Michigan Health Care Challenges
Janet Olszewski discusses Michigan’s health care concerns.

Serving Michigan
Alumni across the region share their stories and experiences.

Caring for Tribal Communities
MSUCOM alumni discuss their involvement in Native American communities.

We’re Michiganders. We’re 10,121,000 strong and growing. A quarter of us are children, and an eighth of us over 65. Eleven percent of us live in poverty. We occupy 56,804 square miles of space. On average, nearly 1,300,000 of us are hospitalized each year, with leading diagnoses including heart diseases, care of newborns, deliveries, injury and poisoning, and psychoses. On an average day, we have 347 live births and 235 deaths – including 68 from heart disease, 55 from cancer, 14 from stroke, nine from accidents and six from Alzheimer’s disease.

But with a growing population, we’re being impacted by a double whammy from the Baby Boom generation. At the time aging Boomers are going to require the most from the health care system, Boomer doctors are themselves retiring. The result, documented in a number of studies, is a projected shortfall in physicians required by 2020, both in our state and in the nation.

MSUCOM is doing all we can to respond. We’ve already increased our entering class size by a third, and are working actively to establish a satellite campus in southeast Michigan to add, ultimately, at least another 100 students each year. In concert with university administration and the MSU Board of Trustees, identification of the site for the campus is the next step.

In the meantime, our alumni are meeting the needs of our state, with fully two-thirds remaining to practice in Michigan — a figure that has not changed since our inception. They’re active in 78 of Michigan’s 83 counties, serving people in metropolitan, suburban and rural areas.

I think most of you know that our college has consistently ranked in the top ten in the nation (fourth this year) for primary care education in U.S. News & World Report surveys. But you may not know that we’re also first among all osteopathic colleges in research funding from the National Institutes of Health. We’ve also taken a proactive role in helping MSU increase its NIH funding — both through our leadership and through the work of our highest caliber researchers, who have been successful in obtaining such grants.

I’m proud of the way in which, working together, all of us who are part of the MSUCOM family are enhancing the health of people in Michigan, in other states, and in other nations. Thank you for your commitment to quality health care, to maintaining effective patient-centered osteopathic medicine, and for being leaders for healing in your communities.

William D. Strampel, D.O., Dean
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Michigan’s Problem

There are currently one million people in Michigan who have no health insurance,” Olszewski continued. “Those who don’t have insurance use the emergency room whenever they seek medical attention, which is a very expensive way to administer treatment. While we’re seeing an increase in the number of individuals covered by Medicaid, we’re also seeing a drop in employer-sponsored health care plans. In the end, we all pay for those without health care through paying higher premiums.

MSUCOM’s Contribution to Solution

“Through its participation in the Michigan First Healthcare Plan — an insurance program designed for lower-income families and individuals who do not get health care coverage through their employer, yet do not qualify for Medicaid — MSUCOM faculty and alumni are helping to cover the working uninsured,” said Olszewski. “Through volunteering their time at free clinics like Friendship Clinic, Cristo Rey, Care Free and many others, students, faculty and alumni provide additional services the uninsured can take advantage of while teaching students the importance of such volunteering.

LIFESTYLES AND CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Michigan’s Problem

“Seventy-five percent of health care expenses are from lifestyle choices and managing chronic diseases,” explained Olszewski. “Tobacco use, lack of exercise and obesity are the three main culprits — all of which can be addressed through lifestyle changes. We want to move upstream on these issues and focus on getting younger individuals into healthy habits as early as possible. Thirty-one percent of an employer’s premium costs for health care can be attributed to poor lifestyle choices.”

MSUCOM’s Contribution to Solution

“With 51% of MSUCOM graduates choosing to go into primary care and so many setting up their practice in underserved areas, MSUCOM graduates play an important role in chronic disease management and spotting problems early when the outcome is better for the patient and the cost of treatment is lower,” said Olszewski. “Family practitioners are able to work one-on-one with their patients, helping them to develop good lifestyle habits. This unique trait is one of the cornerstones to good health care.”

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Michigan’s Problem

“Being handed a clipboard with form after form to fill out is a routine ritual for patients arriving at a new physician’s office. Olszewski wishes to eliminate this practice and the administrative costs associated with it. “Spreading the use of information technology will help reduce not only administrative costs for a hospital or doctor’s office, but it will also eliminate the need for the redundant testing which happens whenever a doctor does not have access to a patient’s records,” she said.

MSUCOM’s Contribution to Solution

“The main reason many doctors aren’t adopting better health information technology is because they’ve never been trained how to use it,” explained Olszewski. “The college has several faculty and staff who have been working with our department to spread the use of technology within Michigan’s health care system. MSUCOM also does an exemplary job at training their students in the latest technology. So as older doctors retire and newer ones join the workforce, we should see an increase in the use of better information technology.”

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Michigan’s Problem

“We’re going to need 100,000 new health professionals in the coming decade with at least 6,000 needing to be doctors,” said Olszewski. “With many of our doctors, nurses and other health professionals nearing retirement, we’re not only going to need to replace these retirees, but increase their numbers to provide all the services that will be necessary for our aging communities.”

MSUCOM’s Contribution to Solution

“MSUCOM is one of the largest medical schools in the state,” said Olszewski. “With it ramping up the number of physicians it’s training, the larger graduating classes will help to offset the number of doctors who will soon enter retirement. Two-thirds of graduates stay in Michigan, many of which set up their practice in underserved areas of the state.”

