WE'RE DOING WHAT WE DO BEST ACROSS THE GLOBE.
**Staff Matters**

Connecting all the right people

by Nicholas Bruckman

While her office may not look like a hub for international communication, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Leedy connects with people around the world daily. “Some of my duties include providing travel support, I take care of MSU COM business, a figure that doesn’t even reflect the north-south trips! This time spent has a variety of purposes: seeding new opportunities for research, education, collaboration and service; promoting the osteopathic profession and osteopathic licensing, and identifying streams of income to support these initiatives.

Those who might be skeptical only need to look at the return on investment achieved by such trips by MSU COM’s charter dean, Myron S. Magen. His visits to Europe, Africa and elsewhere have been instrumental in expanding the college’s positive reputation, raised in tens of millions of dollars, and are an essential part of our mission.

In the 1970s, only Dean Magen and a few faculty were involved in promoting the osteopathic profession and osteopathic licensing. Relationships that resulted in the college’s positive reputation, raised in tens of millions of dollars, and are an essential part of our mission.

During the month of March, Leedy traveled across 28 time zones on MSU COM business, a figure that doesn’t even reflect the north-south trips! This time spent has a variety of purposes: seeding new opportunities for research, education, collaboration and service; promoting the osteopathic profession and osteopathic licensing, and identifying streams of income to support these initiatives.

While her office may not look like a hub for international communication, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Leedy connects with people around the world daily.

**Expanding Access to Medical Technology**

by Craig Reed

A new collaboration between the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology, the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology seeks to expand access to medical technology in areas such as neurological and muscular disorders. This collaboration will leverage the expertise of multiple departments to improve patient care and outcomes.

Dr. John Horner, a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation, recently traveled to the country to install the first of two electromyography (EMG) machines which are expected to play a critical role in future research and improving health outcomes for Zambian citizens. “I’ve been involved in this project for a few years now, and it’s been a dream come true,” said Horner. “The patients here have been waiting for this technology for a long time, and I’m excited to see the impact it will have on their care.”

Dr. Horner is also involved in teaching local technicians and physicians how to operate the EMG — which is the first of its kind in the country. “We’ve trained several technicians on the EMG, and we hope to continue providing additional training in the future.”

In conclusion, the collaboration between MSU COM and Zambia has the potential to revolutionize the treatment of neurological and muscular disorders in the country. With continued support and funding, this project could have a significant impact on the health of Zambian citizens.
**IN LATIN AMERICA**

**What Hands Can Do**

by Craig Reed

High in the mountain regions near Antigua, Guatemala, a team of U.S. physicians, residents and interns saw more than 2,100 patients during their two-week stay in March. The trip was organized by DOCARE International, a non-profit organization which seeks to address quality-of-life and social justice issues within Haiti. The Birth of Starfysh

by Craig Reed

When Steven Edmondson Sr. graduated from MSUCOM in 1988, he didn’t expect to form a non-profit to help the people of Haiti. "Twenty years ago, I was invited by a friend to join a medical mission trip to Haiti. At the time, I saw it as something fun to do," said Edmondson. "Once I was down there, it became one of those larger than life experiences for me. It gripped me. I knew I had to do more than a one-time trip." With each journey to Haiti, Edmondson’s endeavor grew. "At first I went by myself. Over the years, I started bringing teams of doctors and nurses with me. Later, construction workers, teachers and those with agricultural experience started to join me as well. Then I started fundraising for supplies and equipment for the hospital I work with down there," he said.

A few years ago, Edmondson took the next step and established Starfysh, a non-profit organization which seeks to address quality-of-life and social justice issues within Haiti. "I formed the non-profit to better leverage my resources," said Edmondson. "As we were organizing, the earthquake struck Port-au-Prince. As quickly as we could, we had three airplanes filled with people and supplies to open a field hospital at the quake epicenter. It was a watershed moment for me. I’m busier than ever these days — learning the ins and outs of administrating a relief non-profit. It’s something I just feel called to do... go to Haiti and work with the poor."

**Combating HIV**

by Jason Cody

While global attention to HIV/AIDS remains strong, a lack of focus on prevention strategies is stonewalling health experts in many developing nations, specifically in the Caribbean.

"Both Haiti and the Dominican Republic have struggled to respond to the epidemic of HIV/AIDS based on the resources available to them," said Beca Nasari, director of IIH and an associate dean in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "We have developed an academic approach to address the critical role of HIV prevention with a primary focus on cultural competency."

