GOOD FOR
THE HEART
MSUCOM ALUMNI
IN ACTION
In the U.S., we often associate neuropathy with diabetes, but the sometimes debilitating condition has numerous causes. The Neuropathy Association says that about 30 percent of neuropathies have unknown causes. In addition to diabetes, other known causes include autoimmune disorders, nutritional deficiencies, infections or toxins.

Neuropathy affects the peripheral nerves—the ones that connect the spinal cord to muscles, skin and internal organs—and often causes tingling, weakness and pain in the hands and feet. People can also have the condition without showing symptoms.

Neuropathy can come and go, it can progress slowly or it can become extremely debilitating. The good news is that if it is diagnosed early, it can often be controlled.

MSUCOM clinical instructor and neuropathologist fellow Michelle Kvalsund is looking at neuropathy from a global health perspective, with help from two grants. One is a Practice Research Training Fellowship from the American Brain Foundation, and the second is a Fogarty Global Health Fellowship.

Kvalsund, who is also an MSUCOM alumnus (Class of 2009), is using these grants to examine the possible connections between neuropathy and two possible causes: nutritional deficiencies or neurotoxins. She’s conducting this work in two locations in Zambia. One is rural Chikankata Mission Hospital in Mazabuka and the other is a new university in Lusaka, Zambia’s capital city.

Her interest in exploring the topic grew from a previous project. While working with HIV-positive patients in Zambia—and assuming a link between HIV and neuropathy—Kvalsund discovered connections between the neurological disorder and other conditions.

“We did some work on this subject as part of a study in rural anti-retroviral adherence in Zambia. We asked a group of participants if they had symptoms of neuropathy and 75 percent said that they did,” Kvalsund said. “Even more interesting, we found that among patients with food insecurity, the odds of having neuropathy were 2 to 1, compared to patients that were not defined as being food insecure.”

That suggested to Kvalsund that there was more than just HIV behind the prevalence of neuropathy. “When we look at other studies, it’s clear that a lot of times it’s just presumed that HIV infection is the cause of neuropathy in HIV patients, but there may be nutritional factors that are playing a role based on our finding about the food insecurity,” she said.

There have also been extensive investigations into whether a lot of the medications that HIV patients receive may affect neuropathy prevalence. Other common medications that are used to treat all sorts of infections have been linked to neuropathy, as has isoniazid, a medication commonly prescribed for tuberculosis. Kvalsund says that there are no population-based data to show how common neuropathy is in Zambia in general, as all of the current studies have been done in the context of HIV.

During her 18 months in Zambia, Kvalsund will look at HIV-positive patients who are either newly diagnosed or who have not yet begun a course of treatment for the virus and she’ll examine them for signs of neuropathy. She’ll look at whether they are asymptomatic, exhibit symptoms or if their neuropathy is progressing. She’ll then try to correlate the conditions with medications or nutritional deficiencies.

“We are trying to quantify how many times they’ve been exposed to those medications and see if neurotoxic exposures are occurring,” Kvalsund notes. “As far as the toxic exposures, those could be avoided if it was recognized as an important cause; but as of now, we really don’t know what the impact is—if [a medication] should be avoided if there are alternatives,” Kvalsund notes.

Her studies point to treatable causes of neuropathy, efforts can be made to address them. “There may need to be policy discussions about that based on what we find. If there are frequent vitamin deficiencies that are treatable, then resources to make sure that patients are able to be adequately screened for those nutritional deficiencies and treated for them would be very important to prevent progression of the disorder,” she adds.

The results of this work will add to a limited but growing knowledge base and give Kvalsund a basis upon which to expand her research, but it may also have possibilities for broader applications later. “We hope to improve the care of patients with neuropathy in sub-Saharan Africa, but we would also very much like for this — research to benefit a global community — by better understanding how having numerous infectious, nutritional, and frequent neurotoxic exposures impact the progression of neuropathy.”
It’s been said that the only constant is change. There may be few people who know this adage better than the team comprising the MSUCOM Statewide Campus System. But dealing with change is only one of the things that the SCS staff members are good at doing.

