For the last several years, as the College of Osteopathic Medicine has focused on its successful expansion to southeast Michigan, we’ve had our eyes on the horizon. It was a sprint, one that required significant effort from our administration, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, donors, and yes, students—and the college gangbuster family pulled together to win this race.

But there’s no doubt that significant engines of our success lay in our academic departments. The expansion required adding to the usual load of teaching, research and clinical service a significant amount of time and effort for innovation. We hit the road, restructured classes, learned new teaching methods, tested technology, refined curricula, wrote reports, kept new records, and accommodated a 50% increase in our students. This issue of Communiqué celebrates our clinical science departments—Family Medicine, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Osteopathic Surgical Specialties, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Psychiatry, and Radiology. It’s by no means meant to be a comprehensive view, but to update you on some of the more intriguing initiatives that are under way.

You’ll read about new NIH-funded research on osteopathic manipulative medicine, approaches to brain injury by Origami, augmenting geriatric care with social work, and expansion of our Student OMM Clinics to southeast Michigan. Sports nutrition, acquired attention deficit disorder, childhood obesity, expanding research in neurology, malaria and HIV—all are among important initiatives of our faculty.

I think it’s important to publicly say “thank you” to the faculty and staff in our departments who have made our success possible. Most have worked overtime in the interests of positive change, and that commitment deserves our recognition. I’m proud of their efforts and of the efforts we all make together to help meet the demand for the high-quality physicians, research and clinical care we produce.

William D. Strampel, D.O., Dean
A DYNAMIC DECADE
Neurology and Ophthalmology

Though the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology may be the college’s youngest academic department, it is a leader in research and international endeavors. “Looking at our overall research, we as a department are approaching $1 million annually in National Institutes of Health funding, plus a robust portfolio in pharmaceutical studies,” said David Kaufman, chairperson. “We have increased the amount of NIH dollars by 40% since 2005. We have come a long way since our founding in 2000.”

Some of the college’s most renowned researchers reside within the department, including John Gaudenzo, director of MSU’s Translational Neurobiology Research Unit, who recently uncovered how a protein known as parkin may help nerve cells fight off damage from Parkinson’s disease, which could lead to new therapies for the degenerative ailment. Associate Professor Gretchen Birbeck’s work in Malawi on epilepsy, HIV, and cerebral malaria regularly draws international attention. Recently, Birbeck published a study showing that almost a third of cerebral malaria survivors will go on to develop epilepsy or other behavioral disorders.

The department has continued to expand its reach, especially in Africa. They have hired child neurologist Douglas Postlethwaite, who will be investigating non-malarial comas in Malawi as well as the prevalence of pediatric neurologic disease in Ethiopia, and join with the Department of Psychiatry to have Associate Professor Michael Bolin research the impact of HIV and other communicable diseases on cognitive health in Uganda.

“The ability to have so many faculty devoting much of their time and energy to Africa is a unique aspect of this university,” said Kaufman. “From a clinical perspective, when this department started 10 years ago we had 7 patient interactions per year. That has since tripled. Both our outpatient and inpatient visits have increased steadily each year. We have the only multi-disciplinary subspecialty neurology clinic between Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor. The investment MSU has made in our department has been sincerely appreciated by our faculty. It is our earnest hope that we have paid back this debt to our college with dividends.”

DECONSTRUCTING OMM
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

New technology will be playing a role in improving our understanding of osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT). Recently, Dr. Tamara Bush from the Department of Mechanical Engineering acquired pressure sensitive devices worn on the fingers and thumbs which can take measurements while a patient is being structurally evaluated,” said Lisa DeStefano, chairperson of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM). “We see some potential to use this device to pursue further palpatory-based collaborative research and to better understand tissue response and range of motion alterations in patients with neck pain.”

Bush and Joseph Vorro, Department of Family and Community Medicine, have been working with members of the OMM team in preliminary studies to quantify three-dimensional cervical motion pattern changes that resulted from OMT in an experimental subject group diagnosed with somatic dysfunction.

One of the staples of OMM, the Student OMM Clinic, has recently expanded to serve Macomb County and Detroit.

“We now have a student clinic at each of the southeast sites,” explained DeStefano. “The clinic in East Lansing is always booked. We get so many people who are coming from the free clinics within the community. Once word gets out about the clinics in southeast Michigan, we expect they’ll be booked as well. The patients who come into these clinics are tough cases since many of them have challenging pain management issues. Having the students develop their skills in this environment helps them bridge that gap between what they’ve learned in the classroom and how to apply it. The students get a lot of opportunities to shadow with faculty and work with us. Experiences like these help them feel pretty confident after they have completed their second year.”

