CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF GIVING
THE CAMPAIGN for MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Endowment
Phyllis and Walter Dell Endowed Scholarship, Kay E. White Scholarship, Ingham County Osteopathic Auxiliary
Endowed Scholarship

2004
Robert Snyder: Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building
Grateful Patient Fund
Ingham County Osteopathic Auxiliary Endowed Scholarship
Mark and Toula Guiffoyle: Guiffoyle and Milias Endowed Scholarship
Holly Kabakovitch family trust

Osteopathic Heritage Foundations: Osteopathic Heritage Professor

2003
Riverside Osteopathic Hospital Guild Endowed Scholarship

2002
Jason and Danica Woolley: Support for OMM lab in honor of Lynn Brumm, D.O.

2001
Jon Kabara: Arnette H. Kabara Memorial Endowed Fund and charitable remainder unitrust
SNMA, AMOMS: Margaret Aguwa Endowed Scholarship to support OsteoCHAMPS
Botsford General Hospital: Edward N Hodges III, JD, Endowed Scholarship

MSUCOM: A legacy in scholarship

2000
Phyllis K. and Walter P. Dell Endowed Scholarship

1999
Dr. Myron S. and Ruth Magen Fund

1998
Philip E. and Patricia B. Greenman Endowed Enrichment Fund
Blue Care Network of Michigan Endowed Scholarship in honor of Pedro Rivera, D.O.
Kay E. White Scholarship Fund

1997
Michigan Association of Physicians from India Endowed Scholarship Fund for Students of Asian Indian Heritage
Edgar L. Harden Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Philipp and Vera Gerhardt Research Fund
Dr. James J. Davis Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Walter J. Laird Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Philip E. Greenman, D.O., Endowed Fellowship
Anonymous Endowed Scholarship

1995
John Palmer Wood trust

1994
Myron S. Magen Medical Education Fund

1989
Kobiljak family gift to establish Interactive Learning Resource Center
Joseph Pysh: Honoring the past by ensuring the future

by Pat Grauer

Jayne Ward, David Kaufman, and Joe Pysh — all from the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology — were among those recently celebrating a successful residency recruitment season. Ward’s friend Jimi Young at the end of the evening had a question. “Joe Pysh is committed to education and excited about the residents and clerkships and students. Have you ever done something to honor him?”

The query resonated for Ward, a 1996 MSUCOM alumna and an associate professor in the department, because Pysh had not only been a faculty colleague, but one of her instructors. It was also attractive to Kaufman, chairperson, who had seen Pysh’s work and can-do attitude close up for years. As a result, the two decided to create the Joseph Pysh, D.O./Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship in his honor, and solicited support from faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the department. They presented it to him this spring as a surprise.

“Joe was always the first person to step up, the first to help in any endeavor,” said Ward. “He's a professor emeritus right now, but it's typical of him that he still works nine months a year teaching OST 571 [Neuromusculoskeletal System] and works with residents.”

Pysh, who retired in 2008, is a neurologist and neuroanatomist who maintained active research, teaching and clinical practices as a professor. He joined MSUCOM in 1986 as an associate professor of internal medicine, after 20 years of service on the faculty in the then Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at Northwestern University’s medical and dental schools in Chicago.

His research interests include environmental influences on brain development, cellular mechanisms in synaptic transmission, stroke, Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders, and epilepsy. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, educational videos and invited presentations, and held a number of National Institutes of Health research grants.

But it was Pysh’s commitment to his trainees that was most memorable; he spent a substantial amount of time educating master's and doctoral students and providing clinical education for interns, residents and fellows.

“Joseph Pysh represents people who are utterly loyal to their profession and college,” said Kaufman. “He has served MSUCOM and its students, never wavering in his devotion to teaching young doctors. He also provides outstanding clinical education for residents.”

Pysh scholarships will be awarded to third-year MSUCOM students with a demonstrated interest in neurological care to his patients. Best of all, he inspires the people around him to do things the right way.”

MSU University Distinguished Professor and Professor of Osteopathic Medical Specialties Terrie Taylor has spent more than 25 years working to wipe out childhood mortality due to malaria in the southeastern African nation of Malawi. She’s unlocking the mysteries behind this devastating disease that kills thousands of children annually.

Taylor spends half of each year conducting research and running a health clinic in Malawi. Since she began her work there in 1986, more than 400 medical students, faculty members and practitioners have joined her in the fight to beat malaria. Even if you cannot travel to Malawi, you are invited to join them in their work to save young lives and unlock a brighter future for millions.

What's the goal?

An operating budget of $25,000 per year would allow the team to cover expenses like:

- Travel in support of new collaborations
- Acquiring preliminary data (running lab tests, statistical analyses, etc.)
- “Collaborators in Malawi” gathering at American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene annual meeting
- Post-exposure HIV prophylaxis for research team
- Households expenses/maintenance in Malawi
- Hosting Malawi-related visitors at MSU
- Miscellaneous supplies not covered by grants (i.e. EEGs, MRIs)
- Training costs for staff in Malawi

Help us open the door to a future

If you contribute to the Malawi Fund, you'll be one of them.

Summer 2014
Great teaching leaves a mark

Being a student in Dr. Shirley Siew’s class was never a spectator sport. Legions of osteopathic medical students have gathered around the pathology specimens she has meticulously collected at MSU for more than 16 years. She knows the name of every student. And she knows the questions to ask that lead each one to make critical connections between classroom learning and the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

“From the beginning she treated us with the seriousness that would be required of us in our future professions,” says Youssuf Koussa, a D.O./Ph.D. student in the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM). “What she taught is irreplaceable for me—and to all of her past students—to be able to help people.”

Recently, Youssuf joined fellow osteopathic medical resident Breanna O’Keefe to spearhead the creation of a student scholarship endowment in Dr. Siew’s honor. “She taught me very early in my career that I should work my hardest and only accept the best I have to give,” says Breanna. “Dr. Siew’s willingness to help students—to provide not just answers, but an education—is something generations of physicians have been privy to.”

When MSUCOM graduates run into one another, a key question is always whether Dr. Siew is still there, according to Youssuf. “Everyone remembers being in that room and feeling the passion and energy she brought to her teaching,” says Youssuf. “We wanted to start the scholarship because—just like her contributions to medicine—it is something that will endure.”

