DIVING INTO OUR
COMMUNITIES
TO CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS
Addressing a sea change for GME

Many in the osteopathic profession were surprised by the recent announcement that the ACGME and the AOA were working together to meld residencies, giving all M.D. and D.O. graduates access to all M.D. and D.O. spots. We at MSUCOM are keeping a sharp eye on the proceedings in order to influence the conversation positively and to ensure that osteopathic alumni maintain access to high-quality graduate medical education.

The strong investment MSUCOM and our partner hospitals have made in our Statewide Campus System will keep us in good stead. In fact, SCS is being elevated as a model consortium as planning moves forward. In addition, every effort is being made to ensure that osteopathic principles and practices remain central to osteopathic residencies. The issue is extremely complex, and many of the details are still to be sorted out. I urge all Michigan D.O.s to remain abreast of the issue, to approach it with open minds, and to share their ideas to enhance the system. In order to help, we've established a space on the home page of the college website, “Dean's Corner,” to keep you informed on how your college is responding: com.msu.edu.

In this issue

Though modern medicine seems to be trying to pull it off, it’s pretty clear to those of us in the osteopathic profession that true healing can never be a robotic process. In addition to the presumption that good healers have great knowledge and skill, we must continue to recognize that the best physicians are those who also are great people — people who are other-centered, compassionate, committed to excellence, highly ethical and serving their communities.

Those are qualities we’ve always emphasized at MSUCOM, because those are qualities that have been the hallmarks of our profession since its inception. We recruit, role-model, teach and provide opportunities for these attributes to flourish.

You’ll find in this issue of Communiqué the stories of these exemplars — our alumni, students, faculty, and staff who continue to expand the definition of community and their roles in it. Enjoy!

William D. Strampel, D.O., Dean

Caring for Parkinson’s Patients through Research and Support

by Craig Reed

The National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke estimates there are at least one million individuals living with Parkinson’s disease in the United States with an additional 60,000 new cases diagnosed each year. While the exact cause of the disease remains unknown, and a cure has yet to be discovered, a team of physicians at MSU’s Parkinson’s Clinic goes the extra mile in providing support for patients outside the office.

“When I arrived in Lansing in 2001, I wanted to bring cutting-edge research to mid-Michigan for patients with this disease so they could benefit from the latest treatment options as well as contribute to bettering our understanding of Parkinson’s disease, including providing research data to the advanced clinical trials,” said 95 alumnus John Goudreau, Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology, who has research funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Michael J. Fox Foundation. “We do everything from studying how proteins like parkin protect neurons by allowing the cells to rapidly recover from Parkinson’s related damage, to studying how treating people with creatine, rasagiline, isradipine, lonigrel, or other developing therapies may slow the progression of the disease. Improving early disease detection is another priority. The sooner you detect it, the more neurons a patient has that you can protect.”

Goudreau believes early detection and slowing the progression could one day allow patients to lead full normal lives without significant loss of their physical function.

While research continues to shed more light on the disease, Goudreau, along with fellow neurologist Glen Ackerman, travel across the state to educate physicians and patients alike on the latest findings.

“In the medically underserved areas of the state, there are often not enough neurologists familiar with the disease,” said Ackerman. “We give lectures to help local physicians better understand Parkinson’s disease, and we are available if a second opinion is needed. We also serve on the advisory board of the Michigan Parkinson’s Foundation, which has organized regular Parkinson’s disease education events in Lansing and around the state.”

The staff at the clinic also frequently attend local and regional support group meetings. Meeting once a month, the Lansing Area Parkinson’s Support Group — one of many across the state — is a resource for both patients and healthcare providers.

“The meetings add to the cohesiveness of patient care. You can’t cover every question they may have in an office visit, and often the way a patient acts while in the office doesn’t reflect how they struggle in their daily lives. These meetings help us as providers to understand their circumstances better,” said Denise VanFitten, a Parkinson’s disease nursing specialist. “I believe our patients also trust us more because we’re interacting with them outside of a clinical setting. Whether we’re giving public lectures, organizing our area’s annual walk-a-thon and 5K run or hosting seminars to educate providers on how best to care for their patients with Parkinson’s, we’re doing our best to be there for our patients and their families.”
Physician Educator

by Craig Reed

Emily Hurst, Department of Osteopathic Medical Specialties, is all about empowering patients through information. “I regularly speak to community groups throughout southeast Michigan,” she said. “In November, for example, I was asked to speak to ‘Mended Hearts’ — a group for individuals who have had a cardiac intervention. I focused this particular presentation on how they should follow up with their physicians after the intervention, how to be good advocates for their health and how to manage medications.”

