SPARTAN
SPRINGBOARD
FOUR DECADES AND NEARLY
5,000 HEALING ALUMNI
Forty years of innovation to produce exceptional physicians

It has been 40 years since the first hooding marked the transformation of students into osteopathic physicians at MSUCOM. They were graduates who had started as pioneers at the private Michigan College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pontiac in 1969, and made the move to the East Lansing campus when it became part of Michigan State. Since that first hooding, with our 2013 graduating class of 285, fully 4,904 osteopathic physicians have emerged from our college to heal, serve and contribute to the knowledge base of medicine. Throughout those four decades, MSUCOM has continually innovated, grown and excelled. This issue of Communiqué reflects the cutting edge of some of our most recent efforts.

- Our clinical work in family medicine, dialysis, and hyperbaric medicine and educational programs in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, has deepened and widened our global impact
- Our partnership with the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority in graduate medical education both increases funded residency slots and will provide much-needed health care to the area’s most vulnerable populations
- The new Healthcare Leadership Academy for Compassionate Care and the Joy Initiative are innovative approaches to developing empathetic, sensitized professionals
- New instruction to enhance career and professional development and interprofessional education in ethical decision-making with law and nursing students equip the next generation of D.O.s for the challenges ahead
- We say farewell to an iconic figure for both MSUCOM and the osteopathic profession – Philip E. Greenman, D.O.

There is no doubt that MSUCOM has grown into a truly unique institution – one that cares for individuals, cuts wide swaths in education and research, and has truly global impact. We stand on the shoulders of giants, and have a worthy tradition to carry forward to enhance the future - together.

William D. Strampel, D.O., Dean

Compassion South of the Border

Travel south of the U.S. border to Mérida, the capital of Yucatán, Mexico, and you’ll find many in serious need of basic health care. You’ll also find physicians and medical students from MSUCOM who are working to change that.

For the past two years, faculty from MSUCOM, in conjunction with the Institute of International Health, have been working with leaders in the Yucatán’s health system to develop clinical programs that benefit the health of the area’s six million inhabitants.

In Mexico, hospitals are arranged by insurance coverage and ability to pay. Agustín O’Horán is the hospital in Mérida that is designated for those without coverage and no means to pay. It is a very busy place where patients line up on the sidewalk for hours and get into the emergency room for two days or more on a gurney in the hallway. MSUCOM physician Jake Rowan moved to Mérida to work at O’Horán and lead MSU’s on-site work necessary to best meet vital health needs, including the treatment of diabetes and kidney-related illnesses. Already 40 dialysis units and a hyperbaric chamber are up and running, and now the college is partnering to build Mexico’s first osteopathic clinic.

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“This is an ongoing opportunity for medical students to come and learn.”

Rowan’s “office” at the hospital doubles as a room where he and other physicians treat patients. There is a hyperbaric chamber in the corner that MSU helped the hospital obtain that sees a constant stream of patients. And while he may have a clear mission, he wants it to be clear that he is not on a mission. “This isn’t mission work,” says Rowan. “This is an ongoing opportunity for medical students to come and learn. It is a collaborative effort that is beneficial to MSU, the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the great people of Mérida, Mexico.” With a mega-watt smile and easy-going manner, Rowan gets excited when he talks about the program in Mérida.

“From an educational standpoint, international health electives like this enhance the student experience by providing essential health skills that are crucial in a globalized society,” he says. “This initiative expands the international reach of MSU, MSUCOM, and osteopathic medicine. The program also expands the university’s research opportunities. O’Horán Hospital and the research universities in and around Mérida offer numerous areas in which we can collaborate with local partners to study our mutual interest in any number of fields including medicine, geology, agriculture, and many others.” And what legacy does Rowan hope to leave behind in Mérida?

“I hope that I’m totally insignificant and that the program continues on and no one cares or remembers who started it,” says Rowan. “I just want students to always be able to come and do research and learn and go on.”
**New Collaboration in Detroit Generates Six Residencies, 85 Slots**

By Andy McLishen

MSUCOM and the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority have created an innovative, community-based model for training osteopathic residents and providing care to underserved communities with $21 million in new federal funding.

The Health Resources and Services Administration grant establishes a teaching health center in Wayne County to involve postgraduate rotations through Federally Qualified Health Centers, free clinics, community mental health services and other provider sites. It also funds 85 new primary care positions in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, geriatrics and gynecology.