With the Baby Boomer generation storming towards the retirement gates in the next few years, solutions enacted now can help vaccinate Michigan’s health care system from anticipated issues, and MSUCOM is one player in these solutions. “MSUCOM’s faculty and alumni are actively involved in public policy discussions,” said Olszewski. “With their help, we can obtain our ultimate goal – a healthier Michigan.”
Serving Michigan
Alumni Across the State

by Craig Reed

MSUCOM has 2,361 alumni serving in neighborhoods, both large and small, throughout the state. Each practice has its own style – a fusion of the needs of patients, the demeanor of the physician and the regional flavor. Here are a few of the doctors active in Michigan communities, who demonstrate how treating patients can manifest in a variety of ways.

Charlene Greene: Rural health care, U.P. style

It’s been six years since Dr. Charlene Greene, an ’83 alumna and current MSUCOM Alumni Association board member, moved from Traverse City to the Upper Peninsula (U.P.). Settling in Iron Mountain, a community with 8,173 residents near the Michigan-Wisconsin border, the area embodies what it means to live a rural lifestyle.

“My husband and I originally came up here so we could raise our children in a smaller community and to be closer to our family,” said Greene. “Here, everybody knows each other and everyone as a community helps to raise the kids.”

Living in a border community has made Dr. Greene’s practice unusual. “I’m dually licensed in Wisconsin and Michigan,” explained Greene. “I work in Dickinson County Hospital in Iron Mountain, but I also have an office in Florence, Wisconsin, which is right across the border. Dickinson County is a great hospital, but it’s a little different than Traverse City: They don’t have a lot of hospitalists so I’m doing more in-hospital care and obstetrics.”

Having a practice in this area does offer its own challenges. “My patients tend to be small business owners or people who work for small businesses. A lot of these companies cannot offer routine health care insurance to their employees. This presents a significant problem, especially when it comes to finding affordable medication for them. We rely on generics and working with local pharmacies for most of their needs,” said Greene. “The other challenge, which is common in rural communities, is the higher rates of cancer, especially lung cancer.”

Overall though, Greene is quite happy being in the U.P. “In my practice I get to see all the members of a family and address health problems which are multi-generational,” said Greene. “Practicing rural medicine really embodies family practice and the holistic outlook of the osteopathic profession. I really enjoy rural health and the people I get to serve.”

Richard Ferguson: Tending to the needs of Petoskey

The need for doctors throughout Michigan has had a number of MSUCOM alumni moving northward. For Dr. Richard Ferguson, a ’93 graduate, timing played a critical role.

“When I finished up my residency in ’96, there was a shortage of family practitioners in the northern portions of the Lower Peninsula. Several hospitals in the area were recruiting doctors and helping them set up practices in the area,” said Ferguson. “By some fluke, I found out about one recruitment program going on in Petoskey and joined a group practice which had other MSUCOM alumni like Dr. Michael Bacon.”

“Living up here has been wonderful,” Ferguson continued. “Unlike further south, we get a lot of snow, which is great for enjoying winter sports like skiing. This area is very scenic and draws a lot of famous people. It’s the only place I know of in Michigan where you can stroll into a bar and find yourself sitting next to someone like Rod Stewart.”

After spending nearly 10 years with his group, Ferguson recently decided it was time to set up a solo practice. “With the help of my wife, who manages the office, my nurse, who’s been pivotal in keeping me organized, and my receptionist, who’s been great with the patients, we’ve been doing pretty well so far. My new practice is not far from my old one so most of my patients have stayed with me. Petoskey is a great place to raise a family and be a family practitioner.”

Penelope Cook: A family practice of 20,000

Usually family practice involves treating newborns all the way to the elderly, but for Penelope Cook, a ’75 MSUCOM graduate and avid Spartan fan, her practice focuses on one age group – college students. “I’ve been working at Central Michigan University’s Health Center for 18 years now,” said Cook often cares for three generations of a family as well as extended family members.
Cook, who is the associate director of medical services at the center. "I really like my patient population. A lot of it is routine family practice urgent care. Some of the students we see once a semester when they are sick. Others we see on a regular basis, and we are their family practitioners when they are away from home."

As part of the Health Center, Cook helps to address problems common among the 20,000 college-age students on campus. "One of the most important things we do with the students is talk to them about problems like sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse and sexuality issues. We help educate them so they know all the facts. One interesting trend I have noticed over the years is that the students have become more comfortable in coming to us for psychiatric problems like depression. I think this trend demonstrates the value of continually doing outreach to the students."

"One of the things I most enjoy about this age group is being able to watch them grow and develop over the course of four to five years," said Cook. "A lot of them come in as nervous, anxiety ridden freshmen, but by the time they graduate, they are polished, young professionals."

Health centers at larger universities play an important role not only in treating individual students, but in maintaining the overall health of the campus. "As a facility located directly on campus, we have a more intimate understanding of the university than an off-campus site would have. If an international student becomes ill, for example, we can treat them here."

"One of the things I have learned is to maintain balance in life," continued Dora. "It has been a privilege to take care of people experiencing difficult times in life."

Changing my career to hospice during my retirement years has given me a chance to explore a new medical specialty, and has kept me active in the community. For me, being a physician is a wonderful opportunity to give back to society."