Hurst focuses on patient expectations during their transition from a hospital to rehabilitation and eventually back to their homes — especially the pitfalls during such transitions, such as prescription duplication. “When patients are moving from one facility to another, that’s when their prescriptions are more likely to be duplicated. I’ve seen instances where patients have left facilities with as many as 30 prescriptions because of this problem,” she said.

Hurst also talks with prospective medical students about osteopathic medicine, her experiences as a medical student and how she interacts with patients. “I visit my patients in the hospital and sit with them when it’s uncertain whether they’ll make it through their current health crises. If they succumb, I pay my respects at their memorial services. I want to care for them as I would a family member of mine,” said Hurst. “It can be a lot of fun when you can meet with your patients outside of a healthcare facility. They get to see a more human side of me — that I’m more than the physician they see at their doctor’s visit.”

Community-Based Men’s Health

by Craig Reed

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men. Around 200,000 are diagnosed with the disease each year, with African Americans most likely to be affected than other racial or ethnic groups. MSUCOM’s Damon Davis, Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties, works with neighborhood groups and churches in Greater Lansing to educate men on the symptoms of this disease and the treatment options they should consider.

“I’m invited regularly to talk about prostate health, prostate cancers, treatment options and post-operative experiences,” said Davis. “Surprisingly, men in their 20s attend as well as those well into their 80s. I tend to keep my presentation to the basics — anything that would be useful for men of any age. I also try to clear up any misconceptions. Frequently they aren’t aware that there is more than one treatment option. Not all prostate cancers are destined to cause problems, so depending on the nature of the cancer, treatment may not be the best option.”

While Davis may be the guest speaker at these events, he’s not the only one providing rich information to the audience. “When I talk to an all-male group, many of the men present who have been diagnosed with prostrate cancer will be very open about their experiences, explaining the side-effects from the treatment option they chose, and how they’ve worked with their doctors,” he said. “These presentations inevitably change into a question and answer session. You have to be flexible, get off your script and answer those questions as they surface or you lose a valuable opportunity to put someone’s fear at ease and educate him.”

Creating a Platform for Generosity

by Craig Reed

Hurst teaches community members how to advocate as patients and play an active role in their own care.

Events like the polar bear plunge, organized by Mitcham and her team, provide much needed support for families in crisis.

Illness can bring a family to the financial and emotional brink. Friends wishing to support them through this crisis may be at a loss on how to help. Kimberly Mitcham, a faculty member in pediatrics and Class of 2000, and her team of volunteers have helped by organizing community events.

“Last year, one of our staff was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis,” said Mitcham. “She faced a lot of financial hardships. We worked with Holt High School to host a 5K walk with the proceeds benefitting the family. People also donated items which we used for an auction to support them as well. Not long afterward the daughter of one of our receptionists was diagnosed with childhood cancer. As soon as we heard, we got the ball rolling. The Pediatrics Interest Group held a bake sale for the family, and we organized a polar bear plunge. Several of our faculty and staff volunteered to plunge and raised money for the family. More importantly, we and others let the family know how much support they had in the community.”

With two events under their belt, Mitcham’s team plans to help another family this winter and others later in the year. “Each family is involved in the event and has to approve it before we move forward,” said Mitcham. “It’s just really exciting to see what’s possible when people have an avenue to express their support. The way the family’s spirits are bolstered when they arrive at the event and see everyone there for them, it’s very gratifying.”

Regifting Medical Equipment and Technology

by Craig Reed

Hospitals and clinics upgrade their medical equipment and discard old supplies. While out-of-date by our standards, they can find a new purpose overseas thanks to Project C.U.R.E. — an organization which facilitates collecting and delivering medical equipment and supplies.

“Our involvement with Project C.U.R.E. dates back two years,” said Assistant Dean William Cunningham, who works with the organization’s Grand Rapids collection center. “They only deliver to countries that have had a rigorous needs assessment so the right equipment can go where it will make the most difference.”

Project C.U.R.E. played an important role in helping MSUCOM acquire and deliver 40 dialysis machines to Mérida, Mexico. Through a partnership with MSUCOM and Bridge of Life Foundation, the partners provided the city with equipment and the clinical education to deliver the highest standards of care for their patients. This partnership has also inspired medical students and undergraduates to lend a hand.