Numerous medical students contributed to create the scholarship, and Dr. Siew herself generously added to the fund. The award will support deserving students pursuing clinical or doctoral degrees from MSUCOM, starting in the fall of 2014.

To learn more about contributing to the Dr. Shirley Siew Student Award, contact Suzette Hittner, Executive Director of Constituent Programs at (517) 884-7430; hittner@gomsu.edu.

The power of gentle hearts

By Pat Grauer

Rightly called an “industrialist, humanitarian, community leader and courtly gentleman,” Walter F. Patenge’s legacy within the College of Osteopathic Medicine is rooted before its founding and will extend far into its future.

President of the Wibbert Corporation in Lansing for more than 31 years, Patenge had been highly impressed with a therapy—osteopathic manipulative medicine—that was getting its employees with back pain back to work in record time. This experience made him a staunch supporter of the osteopathic profession, and he worked hard to improve it in Michigan. He helped establish the private Michigan College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1969 in Pontiac, and lobbied to bring it to MSU in 1971. A member of the board of the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation, he was appointed by Gov. G. M. Milliken as the first chair of the Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board.

There’s no doubt that industrialist Patenge put his skin in the game, but he and his wife Leone also donated to the university their resources, most notably a valuable plot of Meridian Township land, which was sold and the money invested.

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Honoring the past and the future

by Pat Grauer

MSUCOM alumni have found a creative way to make their giving do twice the good. They’ve endowed scholarships to help ensure a robust future for the osteopathic profession. But then they also honor their parents in naming the scholarships for them.

Thomas A. Olen, a 1992 alumnus, did just that in creating the Henry F. Olen, DO Endowed Scholarship – a gift that delighted his dad, now 90. The scholarship supports MSUCOM students who graduated from high school in Kent County.

“My father has been my mentor all my life,” said Olen, president of MidMichigan Anesthesiology Group, and chairman of the Department of Anesthesia at MidMichigan Medical Center – Midland. “From the time that my becoming a doctor was only a dream, he encouraged my interest in the sciences and helped me develop good moral values and standards. I wanted to be just like him, an osteopathic physician.”

The elder Olen, an active general practitioner into his 80s, had served as president of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (now MOA), president of the Kent County Osteopathic Society, chief of staff at Grand Rapids Osteopathic Hospital (now Metro Health), director of medical education at Saginaw Osteopathic Hospital, and deputy director of the Kent County Health Department.

“What the osteopathic profession has to offer is a great alternative,” said Olen, “both in the thought processes that go into treating patients and the emphasis on family practice. It’s important to me to help today’s students follow their dreams.”

Mark E. Sikorski’s donation endowed a new memorial scholarship for his parents Eugene L. and Joan F. Sikorski, but it also honors an osteopathic family dynasty.

“My father was president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association, the American Osteopathic Association, a governor’s appointee to the Michigan osteopathic licensing board, and was instrumental in founding MSUCOM,” he said. “I remember, as a boy, his talking to state legislators about establishing the college. At his death, he was president of the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation, completing decades of service to MSUCOM.”

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All four of the Sikorski offspring became D.O.s, three of them at MSUCOM: Brenda, ’83, Lynn, ’87, and Mark, ’87. David was a graduate of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. In addition, nored Sikorski, their mom’s brother and first cousin and dad’s brother-in-law, was an osteopathic physician, and Lynn’s son is now part of MSUCOM’s Osteopathic Medical Scholars.

“Growing up, we had two families – our Sikorski clan and the osteopathic family,” he said. “As kids, we would go to conventions and play with other D.O. children, most of whom also ultimately became osteopathic physicians.

“My parents gave much to us as family and much to the osteopathic profession,” he said. “This scholarship is something special I can do to keep alive the memory of Mom and Dad at MSUCOM.”

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 Klinghsirn, 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 as a part of northern Michigan landscape.”

From Communiqué Summer 2013

Northern exposure:
Osteopathic style

From Communiqué Fall 2013
**Hometown contributions**

By Craig Read

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 Greenslaits 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. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine. ‘A lot of students come to my hospital curious to learn more about medicine.”

From Communiqué Winter 2013

**New endowment for osteopathic medicine**

By Robert Bao

A $200,000 endowment to research the links between osteopathic treatment techniques and eastern medicine will be donated by the Jaseng Hospital of Korean Eastern Medicine in Seoul to the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Another $150,000 is earmarked to study a distinctive form of acupuncture used by Jaseng.

Jaseng chairman Joon-shik Shin (left) and Dean William Strampel of the College of Osteopathic Medicine have signed the agreement. Jaseng is the leading integrative hospital in the Republic of Korea, and the only spine-specialty hospital of oriental medicine to be recognized by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

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 MSU’s Mass Spectrometry Facility. Researchers will then assess if there are correlations between the biochemical results and the clinical results.

“I’m delighted about our expanding relationship with Jaseng and Dr. Shin, and very happy about the research,” says Strampel. “This is the beginning of many good things.”

From MSU Alumni Association Magazine Winter 2013
In loving memory

by Craig Reed

For decades, William Anderson Sr. has worked closely with MSUCOM – by creating educational opportunities for our students and giving inspiring speeches on what it was like being an osteopathic physician in rural Georgia during the civil rights movement. This year, Anderson has taken another step to inspire the profession by starting an endowed scholarship in memory of his wife, Norma.

“She was an incredible woman. She was my inspiration and supported me through the good and the bad times. She was often the breadwinner of the family, working and caring for our children while I was completing medical school and later when I was arrested protesting segregation in our community,” said Anderson. In 1961, he was president of the Albany Movement which organized one of the earliest desegregation efforts in the country. The lessons learned from this would contribute to the success of later efforts in Alabama led by civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. “I wouldn’t have been part of the movement had my wife not convinced me to come back to rural Georgia after medical school to practice medicine,” he said. “She correctly pointed out that the state, which is where I was born, was where I was needed.”

Anderson now has three children and two grandchildren who are also D.O.s – three of whom graduated from MSUCOM. “My children saw that I enjoyed my profession and three decided to follow in my footsteps. Two of my grandkids have now followed in their parents’ footsteps,” he said. “The profession has been good to me and my family. I want to make certain it is here in the future and one way to ensure that is by establishing scholarships.”