Although technically retired, Dora continues to serve patients at Harbor Hospice.
Family practice can lead people to many different arenas within the state of Michigan. Sometimes, that trail takes doctors into other cultures, as it has for several MSU COM alumni who have become involved in treating Native Americans living in the region. The way osteopathic medicine and tribal customs and culture weave with each other is unique for each doctor, yet the goal for all of the physicians is the same—to offer the best care they can to their patients.

Lynn Squanda—Class of ’97 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation

Being a family physician can take all sorts of forms. Take the case of Lynn Squanda. I’ve spent many years treating tribal members, my main involvement with the community these days is to take care of the boxers up in Soaring Eagle,” said Squanda. Soaring Eagle, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation’s casino, hosts a number of amateur boxing matches, and many of those boxers are from the tribal community. “I perform their pre-fight physical, and treat any injuries during their post-fight examination and make certain each fighter gets the care needed,” explained Squanda. “It’s fun working with the fighters, making certain they are okay. They are a good group, in and out of the boxing ring.”

Terry Nowak—Class of ’89 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation

Elsewhere at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation, at the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center, Terry Nowak, D.O., works with tribal families to maintain their physical, mental and spiritual health. “The wellness center functions a lot like a clinic, but its services are a lot more extensive,” explained Nowak. “Not only are there physicians and nurses here, but there are dentists, optometrists, nutritionists, traditional healers, psychologists, counselors and social programs. They have an exercise room where tribal members can weight train or partake in exercise classes, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, and areas specifically reserved for tribal healers and their patients. When you think of how the osteopathic philosophy emphasizes preventive and family medicine, the wellness center really does exemplify the tribe efforts to keep their people healthy.”

“We were able to build the Wellness Center just a few years ago,” explained Joseph Sowomil, public relations director for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation. “We are very fortunate to have funds generated from our casino that allowed us to establish and maintain this center. We kept our traditions in mind when we designed the facility, so you will see subtle differences like places where you can burn sage or offer tobacco, both of which play an important role for us in maintaining good health — both physical and spiritual.”

“Having everything in one place and having such a strong emphasis in family medicine has made it easier to prevent a number of chronic illnesses,” said Nowak. “For instance, 10-12% of Native Americans are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. Thanks to this facility, not only can I monitor my patients for the warning signs that they are developing diabetes, but we have the ability to get them on an exercise program and work with a nutritionist to prevent the full-blown disease.”

That’s what the Wellness Center is all about, preventive care and improving quality of life.

Julie Dixon—Class of ’85 Lac du Flambeau Band of Chippewa Indians

As a member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Chippewa Indians, Julie Dixon, D.O., describes herself as a “small town, northern Michigan who left the woods to get my education.” Starting her medical career first as a nurse, Dixon later decided to take the plunge into becoming a D.O. “I knew when I was first in nursing school I wanted to work with Native Americans,” said Dixon. “The question I had to decide was whether I should do that as a nurse or a doctor. I realized being a family practitioner within the community was what I wanted to do.”

Establishing her practice in Traverse City, Dixon provided primary care and obstetrics for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. “This was a great place to serve the community. I established a clinic there, and was their only doctor for many years...” Dixon decided later to relocate and offered her services to the

Oglala Sioux of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. “Pine Ridge is one of the poorest Native American communities,” said Dixon. “Despite the poverty and the untold health care system, my patients were great to work with. My whole philosophy is simple. Native Americans deserve full access to health care.”

Nowadays, Dixon is back in northern Michigan where she runs a tribal health clinic for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. “I’ve enjoyed serving each community I’ve been in, but it’s good to be working in Michigan again.”

Native American communities work hard to preserve their traditions, and provide accessible healthcare to their people.

Marilyn Pramstaller—Class of ’88 Chippewa Indian Tribe

While the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center, where Dr. Nowak works, treats all tribal members in one location, for Marilyn Pramstaller, D.O., and the Sault Ste. Marie Indian Tribe of Chippewa, a somewhat different system has proven to work well for their circumstances. “Sault Ste. Marie Tribal members are spread out across Michigan so they have set up several clinics and even have some mobile clinic teams which go out to places like Mackinac Island to treat tribal members after the tourist season is over,” said Pramstaller.

Ptramstaller and her husband, George Pramstaller, D.O., were both recruited several years ago to treat patients in northern Michigan. “I was practicing emergency medicine at the Cheboygan Memorial Hospital, but was keeping an eye open for a family physician position with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Nation,” said Pramstaller. It was one of the best decisions I made. The tribe puts a lot of dollars toward health care and supplements our budget. They firmly believe in providing the best health care they can reasonably afford for their people. As a result, we have a health team composed of doctors, dentists, mental health specialists, social workers and more who are dedicated to the tribal members’ well-being.”

For Pramstaller, the most rewarding part is interacting with her patients. “My experience has been extremely positive. You get to work with multiple generations of families as well as their extended family. They are very warm and accepting. The one thing they do expect from us when we join their community is that we will commit to staying. They want doctors they are familiar with and know them and their community.”

Lynn Squanda—Class of ’97 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation

“Being a family physician can take all sorts of forms. Take the case of Lynn Squanda. I’ve spent many years treating tribal members, my main involvement with the community these days is to take care of the boxers up in Soaring Eagle,” said Squanda. Soaring Eagle, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation’s casino, hosts a number of amateur boxing matches, and many of those boxers are from the tribal community. “I perform their pre-fight physical, and treat any injuries during their post-fight examination and make certain each fighter gets the care needed,” explained Squanda. “It’s fun working with the fighters, making certain they are okay. They are a good group, in and out of the boxing ring.”

Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center

Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center in Mt. Pleasant provides Saginaw Chippewa Tribal members most of their health care needs.
Sharing Faith and Fostering Volunteerism

Students enrich the classroom with diversity and the community with compassion

by Craig Reed

Sharing Culture and Faith

As students work through medical school, they are exposed to a variety of communities and people who use the medical system. The Islamic Medical Student Association (IMSA) is an organization that fosters dialogue between the non-Muslim and the Muslim communities.

“Our organization has two roles,” explained Raneem Islam, public relations coordinator for IMSA. “One is to provide a place for all Muslim medical students to come together as a community. The other is to make ourselves available to our classmates who may have questions about our community. Many of the base hospitals our peers will be in are in the Detroit area, which has a large Muslim population. We hope to educate our peers so they will feel comfortable interacting with a patient of the Islamic faith.”

IMSA has sponsored forums such as “Caring for the Muslim Patient,” which highlighted some of the concerns Muslim patients have when in a medical setting. IMSA also exposes students to parts of Muslim culture through events like the Fast-a-thon.

“Most major religions have some sort of fasting,” explained Maha Hassan, treasurer for IMSA. “We asked our fellow students to abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for one day as a way of exposing them to one of the things we do during the time of Ramadan while we work to reawaken our faith, help those less fortunate and try to become better persons.

“In the past few years, the Muslim community has been working harder on outreach,” continued Maha. “We’re doing our part to educate people and demystify what it means to be Muslim.”

Serving the Community

Student organizations have a long history of volunteering in the community. Community Medicine in Action (CMIA), a COM and College of Human Medicine affiliated student organization, is one such group dedicated to making a difference in the Lansing area.

“We volunteer at Cristo Rey’s clinic, which provides health care for the uninsured,” said Niamh Condon, second-year MSUCOM student and also co-president of CMIA. “Most patients who come in have waited until they have several problems.”

CMIA also helps provide medical care for migrant workers during the summer months giving students opportunities to work with doctors and nurses who are also volunteering their time, to learn more about the migrant community and to brush up on their Spanish.

“The first time we went out to the camps, we met a woman who had recently had a tooth pulled. She was in extreme pain, but was reluctant to ask for help,” continued Niamh. “We convinced her to accept our help and gave her medication to alleviate her pain. One of the doctors with us noticed her shoulder wasn’t moving properly and treated it with OMM. It was great to see how OMM could be used out in the field, and how it could help a woman use her shoulder again.

“We want to show our peers that they can have their own practice and still find time to volunteer,” she said. “Making a difference in the community doesn’t have to end after you’ve completed medical school.”

Obituaries

Barbara Sinclair

Given the honorary title of “COM Den Mother” by the late Dean Allen W. Jacobs and others, Barb worked in MSUCOM’s Student Services from 1980 until her retirement in 2005. The winner of numerous Outstanding Student Support awards, she was known for creating a warm atmosphere for the more than 3,000 students she met during her career and for being someone they could turn to for a listening ear.

Gwyneth Anne Royer-Cocco

Graduating from MSUCOM in 1997, Dr. Royer-Cocco set up her private practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Fort Worth in 2002. She was known as a compassionate, caring physician who was respected by friends and colleagues.

Angela Dawson

Dr. Dawson was a 2004 alumna who passed away in late summer due to complications from multiple sclerosis. An avid cook and cyclist, she believed strongly in the holistic outlook of the osteopathic profession.
The College of Osteopathic Medicine Presents

Slavery to Freedom
An American Odyssey

The Seventh Annual Visiting Faculty Lecture Series

Thursdays, February 1 through 22, 2007

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

CORPORATE: Henry Ford Bi-County Hospital; Michigan Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators; POH Medical Center; St. John Health Systems; St. Joseph’s Healthcare

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

For more information call (517) 432-4979
www.com.msu.edu

February 1, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Big Ten A
Kellogg Center

February 8, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Kellogg Center

February 15, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Kellogg Center

February 22, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Big Ten A
Kellogg Center

Civil Rights and The Law
From Behind and In Front of the Bench

The Honorable Damon J. Keith, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge
Judge Damon J. Keith, a consistently courageous defender of civil rights for all people, has served as the U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Sixth Circuit since 1977. His most notable cases have dealt with issues such as school desegregation, municipal and corporate affirmative action, and sex discrimination. His landmark, commonly referred to as the Keith Decision, was United States v. Silk, in which he found that President Nixon and Attorney General Mitchell could not engage in warrantless wiretap surveillance because it was in violation of the Fourth Amendment. Chosen as the National Chairman of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Bicentennial of the Constitution, Judge Keith was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution. He is the recipient of 41 honorary degrees and numerous awards and recognitions.

