.

"One of the biggest challenges of working here," said Birbeck, "is following up with a patient. Most people don’t have any transportation so we have to go to them. The infrastructure is very poor. There are frequently no roads to where you are going or no fuel for the vehicle to get you there."

What impresses Birbeck the most about this country is how talented the local medical staff are. "The doctors here may not have access to a lot of technology, but they know what technology is out there," said Birbeck. "They are able to make accurate diagnoses based on family history and their own experience. The same could be said about the traditional healers. It’s amazing the level of knowledge they both have about their patients."

"The people here are eager to learn," continued Birbeck as she talked about the problems facing the country. "The challenge is how to keep the well-educated here. This area suffers from a constant brain drain. A trained doctor, for example, often leaves the country for a wealthier nation because he knows he can make more money and provide for his family better than he can here."

In spite of the difficulties . . . or perhaps because of them, Birbeck feels she’s made the right choice to focus much of her energy toward helping the people of Zambia. "It has been wonderful working for MSU," said Birbeck. "The president’s emphasis on international activities has really helped this take off."

Dr. Maher and McCormick have been working together on cancer research for over 30 years. Both are in the 95th percentile for NIH grant recipients.
Graduation 2006

Janet Olczewski, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, offered this advice to graduates: “Your life’s expedition will take you places you didn’t quite expect, but no matter where you go, keep your compassion, your kindness and your sense of service.”

One hundred and eleven students graduated this year. Music during the ceremony was provided by the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. William Falls received an honorary membership with the Michigan Osteopathic Association, and graduates have started a scholarship in his name.

Rany Aburashed and his father Ahmad with MSUCOM student Jennifer Loussia.

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Maxine Lipon and her family enjoy the fine weather after the ceremony.

Sue Castleman with her father and brother

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Maxine Lipon and her family enjoy the fine weather after the ceremony.

Sue Castleman with her father and brother

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The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is grateful to the hundreds of individuals and organizations who, through their generosity, support the osteopathic profession and work toward the research, service and educational goals as set by President Lou Anna Simon’s “Boldness by Design” initiative. We would like to recognize and thank all of our donors for supporting our efforts to provide quality health care to the people of Michigan and beyond.

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The quiet of the Kobiljak Resource Center is in stark contrast to the sounds of people strolling just outside the entrance. Pages turning and the soft murmur of students fill the area with a tranquility that makes it an ideal place to study. In the corner, next to the Help Desk, was the office of Debbie Porter, M.L.S., one member of a team dedicated to providing technical support for faculty and students alike.

“I first started working for COM in their medical billing office,” said Porter. “About a year later, Dean Magen approached me about his vision for an interactive learning resource center.”

In 1990, Porter found herself part of a contingent working to develop and enhance the Kobiljak Centers, which, opened shortly before Porter’s arrival, greatly expanded the amount of study area and technology available to students. Since then, Porter has poured her energies into the centers. “The most challenging thing is making certain the students have the technology they need,” said Porter. “When the centers first opened, students were in need of slide projectors, computers and videotape players. Now students need computers with broadband internet connections, wireless access for their laptops, and stations to play DVDs and access course materials through ANGEL.”

Yet technology hasn’t been the only change here. After 19 years of serving MSUCOM, Porter decided to retire in March. “I’ve really enjoyed my time here,” said Porter. “I love traveling and trying things I’ve never done before. It’s been a wonderful time working for the college.”

Among her colleagues, Porter was infamous for being a go-getter. “She had a knack for coming in every morning and saying ‘You know, I woke up last night thinking about such-and-such,’” said Mark Hodgins. “She was committed almost to the point of obsession to this college, especially to the students.”

“Deb was always good at keeping us focused on the real issues,” said co-worker John McDaniels. “She was always the one who would remind us that we’re all here for the students, and to make certain they get the best possible education here that they can.”

Not only has she been dedicated to her work, Porter has balanced her work time with a variety of hobbies. From gourmet cooking and gardening to traveling to far-off places like New Zealand, Mexico and Italy, these things have added to the richness of a life committed to helping others.

So as students search for a good seat within the centers, it will be missing one of the members who worked together with others in the college to make the Kobiljak Centers what it is today, and she will be sorely missed.
On Saturday, February 25, supporters of the Michigan Osteopathic Foundation and MSUCOM came together at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn, Michigan for the annual MOCF Ball, "Puttin’ on the Glitz." The 409 guests enjoyed great food, dancing to music from the KGB Band, the opportunity to enter a raffle for a paid two-year lease on a 2006 Jaguar XK8 convertible, provided by Jaguar of Novi, and participate in a silent auction for a variety of items. In all, net proceeds of more than $125,000 were raised for the MOCF Endowment at MSUCOM, making this one of the most successful fundraisers in its history.