From Communiqué Fall 2012

Dr. Andrea Amalfitano, ’84, PhD ’89, DO’90, professor of pediatrics, microbiology and molecular genetics, exemplifies how endowments support faculty positions. Amalfitano is the first person to hold the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Endowed Chair in MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

One of the nation’s leading genetic scientists, Amalfitano returned to MSU after working at Duke University Medical Center, the Mayo Clinic, and the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital at the University of Michigan.

Amalfitano brings an all-inclusive approach to his work at MSU. He is a practicing physician and diagnostician, a professor teaching both undergraduates and medical students, and the leader of a research team whose efforts seek new approaches and methods for treating diseases. Amalfitano’s lab focuses on the feasibility of gene transfer to treat both genetic and non-genetic disease. His team developed a uniquely improved gene transfer vector and has published multiple papers highlighting their progress in safely and efficiently delivering genetic information into living organs. The Amalfitano team is investigating the use of its gene transfer vectors in vaccine applications to target such diseases as HIV, malaria, C. difficile, plus cancers of the colon, breast, head and neck.

In January, the Big Ten Network’s Impact the World series featured Amalfitano’s successful diagnosis and treatment of Pompe disease, a form of muscular dystrophy, in a two-year old patient. If not caught early, this genetic disorder can be fatal. Fortunately for the young patient, Amalfitano not only was able to correctly diagnose the rare condition, but also is one of the foremost experts on how to help the child.

Amalfitano and a team at Duke University conducted the first successful clinical trials of a treatment for Pompe.

Amalfitano says that his clinical work is invaluable to his research. “I learn from my patients,” he says. “My work as a physician helps me to understand the complexity and intricacies of the kinds of conditions we are attempting to find answers for in our lab.”

Because of the endowed chair established through a $1.5 million grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, MSU undergraduates and medical students have the chance to learn from one of the nation’s leading experts in the diagnosis and treatment of genetic diseases, children in Amalfitano’s pediatrics practice in Michigan receive excellent medical care, and upcoming young scientists in his lab are participating in exciting research to address some of the world’s pressing health problems.

From MSU Alumni Association October 2012

Endowments
A measure of university excellence

Andrea Amalfitano

Norma and William Anderson
Developing world focus

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

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

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

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

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

“We couldn’t have done all this without Dr. Willyerd. He’s mentored us through the process of how to conduct these trips as well as how to give back to the college,” said Joe. “Scholarships and funds are something that will be here for other students after we’ve graduated.”

From Communiqué Summer 2012

Investment connections

When you look at giving, it often comes down to our connections to causes and organizations. Craig Glines, Class of 1991, and his family have ties to many aspects of the MSU community and that’s reflected in how they help.

“We have two sons at MSU right now. Ben is a sophomore studying pre-med,” said Glines. “Our other son, John, is a senior on the crew team, and has been ‘All-American’ two years in a row. My wife and I helped the team purchase some new equipment they needed.”

Glines and his family have also helped the medical mission trip which sends MSUCOM students and faculty to remote parts of Peru to treat the underserved. “I know Gary Willyerd personally. He’s been asking my wife — who is a Spanish teacher — and me to join him on the trip since they need an OB/GYN physician and a Spanish translator. We haven’t been able to go yet, so we decided to support the mission financially. It’s a good program. It gets our medical students involved in helping those who need it most.”

When Glines decided to join President’s Club, MSU’s donor society for those making gifts of $10,000 or more, much of his investment was dedicated to the Dean’s Discretionary Fund.

“We gave it unrestricted,” said Glines, “so the dean could use it where he sees the most need.”

“I’m really proud and honored to have attended MSUCOM,” continued Glines. “Thanks to the college, I was able to become a physician so I can take care of people. It gave me a direction in my life, and that’s why I support the college today.”

From Communiqué Winter 2012

Lisa Blanzy Glines and Craig Glines spread their generosity across MSU — including MSUCOM.
The giving experience

by Craig Reed

Contributing financially and volunteering to teach our students are important ways to support MSUCOM, yet these aren’t the only means. Another is by creating overseas experiences, as David MacIntosh and Lorah Wright-MacIntosh are preparing to do in Kenya.

“I spent some time working in a hospital in Chogoria, Kenya, after my internship,” said David. “More recently I have spent several years teaching cardiology to fourth-year medical students doing their tropical medicine rotation at the University of Malawi with Dr. Terrie Taylor. I thought such an arrangement would be possible in Kenya as well so they can learn about a different culture while learning tropical medicine.”

“The fourth-year students who will be with us will develop a new appreciation for all the technology we have here in the United States and the strong clinical skills Kenyan doctors have to hone,” said Lorah. “The hospital we’ll be taking students to next February is located in a poor region of the country. Medical insurance doesn’t exist here. Patients have to make decisions on whether they should get treatment primarily on how much it will cost.”

As members of MSU’s Jonathan L. Snyder Donor Society, Lorah and David also help to alleviate some of the costs students face attending medical school.

“Our donations are to help the students so they don’t have as much debt as they could have otherwise,” he said.

“We’ve been given a lot and we’re very fortunate. I really appreciate the education I got at MSUCOM and would like to sustain it,” she said.

“Tessa, Gardner

Scholarships ease the financial burden so our osteopathic students can pursue their passions, instead of whichever high-paying fields can help them pay off their student loans faster. Some, like ’94 alumna Tressa Gardner, a MSU President’s Club member (honoring those contributing between $10,000 and $24,999), have helped spearhead the creation and growth of the Oakland County Scholarship as part of a broader show of support for her community.

“I grew up in Pontiac, and I want to support students from my area who wish to go on to medical school,” said Gardner. “I have spread my giving to provide opportunities starting when students are in high school. I sponsor area teenagers who wish to learn about osteopathic medicine through MSUCOM’s OsteoCHAMPS summer program and support the Oakland County scholarship to help mitigate some of their expenses while they are in medical school. I also support the outreach efforts of POM Regional Medical Center, where I work, so medical students, interns and residents at our hospital have the opportunity to get involved in helping Pontiac’s most needy families. The community ultimately benefits from all this, especially if these students decide to practice medicine in Pontiac.”