This year marks the 25th year that SCS has provided osteopathic graduate medical education and training for residents and clinical faculty members in partner institutions across Michigan. In that time, the program has seen changes in its name, its personnel, and it is now facing a future with changes to osteopathic graduate medical education. The American Osteopathic Association, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education are working to create a unified graduate medical education system for both D.O.s and M.D.s. The SCS was established at MSUCOM in 1989 as the Consortium for Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education is working to create a unified graduate medical education system for both D.O.s and M.D.s. The SCS now encompasses 47 major health care institutions and 31 Federally Qualified Health Centers, training 1,761 physicians in 227 programs. But don’t carve those numbers in stone, as they are already changing with the addition of trainees in new programs. SCS has been participating in a college-wide effort to build a career development system that engages students from their first year through graduation in activities that range from building resumes to exploring medical specialties. The SCS also provides education and support for residents who are interested in pursuing research. As is the case with many educational entities, the SCS is going beyond classroom-based training to provide electronic modules on DVDs that can be used as stand-alone tools or in conjunction with more extensive training.

“We provide modules that can be delivered to residents and students and it enables them to fulfill their specialty requirements for OPP and OMT,” Rohrer said. “We follow the same template and continue to develop these. We just finished the fifth in the series and we are moving into more specialty-specific training.”

Modules are being developed for pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology. They will be added to the five modules that are already in use across the system and beyond, as other institutions have purchased the tools to use in their training programs with residents or students.

“These can be used for third- and fourth-year students or residents,” Rohrer noted. “Originally they were targeted for the first year of postgraduate training—the internship year. It has expanded and even though it is predominately targeted for GME, it is now going to be used in the C3 curriculum, so that will enable the students to meet their OPP requirements.”

Rohrer also notes that the modules give the staff the chance to try new things while remaining true to their roots.

“It’s really at the heart of COGMET at the beginning—to add value to residency training online,” he says. “We do assessments and attempt to develop programs that will augment the quality of training.”

Though they are busy on numerous fronts, the SCS team paused to reflect and celebrate their organization’s first 25 years on May 21 during its annual membership meeting. As individuals from across the system—from directors of medical education to clinical faculty members and residents and students—joined in the celebration, there was, of course, an educational emphasis, with a poster session. There was also a luncheon with recognition for contributors past and present. During the event the Mark Cummings, Ph.D., Award for Outstanding Leadership in Medial Scholarship was presented to Martel Bird, D.O., a dermatology resident at Oakwood Healthcare System Osteopathic Division in Trenton. In addition, David Wolf, M.D., of Birmingham Farms, was presented with the Michael Oppari, D.O. Distinguished Service Award for his service to the Statewide Campus System over the past 25 years.

And in typical style, the SCS employees are busily preparing for the changes that a unified AOA/ACGME accreditation system will bring. They have been preparing for the possibility since before the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create the unified system was signed in late February.

“We are carefully moving forward with our strategic planning process so that we are not only able to respond to the standards of the AOA, but we are also prepared for a transition to ACGME accreditation if that should occur,” he said. “There are many unknowns at this point on whether the MOU will occur, but we have been looking at the standards in preparation to help our members, if necessary for a transition to ACGME accreditation.”

“It’s been a great opportunity to work here,” Rohrer concluded. “We are looking at the continuum between the college and residency training even more than we have in the past and seeing that there’s continuity in the way we can work collaboratively between the SCS and the college in developing programs.”

Ribbens concurs and adds, “I think that’s why we have many long-term employees. I think the challenge and the opportunity for creativity in developing new programs keep people engaged.”