That approach involves training and mentoring opportunities for local health care professionals, including nurses and social workers, said Nasari, who presented the plan at the Global Risk Forum’s One Health Summit 2012 in Davos, Switzerland, on Feb. 19-22. The summit provides a forum for cross-disciplinary approaches to human health, highlighting the interconnections of human, animal and environmental health with food safety and security. "Our need assessment survey indicates screening for sexually transmitted diseases is a vital HIV prevention tool in at-risk communities, especially among the youth," said Nasari, noting the primary route of HIV transmission is sexual encounters. "Our approach also will develop a telemedicine connection with selected partners to strengthen HIV prevention." The barriers to sustainable HIV programs are numerous, including lack of resources and trained personnel, cultural hurdles, the absence of a sustainable HIV prevention policy and inadequate funding. But the need is too great not to act, he said. "Treatment alone will not reverse the epidemics of HIV in the endemic regions of the world."

**What Hands Can Do**

by Craig Reed

High in the mountain regions near Antigua, Guatemala, a team of U.S. physicians, residents and interns saw more than 2,100 patients during their two-week stay in March. The trip was organized by DOCARE International with support from Botsford Hospital, POH Regional Medical Center and Mt. Clemens Regional Medical Center. Second-year student Elizabeth Allbright was one of seven MSUCOM students to participate.

"I spent the first day working in dermatology. The conditions we saw were in a more advanced stage than what you would find in the United States, where it would have been handled much earlier. Many patients were seeing a doctor for the very first time," said Elizabeth. "Every woman who came into our clinic over the age of 40 suffered head and neck pain, and a cough they’d had for years. I learned the neck pain was from carrying heavy loads on the top of their heads while walking the mountain passes, and the chronic cough came from cooking over a fire every day."

Many of the patients responded well to osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM). "It was exciting to see how OMM helped so many of them," said Elizabeth. "You could see the relief on their faces almost immediately."

"I loved the opportunity I had and hope to keep participating in overseas medical trips throughout my career," continued Elizabeth. "You help others, but you also learn about other countries and their cultures. There’s so much out there to experience."
**COMMUNIQUÉ**

**SUMMER 2012**

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

Strampel brings lessons of osteopathic medicine to South Korea

by Jason Cody

Dean William Strampel recently led a delegation of health officials to South Korea with hopes of expanding the reach of the U.S. model of osteopathic medicine.

Strampel, with Reza Nassiri and Sung Soo Chung, both of MSU’s Institute of International Health, and officials from the American Osteopathic Association, petitioned for recognition of U.S.-trained osteopathic physicians in the country and to establish research programming with some of its local hospitals and universities.

Korean Health Minister Che Min Rim embraced the idea of osteopathic medical licensure in Korea, which would allow MSU to train future Korean osteopathic physicians. Rim also has agreed to look into licensing U.S.-trained osteopathic physicians in the country.

"My Marines are always importing themselves, both in their work and recreation. I’ve been able to use OMM to help them, which pilots especially appreciate since they can’t take a lot of medications while operating a plane," said Spring.

When the 9.0 earthquake struck Japan on March 11, 2011, Spring’s squadron was one of the first to respond to the crisis. “We brought supplies into the areas that were hit the hardest,” she said. “We weren’t expecting the nuclear reactor problems so we had to adapt as soon as we found out about them. I had everyone drinking fruit punch laced with the liquid iodine I had until we knew if we were being exposed to any of the radiation.”

**IN ASIA**

**Eastern Medicine on the West Coast**

by Craig Reed

In Seattle, Washington, Daniel Bensky, Class of 1982, practices both osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) and East Asian medicine. His interest in the healing arts began as an undergraduate when he took a trip to Taiwan to improve his Chinese language skills.

“During the trip, I fell ill with a high fever and was steadily getting worse each day despite seeing a number of M.D.’s, both local and Western,” said Bensky. “Finally one of my friends took me to a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, and I got better—quite quickly thanks to his efforts.”

After he fully recovered, Bensky stayed in Taiwan to learn East Asian medicine—a practice with roots thousands of years old, which uses a combination of acupuncture, herbs and massage as well as lifestyle and dietary advice to treat patients. Bensky has spent time translating East Asian medicine documents into English, including an 800-page book he worked on while attending MSUCOM.