“I thought the whole idea was awesome when I heard about it,” said fourth-year student Corbin Redi. “We gather medical goods that are no longer used, organize them and ship them. It’s great to see what can’t be used here helping others overseas.”

“I was looking for volunteer opportunities when Dr. Cunningham mentioned Project C.U.R.E. to me,” said DePauw undergraduate Josh Quinn, who plans to attend medical school after he graduates. “Since June, I’ve helped out, picking up equipment, developing the local website, and assisting with whatever is needed for donations to Project C.U.R.E. I’m just excited to be a part of this effort.”

To learn more about Project C.U.R.E. you may contact Dr. Cunningham at william.cunningham@hc.msu.edu.
Allie Sisson

Athletic Inspiration

As an undergraduate at Central Michigan University, Allie Sisson competed in track and field while working toward a degree in mathematics. “We had track practice twice a day, and were always traveling, competing, and meeting new people. I was busy, but it kept me on a strict schedule,” she said.

In addition to Sisson’s track workouts and school, she found time to give back to the community by volunteering as a high school tutor and at local nursing homes, and working as a track coach and yoga instructor.

“An athlete, I’ve always had an interest in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and preventive medicine,” Sisson said. “I took science and anatomy courses as electives in college, including a cadaver lab class that I really enjoyed.” Sisson’s athletic background, combined with her interest in anatomy, inspired her to pursue a medical degree.

Michigan State was at the top of Sisson’s list when applying to osteopathic medical schools. After visiting all three MSUCOM sites, she knew Macomb was the perfect fit. “The Macomb site is closest to my hometown of Novi,” she said. “It reminds me of my track team in college — everyone going through the same thing and we all understand each other. People always ask how you’re doing, and we’ve all gotten to know each other. There’s a great camaraderie here at Macomb.”

Mike Dettloff

Finding a Balance

Mike Dettloff has held nearly every job in emergency medical services (EMS). “I started out as a wheelchair van driver, and went on to work as an emergency medical technician, paramedic, firefighter, and EMS coordinator,” he said. Dettloff also taught advanced cardiac and pediatric life support classes at McLaren-Oakland (formerly POH Regional Medical Center) with Tressa Gardner (MSUCOM ’94), director of emergency services.

After working as a paramedic and firefighter in Auburn Hills for 16 years, Dettloff decided to apply to medical school to continue his career in emergency medicine. “Becoming a D.O. and working in emergency medicine is a natural progression for me,” he said. “When I worked in the EMS system, I encountered D.O.s at the hospital every day. They were open and willing to educate me about some of the osteopathic principles, and encouraged me to go through with my decision to attend medical school.”

Finding a balance between school and spending time with his wife and four young children has not been easy for Dettloff, but he gets through it with the support of his family. “I have a simple phrase, WEMIT, engraved on my stethoscope,” he said. “It means ‘we make it together’ and serves as a reminder to me and my wife that we will make it through these challenges together.”

Priyanka Pandey

A Global Volunteer

When Priyanka Pandey applied for the Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas through Michigan State’s Honors College, her thoughts turned to Bedani, India, the small village where her father grew up. Like many places in India, the caste system still has a strong influence, meaning the lower class residents don’t have the same access to basic resources as everyone else. “There are people who have to walk to the river a mile away to get water,” said Pandey. “I wanted to help with that, and do something that would be around for many generations.”

Pandey traveled to Bedani and installed five hand pumps throughout the community so that everyone would have access to clean drinking water. She was selected for a Spartan Saga, an MSU feature that highlights the stories of students, alumni, faculty, and staff, because of her work, and traveled back to Bedani last December to see the effect her work had on the village. “My dad taught me Bhagwati and Hindi languages so I could converse with the people who lived there. It was a great experience to see the impact our work had on the community, and to hear that directly from them,” she said.

Pandey’s success in India provided an inspiration to join Community Integrated Medicine (CIM) when she started at MSUCOM. CIM is a student organization that provides basic health care to underserved communities in Lansing and southeast Michigan through health fairs and clinics. “I want to help people in the community who may not have certain resources available to them,” said Pandey.

Students Lending a Helping Hand

Sigma Sigma Phi brought holiday cheer to visitors attending Potter Park Zoo’s “Wonderland of Lights” in Lansing, Michigan, December 7-8. The volunteers offered a variety of activities to entertain children, including face painting and cookie decorating.