Guests filled the dance floor all evening. Delighting participants and filling the coffers of the foundation, this duo accomplished what they set out to do ... create a memorable extravaganza.

“it was rewarding, definitely,” said Betts, who had worked on similar events before, “but I am tired and glad it was all worthwhile.”

Both Kniffen and Betts wanted to thank Katie Mikula, student assistant in the Office of the Dean, and Ashley Parsons, former student assistant in the Office of the Dean, for their help in coordinating the event.

Behind the Scenes

Working on the first MOCF Ball coordinated solely by MSUCOM, two individuals, Colleen Kniffen, management analyst to the dean and director of the university’s clinical faculty, and Kimberly Betts, executive staff assistant to the dean and senior associate dean, combined their energies to make it a success by serving as co-chairpersons of the fundraiser. "I love doing events,” said Kniffen. "The most challenging part is getting all the final details.”

Details like valet parking, sponsorship, seating, and music are critical to creating a comfortable atmosphere. “We started the planning process back in June,” said Kniffen. “We look forward to making next year even better, and have already scheduled the event again at the Ritz-Carlton next February.”

Katie Mikula, Kimberly Betts, Dean William Strampel, Colleen Kniffen

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- MSU Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
- MSU Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- MSU Psychology

Upcoming Events

July 28: COM Reception with Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians
- Hagerty Center
- Traverse City, MI

September 13:
- 8th Annual Osteopathic Open
- Eagle Eye Golf Club
- Bath, MI

September 22-23: Silverfest Weekend

September 24:
- Class of 1996 Golf Scramble
- El dorado Golf Course
- Mason, MI

Alumni Awards Nominations

The MSUCOM Alumni Office is seeking nominations for the Alumnus 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 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.

Alumni 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 positive achievements, either in professional or personal life
- Should be recognized as either a personal or professional role model for others

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 MSUCOM Web site under the alumni section or by calling (877) 853-3448.

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

Alumni Network
Alumni Events

Michigan Osteopathic Association

The Michigan Osteopathic Association Convention saw three MSUCOM D.O.s elected as new MOA Board Members, Drs. Michael Weiss, Edward Canfield and Craig Magnatta. In addition, the new president elected during the convention was Dr. Susan Sevensma who will start her term in 2007. She will be the fourth woman to serve as president of the MOA.

Alumni Receptions

Drs. Elissa Gartenberg and Sarah Zyskowski joined with other alumni and MSUCOM supporters for the Oakland County Scholarship and Alumni Dinner. Participants enjoyed an opportunity to reaquaint themselves with former classmates while enjoying cuisine from Loving Spoonful in Farmington Hills. Alumni also gathered together for the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Reception in Dallas, Texas, as well as for the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians Reception at Shanty Creek in Bellaire, Michigan.

Rethinking Medicine

How can we make a difference in the lives of our patients, peers and family when it comes to medicine today? It is not an easy task, but one way to start is to accelerate the adoption of innovative technologies, products, and services that enhance the delivery of health care. The strategic leveraging of communication that focuses on streamlining rather than simply supporting current educational and practice activities are needed as we overcome the human, societal, political, and organizational barriers to these changes.

We must seek the challenge of the new and the stimulation that comes with being innovative in order to enhance the delivery of health care. We do our best work when motivated by the knowledge that we have the opportunity to help bring safer, more effective, more comfortable, more convenient, or more economical technologies, products and services to the health care environment.

As a collective group of osteopathic physicians, we need to address issues surrounding the appropriate role, use, and availability of preventative care in the management of on-going wellness care. This integrative attitude toward our patients by their caregivers presents a set of new guiding principles that can be used by all those involved in the care of our patients. Why should we wait for a problem to occur when we have the knowledge to prevent it from happening in the first place? Along with this new attitude, we must educate all third-party payers of the great benefits afforded to them for covering wellness care visits.

Proper utilization of these measures provides a method to alter clinical practices to facilitate better outcomes and improve the standard of care. To provide a better quality of care through preventative measures requires knowledge of the purpose and intended use of these measures. Over time, we can lower risk-management costs as we focus on the less expensive arena of preventive care.