“This collaboration at this level is a win-win situation for MSU, the Health Authority and the health care safety net,” said Dean William D. Stempel. “Our collective goal as a consortium is to create an environment that produces primary care physicians who train and remain in medically underserved areas of greater Detroit.”

The grant stems from the Teaching Health Center initiative, a five-year federal program designed to increase the number of primary care medical and dental residents training in community-based settings. Residency funding comes through the Affordable Care Act.

“The direct involvement of the medical school will improve the quality of medical care provided to the underserved,” said 76 alumnus John Sealey, who will coordinate the residency program. “This patient population provides a wealth of clinical pathology essential for the training of primary care physicians.”

**Future DOcs Expands to Macomb**

By Craig Reed

Opportunities for high school students to explore health care career paths have grown in Macomb County thanks to a new Future DOcs program which allows providers from across the county to showcase their expertise to area students.

“Opportunities for high school students to explore health care career paths have grown in Macomb County thanks to a new Future DOcs program which allows providers from across the county to showcase their expertise to area students. “We meet at the hosts’ offices so they have a chance to show off their facilities to the students as well as their technology they use,” said Snyder. “It’s been a lot of fun for the students since there are a lot of hands-on opportunities. A friendly competition has started among the hosts to see who can put on the best, most exciting program. It’s great to see how enthusiastic all the professionals have been in showcasing their trade.”

Participants have, for example, toured the medical examiner’s office, worked with the machines involved in LASIK eye surgery as well as Da Vinci surgical systems used by urologists. “This program has been a huge success,” said Snyder. “When we reached out to local high schools, we didn’t know what to expect. We ended up with more than 100 applications from students at 41 area high schools, which was amazing. Our kickoff event was completely full with families despite blizzard conditions outside. We’re excited by how the community has embraced this program.”

Though different in its approach, Macomb’s Future DOcs is an outgrowth of a program — begun by MSUCOM’s Office of Admissions at Benjamin Carson High School in Detroit — which has expanded to include three schools in Wayne County.

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Osteopathic physicians who receive their postdoctoral education in this educational setting will be more likely to remain in the community, which will help address the shortage of health care providers in Detroit and Wayne County.”

The college, which has a full training site at the Detroit Medical Center, also maintains the Future DOcs program for out-of-our area residents to encourage young people to enter health careers, particularly osteopathic medicine. The program promotes health science careers among students who would otherwise not be exposed to opportunities in the field. It also provides medical residents with an opportunity to teach and mentor young students.

**MSU, Sparrow named Michigan’s first Comprehensive Stroke Center**

By Andrew McGlashen

The Sparrow Stroke Center, in collaboration with Michigan State University, has achieved recognition as the first facility in Michigan and one of only about 20 nationally to be certified as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission.

Nearly every family in America has been impacted by stroke in some way; stroke is the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause for disability among adults. The Comprehensive Stroke Center designation recognizes elite hospital stroke programs that have the infrastructure, well-trained caregivers and state-of-the-art equipment to diagnose and treat patients with the most complex strokes.

To earn the certification from the Joint Commission — an independent, nonprofit that certifies health care facilities in the United States — providers must demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to stroke. The foundation for this designation was laid by the collaborative efforts among stroke specialists at Sparrow’s MSU Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology, MSU HealthTeam and Lansing Neurosurgery to treat complex stroke patients.

James Cady, 42, of East Lansing suffered a massive stroke and was promptly treated at the center, which is staffed by physicians from Sparrow and MSU HealthTeam. He has made a remarkable recovery with barely any residual effects from his stroke and continues to receive rehabilitative treatment.

“The care from Sparrow and MSU is top-notch,” Cady said. “My stroke was serious enough that I could have died. Instead, I am able to continue my active lifestyle as a runner thanks to the excellent care I received.”

According to the American Stroke Association, nearly 800,000 Americans suffer a stroke each year. That means on average a stroke occurs every 40 seconds. Many are fatal, with an American dying of a stroke about every four minutes.

Often, patients who survive will face a lifetime of serious physical disabilities. During a rigorous evaluation process that included a two-day site visit, Joint Commission experts reviewed the center’s compliance with the Comprehensive Stroke Center standards and requirements, including advanced imaging capabilities, 24/7 availability of specialized treatments and staff with the unique education and competencies to care for patients with complex strokes.