Each week, Pediatric Interest Group members such as Megan Avesian, Jessica Krol, Stephanie Foster, and Deanna Jewell, volunteer their time with kids at Haven House – which provides emergency housing to Lansing area parents and their children who have become homeless. The organization provides support services which help them get back on their feet and transition back to self-sufficiency and permanent housing.
Faculty On The Move

Rohrer Named Associate Dean for Statewide Campus System

Jonathan D. Rohrer, Ph.D., D.Min., has been selected as the new associate dean for the Statewide Campus System (SCS). Rohrer has been affiliated with SCS and its predecessor, COGMET, since 1996, spending the last 12 years as their associate director, supervising the development of educational programs, curriculum evaluation and the use of technology in the learning process.

“I am honored for this opportunity to serve the consortium in this new position. It’s exciting to see the number of strong training programs we have here and how we’ve led the nation in curriculum development,” said Rohrer. “I’m looking forward to leading the strategic planning and visioning process to explore how we can adapt to the changing needs in medical education, take advantage of new opportunities, and continue to deliver quality graduate medical education.”

New Director of Admissions

Katherine Molina, M.A., has been named MSUCOM’s new director of admissions. Molina has worked in the college since 2009, leading outreach initiatives with various community stakeholders in East Lansing and in southeast Michigan. She also created “Future DOcs,” a Saturday series program at Detroit’s Benjamin Carson High School of Science and Medicine, where high school students explore the osteopathic profession. Molina received her M.A. in counseling from Wayne State University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University.

New Acting Family and Community Medicine Chairperson

Edward Rosick, D.O., has been named acting chairperson for MSUCOM’s Department of Family and Community Medicine (FCM). A 1993 MSUCOM alumnus, Rosick also has a master’s degree in public health, which he received from Loma Linda University in 1997. He has been part of the FCM faculty since 2006.

New Faculty

Osteopathic Medical Specialties

Bret Bielawski, D.O., is a 1998 MSUCOM alumnus and joins us as an assistant professor. He completed his internship at Mount Clemens General Hospital and his residency at William Beaumont Hospital. Bielawski is also president of WellPoint Sleep Diagnostic Center in Rochester Hills, Michigan, and previously served as the president of Macom Oakand Adult Medicine.

Neurology and Ophthalmology

Tyon Burghardt, M.D., joining us from the Detroit Medical Center (DMC), where he completed his fellowship in epilepsy and electroencephalography. He also completed his residency in the neurology program at the DMC and his internship at the Akron City Hospital.

Osteopathic Medical Specialties

Joseph DeWitt, D.O., comes from Salt Lake City Shriners Hospital, where he was a pediatric orthopedic fellow. He is a 2006 MSUCOM alumnus, and completed his internship and residency at Millcreek Community Hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania. DeWitt joins us as an assistant professor of osteopathic surgical specialties.

Neurology and Ophthalmology

I. Zachary Dyme, M.D., has been an assistant professor of pediatrics at the MSU College of Human Medicine since 1983, and joins us now as an associate professor. Dyme specializes in hyperactivity in children, evoked responses, and seizures. He also serves on the Sparrow Hospital Neurosence Clinical Services Task Force.

Psychiatry

Jose Herrera, M.D., comes to us as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry. He is the director of the Adult Inpatient Behavioral Care Unit at Carson Behavioral Health in Carson City. During his pediatrics clerkship, Herrera volunteered with Katrina Relief Help of Michigan, treating patients stationed at a military base who were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Osteopathic Medical Specialties

Shahena Raheem, D.O., is a 2008 MSUCOM alumna who comes to us from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School. She has served on the medical staff at Amir Rahim Medical & Surgical Center in Pakistan, working in underserved areas as a primary care physician. Raheem has also held lectures and seminars for medical students from Pakistan preparing for residencies in the United States.

Neurology and Ophthalmology

Tyon Burghardt

Osteopathic Medical Specialties

Alice Shanaver, D.O., specializes in osteopathic manipulative medicine and has a private family practice in Brownstown, Michigan. A 1980 MSUCOM alumnus, she has served as a United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officer and was stationed in Oklahoma, Ohio, and Michigan. Shanaver has been a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine since 2003, and joins us now as an assistant professor.