Michael Weiss, D.O.
President, MSUCOM Alumni Association
Board of Directors

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Michael Weiss, D.O.
President, MSUCOM Alumni Association
Board of Directors
Development

Oakland County Alumni Commit to Helping Tomorrow’s D.O.s

With the debt load of students graduating from MSUCOM averaging $150,000, alumni, hospitals, and others interested in helping the students to afford medical school are coming together in partnerships to address the issue.

"I have always been looking for opportunities to help the students," said Dr. Gary Willyerd, a ’78 MSUCOM graduate. "I felt now was the time to look at ways of making a financial commitment to helping them." After talking with several of his fellow alumni who expressed a similar interest, they came up with the idea of establishing an endowed scholarship.

"We decided to create a scholarship that would help students coming from our area — Oakland County," said Willyerd. "We wanted to see people from our own community going to medical school and coming back to serve the community." The group began contacting other alumni in Oakland County and also asked the five hospitals in the area to donate to the endowment as well. "Our strongest selling point to get the hospitals involved was the college’s track record," explained Willyerd. "The majority of graduates stay in Michigan to set up their practices, and several of the hospitals saw contributing to the scholarship as MSUCOM a way of investing into their own future." "We were happy to offer our support to the scholarship," said Dr. Annette LaCasse, MSUCOM alumna and representative for Botsford General Hospital. "I think it was a great cause for us to be involved in and a great way to support aspiring doctors in our own backyard.

"I think it was important for us to offer this support," said Dr. Tressa Gardner, one of the individual donors to the scholarship. "Finances shouldn’t be a barrier for those who want to go to medical school and serve their community." "Not every state has a D.O. school," said Dr. John Ketner, who is a third generation D.O. and donor to the scholarship. "It’s important to maintain ours and help it however we can.

Thanks to the combined efforts of individual donors, POH Medical Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and Botsford General Hospital, the Oakland County Scholarship fund became endowed less than one year after the fund raising began, collecting over $168,000. "This really shows the commitment of the alumni and our partners," said Willyerd. "This was only possible through our combined efforts. This shows what we can really do when we work together as a team. We’re honored to be involved in bettering our school and making MSUCOM a better place of learning.”


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

Calendar of Events

JUNE
28
MSUCOM reception in conjunction with Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians convention: Hagerty Center, Traverse City, MI

SEPTEMBER
13-17
CME: "Muscle Energy Level I" – Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI. 36 hours of Category IA credit; Early Bird Tuition is $1000; Full Tuition is $1250. Chairperson is Carl Steele, D.O., M.S., P.T.

15
Osteopathic Open Golf Tournament to benefit MSUCOM students’ loan funds, educational improvements and Alumni Association: Eagle Eye Golf Course, Bath, MI

22-23
Silverfest events – celebrating the silver anniversary of the Class of 1981 and honoring the Classes of ’76, ’86, ’91, ... night, and continuing medical education, tailgate and the Notre Dame/ MSU football game on Saturday: East Lansing, MI

OCTOBER
16-20
American Osteopathic Association convention with MSUCOM alumni luncheon and college reception on Tuesday: Las Vegas, NV

NOVEMBER
1-4
CME: “Exercise Prescription as a Complement to Manual Medicine” – Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI. 32 hours of Category IA credit; Early Bird Tuition is $750; Full Tuition is $1000. Chairpersons are Philip Greenman, D.O., F.A.A.O., and Mark Bookhout, M.S., P.T.

1-4
CME: “Direct Action Thrust: Mobilization with Impulse” – Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI. 32 hours of Category IA credit; Early Bird Tuition is $750; Full Tuition is $1000. Chairperson is Carl Steele, D.O., M.S., P.T.

DECEMBER
6-10
CME: “Principles of Manual Medicine” – Marriott, East Lansing, MI. 36 hours of Category IA credit; Early Bird Tuition is $1000; Full Tuition is $1250. Chairperson is Lisa DeStefano, D.O.

For a complete listing of MSUCOM events check out our Web calendar: www.com.msu.edu/calendar
Silverfest 2006
Alumni Weekend
Friday, September 22 and
Saturday, September 23, 2006

featuring:
“Fall Kaleidoscope:
CME for
Osteopathic Physicians”

Pregame Tailgate

Sponsored by:
Fifth Third Bank
Ingham Regional Medical Center
Michigan Osteopathic Association

Osteopathic Open
Friday, September 15, 2006
Sponsored by:
Metro Health Hospital
MSU Federal Credit Union

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