The Honorable Dennis W. Archer, Former Supreme Court Justice and Detroit Mayor
Dennis W. Archer, a nationally recognized jurist and public servant, served two terms as mayor of the city of Detroit from 1994-2001, and as a Michigan Supreme Court justice from 1985 to 1990. Presently chairman of Dickinson Wright, PLLC, a Detroit-based law firm with more than 200 attorneys, Mr. Archer sits on the boards of several major corporations. Named Public Official of the Year by Governing magazine, Mr. Archer was president of the National League of Cities and a member of the Board of Trustees of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Noted internationally for his success in changing Detroit’s image and direction, he was named one of the 25 most dynamic mayors by Newsweek, and one of the 100 most influential Black Americans by Ebony. He was the first person of color elected president of the American Bar Association and also of the State Bar of Michigan.

The Earl Nelson Singers, performing before the presentation, is an integrated ensemble from the Lansing, Michigan area. They are dedicated to collecting and performing only those arrangements that tend to capture the original mood, style, and character of the sacred songs of the slave. The group’s repertoire also includes some songs representative of the early “gospel” style which typified the urbanized church songs of descendants of ex-slaves after the Civil War in America.

FEBRUARY 15, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Kellogg Center

“Weapons of Mass Deception” It Is Not Over Yet

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, Co-founder and president emeritus, Southern Christian Leadership Conference
An iconic icon of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Lowery co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with its first president, Dr. Martin Luther King. Internationally acclaimed for “speaking truth to power,” he delivered eulogies at the funerals of both Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King. The pastor of United Methodist Churches in Mobile, Birmingham and Atlanta for nearly a half-century, Dr. Lowery served as vice president and board chairman of the SCLC until 1977, when he was elected its third president, a post he held for 21 years. For many years he was listed among Ebony’s 100 most influential African Americans, and was twice named as one of the 15 greatest Black preachers. The first recipient of Boston University’s Martin Luther King Award, he also was named the first recipient of the Walter Reuther Labor/ Civil Rights Award by Wayne State University. In 2001, Clark-Atlanta University established the Joseph E. Lowery Institute for Justice and Human Rights. He is co-founder of the Black Leadership Forum.

FEBRUARY 1, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Big Ten A
Kellogg Center

Contemporary Slavery
In and Out of the Church

The Rev. Dr. Charles G. Adams, Pastor, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan
Dr. Adams, a graduate of the University of Michigan and Harvard University, has been invited as a guest preacher at many churches and synagogues, including the historic Riverside Church in New York City. He has addressed the United Nations, the General Assembly for the World Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches. He is past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and has served as president of the Detroit chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is well known as a dynamic preacher and an innovative leader in his faith-based economic development, providing resources to serve the poor. A prolific writer, Dr. Adams has been published in scholarly journals and newspapers.

FEBRUARY 8, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Kellogg Center

“A Chronicle of the King Years” A Trilogy of Struggle

Mr. Taylor Branch, Author and Historian
Taylor Branch, a celebrated author and chronicler, has recently completed an heroic project, spending 24 years writing America in the King Years, a three-volume narrative history of the United States during 1954-1968, a focal point in the struggle for civil rights. The first volume, Parting the Waters, published in 1988, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Non-Fiction and the Pulitzer Prize for History. The second volume, Pillar of Fire, made its debut in 1998 and won the American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award and the English-Speaking Union Book Award, among others. Simon and Schuster published the third volume, At Canaan’s Edge, in early 2006 to widespread critical acclaim. Mr. Branch’s previous books include a novel, The Empire Blues (1981) and Second Wind (1979) about the life of Boston Celtics star Bill Russell. Born in Atlanta, he lives in Baltimore. The recipient of a five-twenty MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1991 and the National Humanities Medal in 1999, he is at work on a memoir of the Clinton presidency.

FEBRUARY 15, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Kellogg Center

THE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE PRESENTS
Joint Effort Brings MSUCOM Researchers to Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital

by Craig Reed

Michigan residents in need of an orthopedic specialist have to look no further than Lansing for one of the state’s most active orthopedic facilities – Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital. Ranked as the second hospital in the state for most orthopedic surgeries performed, it continues to grow with the coming addition of a second-floor orthopedic wing. Now thanks to an MSUCOM faculty member, researchers will soon be walking side by side with surgeons down the hospital corridors.

“Scientists who are developing new orthopedic techniques and procedures traditionally find it a bit difficult to communicate regularly with surgeons and their patients. With the establishment of the Osteopathic National Center for Orthopedic Research (ONCOR) on the Ingham Regional campus, we hope to make the hospital a hub for research, where researchers can interact with surgeons, nurses, and patients during the clinical research process,” explained MSUCOM alumnus Lawrence Mysliwiec, D.O., director of the orthopedic residency, medical director of ONCOR and associate professor at MSUCOM. “Ingham is an ideal location to establish such a research center. It’s close to Michigan State University, has operating rooms dedicated to orthopedic procedures and is staffed by experienced surgeons, technicians, and nurses.”

The 9,000-square-foot research facility will provide space for MSU chief researcher Dr. Jack Cholewicki, newly arriving from Yale University, as well as Mysliwiec and osteopathic students, interns, residents, and fellowship researchers. “No other D.O. program in the country will have such a strong tie to research when we open our doors in May,” said Mysliwiec. “We will be working through the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics to provide advisory support to all 29 of the nation’s D.O. orthopedic residency programs. This is going to help push our osteopathic profession more to the forefront of research and engender a new attitude toward research among osteopathic students and residents. Our facility will incorporate osteopathic manual medicine into our musculoskeletal research, looking for opportunities to apply it in order to exhaust all conservative measures prior to surgical selection, as well as to use it post-operatively to help improve surgical patient outcomes. In that way we not only seek to advance orthopedic surgery, but also to remain true to our osteopathic roots.”