“There’s a lot of research being done on these practices and how they can help with problems such as pain, nausea and allergies,” noted Bensky. “I often use acupuncture, for example, to treat patients with chemotherapy-induced nausea. There are a number of challenges though. It’s hard to conduct a double-blind control study of this—a challenge shared by OMM researchers. Also, the paradigm of East Asian medicine is different from Western medicine. It’s like translating between two different languages since they approach disease and healing in different manners. There’s a lot more work which should be done to fully understand those practices.”

**Caring for Marines**

by Craig Reed

After graduating from MSUCOM in 2006, Leah (nee: Kohler) Spring joined the United States Navy to become a flight surgeon. Today she can be found in the western Pacific—from Australia and Singapore to Japan—keeping the Marines ready for challenges.

“I’m the flight surgeon for a KC-130 Marine squadron. We transport people and supplies, and perform aerial refueling as well as aerial drops,” explained Spring. Spring splits her time between a clinic at her base and working with her squadron. "My Marines are always importing themselves, both in their work and recreation. I’ve been able to use OMM to help them, which pilots especially appreciate since they can’t take a lot of medications while operating a plane," she said.

When the 9.0 earthquake struck Japan on March 11, 2011, Spring’s squadron was one of the first to respond to the crisis. “We brought supplies into the areas that were hit the hardest,” she said. “We weren’t expecting the nuclear reactor problems so we had to adapt as soon as we found out about them. I had everyone drinking fruit punch laced with the liquid iodine I had until we knew if we were being exposed to any of the radiation.”

**Student garners national award for cleft palate research**

by Jason Cody

An MSUCOM student has been awarded the prestigious Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health for a project to identify the causes leading to cleft palate.

Youssef Kousa, a fifth-year candidate in the college’s D.O.-Ph.D. program, will receive $65,000 over 21 months for tuition, fees and a stipend. “I am excited and humbled by the opportunity,” said Youssef of the award. “I hope to give something back with my research.”

As a D.O.-Ph.D. student, Youssef has focused his research on understanding the causes of cleft palates.

Spring takes a lot of pride in her squadron and their work. "Marines are very health conscious, respectful and get themselves into situations you don’t usually see in the citizen world," she said. "They do this willingly, not just for their country, but for their buddies standing right next to them."
On behalf of the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation and the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the 2012 MOCF Ball – “Puttin’ on the Glitz.” More than 900 guests joined us for a wonderful evening in support of the college and the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation.

We are pleased to report that the 2012 event generated net proceeds of more than $365,000, a new record for the event. All of the proceeds will be added to the MOCF endowment fund at MSU. Over the past seven years, this event has resulted in an increase of nearly $1.2 million to the endowment, supporting student scholarships, community outreach, and educational programs at MSUCOM.

We anticipate that next year’s event will be another sold-out evening, so we encourage you to mark your calendars now for the 2013 MOCF Ball, which will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at The Henry – Autograph Collection, Dearborn.

Thank you again for your support of the MOCF, MSUCOM, and the osteopathic profession in the state of Michigan. Together we DO make a difference!
Office of Continuing Medical Education

Upcoming Programs

INTEGRATED NEUROMUSCULAR AND MYOFASCIAL RELEASE
September 7-9, 2012
MSUCOM, Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI
• 20 IA Credits

FALL KALEIDOSCOPE: CME FOR OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS
September 21, 2012
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
East Lansing, MI
• 8 IA Credits

CARDIOLOGY UPDATE
October 3, 2012
University Club, East Lansing, MI
• 6 IA Credits

CRANIOSACRAL TECHNIQUES: PART II
October 5-6, 2012
MSUCOM, Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI
• 36 IA Credits

EXERCISE PRESCRIPTION AS A COMPLEMENT TO MANUAL MEDICINE
October 19-22, 2012
MSUCOM, Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI
• 26 IA Credits

ADVANCED MUSCLE ENERGY WITH CLINICAL CORRELATIONS
October 25-29, 2012
MSUCOM, Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI
• 34 IA Credits

OMF FOR THE PREGNANT AND NEWBORN PATIENTS
November 10, 2012
MSUCOM, Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI
• 8 credits of AOA Category 1-A

PRINCIPLES OF MANUAL MEDICINE
November 30-December 3, 2012
MSUCOM, Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI
• 30 IA Credits

WWW.COM.MSU.EDU/CME
Phone: (517) 353-9714
Toll Free: (800) 437-0001

CME Highlight: Jake Rowan
by Craig Reed

In the past year, MSUCOM has been growing its relationships with Mérida, Mexico—a large city on the Yucatán Peninsula. The college has helped the city’s hospital acquire a hyperbaric chamber and plans to send kidney dialysis machines as well later this year. CME instructor Jake Rowan, Class of 1997, is involved in another important facet of this partnership: exposing the region to osteopathic medicine and establishing Mérida as a teaching site for the college.