Statewide Campus System
25 years of providing osteopathic graduate medical education

By Laura Probyn

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Though they are busy on numerous fronts, the SCS team paused to reflect and celebrate their organization’s first 25 years on May 21 during its annual membership meeting. As individuals from across the system—from directors of medical education to clinical faculty
Transforming the relationship by transforming the doctor

By Pat Grauer

They danced. They drew. They wrote. They acted. They created. They learned, through these processes and more, to be more responsive human beings and better physicians. Twenty-six MSUCOM students participated in the weekend-long summer event, “Transforming the Doctor-Patient Relationship: Telling the Story,” a unique weekend experience offered by the nationally known Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater Company (SPDT). The event is made possible by significant support from the MSU Federal Credit Union Institute for Arts & Creativity at the Wharton Center, and the college itself.

By tapping their own creativity, the participants were given new tools to explore their patients’ backgrounds and personal histories, studied ethical issues that emerged, and found skills to deepen the doctor-patient relationship. Many reported emerging with a renewed sense of self and a conviction to better understand others.

The planning group includes Stuart Pimsler and Suzanne Costello (SPDT), Ron Goldstein (Wharton), and Pat Grauer, School of Theatre and Dance, John Medylendy, Elizabeth Petsche, Lawrence Prokop, Taylor Scott, Arlene Sierra and Gary Withfard from LSUCOM.

The next workshop will be held January 16-18, 2015. For information, contact grauer@msu.edu.

Heart of a Spartan

By Lisa Mulcrone

Lisa Mulcrone is a senior communications manager for MSU Communications and Brand Strategy.

How do you thank someone who saved your life? I stood there with my phone in my hand, fighting back tears, trying to figure out just that.

Less than 24 hours earlier, I had been standing, ironically, in a hospital hallway on my way to visit a friend when the world started closing in around me. In a matter of seconds, it felt like I had been hit by the Spartan football defense in the chest and back, and suddenly, the world came back into view.

Though this was the first time it had happened, I knew immediately that my Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) had shocked me out of a lifelong threatening heart rhythm. Even standing in a hospital hallway, my chances of surviving such a rhythm without my ICD would have been slim.

With my ICD, I was fine in mere seconds. I was fortunate to have my ICD when I needed it because of the skill, knowledge, expertise, foresight and instinct of my cardiologist, Eric Good, a 1996 graduate of MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is an assistant professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan and an electrophysiologist at the Frankel Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan Health System, and my own personal lifesaver.

When I was 20 years old I was diagnosed with complete congenital heart block, which means that the bottom chamber of my heart wasn’t receiving the electrical pulses from the top chamber.

Eventually, I began looking for an electrophysiologist, who specializes in rhythm disorders, and found myself at the U-M, where I was referred to Dr. Good. Upon meeting him, I was immediately at ease. I could see that, to him, I was a person, not just a patient. Imagine my delight when I discovered that he, too, was a Spartan. He answered every question I had, even sometimes by email at midnight. He recommended a pacemaker and implanted one a month later, taking special care to listen to and respect my concerns about placement, scars and other issues.

A few months after that, he discovered the pacemaker had recorded a secondary problem—episodes of dangerous ventricular tachycardia. I found myself back in surgery as he expertly swapped out the pacemaker for the ICD so I could have the ultimate protection.

None of this was easy for me, but Dr. Good was absolutely amazing. His medical knowledge and skill were outstanding, as expected, but his care, compassion and concern for my entire well being were beyond incredible.

His approach, personality and sense of humor made dealing with a significant health issue so much easier. I’m certain his MSUCOM training had a lot to do with this.

I went seven years without needing a shock. I had gotten to the point where I wondered if I truly needed my ICD, and then I did. It literally saved my life.

As I talked with Dr. Good on the phone that day after, he told me that when he made the decision to give me the ICD he knew there was a chance I’d never need it, but his knowledge of me and my condition, made him believe that at some point in my life I would.