“We’ll be collaborating with individuals who are engineers, physiologists, veterinarians, radiologists, physiatrists, and specialists in osteopathic manipulative medicine, to name a few,” said Mysliwiec. “The goal is to get insight from a variety of perspectives, from the nurses, and patients all the way up to the primary researchers as well as from those outside of the medical profession. There is no telling who’s going to have an idea that sparks a whole new avenue of research. By communicating with patients and those who work most closely with them, we’ll also be able to stay focused on a patient’s outcome. So instead of being immersed just in how good our technique is, we’ll be looking at the bigger picture – the quality of care we provide.”

As director of the Ingham Regional Spinal Center, Mysliwiec is working to make Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital a leader in orthopedic research.

Faculty News

Bhavini Balvantkumar Bhavsar

Internal Medicine

Bhavini Balvantkumar Bhavsar, M.D., M.P.H., is a graduate of the NHL Municipal Medical College in Ahmedabad, India. She has presented abstracts on HIV, diabetes and monocular blindness. She is joining us as an assistant professor.

Howard Chang

Neurology and Ophthalmology

Howard Chang, Ph.D., M.D., graduated with his Ph.D. from MSU and his M.D from the University of Tennessee. As a neuropathologist, Chang has recently presented abstracts on fetal alcohol syndrome, Alzheimer’s disease, and Pick’s disease.

Denise Handelsman

Psychiatry

Denise Handelsman, D.O., is an ‘02 MSUCOM alumnus who has been appointed as an assistant professor. She completed her residency in adult psychiatry at MSU and has focused her studies on eating disorders.

Max S. Rizer

Osteopathic Surgical Specialties

Max S. Rizer, D.O., is a ‘98 MSUCOM alumnus who joins the faculty as an assistant professor. Rizer spent his time after his residency at the Memorial Medical Center of West Michigan where he served as a general urology practitioner.

Margaret Semrud-Clikeman

Psychiatry

Margaret Semrud-Clikeman, Ph.D., who specializes in neuropsychological disorders, comes from the University of Texas. Her research focuses on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, epilepsy, and the effects of neuropsychological disorders in families and communities.

Marie-Claude Senut

Neurology and Ophthalmology

Marie-Claude Senut, Ph.D., is now an assistant professor at MSUCOM whose research involves using zebra fish to study retinal injuries. Her recent publications have focused on optic nerve regeneration and prenatal gene therapy. She comes from the University of Michigan’s Behavioral Neuroscience Institute.

Jill Slade

Radiology

Jill M. Slade, Ph.D., assistant professor of radiology, received her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia where she studied exercise physiology. She continued her studies as a postdoctoral fellow with Ronald A. Meyer, Ph.D., before joining MSUCOM as an assistant research professor in 2005. Her research has focused on musculoskeletal and vascular health and function.

Seong-Woon Yu

Neurology and Ophthalmology

Seong-Woon Yu, Ph.D., has joined the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology after completing his postdoctoral work at Johns Hopkins University. Yu has presented numerous abstracts, including ones on outer mitochondrial membrane localization and neuronal nitric oxide synthase.

Faculty Awarded for Excellence

Three MSUCOM faculty received special recognition during the Fall Semester Faculty Assembly for their contributions to the college.

Terry A. Hagan, Ed.D., associate professor emeritus from the Department of Pediatrics, received the Outstanding Curriculum Contributions award.

Jake Rowan, D.O., assistant professor of osteopathic manipulative medicine, received the Teaching Excellence in Osteopathic Principles award, and

Gregory D. Fink, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology and toxicology, was the recipient of the Research Excellence award.
A Year to Remember: Success One Donor at a Time

by Craig Reed

The strengthening of MSUCOM’s economic base is tied intrinsically to the myriad of donors who have pledged to support college now and in the future. Reasons why organizations and individuals step up to the plate vary and are reflected in how their gifts are utilized. Take, for example, the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (MAODME); who recently established an endowed scholarship with the college. “Our members have a strong interest in supporting initiatives which will encourage and support individuals who wish to go into medical education,” said Dale Carlson, M.M., F.A.O.D.M.E., president of MAODME. “We’ve supported MSUCOM in the past, especially their Statewide Campus System, and decided that a scholarship for students who have demonstrated a strong interest in medical education would not only provide another avenue of support for MSUCOM, but it would have the added benefit of strengthening our membership as students graduate and establish their careers as medical educators.”

Teamwork, creativity and looking for ways to benefit both the donor and the college have been hallmarks which have made MSUCOM so successful in obtaining its goals during the “Campaign for MSU,” a university-wide development initiative which aims to establish a stronger endowment base for the university and the colleges it encompasses. While we can celebrate a year of developmental progress, the task of preparing for the college’s financial future is never complete, and more hands are always welcomed to insure MSUCOM continues to grow and thrive.

Who Contributes?