The Sparrow Stroke Center is also at the forefront of stroke research, with experts in neurology, neurosurgery, cardiology, radiology, critical care, emergency medicine, nursing, rehabilitation services and other fields.

“We are honored to have met the Joint Commission’s very rigorous standards and to put Sparrow on the map as a truly world-class stroke center,” said Syed Hussain, medical director of stroke services at Sparrow and an MSU Health Team neurologist.

“Michigan State University and Sparrow are committed to constantly improving the quality of our care and providing patients the best possible treatment at all stages of stroke.”

The Sparrow Stroke Center has been nationally recognized for excellent service for nearly a decade, earning numerous awards such as the distinction of a Gold Plus Performer by the American Stroke Association and was first certified as a Primary Stroke Center in 2004.

“The groundbreaking work that’s being done at our stroke center is helping to save lives and prevent future strokes from occurring,” said Tom Ostrander, Sparrow vice president of professional services.

The Sparrow Stroke Center also is ranked among the nation’s fastest for the delivery of powerful stroke-stopping treatments, making it one of America’s best hospitals for stroke treatment.

“We are so pleased to help bring this level of care to the Lansing area,” said Richard T. Ward, CEO of MSU Health Team. “Our combined clinical capabilities mean patients here have access to the best medical expertise not just in stroke, but in a wide range of health conditions.”

Osteopathic physicians who receive their postdoctoral education in this educational setting will be more likely to remain in the community, which will help address the shortage of health care providers in Detroit and Wayne County."
Preparing for the Art of Caring

It’s been emblematic of the osteopathic profession that personal attributes of physicians, in addition to their being current with the science of medicine, are enormously important. Professionalism, compassion, leadership, great communication skills, strong ethics, and exemplary self-care—these are necessary to success as doctors, and these are all highlighted in recent initiatives at MSUCOM.

Planting the Seeds of Compassion

By Craig Reed

A new MSUCOM initiative will emphasize leadership and empathy among future osteopathic physicians as a way to improve health outcomes and the quality of the patient experience.

The Healthcare Leadership Academy for Compassionate Care was established early this year by college faculty, alumni and supporters who believe that mentoring tomorrow’s physicians—leaders in compassionate care—is the key to better health.

“Partly, the question is how to protect the system and work that we’ve already created,” said MSUCOM Counselor Celia Guro. “The relationship between the doctor and the patient is crucial. Compassionate care is about treating people with dignity. Diagnosis is important, but it’s also critical to be thoughtful and to listen to your patients.”

Currently 20 students are involved in the academy, which will host various events and activities throughout the year, such as the recent workshop with the Stuart Pettengill Dance and Theater Company, where students interacted with one another primarily through nonverbal communication and artistic expression.

“The soul and heart of osteopathic medicine is compassionate care,” said ’79 alumnus John Meulendyk. “We want to develop leaders who understand how to listen and support patients but who can also advocate effectively for improvements to the health care system.”

Honing in on Career Choices

By Craig Reed

When students begin their osteopathic studies, for most the vision of what type of practice and specialty they want is often less clear. Recently, an MSUCOM career development team has created an array of resources to help students to clarify their professional goals and understand how to compete more effectively for the residency positions in their chosen fields.

“Team members include Associate Dean Williams Falls, Beth Courey, Gillian Rice, Ken Peck, Terri Horn and John Meulendyk,” said Hortos. “We want to develop leaders who understand how to listen and support patients but who can also advocate effectively for improvements to the health care system.”

Teaching Resilience and Joy as Paths to Healing

By Pat Grauer

Miko Rose shakes her head when she says, “The concept of happiness is controversial in many corners,” often being seen as something too simplistic for professionals to consider.

But that has not stopped the MSU psychiatry resident spearheading The Joy Initiative, a program to help healthcare students learn skills to be resilient and joyful, themselves, and to model and teach that to their patients.

“She notes that 40-41% of medical students suffer burnout, and that as many as 11% of them have thoughts of suicide. Burnout that continues into residency is associated with a higher incidence of medical errors and decreased compassion in patient care. Techniques that are proving helpful include mindfulness training, positive behavioral therapy, and positive psychology exercises.

Working with mentor faculty Alyse Ley and Dale D’Mello and others in the Department of Psychiatry, Rose began by addressing the unique needs of students who are members of minority groups with monthly dinners. The first attracted more than 50 students, some faculty, and Dean William Strampel, Associate Dean William Fair and Admissions Director Marie Reger.