Robert Snyder, ’79 alumnus and member of MSU’s Snyder Society (those who have given between $100,000 and $249,999) has generously donated to the Roy J. Harvey scholarship fund, which targets students from Midland, Saginaw and surrounding areas interested in primary care. “Harvey was instrumental in getting MSUCOM established,” said Snyder. “For me, he was a friend and mentor that I had the utmost regard for.”

Snyder often inquires of Dean Strampel and others on the best ways to invest in the college. “I’ve always had a desire to give back to the college which made it possible for me to do everything I’ve wanted to do in life. Since I live too far away to volunteer my time, I donate. I want to see the college strengthen and continue to improve. You have to put something in to make that happen.”

Donors like these lay groundwork for our ultimate goal: to provide a scholarship to every MSUCOM student. It is an ambitious step, but an important one. It asks for more of our alumni to follow in the footsteps of their peers. Support for the osteopathic profession today will make it thrive tomorrow.

From Communiqué Fall 2010

Steppin’ up

Tressa Gardner

Robert Snyder

When not in Africa, the couple live and work near Traverse City, Michigan.
The gifts of alumni and faculty

by Craig Reed

Tough economic times are an opportunity to consider what is important to us. For many of our faculty, staff and alumni, keeping MSUCOM strong during this recession is a priority.

“Because the college invests in the university, in faculty as well as students, it makes sense to support its work,” said Dr. J.R. Haywood, chairperson for the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. “One of the first things my wife, Molly, and I encountered when we arrived on campus was MSUCOM’s ‘Slavery to Freedom’ series. We felt it was important to support this. It sends such a positive message, not just during the month of February, but year round.”

In addition, the Haywoods support student scholarships by participating in the MOCF Ball. “We enjoy being part of this growing event that supports our students,” said Haywood. “It’s great to be a part of a college that is on the move.”

‘82 alumnus Robert Gordon explained, “Without this college, I wouldn’t be where I am today.” Gordon’s method of supporting the college involves his patients in a novel solution. “Most of my time is spent doing physicals for immigrants and flight physicals, but I have a small family practice as well,” said Gordon. “Instead of charging my family practice patients for my services, I provide them information on how to donate to MSUCOM and ask them to donate whatever they feel is appropriate instead. The patients like this set-up. It gets them involved in giving back to the college.”

Benefitting from team giving

by Craig Reed

Allen W. Jacobs had a strong interest in sports and, during his time as dean of MSUCOM, he worked to give osteopathic medicine a place in the care of athletes. After his unexpected death in 2003, donors pooled their resources to create the Allen W. Jacobs, D.O., Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship to help those who shared his interest in treating sports competitors.

“Receiving the scholarship meant a lot to me. It was an honor to be recognized by faculty for the hard work I had put in during my four years of medical school,” said ’03 alumnus Nathanael Brady, the second recipient of the Jacobs scholarship. “I was active in the Student Osteopathic Association of Sports Medicine (SOASM) when I was going to MSUCOM. I’ve always had an interest in pediatrics as well, so I became involved in doing sports physicals and later helping adolescent athletes control their asthma so they could continue to play the sports they enjoy. I eventually chose to focus on asthma and allergies as a fellow, but I continue to use my skills to help kids stay active.”

For ’06 alumna Brooke Lemmen, the scholarship has given her a connection to someone with a similar passion. “I never got to meet Dean Jacobs. Ironically, he died the day before I was interviewed by the admissions committee,” said Lemmen. “I wish I had a chance to meet him. We had a lot in common. I just started my sports medicine fellowship this summer. I had been dreaming of this opportunity since I was an undergraduate. Being a recipient of the Jacobs scholarship was one step in the process of fulfilling a dream I’ve had for more than nine years – to make a difference in athletic careers and to help them play the best they can in sports they love.”

From Communiqué Winter 2010

From Communiqué Fall 2009
Generational goodwill

by Craig Reed

Giving to MSUCOM can be a family affair—especially when most members are D.O.s, as in the case of the Athens family.

“I’ve been in practice for 54 years now, and still practice on a part-time basis today,” said William Athens Sr. “I started out as a country doctor, worked until 10 p.m. most days, but I made it a point to be home for dinner with my wife and four children. I’d talk about the good things about practicing medicine while we were eating together.”

Growing up in this positive medical household led three out of four of his children into medicine, two of whom graduated from MSUCOM.

“I wanted to be a physician since I was a little girl,” said ’78 alumna Ellen Athens. “I have a great admiration for MSUCOM and want it to provide others the same opportunities. I want it to benefit others.” As a family practitioner, Ellen joined her father’s practice not long after completing her residency.

“Our situation is unique,” said ’91 alumnus William Jr., who also joined the Athens practice shortly after his residency. “Our dad had a powerful influence on us. We saw how rewarding practicing medicine was for him and how he was helping others. I love talking to patients, gaining their trust and communicating with them.”

“This profession has allowed me to take care of people,” said Andrew Athens, who graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM) and specializes in orthopedics. “I like giving back to the profession through teaching and giving to my alma mater. I want to support future D.O.s.”

Andrew isn’t the only family member transforming his commitment to the profession into generous giving to his college. Ellen and William Jr. are part of MSU’s President’s Club—donors who give between $25,000 to $49,999. “I’m very proud of MSUCOM,” said William Jr. “The college’s emphasis on the relationship between doctors and their patients, and its commitment to care are important. It makes you want to be a better physician and proud to say that you’re from MSUCOM.”

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Pride in your college, a pledge to partner to the osteopathic profession and the people it serves — these are important pillars to keep MSUCOM strong during tough economic times. With support from the Athens family and others like them, we know the best days of our college have yet to come.

The generosity of southeast Michigan

by Craig Reed

As MSUCOM prepares for the upcoming expansion, alumni in southeast Michigan are stepping forward by donating time to teach our students, and using their financial resources to assist our future students.

“Promoting education has been an important part of my life. Before I became a medical student, I was helping high school students as a teacher at Lansing Catholic High School,” said ’88 alumna Stanley H. Miller, who has recently established an endowed scholarship for MSUCOM students. Miller is a specialist in occupational and environmental preventive medicine. As the group medical director for General Motors Corporation, Miller oversees the clinical operations of 48,000 employees working in 45 plants in 17 countries. He strives to prevent work related injuries and illness — reducing the healthcare costs for GM and improving the quality of life and work environment of the employees. “I educate workers on how best to protect themselves, and I advise executives and ergonomic specialists on how to improve the work environment and further promote safety,” said Miller. “We’ve been very effective. I see the creation of this endowment as a natural extension of my desire to promote education. MSUCOM gave me the opportunity to achieve my dreams. I am doing my part to help others achieve their dreams of becoming physicians.”