This Spartan is extremely pleased that Spartan came to that decision. There’s still no adequate way to thank Dr. Good for being my lifesaver. I cried on the phone, but in true Spartan fashion, he was humble and I know he thinks it’s just his job. But his job is more than just that. His job is to give people like me the greatest gift on earth. Spartans Will.

Cummings, Dora and Mainster awarded college’s highest honor

By Pat Grauer

The retired head of the Statewide Campus System and two osteopathic physicians have received MSUCOM’s highest award—the 2014 Walter F. Patenge Medals of Public Service.

Mark Cummings, Ph.D., who served as the first associate dean of the Statewide Campus System for 13 years, developed it into one of the largest graduate medical education consortia in the nation. SCS now encompasses 47 major health care institutions and 31 Federally Qualified Health Centers, training 1,761 physicians in 227 programs.

He was cited for, “leadership, diplomacy, steadfast effort and achievement in the area of graduate medical education.” He resides in Mason, Mich.

David Dora, D.O., a significant force in western Michigan for both osteopathic education and family medicine, was the founder of the MGH Family Health Center in Muskegon. The facility has achieved the status of a Federally Qualified Health Center. He served as acting chairperson of MSUCOM’s Department of Family Medicine, a family practice residency director, and director of medical education for Mercy General Health Partners. Dora was cited, “for his commitment to osteopathic education and provision of care to the underserved, for his contributions to the work of MSUCOM and the Statewide Campus System, and for his leadership to enhance family medicine.” He lives in Muskegon, Mich.

Harris Mainster, D.O., of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., is the veteran of no less than 41 trips to developing countries to offer teaching and medical/surgical care, meeting the needs of some of the globe’s most vulnerable people. He is also extremely active in nine professional organizations and in 10 Jewish organizations, serving on the boards of six. He was cited, “for his sacrificial service to the poorest people on the planet, and for his leadership within the osteopathic profession and within his faith.”

Cummings, Dora and Mainster joined a celebrated cadre of leaders in health care, education and community service who have received the medals, which are named for Walter F. Patenge, the first president of the Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board.
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 2014 MOCF Ball – “Puttin’ on the Glitz.”

Once again, the event sold out with more than 800 guests joining us for a wonderful evening in support of the college and the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. This year’s event generated record-breaking net proceeds of more than $410,000. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be added to the MOCF Endowment fund at MSU. This event alone has resulted in an increase of more than $2.5 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 2015 MOCF Ball, which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 2015, at The Henry – Autograph Collection, Dearborn.

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

Together we DO make a difference!
Nearly 300 MSUCOM graduates walked across the stage at MSU’s Breslin Center on May 1 to collect their diplomas and mark the completion of their medical school education. Of those individuals, 17 also attended a special ceremony prior to commencement that marked their commissioning as officers in the respective branches of the U.S. military.

The commencement speaker was Dr. William G. Anderson, senior advisor to MSUCOM Dean William Strampel and clinical professor of osteopathic surgical specialties. Class president Jennifer Walker also spoke to her peers, comparing medical school to running a marathon. In his remarks Strampel advised the graduates to never compound errors of omission with commission (own up to their mistakes), that all people are important and that knowledge is relative.

To watch the recorded ceremony online, visit commencement.msu.edu.

New U.S. Air Force officers received their commissions during a ceremony held on May 1 prior to their graduation from the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Shown at the commissioning were, (back row, left to right) Elizabeth Albright, Andrew Gordon and Joel Drallette. Front row, left to right, are Erin Caverly, Amber Cibrario, Amy Luke and Joseph Parks.

Honored at a May 1 military commissioning ceremony prior to their MSUCOM graduation were (left to right) U.S. Army officers Darrin Lund, Robert Matalonis, Joseph Adams, Sarah Secon, Anthony Heidt and James Oh.

Newly commissioned U.S. Navy officers and doctors of osteopathic medicine (left to right) Michael Weber, Laura Mace, Jesse Park and Joshua Wong.