“We had planned focus groups, but the students attending were thrilled to have a voice, and were honored that the dean and others were listening to their concerns,” Rose said.

“The power of their stories created both communication and community that day.” Rose will continue to help these students and the MSUCOM Diversity Committee carry the torch forward.

Interprofessional Communication to Enhance Patient Care

By Pat Grauer

It’s often evident to patients, but they feel helpless to control it. It’s often not evident to health care providers, who are individually trying to provide good care but miss the bigger picture. This negatively affects patient safety and satisfaction.

It’s poor communication, and Assistant Professor Elizabeth Petsche, ’13, is making a positive difference from the start of osteopathic education, developing change agents for the future. Key to that effort is a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on campus that includes representatives from the college, nursing, communication arts, speech pathology and the Learning Assessment Center.

“Many hospital patients, because of the number of people in and out of my office, I often didn’t know to whom I was speaking,” she said, “and it became apparent how vital it is that providers consider the patients and their advocates as part of the team, and not leave them out of the communication loop.”

Equally crucial, notes Petsche, is interprofessional communication among healthcare teams—understanding clearly the roles each plays, how communication is important to satisfy those roles, and how it impacts patient safety when it fails apart.

Beginning in Fall 2011 the FLC began working with a self-selected group of MSUCOM students and MSU College of Nursing students aimed at fostering positive and effective teamwork.

In 2012-13, the FLC expanded the number of opportunities offered and developed a three-part patient safety series that included basic, nursing and team students, who did a root-cause analysis of a case that went wrong in a local hospital.

Applying these ideals in the clinic requires learning the business of medicine, as Jason B. Beckrow, Class of 2000, is quick to acknowledge. We opened Lighthouse Oncology in 2010 as a means of delivering the type of care that we value and is celebrated at MSUCOM. To do this we needed to become savvy business people and learn how to demonstrate the value of the oncologic approach we envisioned. I’ve found this new format to be more satisfying because we are delivering better care to our patients and retaining our professional autonomy. I’ve never been more satisfied professionally.

Petsche also emphasizes these issues in a two-hour lecture block as part of her course “Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Law,” and is working to find other ways to incorporate interprofessional education in the curriculum for all students.

“Weakness is vital to good health care,” said Petsche. “It impacts patient safety, patient satisfaction. It’s my hope that all of our students can have the same exposure to these educational opportunities.”

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“Then,” she says, “they’ll be able to speak for themselves.” The team is planning a 10-week elective for students from both MSUCOM and the College of Human Medicine. Each class will include 20 minutes of contemplative art practice and relaxation/breath training, and 20 minutes of cognitive behavior therapy and positive psychology exercises addressing life satisfaction, thought examination and wellness.

This work during her residency is leading Rose, an American Psychiatric Association SAMMA Minority Fellow, to a lifelong goal: to provide resiliency and joy training to diverse populations in inner cities, with hope to focus next on Detroit. “These things ring true across human nature,” she said.

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COMMUNIQUÉ
SUMMER 2013

STAFF

CLASS OF 2013 GRADUATION

A valued tradition in a new venue

By Pat Grauer

As black-robed doctors-to-be filled chairs on the floor usually used for MSU basketball, family and friends in the seats whistled, cheered, shouted and waved at their personal champions. The Class of 2013, with 285 students, was the largest ever to graduate from MSUCOM and was the first to include students from all three sites – MSU campus, Macomb University Center and Detroit Medical Center. The graduates, who represented the pioneer class for the college’s expansion in 2009, also were trailblazers in being the first to receive their D.O. degrees at MSU’s Jack Breslin Student Events Center.

The keynote speaker, Norman E. Vinn, president-elect of the American Osteopathic Association, shared key questions that his father shared with him as preferable to competition as the measure of a person: “Am I doing a better job today than I did yesterday? Can I do a better job tomorrow?” He also offered three challenges to the graduates: to pursue a lifelong goal of personal growth, to accept the mantle of leadership, and to be a mentor and steward of the osteopathic medical profession.

Other speakers included Faylene Owen, MSU trustee; Edward J. Canfield, president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association; Devone T. Mansour, president of the class of 2013; Mary L. Louder, president of the MSUCOM Alumni Association; and William D. Strampel, dean.