OMT research received a big boost this year with a recent $4.2 million grant for a multidisciplinary team in preliminary studies to quantify three-dimensional cervical motion pattern changes that resulted from OMT in an experimental subject group diagnosed with somatic dysfunction.

SEAMLESS LESSONS, ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH
Osteopathic Surgical Specialties

One example of the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology’s research excellence is Eric Eggengerber, who uses videography of patients with multiple sclerosis to better understand their disease.

With nearly 50% of babies in Ingham County born on Medicaid, doctors, such as ’00 alumna Kimberly Mitcham (above), in clinics run by the Department of Pediatrics help keep the county’s poorest children healthy.

Gudakunst (left) has played a critical role in the department’s curriculum revisions. OMM has expanded its research collaborations while increasing its clinical capacity to address Lansing’s need for more urologists.

MEDICAID AND OBESITY CARE
Pediatrics

The Department of Pediatrics’ commitment to clinical care continues to expand as Michigan’s long recession has caused many families to turn to Medicaid to ensure their children’s health.

“Our three clinics get enhanced Medicaid dollars because we are a university,” said Joel Greenberg, chairperson. “At current Medicaid rates, if you don’t get enhanced funding, you are losing money with each patient. Because of this, there are a limited number of physicians who do general pediatrics for children on Medicaid. We’re the largest provider in Ingham County and as many private practices are shifting their Medicaid patients to us, our role in providing such care grows.”

According to the State of Michigan’s Department of Human Services in 2000, 1.07 million Michiganians were eligible for some form of Medicaid assistance. In 2010, it swelled to more than 1.89 million. In Ingham County, 36% of the county’s children in 2008 were insured by Medicaid. That same year, nearly 50% of all babies in the county were born on Medicaid.

“Our next step is to open up an obesity unit within our existing clinics,” said Greenberg. “We think this model will work well since many of our current patients could benefit from such services as would children referred to us by other nearby practices.”

As they address the needs of the community, the department is also making improvements to their curriculum for students. “We’re modernizing the way we teach our courses both in using better technology and using teaching models better suited for adult learners. In the short term, this stresses the development as we learn how to best incorporate these methods, but in the long run, it will make things far easier for us and provide a better learning environment for our students,” said Greenberg.
Collaboration is a key element for the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) to provide services to the State of Michigan. One of its long-standing partnerships has been with Orangam, a re-entry facility for individuals with closed head injuries who need some cognitive retraining. MSUCOM, in partnership with Peckham Industries, manages the facility, which offers a different approach for recovery.

“Most rehabilitation centers use speech therapy as a way of redeveloping cognitive abilities,” said Chairperson James Rechtien. “At Orangam, they do this through ‘doing things,’” called cognitive perceptual motor (CPM) retraining. Drs. Margaret Fankhauser and Madhav Kulkarni are currently involved in research documenting the neurocognitive and motor skills after completion of the CPM program. Further research will focus on comparing our model with more traditional models. If the brain is not able to take information in accurately through the eyes, ears, and touch, then it cannot formulate an accurate plan. CPM works on improving accuracy and speed of processing using the principles of brain plasticity.”

Online teaching tools are another priority for PMR. “Dr. Richard Hallgren is developing online educational modules,” explained Rechtien. “His current project describes and illustrates tension pneumothorax. It includes computer generated three-dimensional animation to help viewers understand the progression of this pathology.”

“Dr. Lawrence Prokop as well as Hallgren are collaborating with other researchers to better understand fatty infiltrations of subcapsular muscle as a consequence of whiplash-type injuries,” continued Rechtien. “Understanding the mechanisms involved should help us with patients who sometimes develop chronic head and neck pain from this type of injury.”

PMR incorporates outside-the-box thinking in clinical settings as well. “We are the major consultants for Sparrow’s inpatient rehabilitation program,” said Rechtien. “Normally for inpatient rehabilitation, rehab physicians will manage the patient, and the internist and surgeons will be consultants. In the Sparrow model, the internist and surgeon manage the patient. It’s ideal because that means we are doing primarily rehabilitation. It’s worked well for the patients at Sparrow, and it’s worked well for us.”

PMR has a residency program in pediatric rehabilitation as well as residences which offer them training in treating spinal cord injuries. In addition to mentoring residents like Sayin Lee (left), James Sylvain (right), and other departmental faculty provide the majority of PMR consultations for Sparrow Hospital.