- Alumni
- Friends
- Corporations
- Corporate Foundations
- Private Foundations
- Groups
- Associations

Gift Type

- Cash and Pledges
- Irrevocable Life Income Agreements
- Bequest Commitments

TEAMWORK:

- Alumni
- Friends
- Corporations
- Corporate Foundations
- Private Foundations
- Groups
- Associations

BEHIND THE SCENE Statewide Campus System

by Craig Reed

The Statewide Campus System (SCS), a consortium involving 25 osteopathic teaching hospitals, MSUCOM and Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, provides resources and educational programs to enhance and improve residency training across Michigan. With residents spread far and wide across the state, the challenge is to balance the individual strengths and needs of hospitals with accreditation requirements put forth by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

That’s where people like Jonathan D. Rohrer, Ph.D., assistant director for SCS, come in to help. “I started working for SCS back in ’96 when it was known as COGMET,” said Rohrer. “My focus is to work with the hospitals to design programs which train and assess residents in AOA-mandated core competencies. By addressing these competencies, we help hospitals within SCS to meet accreditation requirements for residency training.”

As one of the directors focused on curriculum design, Rohrer has been contributing to the steady improvement of medical education through the creation of course programs called “modules” and online residency logging of procedures.

“Modules are freestanding coursework packets which include pre-tests, on-line materials, videos, exams – everything you would need for a residency educational program from start to finish. We offer these modules to the hospitals, who then choose which modules they will use based on their specific needs. These modules keep the hospitals from having to spend the time and energy designing their own programs which will meet AOA requirements, and allow residents to benefit from a more standardized coursework structure. A number of the modules we have developed have been mandated by various specialty groups such as the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI).”

But the creation of modules and other coursework materials is a byproduct of another important aspect of Rohrer’s job – building strong ties with SCS member hospitals. “By building strong relationships with our member hospitals and their physicians, we can design educational tools that fit their specific needs. I believe that because of partnerships we have developed over the years, we have one of the best OPTIs (Osteopathic Post Graduate Training Institution) in the whole nation.”

While keeping medical education at the cutting edge is a serious matter, Rohrer enjoys the challenge and has a little fun along the way. “There are always new solutions floating around and new problems that need to be addressed. It’s great working with all the physicians in the hospitals and exciting to get to know all aspects of medical training. Michigan has been blessed with a high quality of osteopathic medical training and physician leaders, and it’s energizing to see the natural progression of our successes – across the consortium of MSUCOM and its SCS member hospitals – partners and leaders in instructing future physicians.”

For 10 years, Rohrer has been involved in Statewide Campus System and its predecessor, COGMET.
Health Care in Michigan: The Next Generation

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

There has never been a shortage of problems to address in the health care arena. The larger problem is to decide which problems to address first. In May 2006 the MOA created the Blue Ribbon Committee to construct a road map to navigate reform of the health care system. The work product of the Blue Ribbon Committee was the focal point for the September MOA Leadership Retreat. The leadership retreat confirmed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee and suggested numerous goals to implement the central themes.

There are six central themes that emerged as the foundation for reform of the health care system. These “foundation themes” are:
- Promotion of primary care
- Enhancement of patient responsibilities
- Development of a center for coordinated health policy
- Assurance of universal health care
- Patient safety
- Increased efficiency in health care finance and delivery.

There were literally hundreds of goals that were developed to support these foundation themes. Many of the recommended goals are highly complex. For example, recommendations on the development of electronic health records (EHRs), reform of the medical liability system and the creation of uniform billing and administrative requirements can logically be assigned to several foundation themes.

It is noteworthy that the promotion of primary care was the foundation theme that received the most support from the MOA leadership. From the discussion, it was clear that the MOA leadership considers primary care to be the base on which an efficient health care system is built. The MOA leadership met with Governor Jennifer Granholm to discuss the foundation themes and an outline to rebuild Michigan’s primary care base. The outline included:
- Create adequate reimbursement for primary care physicians by amending the federal relative value units to recognize cognitive skills
- Increase the supply of medical school graduates with a focus on primary care (with kudos to MSUCOM for the work already underway)
- Seek federal waivers to raise Michigan’s GME cap to create more primary care residency slots
- Enhance Michigan’s loan forgiveness programs to attract primary care physicians to Michigan during an era of physician shortage

As I stated in the opening paragraph, there is no shortage of problems in our health care system, but the MOA leadership agrees that rebuilding a strong primary care base is the first step in reforming our health care system.

Dennis M. Paradis

Upcoming Events

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<td>January 26-27</td>
<td>MAOFP Alumni Reception at Shanty Creek Resort in December</td>
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<td>February 18-25</td>
<td>Topics in the Tropics - Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>MOCF Ball at Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn, MI</td>
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<td>March 3-10</td>
<td>Seminar in the Sun - Riviera Maya, Mexico</td>
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<td>March 13-18</td>
<td>ACOFP Orlando, FL</td>
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Willyerd, Robbins Recognized for Achievements

Gary Willyerd, D.O., Class of ’78, associate professor of internal medicine, and Myral Robbins, D.O., Class of ’76, clinical associate professor of family and community medicine, were honored at the annual AOA convention luncheon this year.

Dr. Willyerd received the Dean’s Award for Meritorious Contribution for distinguishing himself in osteopathic education, administration, and medical missions. As the director of medical education at POH Medical Center since 1990, Dr. Willyerd is also the president of the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, a member of the American Osteopathic Association’s Board of Osteopathic Education and a former chairperson of the Statewide Campus System’s governing board. A trustee of DOCARE International, Dr. Willyerd regularly takes interns and residents overseas for medical service.

Dr. Robbins (top, left) has been a strong advocate for physicians in health policy forums. Dr. Willyerd (left) has dedicated his career to improving medical education. Both received congratulations from Dean William Strampel.