STAFF

Beth Courey

Beth Courey, a name nearly synonymous with “students,” is a 34-year veteran staff member at MSUCOM. Serving as director of student organizations and special projects for the college’s expansion in 2009, Courey advises student government and works directly with the MSUCOM student organizations. She helps set policies, assists with fundraisers and elections, plans hooding, convocation/orientation, open house, specialty spotlight series, specialty exploration events, and base hospital visits and is responsible for ERAS (Electronic Residency Application System) for fourth-year students.

“I had worked in every unit in the Dean’s Office with the exceptions of Academic Programs and the Statewide Campus System, but Student Services is my home,” she said. “Working with Dr. [William] Falls and my colleagues here is a very rewarding experience. I love my job,” she said. “Of everything I’m involved in, hooding is the crème de la crème, because everyone in the college sees the fruits of our collective labor. I am very proud of the students who worked hard to get their end goal. It’s a hard time as well because you realize that you may never get to see those graduates again. It’s a pretty emotional day.”

Outside of her love for MSUCOM, Courey enjoys boating with her husband Roger in Traverse City, spending time with family and friends, and running her business, Coureygirl Jewelry. She designs jewelry from her hand-made glass beads (flame working).

By Sydney Beaudreault

COMMUNIQUÉ
SUMMER 2013
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 2013 MOCF Ball – “Puttin’ on the Glitz.”

The event sold out with 800 guests joining us for a wonderful evening in support of the college and the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation.

We are pleased to report that the 2013 event generated net proceeds of nearly $400,000, a new record for this event. All of the proceeds will be added to the MOCF Endowment fund at MSU. Over the past eight years, this event has resulted in an increase of more than $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 2014 MOCF Ball, which will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014, at The Henry – Autograph Collection, Dearborn.

Thank you again for your support of the MOCF, the MSUCOM, and the osteopathic profession in the state of Michigan.

Together we DO make a difference! We look forward to seeing you next year!
2012 Honor Roll

Donors to MSUCOM for January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

We express our sincerest thanks to our 2012 calendar-year donors who have dedicated themselves to keeping MSUCOM strong and have invested in the future of osteopathic practice. Their efforts are key to maintaining our position as the top osteopathic college in the United States — furthering our expansion globally, enhancing our professional education, nurturing our research, and providing much-needed scholarships for deserving D.O. students.

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Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Kielham
Dr. Michael and Konstantin Kolenko
Evelyn R. Lowen and Mrs. Leona J. Strampel
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Koman
Mark and Christine Kopek
Michelle T. Tugby-Austin, D.O. and James P. Austin
Fidel and Rosario Awe
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Krenen
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Dr. Michael and Konstantin Kolenko
Evelyn R. Lowen and Mrs. Leona J. Strampel
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Koman
In memory: Philip E. Greenman, D.O.

Internationally recognized as an OMM scholar and a gentleman

by Pat Grauer

One of the keystones of 20th-century osteopathic medicine in general and the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in particular, has passed away. Philip E. Greenman was a charter chairperson of the Department of Biomechanics, now known as the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. Professor of both OMM and physical medicine and rehabilitation, he found time before “retiring” to publish more than 200 papers, four books, and 11 educational modules. He served as the editorial advisor to ten professional journals and consulted for numerous governmental and private organizations.

When MSUCOM initially decided to expand its manual medicine series to physical therapists, it engendered some controversy. Three decades later, the cadre of physical therapists with this training has provided both creativity in its use, and expanded access to OMM care to many more patients. One prime example is the course “Exercise Prescription as a Complement to Manual Medicine,” to be held October 4-7 at MSUCOM’s Fee Hall. Under the leadership of physical therapist Mark Bookhout, who developed the concept in 1991, the course offers an intriguing extension of osteopathic practice—developing exercise programs based upon the patient’s biomechanics to help them maintain changes made with muscle energy therapy.

“I started learning osteopathic techniques in 1984 from the giants: Philip Greenman, Robert Ward, John Bourdillon, Fred Mitchell, Paul Kimberly, Barbara Briner,” he said. “It changed the focus of the way I practiced—more holistic, more patient-centered, with less emphasis on pain and more on structure and function. With these techniques, almost all of the time the pain improved.”

Also teaching in the course since 2005 is PT Lisa Chase, who attended MSUCOM’s CME courses. “It totally changed my practice after a couple of courses, and I was amazed at the results I got,” she said. “My go-to tools are what I learned at MSU.”