For ’92 alumnus Robert Piccinini, this year has been an opportunity to expand his generosity and highlight another important individual in his life — his father. “I have already created two endowments, one named after my grandfather and another after my mother and grandmother. I’m working on one right now that will be named after my father,” said Piccinini.

“It’s my firm belief that we need to help the next generation of D.O.s not only financially, but also to remind them of where we come from and where our roots are, both as individuals and as a profession,” continued Piccinini. “This is my way of showing where I come from while supporting upcoming medical students and the osteopathic profession. We all come to this on the backs of other people. I’m here because of my parents and grandparents. If I forget them, I’m not really worthy of seeing my patients.”

As our college continues to grow, the need for endowed scholarships to offset the cost of medical education for our students grows as well. Giving often starts out small, but over time such investments in the college compound and make a significant difference in the lives of many students. Growing strong financial roots now promotes the osteopathic education of tomorrow.
A time of sharing

Yvette McCormick

The cost of a quality medical education continues to rise. According to the Lansing State Journal, Michigan is now ranked sixth (behind Vermont, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Illinois) for the highest tuition for its public universities, making scholarships an ever more important part of the formula for attracting the best and brightest into MSUCOM and the osteopathic profession. This year a record of 65 scholarships were given to 115 of our students, investing $690,000 total toward their medical education and offsetting a significant amount of their tuition.

Thanks to your support, even more scholarships will be added next year, increasing the amount of assistance we can offer to our students. Among the new scholarships, the Yvette McCormick, D.O. Endowed Scholarship is a fine example of alumni sharing their commitment to the college and memories of their former classmate with those who have followed down the path of becoming a D.O.

"Yvette was a classmate of mine. We both graduated from MSUCOM in 1985," said Dr. Sumita Vedyavalli, who helped establish the scholarship in Dr. McCormick’s name. "She was very easygoing, a great friend and physician. We had a pretty rough schedule of classes together, but she was always there. Shortly after she set up her practice here, she was struck with cancer. She struggled with it for a good while, but eventually she had to shut down her practice. She didn’t have any family to help her through all this. She died in 2000. My classmates and I wanted her to be remembered, and be able to share a bit of who Yvette was to as many people as we could. Last January, I made a promise to myself to make this happen in the form of a scholarship and thanks to my former classmates and others, we were able to pool our resources to create it."

Remembering compassionate people through compassionate giving is not just an opportunity to give back to MSUCOM. It is a way to memorialize those who were shining examples of what it means to be a D.O.

To establish an endowed scholarship fund, a donor or group of donors must commit at least $30,000 over five years to the principal of the fund. This commitment allows the donor to name the scholarship and establish the guidelines on how the scholarship or award will be determined. The original gifts and any subsequent gifts are invested in a common investment fund and the principal is never spent. Each year a part of the investment income supports the scholarship program.

The remaining investment income is retained as a hedge against inflation and to provide a reserve that can be drawn on when investment returns are low or negative. Endowed scholarships truly create a margin of excellence. By working in perpetuity, these scholarships provide financial assistance year after year. They enable the college to attract top candidates and make it possible for them to graduate without overwhelming debt.

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New MRI to debut in Malawi; Will save lives, advance malaria research

BLANTYRE, Malawi — Michigan State University physician Terrie Taylor studies cerebral malaria in Malawi where the vast majority of patients are children. And, in order to get a closer look at the damage malaria does to a child, Taylor and colleagues study the child’s brain, something that until now, could only be done in an autopsy.

However, that will change this summer when a new magnetic resonance imaging unit – the first MRI machine ever to come to Malawi – will be put into operation. This will not only let physicians assess malaria damage before a child has died, but will help to diagnose a wide range of illnesses that affect the local population.

“This will help in so many ways,” Taylor said. “We’ll use it for the research we do, we’ll be able to use it for everyday patients that come through the hospital, and it will help to attract and retain more doctors to Malawi.”

The MRI unit arrived in Malawi in April. It will be housed at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi’s largest city. It will be officially dedicated by the minister of health on June 23 at a ceremony involving several MSU dignitaries.

“We are honored that the honorable KhuSumo Kachali, Ministry of Health, will be able to join us on this historic occasion,” said William Strampel, dean of MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine which donated more than $400,000 for the project.

Currently, there is only one radiologist who serves the entire nation of Malawi. Another benefit of the new MRI unit is that it will allow that radiologist – Sam Kampondeni – to send images to MSU where radiologists will assess and evaluate them and offer a second opinion.

“With this new MRI unit we will be able to serve as many as 18 patients per day,” said Kampondeni, who trained as a guest in the MSU Department of Radiology in 2007.

Not only will the MRI machine be the first in Malawi, it also will serve the neighboring countries of Mozambique and Zambia, neither of which has an MRI machine.

Taylor, a University Distinguished Professor of internal medicine and an osteopathic physician, spends the rainy season – January through June – working at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, treating malaria patients and conducting research on a disease that kills as many as 2 million children in sub-Saharan Africa every year.

“Why would we want to lose a quarter of the children that have been born in our lifetime?” Taylor said. “It is a terrible tragedy that so many children die in their first three years of life because they are suffering from a condition that could be treated if the children had access to the right medicine.”

So far, one of the most significant findings from Taylor’s study is that about one-quarter of the children who were thought to have cerebral malaria were not suffering from malaria at all, because the researchers were using case definitions that lacked precision.

Taylor’s autopsy study was funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The NIH also is providing funding for the MRI project, including funds to cover some of the operating costs as well as the high-speed Internet connection.

“Thanks to the efforts of James Potchen, an MSU University Distinguished Professor of radiology and chairperson of the department that General Electric Co. donated the MRI unit to the hospital. The department also supported the costs of training Kampondeni to interpret magnetic resonance images.

Combined with transportation costs and the various hardware, software and other MRI necessities, the total value of the donation was more than $1.3 million.