Neurology and Ophthalmology

I. Zachary Dyme

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Rebecca Wyatt, D.O., is a 2008 MSUCOM alumnus. She is a certified athletic trainer, and worked in a physical therapy clinic in Arizona. Wyatt has constructed therapy, home exercise, and strength training programs for both patients and athletes. She joins us as an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

New Acting Family and Community Medicine Chairperson

Edward Rosick

Katie Donnelly

Each year, about 90 volunteers from the Tri-County Bicycle Association organize Michigan’s Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw Bicycle Tour (DALMAC), where more than 1,700 participants travel up to 400 miles across the state during the late summer.

“DALMAC has been around since 1971. I’ve been a part of it since 1993,” said Katie Donnelly, administrative assistant, academic governance, who volunteers as their media relations coordinator. “I see the progression from hometowns to and communities the ride uses for overnight stops. The releases generate awareness, and enthusiasm and informs them on how the DALMAC supports their communities. The mobile facilities help support their activities, for example. Any surplus funds from the ride are used to support biking across the state of Michigan – whether it’s installing bike racks or developing programs for people with physical or mental health challenges. The DALMAC fund has given well over one million dollars since 1985.”

Donnelly also leads local bike rides throughout the spring and summer for those training for the DALMAC. “I ride more than 3,000 miles every year and lead rides, which means scouting out routes and identifying places to eat and restrooms along the way,” she said.

When not on her bike, Donnelly can be found lending a hand during WKAR’s pledge drives here on the MSU campus. “The radio ones are twice a year and the TV ones are four times a year. It’s a good group of people I get to work with each year,” she said. She also serves on the Parkwood YMCA advisory board and has donated more than 14 gallons of blood. “I mark my calendar to remind me the moment I’m able to give again,” she said. “I encourage others to donate since there is such a need, and many who can’t.”
Endowment used to study osteopathic, Eastern medicine

By Pat Grauer

A $200,000 endowment to research the links between osteopathic treatment techniques and Eastern medicine will be donated by the Jaesung Hospital of Korean Eastern Medicine in South Korea to MSUCOM. Another $150,000 has been promised to study a distinctive form of acupuncture used by Jaesung.

The agreement was signed recently at MSU by Jaesung Chairman Joong-shik Shin and Dean William Strampel. Jaesung is the leading integrative hospital in the Republic of Korea, and the only spin-specialty hospital of oriental medicine to be recognized by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

“To think that our work transcends time, and will keep on funding collaborative research efforts even after we are gone is a humbling but truly thrilling prospect,” Shin said.

The research will involve taking repeated blood samples before, during and after manual medicine and acupuncture treatments in Korea. These samples will be sent to A. Daniel Jones, professor of biochemistry and director of the Mass Spectrometry Facility at MSU, who will analyze such compounds as metabolites and inflammation markers. Researchers will then assess if there are correlations between the biochemical results and the clinical results.

“I’m delighted about our expanding relationship with Jaesung and Dr. Shin, and very happy about the research,” said Strampel.

“This is the beginning of many good things.”

Shin and colleagues met with college representatives on campus in November 2011. In March 2012 Strampel and a delegation, including Associate Dean Reza Nassiri (far right), met with South Korea’s Health Minister Che Min Rim to establish full practice rights for osteopathic physicians in that country.

Moving OMM Forward: Lisa DeStefano

If you have taken a manual medicine CME course at MSUCOM, chances are you’ve had at least one class with Lisa DeStefano, chairperson, Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. Learning her trade from OMM icons like Philip E. Greenman, DeStefano has followed in their footsteps to create a high quality classroom experience for CME participants.

“I’m the overall course series chairperson for CME, which means I’m the ‘go to’ person if there are questions about enrollment or dates and times for a class. If an idea is being vetted, I’m consulted,” said DeStefano. “This aspect of my work is a volunteer position. I do it because I have a lot of respect for the manual medicine series.”

DeStefano chairs the “Principles of Manual Medicine” classes offered each year as well as the “Integrated Neuromuscular and Myofascial Release” course which is offered every other year. She’s currently exploring new ways to make the courses easier for osteopathic physicians to attend so they can refresh or enhance their manual medicine skills.

“We’re working on modernizing how we offer the courses, which are up to five days in length. That’s a long time to be out of the office,” said DeStefano. “We’d like to shorten the time they have to be physically present. Our vision is to take the didactic and put that into webinars participants can access from their home or office so when they arrive here, they already know the principles and context. The face-to-face time can then focus on learning and practicing the techniques.”

While manipulation techniques haven’t changed a lot over time, how they are taught and used has.