THE ONLINE CONNECTION
Psychiatry

Telepsychiatry — the art of using audio/video technology to connect physician and patient via the Internet for psychiatry services — is a growing part of the Department of Psychiatry. Through this mechanism, they are impacting the lives of Michiganders statewide.

“We have eight sites around the state. In many of these locations, we’re the only resource in the area for families in need of psychiatric services,” said Jed Magen, chairperson of the Department of Psychiatry.

Most of their work through telepsychiatry is with children; however, Associate Professor Deborah Wagenaar is providing geriatric psychiatry services to Harbor Beach Community Hospital in Michigan’s Thumb region. “Before we provided this service, if anyone at the local nursing home needed to be seen, a team would have to pack up the patient and drive all the way to Port Huron for treatment. This could take the entire day. Now they simply take the patient to a room set up to connect with us in Lansing via a television feed,” said Magen.

The department is also actively investigating acquired attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). “Acquired ADHD is different from the usual ADHD that we see,” explained Magen. “Children seem to develop ADHD after having a brain injury caused by cerebral malaria or perhaps MCI, or through a traumatic brain injury. Drs. Michael Boivin, Margaret Semrud-Cliessen and are looking at children who had cerebral malaria in Malawi as well as in Uganda. We know we are seeing cognitive issues, but there’s very little literature on acquired ADHD so we’re breaking new ground through this endeavor.”

Magen believes what they learn treating these children might be of help in treating those with traumatic brain injuries. “Many people with head injuries have inattention and impulsivity that was not there before the injury. Clinically they have similar problems, and the interventions are similar,” he said.

The department’s residency program trains about 20 general psychiatry residents, two child and adolescent psychiatry fellows, 80% of whom stay in the state to practice. “We are looking at how we can further expand our residency training programs in the state,” said Magen. “We think of the community we serve as the whole state of Michigan.”

A SWITCH IN LEADERSHIP
Radiology

The Department of Radiology is one of the university’s most dynamic departments, but soon changes will be happening among its leadership. “Jim Potchen will become chairperson emeritus for the Department of Radiology starting in January,” said Dean William Strampel. “Tom Cooper will become the acting chair while we convene a search for a new chairperson. Jim’s energy, vision and leadership have been instrumental in making Radiology the premiere department it is today. His successor will have to have some immense brick and mortar to fill and one of the finest departments to lead.”

Potchen, who has been the department chairperson since 1975, is the author or coauthor of 140 books, 41 chapters in books, 13 articles, 56 abstracts, dozens of book reviews and has given lectures around the world. He was also instrumental in obtaining the donation of an MRI from General Electric to support the work of MSUCOM, then from 1996 to 2005, he was co-director of the University Distinguished Professor of Radiology and Management in 1990, among his many achievements.

Even through this shift, the department has seen recent growth related to sports medicine. “We have recruited two musculoskeletal radiologists from the University of Virginia,” said Tom Cooper, associate chairperson. “We do a lot of musculoskeletal MRIs, but until recently we didn’t have anyone with fellowship trained expertise. Their services are being used not only by sports medicine, but by many clinics and surgeons.

“We also have two sports nutritionists now,” continued Cooper. “They’ve opened up a sports nutrition clinic in the Keys Building, the same building as the rest of our sports medicine team. The response has been overwhelming.

The nutritionists are also working with school age children thanks to a grant funded program called “Spartan’s for Health.”

“They go to different school systems, especially elementary schools, and do a complete analysis of the children’s health: taking blood samples, calculating body fat composition. They make recommendations for each child based on these data that are customized to the needs found in their student body,” said Cooper. “Their goal is to have a long-term impact on these children’s lifestyle and health. This is one of the creative ways we serve the needs of the community.”

Jeffrey Knake and Ryan Fajardo’s expertise in musculoskeletal radiology has been an asset to the Department of Radiology’s Sports Medicine division as well as to other local providers.
A Scottish Commute

Family has played an important role for David Hickling in uncovering one of his passions: playing the Scottish snare drum. “My mom’s family is from Scotland. My father was born in Canada, but grew up in Scotland,” said David. “I was with my mother, a Scottish Country dancer, and saw the bands playing, which got me interested in music. She started taking me to the band practices, which brought me to where I am today. It’s been such a huge part of my life.”

David has played in a number of groups over the years. He’s currently part of the City of Chicago Pipe Band – despite the demands of medical school.