“We’re exploring sending faculty and having third- and fourth-year students do OMM rotations down there. We’re also looking at opportunities to take first- and second-year students there as well, and there may also be opportunities for residents in the Statewide Campus System too,” explained Rowan. “This is a region that has few resources, lacks the latest technology and a lot of people have musculoskeletal issues from all the manual labor they perform in their jobs.”

When not overseas, Rowan teaches OMM to MSUCOM students as well as participants in CME’s “Principles of Manual Medicine” and “Manual Medicine Related to Sports and Occupational Injuries to Extremities” courses. “Being in Mérida increases our college’s international exposure and adds more opportunities for our students to see what it’s like working outside of the United States,” said Rowan. “These experiences help them learn about the different needs of different communities, how those needs fit with our goals and what role osteopathic medicine can play.”

AOA CME Deadline Approaches!

All osteopathic physicians have until December 31, 2012, to fulfill the AOA continuing medical education (CME) requirements, which includes completion of 120 CME credit hours, 30 of which must be AOA Category 1A, in the three-year CME cycle.

Do you know your status?

You may check the status of your current CME credits by going to the AOA website at www.osteopathic.org. CME Activity Reports (CARs) are available for AOA members 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To view and print the latest copy of your CAR, log in with your AOA ID and password or click “Create an Account” to create a password for AOA member access. You must have or create an account with the AOA to use this Internet-based system. You may also check your current CME credits by calling 800-621-1773 and selecting option “4” to be connected to the AOA CME department.

Get your credits via your alma mater!

We are pleased to offer multiple one-day CME programs throughout the year as well as our well-earned manual medicine programs. Additionally, we offer up to 56 hours of online CME. You may access all of our CME offerings at www.com.msu.edu or call us directly at 800-437-0001.

Development

Developing World Focus
by Craig Reed

Alumni and other professionals don’t hold a monopoly on establishing endowments. Third-year students Shane Sergent and Joseph Gorz, thanks to community support and frugal budgeting, formed a new endowed fund to aid student overseas efforts.

“Joe and I have had a lot of great experiences traveling to Peru on medical service vacations each year. We wanted to give others a chance to have such experiences as well,” said Shane.

The trip is one of the major activities of the International Health Project, an MSUCOM student group which focuses on offering students overseas experiences.

“Dr. [Jany] Wiltwyk, who is the advisor for this trip, commented on one occasion that it would be nice if we could find a way to start with more money for supplies each year so we’d have a buffer,” said Joe. “We’ve hit our fundraising target each year and slowly built up a reserve.”

That reserve was made possible thanks to merchants offering the students deep discounts on the medical supplies they need for the trip, and excellent student leadership and fundraising activities. With the fund, students will be able to expand their studies on water quality, lead exposure in children and other important research to anywhere they travel to aid communities.

“We couldn’t have done all this without Dr. Wiltwyk. He’s mentored us through the process of how to conduct these trips as well as how to give back to the college,” said Joe. “Scholarships and funds are something that will be here for other students after we’ve graduated.”
MSUCOM’s Class of 2012 finished the final day as medical students and began their first day as physicians and alumni at the Hooding and Commencement Ceremony which was held May 3 at the Wharton Center on MSU campus. Keynote speaker Robert Ward reflected on the history of the osteopathic profession from a few years after the death of the profession’s founder, A.T. Still, while Dean William Stramel and Michigan Osteopathic Association President Kurt Anderson offered their congratulations and well wishes to the graduates.

Robert Ward was this year’s keynote speaker.

More than 90 alumni and their family and friends joined MSUCOM faculty and staff in La Romana, Dominican Republic March 3-10 for the annual “Healthy Lifestyle and Preventive Care: Future Directions” CME program. Participants enjoyed the stunning scenery and Dominican beaches while earning 20 hours of AOA Category 1A CME credit.