The largest part of the MRI machine—a compact car sized magnet weighing 20 tons—arrived in Blantyre in April after what could have been a harrowing journey.

The machine was assembled in China and, beginning March 15, transported to the South African port of Durban by sea. After its arrival on the continent, the precious cargo was hauled by truck to its final destination—traveling through Botswana and Zambia to avoid civil unrest in Zimbabwe.
Faculty and staff are the backbone of many of the college’s successes. For all that they give the students and MSUCOM, a significant number also take some of their well-earned dollars and invest back into their college’s future.

“I wanted a way to say ‘thank you’ to the college,” said Kim Camp, director of alumni programs for MSUCOM. “The college has given me a lot of what I needed to care for my daughter, Kellie. She’s had quite a number of surgeries over the years and it means a lot to me as a mother to have the kind of consistent support I’ve been given by the college so I could be there for her.”

This year Camp is celebrating her first year as a Presidents Club donor, the first level of a series of donor societies which recognizes those who have made a commitment between $80,000 and $249,999.

“I have wanted to join Presidents Club for some time now, and I am happy that I can make it happen this year,” said Camp. “When I first started giving, I really didn’t have a lot of money to give back, but I was told at the time it didn’t matter the amount. So if I started off by giving five dollars a month and worked my way up to what I’m giving now.”

Faculty like Catherine Kerschen, a ’92 alumna of MSUCOM and associate professor for the Department of Internal Medicine, desire to go that extra mile as well. She is a member of MSU’s Beaumont Tower society – individuals who have made a commitment between $25,000 and $49,999. “I live a nice life and the college has contributed to how much I have now,” said Kerschen. “The college has invested in me and so I feel I should invest in the college in turn. Those of us in the profession are blessed to be here.” Kerschen has used her donations to target different parts of the university she wishes to support. “I donate mainly to MSUCOM, but I have donations set up specifically for the Department of Internal Medicine and the Wharton Center as well. It’s a great feeling for me to know that when, for instance, the Wharton Center updates their facility or MSUCOM starts a new research project, my contributions have helped make these things possible.”

“The act of faculty and staff supporting the college goes well beyond just the dollars they give,” said Chris Surian, director of development for MSUCOM. “It is very common for foundations and individual donors who are considering size and seven-figure gifts to ask at what levels are current faculty and staff giving back. If the scale levels high, it is a sign to those potential major donors that we have a healthy and productive program.”

Developing a habit of giving is one of the ways you can continuously invest in and support your college. Over time, every donation you make will compound with your previous ones to help create the scholarship. “We felt that an endowed scholarship, which can be given each year to MSUCOM students for tuition, was the best way to use our funds to support what our organization stands for. This scholarship will be here forever as a mark we have left on the college.”

Scholarships are a mechanism for supporting the osteopathic community – whether one is a recipient using the funds for medical education or the generous donor providing the much needed support. The image of a “donor” has changed over the years with the recent creation of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) endowed scholarship – a scholarship created by current medical students.

“We knew that we had extra funds available and wanted to find the best way to use them,” said Tim Long, a third-year student and former SOMA treasurer who was involved in the scholarship’s creation. “We looked at different options, and with the assistance and support of MSUCOM faculty, including Dr. William Falls and our advisor, Dr. Mark Gugel, we decided to create an endowed scholarship.”

The SOMA endowed scholarship is the first MSUCOM scholarship ever created by a student organization and the first established by a SOMA chapter anywhere in the country. “Part of the national SOMA mission is to promote osteopathic ideals and to educate future osteopathic physicians,” said Amanda Minich, a third-year student and former SOMA president who also helped create the scholarship. “We felt that an endowed scholarship, which can be given each year to MSUCOM students for tuition, was the best way to use our funds to support what our organization stands for. This scholarship will be here forever as a mark we have left on the college.”

Scholarships are also a chance to link donors with recipients with similar interests. Take the Allen W. Jacobs Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to students pursuing careers in sports medicine. “Al was always the happiest when he was helping other people succeed,” said Kris Jacobs, who established the scholarship in her late husband’s name. “He was a visionary and very involved in sports medicine. It was important to him to be more than just a physician, but to be a teacher and involved in the community. He would have wanted a scholarship so he could continue to help students.”

“I love playing sports and I really enjoy interacting with athletes,” said Shannon Camp, a fourth-year student and this year’s recipient of the scholarship. “I’m drawn to the idea of going into rural medicine with an emphasis in sports medicine. It was important to him to be more than just a physician, but to be a teacher and involved in the community. He would have wanted a scholarship so he could continue to help students.”

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The cycle of giving and receiving is an important part of supporting the osteopathic community: Donors reaching out to recipients, who strengthen the profession and become donors themselves to support the D.O.s of the future.
Giving in remembrance

by Craig Reed

Contributing to the wellbeing of MSUCOM is not just about the financial support such altruism can offer. There is another side to giving: the act of remembering a loved one and giving others the opportunity to connect to and know a little about that person as well.

When Gayle Stytz, an ’81 alumna, passed away recently, her husband Martin Stytz, Ph.D., didn’t want people to forget her and decided to establish a scholarship in her name. “She was an excellent doctor, the best doctor any one could ask for. She saved so many lives during the 16 years she worked as an ER physician including my own — twice,” said Stytz. “She was able to handle multiple crises, anticipate needs and keep everything moving smoothly, whether that was when multiple gunshot victims came into the ER and she was the only doctor on duty or when we arrived at a three-car accident and Gayle had to take care of a patient with a broken neck until the ambulance arrived. She was a very caring doctor. If there was a patient dying in the ER, she would be the one to sit beside them and comfort them so they weren’t alone during their final moments. That’s how generous and caring a soul she was.

“Gayle had several bouts with cancer. She fought it off four times over the course of many years. The fifth one, however, was a different type of cancer than what she had battled before. By the time that was realized, it was too late to do anything for her. When she died, I decided that I wanted to do something so she would be remembered. She loved MSUCOM, and it made sense to me to create a scholarship in her name as a way of honoring her and to make certain she is remembered,” said Stytz.