“Last summer, we went to Ottawa, Canada, to compete,” said David. “I had to take a flight out on Friday night because I was in the middle of summer anatomy here, and left early Sunday morning so I could be back in time for the exam on Monday. We won the competition, but I was studying the entire time I was there.” Striking the balance between playing in a band in Chicago and attending medical school in Macomb County, Michigan, can be easier than it seems. “Once a month I have a mandatory band practice, but they understand that I may not always be able to show up,” he said. “One advantage about going to band practice: it gives me plenty of time to study on the trip there and back.”

Lessons

Before coming to MSUCOM, Maninderpal Dhillon spent time volunteering in hospitals, for the American Red Cross, and in orphanages. It was his time in hospice, though, which resonated most closely with his goals of becoming a physician. “Hospice was a tremendous experience because it taught me how to connect and care about patients who are going to pass away very soon,” said Maninderpal. “It was a touching experience. The patients had a lot of stories to tell me as well as advice. I learned through training that you want to become close with the patient, but you also have to leave a little distance because the patient will likely pass away in six months or less. It was a hard but important lesson.”

The lessons learned there taught Maninderpal an important aspect of medicine. “Sooner or later as a physician, I will lose a patient. I don’t know if I am ready to accept that yet, but I will work on that in the years to come. I am glad I got the exposure from hospice throughout my undergraduate school to prepare me for this future,” he said.

Through volunteering, Maninderpal (right) has learned a lot of life lessons.

From Big Apple to Motor City

It can literally be a big move when a student starts medical school. “I’m from New York and have never lived outside of the city until now,” said first-year student Latifa Pacheco. “It was crazy, leaving New York for the first time and in a matter of a couple of months, packing everything and moving to Michigan, but I knew this was the school I wanted to attend.”

Before coming to MSUCOM, Latifa had worked as an emergency medical technician, a nursing assistant and most recently as a peace officer for The City University of New York. “I was an officer who worked on a university campus. I was trained in firearms and received awareness training on weapons of mass destruction.”

“I have wanted to be a doctor since I was a child,” reflected Latifa. “I remember seeing my grandmother checking her glucose levels and giving herself insulin. I would always ask her why she was doing that. Later on, when someone was hurt, I’d be the one who grabbed the bandages and help.”

While her grandmother sparked her interest in medicine, Latifa’s six-year-old daughter is one of the reasons she hits the books every day. “She’s living with my aunt until I’m done with medical school. I miss her a lot, but I know in the long run going to school will work out better for both of us. I’m planning on staying in Michigan to practice medicine and bring her here as soon as I am able. I like it here. I think it’s a better environment for my daughter to grow up in. Compared to New York, it’s so quiet.”

Legislative Flu Shots

MSUCOM students with their faculty mentors prepared 500 state-elected officials and their staff for the upcoming flu season with the Legislative Flu Shots. The annual event is an opportunity to strengthen the awareness of osteopathic medicine among the legislature, a chance for students to hone their clinical skills, and to give the legislators a dose of osteopathic preventive care before the winter weather arrives.

Associate Dean Gary Willyerd (’78), C‘M Coordinator Alissa Harding, Associate Dean Margaret Aguna, Clinical Associate Professor Tony Ognjan (’83), residents Elizabeth Hanlon (’09) and Courtney Tabaka (’10)
By Jason Cody

A multidisciplinary team of Michigan State University researchers has been awarded $4.2 million to develop accurate clinical research tools for studying osteopathic manipulative medicine, a hands-on approach to the diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders.

Using a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, principal investigator Jacek Cholewicki is leading a team to research OMM, which focuses on improving patient function and mobility. What is unique is the team’s use of systems science, a branch of engineering that studies complex systems in a way that not only includes their parts but also how the parts interact to affect the entire system.

“We need to apply well-established engineering concepts to develop objective tools that will allow for the rigorous study of OMM,” said Cholewicki, who serves as a co-director of MSU’s Center for Orthopedic Research at Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital in Lansing.

Applying engineering concepts and systems science to osteopathic treatments provides an excellent framework for investigating the musculoskeletal system’s performance, said Jongeun Choi of the College of Engineering.

“Applying engineering concepts and systems science to osteopathic treatments provides an excellent framework for investigating the musculoskeletal system’s performance,” said Jongeun Choi of the College of Engineering.

“The challenge is to develop methods that can measure changes in the body, are accurate and are safe when applied on patients,” added engineering professor Clark Radcliffe.