A grand group of graduates who completed their clerkship rotations at Mercy Health Partners in Muskegon were photographed with their faculty hooders prior to the commencement ceremony. From left to right are, Caitlin Rice, Ryan Spencer, Elizabeth Albright, Mary Schmidt, Liz Colvin, family medicine resident Kelly Flynn and family medicine resident Nick Beechnau. Not shown with the group is Stephanie Voice, the seventh Mercy base student.

Next stop, residency. MSUCOM graduates (left to right) Joel Draellette, Wesley Pidcock, Katherine Bautista, Britney Morgan, Tang Mai, Stephanie Hasty, Courtney Garrison, Caitlin Park, Katharine Micallef and Chelsey Yurkovich prepared to enter the Breslin Center.

MSUCOM graduates were all smiles prior to commencement. Shown left to right are Audrey Carrasco, Amy Gorsky, John Morasso, Stephanie Baukus, Zachary White, Yardley Brice, Victoria Montgomery, David Pohl, Alyssa Vermeulen, Jordan Wrobleski and John Fleming.

They did it! These MSUCOM graduates posed for a photo prior to commencement at the Breslin Center. From left to right, Whitney Blevins, a family hooder, David Piskorowski, Nouh Mazloum, Katie Kaput, Ahmad Ibrahim, Christin Lawrence, Jonathan Kinley and Gaurav Chand.

Go green, go white, go practice medicine. Left to right, Amr Youssef, Kimberlee Tomerlin, Madhavi Manyam, Mary Schmidt, Maria Hassan, Sandra Mazzoni, Nicholas McManus and Susan Jarosz prepare to receive their diplomas during the MSUCOM commencement.

Diploma-ready MSUCOM graduates (left to right ) Jemius Lee, Nicholas Wendling, Jenna Harrison, Veronica Esmero, Grace Burckheimer, Jennifer Choi, Randall Huir and Nicholas Shih posed for a photo before entering the Breslin Center.

Soon-to-be doctors of osteopathic medicine pause before entering the MSU Breslin Center. Left to right are Elizabeth Colvin, Andrew Stanley, Kayli Stanley, Ryan Wisner, Jennifer Bach, Grace Burckheimer, Elizabeth Albright, Natham Shawaji, Rebecca Aslakson and Matthew Bombard.

By Laura Probyn
By Sister Mary Lisa Renfer

Sister Mary Lisa Renfer is in the Religious Sisters of Mercy and a student in the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

One of the great gifts of being at MSU is the freedom I have to be who I am as a religious sister. Administration, faculty and classmates are not only accepting of me but also not afraid to ask questions, and we have had the gift of many wonderful conversations with others from varied backgrounds. It is an enriching experience to realize our common joys and fears and to see how connected we all are. I think this is one of the great gifts of being at school here at MSU.

Before I became a Sister, I sought many ways to respond to suffering, from mission trips around the world to volunteering close to home. While these were wonderful experiences, I always knew there was a cry in me for a total gift of self. Now, I cannot begin to say how thankful I am for the gift of being able to live my life as a Religious Sister of Mercy. I have much to learn and grow in, both in living as a sister and in working to become a physician, but that is where the adventure comes in. This summer we begin our work in the hospitals, the first step of putting our medical knowledge into practice. My hope is only that as I go through each day, I never forget to see each person before me and respond in love. We all experience suffering and see suffering every day, but our choice is in how we respond.
Children and adolescents can cause special challenges to primary care providers, a fact that MSUCOM's Pediatric Update seeks to address. Each year the CME program includes the most pressing issues in dealing with kids, from rashes to concussions. “There are several factors about children that can pose difficulties for a family practice,” said Christopher Pohlod, assistant professor of pediatrics and chairperson of the last Pediatric Update, held Feb. 22. “Dealing with a nervous child and even more nervous parents often requires special care and skill and more time,” he said. “Your first task is to stop the negativity, if any. “Next is keeping up with the knowledge base. You can’t treat children as little adults. Their physiology is different. They can process drugs (for example, antibiotics) quite differently.”