Dr. Robbins (top, left) has been a strong advocate for physicians in health policy forums. Dr. Willyerd (left) has dedicated his career to improving medical education. Both received congratulations from Dean William Strampel.

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

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

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

of the Year award for her active career in clinical practice, medical education, and health policy and physician organization development. As the Osteopathic Family Medicine Residency program director at MSU’s Kalamazoo Center for Medical Science, she has served as president of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians and as president of the MSUCOM Alumni Association. She also participated in the AOA Health Policy Fellowship Program and is a founding member of the executive committee of MiCare and has been a Michigan Peer Review Organization physician advisor since 1989.

Dr. Robbins (top, left) has been a strong advocate for physicians in health policy forums. Dr. Willyerd (left) has dedicated his career to improving medical education. Both received congratulations from Dean William Strampel.
**MSUCOM alumni have made it a cornerstone of their professional lives to be involved. Whether that means becoming doctors for their high school football teams, teaching in the classroom, volunteering at free clinics for the underserved or adding their voices to health policy forums on the state and national level, all alumni have responsibility to be involved beyond the doors to their offices – however that may manifest.**

Speaking Up For Our Patients

MSUCOM alumni have spoken out during the making of health policy, that are of particular interest as the state of Michigan, in fact the entire nation, prepares for the upcoming retirement of the Baby Boom generation and the challenges for the medical community to meet the needs of this massive aging group of patients. As Janet Olszewski, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, has said, policy makers need to hear the concerns of doctors. Committee members cannot make wise decisions on health policy if they do not have information directly from the doctors who serve on the front lines of the medical system: Our insights can provide lawmakers with the building blocks necessary to avoid foreseeable disasters and to ensure doctors have the proper tools to care for their communities.

Through the actions of the Alumni Association as well as the efforts of individual alumni, a difference can be made that will ripple out throughout the lives of our patients for years to come. As leaders of the osteopathic profession, it is our responsibility to voice our concerns and see to it that each ripple is an improvement for the medical system. As your president, I look forward to hearing your priorities and working with you to building a stronger, more vibrant medical community.

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

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**MSUCOM vaccine state legislators for flu**

Alumni joined current MSUCOM students, faculty and staff for the annual capitol flu shot visit on Nov. 14. More than 500 legislators and their staff received their vaccinations and mingled with alumni and faculty from the college.

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**AOA Convention**

MSUCOM alumni joined their osteopathic brothers and sisters at the AOA convention which was held October 16-20 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Participants enjoyed the zesty night life of the Vegas strip, an alumni reception, and a chance to catch up with colleagues and old friends.

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**Calendar of Events**

1.8,15,22
"Slavery to Freedom: An American Odyssey" – Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, East Lansing. Every Thursday in February at 5:00 p.m. MSUCOM hosts distinguished educators to discuss the history and culture of American civil rights. Contact External Programs at (517) 432-4979.

18-25
CME: “Topics in the Tropics” – Iberostar Dominicana in the Dominican Republic. Learn how to apply newer treatment modalities in the management of difficult disease states. 20 hours of Category IA credit; tuition is $350 in addition to the cost of travel. Chairperson is Jayne Martin, D.O. Questions about the program: CME (517) 353-9714 or toll-free (800) 437-0001; jan.martin@hc.msu.edu. Questions about the travel or resort: Classic Travel, (717) 349-6200 or (800) 643-3449. For detailed information, see http://www.com.msu.edu/cme/short.html.

24
MOCF Ball: “Puttin’ on the Glitz” – Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. Proceeds from this Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation fundraiser ball will support the goals and mission of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. For more information, contact Colleen Kniffen, colleen.kniffen@hc.msu.edu, (517) 355-9616.

3-7
CME: “Muscle Energy: Level I” – Windmill Inn, Tucson, AZ. 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. Contact CME at (517) 353-9714.

3-10
CME: Seminar in the Sun: “Healthy Lifestyle and Preventive Care: Future Directions” – Riviera Maya, Mexico. 20 hours of AOA Category IA credit. Chairperson is Lisa DeStefano, D.O. General topics include pediatrics, dermatology, diabetes, nutrition, well-being and cardiology. For more information, see http://com.msu.edu/alumni/event.html or contact External Programs at (517) 432-4979.

14-16
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians conference – Orlando, FL – Alumni Dinner. Contact External Programs at (517) 432-4979.

18-22
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 Sherman Gorbis, D.O. Contact CME at (517) 353-9714.

11-15
CME: “Craniosacral Technique: Level I” – Windmill Inn, Tucson, AZ. 36 hours of Category IA credit; Early Bird Tuition is $1000; Full Tuition is $1250. Chairperson is Barbara Briner, D.O. Contact CME at (517) 353-9714.

20
Capitol House Call – Capitol Building, Lansing, MI. Contact MDA at (517) 347-1555.

30-31

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**Speaking Up For Our Patients**

Senator Gretchen Whitmer receives her flu shot from second-year student Rachel Winters with alumni Anthony Ogričan supervising.

Alumni Shelley Friedman, Suzan Hendrix, Oliver Hayes, Judith Thierry, Eugene Conte, David Jadow and Ed Lee.
February 24, 2007
Ritz-Carlton
Dearborn, Michigan

For more information call (517) 355-9616
or visit our website at http://www.com.msu.edu/MOCF