“We have a major research university housing the nation’s leading osteopathic college with extensive resources in engineering and in complementary/alternative medicine,” said MISUCOM researcher Peter Reeves. “Additionally, the aggressive research agenda of Dean William Strampel and the partnership with Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital have provided an ideal environment for this type of research.”

Physicians, Engineers Team Up To Study Osteopathic Treatments

By Mark B. Nathan and Kristen L. DeBolt

We Ask, We Listen

Association recently conducted a membership survey to identify where our members feel we’re doing well and where we can improve. We will use the responses and member input that we receive to help the MOA diagnose where we should invest our efforts.

The MOA membership survey was statewide in scope and was sent to our members via email. Respondents were divided into six geographical regions and within those regions they were further divided by one of three membership status categories—active members, retired members and student members. Survey questions addressed six areas of the association including communications, education and legislative issues. This specialization will allow us to interpret our results and develop action plans that account for the varying needs of MOA members based on region, age and other factors.

Ultimately, our survey will help to reframe our association and more closely align the work we do with our members’ strongest interests and priorities. Much like an osteopathic physician, we not only want to diagnose the problem, we want to treat it and keep the MOA healthy and strong for many years to come. Look for information about the results of the survey in upcoming MOA publications.

We have programs for students interested in medicine. We have students who come into surgery and observe, for example. It’s exciting to see these kids as they start figuring out what they want to do for a career.”

Palazeti and his wife Linda have generously supported MSUCOM students as Beaumont Tower Society members (donors who have given between $25,000 and $49,999) and by being strong advocates for MSUCOM.

“I’m amazed with MSUCOM and all that it has accomplished,” said Palazeti. “During the summer I went to see my old friend Dr. Gary Willey at the new campus at the Detroit Medical Center. It was exciting to see what’s going on with the college in southeast Michigan. I’m looking forward to visiting the Maccabie site soon.”

Palazeti supports MSU athletics and donates to MSUCOM’s general fund. Next to establishing an endowment, giving to the general fund is one of the best ways to give the college the financial flexibility it needs to be the best osteopathic medical school in the country and one of the leaders in primary care.

“I was able to get through medical school relatively inexpensively,” explained Palazeti. “Nowadays, students are more in debt than ever before so it’s important for people like me to help them however we can. The generous support of alumni is what keeps MSUCOM strong, and even though the country is going through some tough economic times, it’s important we continue to support the college, especially now.”

As Michigan’s budget continues to be squeezed, alumni stepping up like Palazeti to aid the college and its students strengthen the backbone of MSUCOM, ensuring osteopathic physicians can serve Michigan communities for generations to come.

Shiawassee County is a mostly rural area filled with farms, pockets of forests, and small towns with small, close-knit communities. It’s very different from the more urban landscape where ’79 alumnus Joseph Palazeti grew up, but after 24 years with his practice in Owosso, Michigan, it’s a place he now calls home.

“I did most of my training at POH Regional Medical Center. It was a great place to learn and was right in the middle of Pontiac, Michigan. While I was working there, we called it ‘The Palace of Hope.’ When I finished my residency, I was planning on staying in the area, but then an opportunity opened up in Owosso. So in 1986 I became the only orthopedic surgeon in Shiawassee County.

I was by myself for a year, and then other doctors started joining the practice,” said Palazeti.

Today Palazeti’s team includes a number of D.O.s including ’94 alumna Rhonda Whelan and ’98 alumna Gary Branch. “Most of my colleagues over the years have spent some time training at POH,” said Palazeti. “We learned a lot about work ethics there and caring for our patients.”

That caring has extended to supporting area students interested in medicine. “We have high school, undergraduates and a few medical students shadow with us,” explained Palazeti. “The local high schools have programs for students interested in medicine. We have students who come into surgery and observe, for example. It’s exciting to see these kids as they start figuring out what they want to do for a career.”

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Alumna Jodi Flanders, Class of ’82, and her family have traveled outside of the United States before, but their travels as part of a cross-cultural program introduced them to a side of China seldom seen by visitors to the country.

“My daughter, Alycen, was adopted from China. I wanted her to visit her birth country before she graduated from high school,” explained Flanders. “She, my son Clinton and I joined a group organized by Cross Cultural Solutions to visit China. The goal was for our group to share some of our culture with members of our host country and they, in turn, would share their culture with us. We met a traditional Chinese medicine physician and an acupuncturist. One night we were introduced to a calligrapher and saw demonstrations of his art form. We also saw the terra cotta warriors and visited some of the area’s religious sites as well.”