Upcoming Events

- **September 21**
  - Osteopathic Open
    - Forest Akers West Golf Course
    - East Lansing, Michigan
- **September 21**
  - Silverfest Reception
    - Kellogg Center, Big Ten C
    - East Lansing, Michigan
- **September 22**
  - Silverfest Football Tailgate
    - Demonstration Hall Field
    - East Lansing, Michigan
- **October 7-11**
  - Osteopathic Medical Conference and Expo
    - San Diego, California
    - Alumni reception at the House of Blues on the 9th
- **October 17-21**
  - American College of Osteopathic Internists Annual Convention
    - Orlando, Florida
    - Alumni reception on the 18th
As my tenure as president of your alumni association comes to a close, I find myself admiring the global impact MSUCOM has had on medical education and medical care. Every year faculty, students and alumni travel overseas to countries like Peru, Guatemala, and Brazil to offer care to indigent people – especially those living in remote regions. For those participating the first time, it is an eye-opening experience on life and poverty. You quickly understand how much we sometimes take for granted. For seasoned veterans, these trips are reminders of why we choose to practice medicine. Our efforts not only allow us to help those in need, but also educate the host country on osteopathic medicine – the first step toward allowing D.O.s full practice licensure there and in surrounding states.

These efforts, combined with headline news from fellow D.O.s like Terrie Taylor with her extensive work on fighting malaria in Africa, grow the world's awareness of our profession and, with that, expand our ability to serve more communities across the globe. As health issues hit the international stage, we must find our place in worldwide efforts to use our knowledge for “treating the whole person” to serve the whole global community. I look forward to the day when the term “osteopathic medicine” needs no explanation and is a household phrase synonymous in everyone’s mind to caring, compassion and quality medicine.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your president. It has been an honor and an experience which I will not forget. We have accomplished a lot together. I am confident that Mary Louder from the Class of 1993, as she takes the baton to lead our association in the coming days. Go Green!

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

For a complete listing of MSUCOM events check out our Web calendar: www.com.msu.edu and click on “Calendar”

2012

JUNE

11 Convocation and White Coat Ceremony – 11 a.m. – Wharton Center, MSU campus

15 Master of Science in Osteopathic Medicine (MSOM) Summer Updates for Fall 2013 – 9:30 a.m. – HA 1610, East Fee Hall

15 MSUCOM Alumni Breakfast with the Dean – HA 1610, East Fee Hall

JULY

23 Alumni who graduated in the 1960s and 1970s are invited to the MSUCOM 50th Anniversary Celebrations – 4 p.m. – crackers and champagne in the atrium of the MSUCOM Alumni Office in the Lutz Building

AUGUST


SEPTEMBER


OCTOBER

5-9 CME: Craniosacral Techniques Part II – 35 credits of AOA Category 1A. Fee Hall, MSU campus. www.com.msu.edu/cme, Meghan Tappy DiPiazza or Sara Carson at 517-353-9799 or cme@com.msu.edu.

7-11 Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition – San Diego, California. Alumni reception at the House of Blues on the 9th.


3-5 Convocation and White Coat Ceremony – 11 a.m. – Wharton Center, MSU campus

ALUMNI OFFICE

MSUCOM alumni, family, staff, and current students take advantage of the Alumni Association’s annual meetings of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at the Michigan State University East Lansing, MI. www.msu.com.edu/moafs, Meghan Tappy DiPiazza or Sara Carson at 517-353-9799 or cme@com.msu.edu.

WHERE ARE YOU?

GRAND RAPIDS

Alumni and friends in west Michigan gathered on March 16 at the Metro Health Conference Center in Wyoming, Michigan where they met with Peak William Scholl, M.D., president of the college, and other faculty. More than 40 participants reconnect with their peers and received an update on the college from the dean.

Edward Lee (’78), Ken Kendall (’78), Vladimir Ferrer (’01), Paul Gauthier (’79), Paul Kovack (’90), Brad Clegg (’84), Corbin Redli (student), Theresa Rouse (’84), Cameron Kielhorn (student), Eric Walchak (’97), Joanne Grzeszak (’76), Susan Sevensma (’82), Amanda Huver (’89)
JOIN US
in celebrating
the Classes of
'77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02

OSTEOPATHIC OPEN 2012
September 21
Forest Akers West Golf Course

SILVERFEST 2012
September 21
CME and Reception
MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center

September 22
Tailgate and Football Game
MSU vs. Eastern Michigan