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Medicaid provides health insurance for 797,000 low-income children in Michigan, 41 percent of all the state’s kids. In addition, more than 77,000 children in the state are eligible but not enrolled.

“It’s important,” Pohlod said, “for physicians to understand the Medicaid reimbursement system, and the accommodations – such as scheduling, transportation and access – this population requires.”

Finally, he noted, “Due to the long wait for psychiatric services, more is asked of primary care providers in dealing with issues of mental health in children, who continue trailing.”

A 2015 alumni of MSUCOM, Pohlod joined the faculty in 2006 after serving as chief resident at Spartan Health System, Lansing. “I enjoy the challenges of the academic setting, teaching, and the possibility of research and administration,” he said, the last of which led him to take a health care leadership course at MSU in 2013. He was also named the associate chief information officer for MSU HealthTeam to help the health colleges meet federal requirements for health information technology. He lives in Holly, Portugal, where he was with his wife when he qualified as a student at MSUCOM, have two daughters, Sydney and Erin. For the past year Pohlod has competed in sprint-distance triathlons and is training for an Olympic-distance event this year.

**Pohlod: “You can’t treat children as little adults.”** by Pat Grauer
By Laura Probyn

Don’t call Eboney Howard a hero. He won’t hear of it.

During the week, Howard spends her time in three places. She serves as an administrative assistant at the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Detroit Medical Center site with Associate Dean Gary Willyerd. She acts as a liaison with DMC administration, scheduling, clerkship rotations and ensuring that base students are meeting all requirements at Sinai Grace Hospital. In addition, Eboney works with residents at the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority half of the work week.

She’s also a full-time student studying counseling psychology and a single mom to three sons.

“This is why many people do what I do. When you’re a single parent, you do what you have to do,” Howard said. “I have to make sure I offer the time my children need from me. I want my children to see that anything is possible as long as you try. I have to pave the road for them. My mom went back to school to get her degree and then went back for another degree.”

Howard’s split schedule might sound overwhelming, and she acknowledges the challenges, but she also has a strategy in place that works for her.

“I keep a lot of sticky notes in my car, purse and on my desk; it can be frustrating and impactful and how well it embodies the osteopathic values of preventive health.”

The current CORE Grant recipients are Victoria Nichols, D.O., Lisa Ann Hartington, D.O., and osteopathic medical students Bo Pang and Tereza Bucshni. Each of their programs is highlighted below.

- Leadership in Compassionate Care: Bo Pang and Tereza Bucshni’s project aims to integrate training in leadership, empathy, preventive care and creativity into Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSCOM) classrooms. In doing this, a greater presence of competent osteopathic physicians in Michigan will be on the forefront of the state’s health care providers.
- St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Family Medicine Healing Garden: Dr. Nichols’ project involves the creation of the St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Family Medicine Healing Garden which will be used to grow and provide fresh produce at no out of pocket cost to the Livingston County indigent population that is served by their residency clinic. The goal is to use the garden as a simple way to promote health and healful eating by providing “prescriptions” that include fresh produce and recipes tailored to that produce.
- Vegetables for Dessert?: Dr. Harrington’s project is to develop a school-based, hands-on learning opportunity for Grayling Middle School sixth grade students to improve recognition, understanding, and appreciation of vegetables. Students will participate in educational, explorative sessions with vegetables that will take place in their cafeterias. The goal is to combat the problems associated with childhood obesity and poor nutrition in a rural, low-income area of Michigan.

On behalf of our more than 8,000 members, we congratulate each and every one of you for what you are doing for the osteopathic profession. Please visit www.mi-osteopathic.org for more information.