“In the past, our classes looked at just the manipulations and how to do them. Today we help participants understand their patients’ bodies and how to use hands-on techniques to augment their clinical judgment — in addition to using the techniques to treat patients,” said DeStefano. “We teach participants more of the function of the neuromusculoskeletal system using the latest research and outcome studies available. We educate them on the whole process of rehabilitating a patient, how to maintain the manipulation and how to get patients back to their best.”

While working hard to keep OMM coursework on the cutting-edge, DeStefano sees herself as a current custodian of this knowledge. “I want to give credit to those who started our CME back in the beginning — Philip Greenman, Ed Stiles, Robert Ward and others. They were the geniuses,” said DeStefano. “Our job is to keep up with that and to make it better over time. Our goal is still the same: to help patients.”
Upcoming Events

Jan. 24-27  MAOP Winter Update  Bellaire, Michigan  Alumni reception on the 26th

March 2-9  Healthy Lifestyle and Preventive Care: Future Directions  BBI Palace, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

March 21-24  ACOFP  Cosmopolitan Hotel Las Vegas, Nevada  Alumni reception on the 22nd at Harley-Davidson Café

2012 ALUMNI AWARDS

Presented at the AOA Convention

JOANNE GRZESZAK, CLASS OF 1976

Dean’s Award for Meritorious Contribution

Grzeszak teaches MSUCOM students as a clinical associate professor of family and community medicine. A family physician, she has been both member and president of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians board. She also served on the board of directors and as president of the Kent County Osteopathic Association, and has been a private practitioner in West Michigan since 1981. At Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids, Grzeszak has served as secretary and chairman of the Department of Family Practice, a member of the executive committee, and secretary/treasurer of the staff.

LARRY NASSAR, CLASS OF 1993

Alumnus of the Year Award

Nassar has been involved with sports and healthcare for athletes his entire adult life, serving since 1996 as the USA Gymnastics’ National Team Physician, and since 1986 as part of its medical staff. He is an associate professor in MSU’s Division of Sports Medicine, Department of Radiology, and teaches sports medicine and physical exam skills to MSUCOM students. A certified athletic trainer for 20 years, Nassar has been appointed by the governor to the Michigan Board of Athletic Trainers, and holds a patent on a brace for gymnasts with syndesmotic ankle sprains. He has received many awards, including six-time recognition as the United States Women’s Gymnastics Elite Coaches Association National Contributor of the Year.

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.

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517-432-4979 or toll free 877-853-3448
email: kim.camp@hc.msu.edu
www.com.msu.edu/alumni

ACOI

Held October 17-21, 75 MSUCOM alumni and supporters attended the American College of Osteopathic Internists’ annual convention. Participants had a chance to gather together at the alumni reception hosted by MSUCOM on October 18 at the Renaissance Orlando Resort at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida.

AOA

The American Osteopathic Association hosted its annual Osteopathic Medical Conference & Exposition October 7-11 in San Diego, California. More than 300 MSUCOM alumni attended the reception held on the 9th to mingle with fellow osteopathic physicians and enjoy the California weather.

Development

Hometown Contributions

by Craig Bond

Developing a scholarship is a straightforward way for donors to target a community with their dollars while simultaneously supporting the college. Michael Greenslait, Class of 1990, and his wife Marta have decided to assist students in the regions they grew up as well as Ludington, Michigan, where they currently live.

“My dad was a firefighter and my mother was a full-time homemaker during my school years. College was never really mentioned when I was growing up. I thought I would stick around Taylor, Michigan, after I graduated just like most of my friends did and make a life there,” said Greenslait. “The one thing I loved to play was football. Next thing I knew, I was recruited by the MSU football program. Thanks to this start, when I had the opportunity to apply to medical school, I took it. I am where I am today thanks to the opportunities others gave me.”

As a member of the Beaumont Tower Society — donors who have committed between $25,000 and $49,999 to MSU — the Greenslait’s financially support MSUCOM students through the Smoky Greenslait Endowment Fund. “The more my career advances,” said Greenslait, “the more I can help the next generation. I am sincerely thankful for all the opportunities the MSU football program and MSUCOM allotted me. I am a Spartan through and through.”

Greenslait also takes the time to be there for students from his local high school who express an interest in medicine. “A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine,” said Greenslait. “I work with my peers to arrange opportunities for students to observe surgery or rotate through the emergency room, radiology, or the anesthesia office — whatever piques their interest. It would have been great to have these opportunities available when I was in high school. I make certain today’s students do.”