“I do have a second motivation for setting up this scholarship,” continued Stytz. “When Gayle was being treated for cancer and other conditions, she didn’t always get the care and treatment I think she deserved. There were several doctors we went to who didn’t listen to her thoughts or concerns even though she was herself a doctor. We need more doctors in this country who are compassionate, who listen to their patients, who give it their all and for whom being a doctor is more than a way to pay the bills. This scholarship is a way to remember Gayle, but it is also a way to promote better, more compassionate healthcare. I want this to be the scholarship every MSUCOM student wants to get.”

Scholarships are more than a way to help the next generation of D.O.s. They are a way to honor the memory of loved ones each time another MSUCOM student becomes a recipient of that scholarship. It is a simple, yet profound way of helping today’s students and connecting those students to the wonderful, caring individuals of our past.

From Communiqué Fall 2007

Reaching out to the next generation of D.O.s in Macomb County

by Craig Reed

osteopathic profession regularly demonstrates a sincere commitment to helping those in need, whether that is in a far-off place or a few blocks down the street from our homes or offices. As the cost of a quality medical education steadily increases, students are finding themselves needing an increasing amount of financial support – support our alumni and other affiliates of the profession willingly offer to those D.O.s in training.

One such physician is Stephen M. Swetech, D.O., F.A.C.O.F.P., an ’86 alumnus who has stepped up to offer assistance. “One of the things I remember best about going to MSUCOM was the sense of family and close-knit ties we had with each other as students,” said Swetech. “You don’t get that at most other colleges and it was something that was especially important to me during my medical training, and it still is as an alumnus.”

Thanks to Swetech’s generosity, seed money for a scholarship assisting MSUCOM students hailing from Macomb County has put Macomb on track to becoming the second county-specific scholarship within the state. “I try to be as active as I can as a supporter of the college and the osteopathic profession,” explained Swetech. “It’s important to me to devote some of my time and energy into keeping the profession strong, whether that means being involved politically through organizations like the Michigan Osteopathic Association or providing the start to a new scholarship for the students.”

“The college has really done a great job in making itself a premier college to get your medical education. I’ve had the honor of knowing all four deans,” continued Swetech. “My family and I love the college, and the direction that Dean Strampel and his people are taking the college. We enjoy showing our support.”

As more physicians from Macomb County aid to the funds provided by Swetech, the eventual endowed scholarship will become available for students in financial need – a testament to the alumni’s commitment to reach out to others who wish one day to join the osteopathic profession.

From Communiqué Spring 2007
GE gives MRI for medical care and research in Malawi

This is a rare and extraordinary gift,” Dr. Terrie Taylor was speaking about the donation by GE of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner to Michigan State University for medical research and patient care in Malawi.

GE’s donation has a cash value of more than $1.1 million. Dr. Taylor indicated that its true value cannot be measured in dollars and cents. “It is difficult to predict the impact of GE’s gift and what this MRI will mean in the effort to understand and find treatments for diseases that are devastating across the African continent and in other parts of the world.”

Dr. Taylor is a university-distinguished professor in MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. She has been working on an autopsy-based study of fatal cerebral malaria for the past ten years. This work has dispelled some prior widespread assumptions and improved the medical world’s understanding of malaria, a disease that annually kills about two million African children. It is excited about the new opportunities to learn even more about the disease. The imaging technology will make it possible to examine children during life. Findings in those who survive can be compared to findings in those who die, and repeated imaging over the course of the illness will be invaluable in helping doctors determine if there are conditions or triggers that lead to death. Approximately 10 percent of survivors are neurologically damaged (blindness, deafness, behavioral changes, cognitive disabilities, and possibly epilepsy later in life), and the MRT may help to identify the changes associated with that damage.

Dr. Kampondeni, Malawi’s only radiologist, has worked in his profession for nine years using CT scanners, ultrasound and conventional technologies. To prepare for the new MRI at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi, he traveled to East Lansing in 2007 to receive training in the equipment. Technicians also trained by MSU will operate the MRI. “On around-the-clock shifts, our technicians will be able to provide MRI services for 18 patients every 24 hours,” said Dr. Kampondeni. “I will interpret the readings and also, through a dedicated Internet satellites access, send the images directly to East Lansing, where they will be interpreted by the MSU radiologists and help to advance the research of Dr. Taylor and others.”

Dr. Kampondeni is grateful for the GE gift. He noted that GE has a large presence in South Africa and that this technology at their doorstep.” He said. “Now all will have access to this technology at their doorstep.”

Dr. Kampondeni listed major benefits of this gift for the hospital: “It will improve our clinical care of patients. Before this, we lacked the eyes to see what we needed to see. As a government hospital, the service will be free to patients. At a teaching hospital, Queen Elizabeth Central will be able to improve the way we teach our doctors. The MRI will expand our research horizons. We will help Terrie Taylor in her work on cerebral malaria and assist with all other disease research.”

Dr. Taylor said that at least 10 other scientists from Michigan State University currently conducting medical research in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and elsewhere in the region will benefit from the MRI in Blantyre as will other medical schools and humanitarian organizations working in the region.

The MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is constructing a $400,000 building for the MRI. A grand opening is planned for February 2008.

by Craig Reed

The strengthening of MSUCOM’s economic base is tied intrinsically to the myriad of donors who have pledged to support college now and in the future. Reasons why organizations and individuals step up to the plate vary and are reflected in how their gifts are utilized. Take, for example, the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (MAODME), who recently established an endowed scholarship with the college. “Our members have a strong interest in supporting initiatives which will encourage and support individuals who wish to go into medical education,” said Dale Carlson, M.M., president of MAODME. “We’ve supported MSUCOM in the past, especially their Statewide Campus System, and decided that a scholarship for students who have demonstrated a strong interest in medical education would not only provide another avenue of support for MSUCOM, but would have the added benefit of strengthening our membership as students graduate and establish their careers as medical educators.”

Teamwork, creativity and looking for ways to benefit both the donor and the college have been hallmarks which have made MSUCOM so successful in obtaining its goals during the “Campaign for MSU,” a university-wide development initiative which aims to establish a stronger endowment base for the university and the colleges it encompasses. While we can celebrate a year of developmental progress, the task of preparing for the college’s financial future is never complete, and more hands are always welcome to assist MSU COM continues to grow and thrive.
Customizing donor support

The art of giving has evolved over the years. Today’s donors can choose from a plethora of opportunities which can be customized to fit their wishes.