MoA CORE Grant

The MoA CORE Grant, established in 2007, awards three initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to primary care and prevention. The grant programs illustrate outstanding commitment to the principal tenets of osteopathic medicine and are selected based on their project’s level of need, feasibility, impact and how well it embodies the osteopathic values of preventive health.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Please keep us informed of recent moves or changes in your practice. It is important to our college and the alumni section or by calling

MSUCOM Alumni Office 955 Fee Road, Room A310 East Lansing, MI 48824 517-355-4297 or toll free 877-853-3448 email: kim.camp@hc.msu.edu/alumni

Welcome to our home! Nearly 75 alumni, faculty, staff and friends swarmed the college’s DMC site on May 15 for tours, hours of events and great conversation. The event was held in conjunction with the Michigan Osteopathic Association’s convention at the Cobo Center in Detroit. Shown are (back) Lynn Beals Becker (93), Gary Willyerd (78), Pamela Thompson (86), Rebecca Fossler-Blackler (85), Steve Averch (86), Adam Hunt (73), Richard Beaton (79), Ed Lee (78), Carol Monson (79), Mark Sikorski (87), Joe Gorz (13), Hal Friedman (80), Richard Bryce (88), Craig Magna (79), (front) Kathy Rollinger (86), Elzi Bacari (86), MOA President Mr. Robbston (76), Joanne Grzeszak (70), Joyce Foster Hartford (76), Kurt Horts (82), Barbara Takis (86).
SUMMER 2014 COMMUNIQUÉ 21

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

31-Aug. 3
MAOFP Summer Family Medicine Update – Grand Traverse Resort, Acme. 21 hours of Category 1-A CME credits anticipated. To register, call 888-204-9124 or visit www.maofp.org.

5-7

19
“Fall Kaleidoscope CME,” part of MSUCOM Silverfest alumni weekend. Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Lincoln Room, East Lansing. 7.5 Category 1-A credits. com.msu.edu/cme, 517-353-9714 or cme@com.msu.edu

OCTOBER

3-7
CME: Craniosacral Technique: Part II – MSUCOM, Fee Hall, East Lansing. 35 Category 1-A credits. Chairperson Barbara Briner, D.O. com.msu.edu/cme, 517-353-9714 or cme@com.msu.edu

15-19
OMED 2014 – Seattle. The American Osteopathic Association’s annual conference features a trade show, affiliate meetings and an MSUCOM alumni reception, which will take place on Oct. 27 at Gordon Biersch Brewery. To register for OMED, visit www.osteopathic.org. To get more information about the MSUCOM reception, contact Kim Camp at kim.camp@hc.msu.edu.

SPARTANS WILL: ALUMNI AND ATHLETES PROVE IT EVERY DAY

Greetings Spartan Fans!

This has been an epic 2014 for us all. MSU won the Rose Bowl, the men’s basketball team made the Elite Eight, and the women’s basketball team advanced to the second round of their NCAA tournament. In medicine, the ACGME has passed the resolution for the combined AMA/ACGME residency programs and credentialing, and the Affordable Care Act has signed up more than five million people for insurance and many more have become eligible for Medicaid with state aid. I know there were many alumni involved with discussions at all levels of these medical changes, and we are glad that our alumni are so active. Thank you.

In each arena, sports and medicine, Spartans are leading the way. Fans who bleed green for our MSU sport teams know that there has been adversity both on and off the playing field, yet our teams continue to dig deep and find they rise to the challenges and succeed. As MSUCOM alumni and physicians we can take a lesson from them. We may feel hemmed in by our circumstances, things we cannot change. But if we look inside and dig deep, we can rise to meet any challenge in our day. It could be a challenging patient encounter, a difficult diagnosis, or a disruption to our paradigm of health care delivery. When I am faced with these challenges, I think of the Spartan commercials that are played frequently stating that “Spartans Will.”

As Kermit the Frog says, “It’s not easy being green…” But I would disagree. Not only is it easy, but it is a privilege being green… Spartan green that is.

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

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