MOA

by Kristopher Thomas Nicholoff

CEO and Executive Director, Michigan Osteopathic Association

One thing is clear among physicians . . . they have a desire to do good, help people and make a difference. They are community leaders who build relationships with their local schools, parents, teachers, elected officials and local residents.

The Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) comprises members who devote their time, knowledge and skills to residents within their communities. We’re proud to support and learn from our members and look forward to the advances and discoveries they make.

The MOA offers a variety of grants, awards, and giving opportunities to our constituents — osteopathic medical students, residents, physicians, researchers, and osteopathic centers/programs. Through these opportunities, we recognize some of the exceptional individuals within the osteopathic profession and provide support for their efforts.

MOA’s Michigan Council for Osteopathic Promotion recently awarded three $1,000 CORE Grants for making a difference. They included

• MSUCOM second-year student Derrick Ash and the Student National Medical Association for a bone marrow registration and screening drive
• Aron Gornowicz, D.O., and Garden City Hospital-Sports Medicine Fellowship/Family Medicine Residency for hosting a coaches’ conference on concussions in student athletes
• MSUCOM fourth-year student Kyle Denton Martin for an athletic event in Haiti to promote healthy habits.

Being a member of the MOA is important. For more than 114 years, the MOA has been dedicated to the promotion of quality patient care and to the educational, informational and legislative needs of its members. Please visit www.mo-osteopathic.org for more information on the MOA and becoming a member. We look forward to serving you!

A Desire to Help

MARTA AND MICHAEL GRENSSLAIT

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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.
When I saw the Communiqué theme of how MSUCOM alumni serve in their communities, I immediately thought of the Sesame Street song, “Who Are The People In Your Neighborhood?”

Granted, I may have just dated myself, but the point of the song is that everyone is in your neighborhood: “the people that you meet when you’re walking down the street.” Understanding that we are all connected is another way of being neighborly and certainly the underlying theme of the aforementioned song. Recall that we were taught early on at MSUCOM that the human body is all connected; the structure and function are interrelated. It is true that where we live and work, we are “in the neighborhood” of one another, whether we are aware of this or not.

The neighborhood of my childhood was an amazing place — swimming pools, camps in the woods, sleepovers, sledding. The neighborhood I now live in is great too, because neighbors have a general care and concern for one another. It is refreshing.

Highlighted in this magazine are our alumni who are examples of “good neighbors.” They are serving well where they live. Be inspired, and encouraged from their stories so you too can be neighborly right where you are and everywhere you go.

And by the way, “Go Green.”

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

OSTEOPATHIC OPEN AND SILVERFEST

The 14th annual Osteopathic Open was held September 21 at Forest Akers West Golf Course in East Lansing. Alumni from around the state also gathered at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on MSU Campus for CME and the Silverfest Reception which honored the Class of 1987. The reception gave participants a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

On the morning of the 22nd, alumni and their family and friends attended the Silverfest tailgate before MSU’s football game against Eastern Michigan University. More than 400 participants attended this year’s events to reconnect with fellow alumni and friends and showcase their Spartan pride.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

24-27
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians Update – Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI. Alumni reception on the 26th. For more information, visit www.maofp.org.

25-29

FEBRUARY

2
MOCF Ball: “Puttin’ on the Glitz” – Annual fundraiser for the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. Proceeds benefit educational programs and student scholarships at MSUCOM – The Henry, Dearborn, Michigan. Contact Colleen Kniffen at 517-355-9616 or kniffen@msu.edu.

7, 14, 28
“Slavery to Freedom: An American Odyssey.” Distinguished speakers visit MSU to discuss the American Civil Rights Movement — 5 p.m. Thursdays, Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing. The speaker on the 14th will present at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, Pasant Theatre, East Lansing.

MARCH

23

APRIL

2-9
CME: “Healthy Lifestyle and Preventive Care: Future Directions” – RIU Palace, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. 20 credits of AOA Category 1-A. Contact Kim Camp at 517-432-4979 or kim.camp@hc.msu.edu.

19-23

MAY

2
Hooding and Commencement Ceremony – 7:00 p.m. – Breslin Center, MSU campus.

10

31-June 2
Healthy Lifestyle and Preventive Care: Future Directions

March 2-9, 2013

Guanacaste, Costa Rica

featuring a 20-hour AOA Category 1-A CME Course

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