The cultural experiences taught the family much about Chinese history and traditions, yet it was the time they spent volunteering at a local foster home which they remember best.

“A foster home in China is an orphanage that isn’t run by the government,” said Flanders. “The children in this foster home were special needs kids from all the local orphanages – which meant they had some sort of physical disability. Most of them had cleft [lip or palate] problems while most of the rest had heart defects. One of my favorites was born with a heart defect and his bladder was originally outside of his abdominal wall. He had surgery for the bladder problem shortly before we arrived, but still has a heart defect.

“It was very eye opening – especially for my kids,” continued Flanders. “They hadn’t seen children with these types of conditions before and how they and their nannies made so much from so little. There were 52 children in what would be considered to be a fairly small dwelling back in the U.S.”

While the original plan was for everyone to help the nannies with some of the day-to-day child care, that didn’t quite work out for Flanders.

“I didn’t want to be there medically. I don’t speak any Chinese, but as soon as I pulled out my bag and started working on him, everyone sort of knew what I did for a living,” said Flanders. “The very first day we spent at the orphanage, a child became acutely ill, and I helped with the situation. After that, the nannies would ask me to check different children throughout my time there.”

The best part of the trip was when an unknown benefactor donated a small blow-up swimming pool for the children. “The nannies spent all day getting the children ready to play in the pool, but there were so many children, they couldn’t all fit in at once. So the nannies brought out washtubs filled with water so the children could take turns playing in the pool and the washtubs. They did all of this on their own initiative. It took them all day to get everything set up, but the children so enjoyed it,” said Flanders.

Flanders’ trip to China has inspired her to make plans for another more medically oriented trip. “I’ve never done any overseas volunteer work before, but this trip has inspired me to do more. We enjoy traveling overseas helps open our eyes to the needs elsewhere.”
It has been a football season that has made us very proud of our green and white heritage. As we move into basketball season under the guidance of Tom Izzo, I hope these athletic successes help renew the excitement about who we are as physicians, the pride we have in MSUCOM, and how we can carry the core concepts behind osteopathic medicine farther and farther across the globe. We owe much of our expanding international role to fellow alumni traveling — often with current MSUCOM students — to the jungles of northern India, the vast plains of Africa, the mountain regions in Latin America and to areas of the world like Haiti where people are still recovering from immense natural disasters. They volunteer their time to care for many of the world’s most remote and indigent people.

The annual fundraiser benefits the MSUCOM student emergency loan fund, educational improvements, and the MSUCOM Alumni Association.

**OSTEOPATHIC OPEN**

Students, faculty, staff, and supporters flocked to the Eagle Eye Golf Course in Bath, Michigan for the twelfth annual Osteopathic Open which was held on September 24. While the weather was cool and crisp during the morning and temperate in the afternoon, the strong winds throughout the day made playing the course a memorable and often comical experience.

Some of the alumni participating in the Osteopathic Open included Mike Neumann (’88), Cathy Kerschen (’92), John Mackwood (’93), Grant Linnell (’97), Mick Kropulacik (’84), Joe Palazzetti (’79), Gary Branch (’98), Ron Miller (’84), and C. Barry Dehlin (’74).

**PUTTING OSTEOPATHIC PRIDE INTO ACTION**

I wish everyone the best this holiday season, but as you are traveling for vacation or medical mission trips, to visit loved ones, talk with legislators or stop by local schools to inspire children, let them know you are an osteopathic physician. Tell them the value preventive and holistic care bring to the medical field as well as our emphasis on the relationship between structure and function — an important concept at the musculoskeletal level all the way down to the molecular level. Let them know your D.O. pride!

Mary Jo Voelpel, D.O., president, MSUCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors

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WHAT’S INSIDE

2011 MOCF Ball
Saturday, February 5, 2011
Six O’Clock p.m.
The Henry – Autograph Collection, Dearborn
(formerly the Ritz-Carlton)

$250 per person - $2,250 per table of ten – seating is limited
RSVP for black tie optional reservations due by January 14, space permitting.

Overnight accommodations at The Henry, Dearborn are available by contacting (888) 709-8081 no later than January 14, 2011. Request the “MSU/MOCF Ball” reservation block in order to reserve the discounted group rate, limited availability.

If you desire further information, please contact MSUCOM at 517-355-9616 or https://mocfball.com.msu.edu