The CME program is open to medical students, residents, and fellows, as well as osteopathic practitioners and physical therapists. CE credit is available for both groups. Visit www.COM.MSU.EDU/CME to learn more.

Office of Continuing Medical Education

CME PROGRAMS

MUSCLE ENERGY: PART I
June 21 – 25, 2013
Restore Motion
Rockville, Maryland
• 34 credits of Category 1-A
• Chairperson: Lisa DeStefano, D.O.

FALL CME KALEIDOSCOPE
September 13, 2013
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
East Lansing, Michigan
• 8 credits of Category 1-A

EXERCISE PRESCRIPTION AS A COMPLEMENT TO MANUAL MEDICINE
October 4 – 7, 2013
MSUCOM East Fee Hall
East Lansing, Michigan
• 26.5 credits of Category 1-A
• Chairperson: Mark Bookhout, P.T.

DIRECT ACTION THRUST:
MOBILIZATION WITH IMPULSE
October 25 – 28, 2013
MSUCOM East Fee Hall
East Lansing, Michigan
• 27 credits of Category 1-A
• Chairperson: Carl Steele, D.O.

MANUAL MEDICINE RELATED TO SPORTS AND OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES TO THE EXTREMITIES
November 9 – 10, 2013
MSUCOM East Fee Hall
East Lansing, Michigan
• 15 credits of Category 1-A
• Chairpersons: Jennifer Gilmore, D.O.
and Jake Rowan, D.O.

PRINCIPLES OF MANUAL MEDICINE
December 6 – 9, 2013
MSUCOM East Fee Hall
East Lansing, Michigan
• 30 credits of Category 1-A
• Chairperson: Lisa DeStefano, D.O.

WWW.COM.MSU.EDU/CME
Phone: 517-353-9714
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Hands-On Treatment and Empowering Exercise

Mark Bookhout supplements muscle energy techniques with exercise.

Neubig Pharmacology chairperson

Richard R. Neubig was named professor and chairperson of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. He is the former faculty member at the University of Michigan since 1983, when he joined as professor of pharmacology, associate professor of internal medicine, and director of the Center for the Discovery of New Medicines. He is also 2012-13 president-elect of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, a 5,000-member professional organization.

His research deals with G proteins and their receptors—important as targets for nearly half the drugs on the market—and is showing that the current models oversimplify highly complex processes in the body. By exploiting these mechanisms, his group has identified new drug candidates that may have utility in cancer, fibrosis and mental depression.

Neubig received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and Ph.D. in pharmacology from Harvard University. He took his residency in internal medicine at University Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Cox to lead Physiology

Michigan State University has appointed Charles “Lee” Cox professor and chairperson of the Department of Physiology. He comes to MSU from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His chief research interest is neural plasticity, which is the brain's ability to adapt to changes in inputs and is essential for brain development and function. A goal of the research is to gain insight into pathological conditions such as epilepsy and Alzheimer’s disease, as well as developmental brain disorders such as fragile X syndrome.

Cox received his Ph.D. in physiological psychology/neuroscience from the University of California, Riverside, where he also received his master’s and bachelor’s degrees. He is a reviewer for several neuroscience journals and funding agencies including the National Institutes of Health. His research has been continuously funded by multiple NIH institutes and private research foundations.

Associate Dean Emeritus
Philip E. Greenman

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Also teaching in the course since 2005 is PT Lisa Chase, who attended MSUCOM’s CME courses. “It totally changed my practice after a couple of courses, and I was amazed at the results I got,” she said. “My go-to tools are what I learned at MSU.” Bookhout and Chase have since developed a software system, Rehab Links (rehablinks.net/), that includes exercises and videos to complement the course. J’Alene Lippert, an MSUCOM alumna, became involved with teaching in the program as a resident at Metro Health in Grand Rapids. “I love the collaborative approach to teaching and sharing information with P.Ts, and I’ve learned a lot from them,” she said.

“Why should D.O.s take this course? Advanced skills, like motor control and retraining, open your eyes to a whole new aspect of taking care of the patient,” Lippert said. “I can teach patients stretches and exercises that will empower them to go out and take care of themselves. Even if the physician doesn’t have time to actually teach exercises to the patient, he or she will have the knowledge and ability to collaborate with physical therapy in a much more meaningful and effective manner.”
Northern Exposure: Osteopathic Style

by Craig Reed

The Upper Peninsula and northern part of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula have some of the most breathtaking natural sites to see. They are also regions which tend to have chronic shortages of physicians. In the past, the Northern Michigan Osteopathic Association has supported MSUCOM students from their region (from Clare, north to the Upper Peninsula) with direct scholarships. This year, the organization is adopting a longer-term strategy by establishing an endowed scholarship.

“We have an annual convention each year at Mackinac Island that about 125 osteopathic physicians attend,” said NMOA Board Member Thomas Allum. “In the past we’ve used some of the revenues to support students in our territory in the hopes they will return to this region to practice medicine once they graduate.”

“When we discussed our options through the college’s development office, moving to an endowed scholarship was the logical choice,” said NMOA President and ’97 alumnus Keith Wright. “The return on investment is quite good. It allows us to indefinitely financially support students even when there are fluctuations in the conference revenues.”

“Now that the scholarship is established,” commented Jennie Klingshirn, NMOA’s conference organizer, “our main goal is to get the word out to students so they can apply for the scholarships and to other physicians in the area so they have the opportunity to donate to the scholarships as well.”

“We want to keep the osteopathic profession vibrant up here,” said Allum. “Reducing the cost of medical school is one of the ways we can keep D.O.s a part of northern Michigan landscape.”

Upcoming Events

August 1-4  MAOFP Summer Update
Acme, MI  Reception on August 2

Sept. 13  Osteopathic Open
Hawk Hollow Golf Course  Bath, MI

Fall CME Kaleidoscope
Kellogg Center  MSU Campus

Silverfest Reception
Kellogg Center  MSU Campus

Sept. 14  Football Tailgate
MSU vs. Youngstown State Demonstration Field  MSU Campus

Sept. 30-Oct. 4  OMEC: AOA’s Osteopathic Medical Conference
Las Vegas, NV  Reception on October 2

Oct. 9-13  ACOI Annual Convention
Palm Springs, CA  Reception on October 11

Old Friends, New Venue at MOA

After years at a hotel poolside, MSUCOM alumni enjoyed a new venue for the annual college reception at the Michigan Osteopathic Association – the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. It was an opportunity to gnos, exercise gnathions, and catch up on gnus!

From the Upper Peninsula to inner-city Detroit, MSUCOM alumni gather for the reception at MOA.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Please keep us informed of recent moves or changes in your practice. It is important for college reports, grant writing, etc., that we have up-to-date information on our alumni. Changes to your information can be made on the MSUCOM website under the alumni section or by calling 877-853-3448.

MSUCOM Alumni Office
965 Fee Road, Room A110  East Lansing, MI  48824

517-412-4979 or toll free 877-853-3448
email: kim.camp@hc.msu.edu
www.com.msu.edu/alumni
Finally spring is here and as usual it brings with it new beginnings. One new challenge we are facing as a profession is a possible combined osteopathic/allopathic graduate medical education system.

Understandably, there are strong feelings on either side of this issue. I graduated from MSUCOM with a strong osteopathic identity, completed a general osteopathic internship and followed that up with an allopathic family medicine residency. The allopathic residency saw the value of who I was as an osteopathic physician and quickly recruited and signed me during my internship year. I have no regrets.

While the profession faces this latest challenge, we’re also mourning the recent passing of Dr. Phil Greenman, who did an unbelievable amount for the profession... mentor. He has cast a large shadow at MSUCOM and throughout the osteopathic profession, and he will be missed by us all.

While Greenman and other icons helped forge the osteopathic identity, it is the internal compass we inherit when we join the profession. We are guided by the tenets of osteopathy as we navigate... leaders negotiating the GME changes should be encouraged to remember this as they work on this challenging issue.

Mary (Mark) Louder, Class of 1993
President, MSUCOM Alumni Association
Board of Directors

Alumni, faculty, friends and families all gathered at the opening reception for MSUCOM's program at Riu Palace in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.
New programs broaden southeast Michigan presence.

Four ways to teach the whole person.

PAGE 3

JOIN US
in celebrating
the classes of
'73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03

OSTEOPATHIC OPEN 2013
September 13
Hawk Hollow Golf Course, Bath, MI

SILVERFEST 2013
September 13
CME and Reception
MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
September 14
Tailgate and Football Game
MSU vs. Youngstown State