One such option was recently taken by Dr. Carol Monson and her husband, Frank E. Warden. “We had an annuity set up so that the college gets the principle while we collect the interest for as long as we want to,” said Monson. ’79 MSUCOM alumna and acting chairperson for the Department of Family and Community Medicine. “When the time comes, the interest will also go to MSUCOM. We’re undecided whether to designate the money to support a faculty position or perhaps use it for a scholarship. I’m very committed to the osteopathic profession. In addition to my time and energy, this has been another wonderful way to give back to the college.”

“Both of us have a long history with the college,” explained Warden who also graduated from MSU. “Both of us are loyal Spartan fans, and we enjoy the opportunities to attend various activities and events provided to donors. That’s been a great incentive for us to give.”

For Dr. Timothy and Catherine McKenna, the most important thing was making certain their donation went to those they wanted to help. “As a family, together with many friends and students, we have contributed over $168,000 to the Oakland County Endowed Scholarship,” explained Warden. “We’ve had an annuity set up so that the college gets the principle while we collect the interest for as long as we want to,” said Monson, ’79 MSUCOM alumna and acting chairperson for the Department of Family and Community Medicine. “When the time comes, the interest will also go to MSUCOM. We’re undecided whether to designate the money to support a faculty position or perhaps use it for a scholarship. I’m very committed to the osteopathic profession. In addition to my time and energy, this has been another wonderful way to give back to the college.”

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By Craig Reed

Oakland County alumni commit to helping tomorrow’s D.O.s

With the debt load of students graduating from MSUCOM averaging $100,000, and others interested in helping the students to afford medical school are coming together in partnerships to address the issue. “I have always been looking for opportunities to help the students,” said Dr. Gary Willyerd, a ’78 MSUCOM graduate. “I felt now was the time to look at ways of making a financial commitment to helping them.”

After talking with several of his fellow alumni who expressed a similar interest, they came up with the idea of establishing an endowed scholarship.

“We decided to create a scholarship that would help students coming from our area — Oakland County,” said Willyerd. “We went to see people from our own community going to medical school and coming back to serve the community.”

The group began contacting other alumni in Oakland County and also asked the five hospitals in the area to donate to the endowment as well. “Our strongest selling point to get the hospitals involved was the college’s track record,” explained Willyerd. “The majority of graduates stay in Michigan to set up their practices, and several of the hospitals saw contributing to the scholarship as MSUCOM’s way of investing into their own future.”

“We were happy to offer our support to the scholarship,” said Dr. Annette LaCasse, MSUCOM alumni and representative for Botsford General Hospital. “I think it was a great cause for us to be involved in and a great way to support aspiring doctors in our own backyard.”

“I think it was important for us to offer this support,” said Dr. Tressa Gardner, one of the individual donors to the scholarship. “Finances shouldn’t be a barrier for those who want to go to medical school and serve their community.”

“Not every state has a D.O. school,” said Dr. John Kettner, who is a third generation D.O. and donor to the scholarship. “It’s important to maintain ours and help it however we can.”

Thanks to the combined efforts of individual donors, POH Medical Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and Botsford General Hospital, the Oakland County Scholarship fund became endowed less than one year after the fund raising began, collecting over $168,000.

“This really shows the commitment of the alumni and our partners,” said Willyerd. “This was only possible through our combined efforts. This shows what we can really do when we work together as a team. We’re honored to be involved in bettering our school and making MSUCOM a better place of learning.”

By Craig Reed

Oakland County alumni commit to helping tomorrow’s D.O.s

With the debt load of students graduating from MSUCOM averaging $100,000, and others interested in helping the students to afford medical school are coming together in partnerships to address the issue. “I have always been looking for opportunities to help the students,” said Dr. Gary Willyerd, a ’78 MSUCOM graduate. “I felt now was the time to look at ways of making a financial commitment to helping them.”

After talking with several of his fellow alumni who expressed a similar interest, they came up with the idea of establishing an endowed scholarship.

“We decided to create a scholarship that would help students coming from our area — Oakland County,” said Willyerd. “We went to see people from our own community going to medical school and coming back to serve the community.”

The group began contacting other alumni in Oakland County and also asked the five hospitals in the area to donate to the endowment as well. “Our strongest selling point to get the hospitals involved was the college’s track record,” explained Willyerd. “The majority of graduates stay in Michigan to set up their practices, and several of the hospitals saw contributing to the scholarship as MSUCOM’s way of investing into their own future.”

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By Craig Reed
Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation

gives $3.5 million

In 1959, in his first presidential address as head of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOP&S), Dr. Alan Potts announced that Michigan would be the home of the next College of Osteopathic Medicine. The challenge to the MAOP&S membership was direct and daunting, particularly since no new osteopathic school had opened anywhere in 30 years. Michigan’s osteopathic physicians responded to the challenge by creating the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation and by voting to tax each member of the MAOP&S $2,000 to create the corpus of the trust fund. The members’ dedication and continued financial support led to the establishment in 1969 of the Michigan College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pontiac. Two years later, the College of Osteopathic Medicine became part of Michigan State University and moved to the MSU campus.

The Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation has remained an important private supporter of the college throughout its history, with gifts that have supported scholarships and program needs, such as the Kobyljak Computer Center, the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Fellows Program, graduation, and the Communique magazine.

Culminating its relationship with MSUCOM, the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation in 2005 made a gift of its entire assets—$3.5 million—to establish the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Endowment. “We are very proud of our role in establishing and partnering with the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine,” said Eugene Oliveri, D.O., president of the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. “We are very aware of and grateful for our partnership with the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and the MAOP&S membership. Since 2000, we’ve been the top-ranking osteopathic college in the nation and the top 10 of all medical schools nationally for primary care education,” said Dr. Alan Potts’ vision of building an osteopathic college in Michigan, but we have seen a growth into one of the finest medical schools in the nation.”

Today, MSUCOM is nationally recognized and respected. The 2007 edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools from US. News & World Report ranks MSUCOM fourth in the nation for primary care training.

“We are very aware of and grateful for our partnership with the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation,” said Dean Strampel, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. “To achieve the first four of 14 institutions is a great honor, a great recognition among our peers.”

“We are very aware of and grateful for our partnership with the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation,” said Dean Strampel. “The future challenges for the college are enormous, but we are committed to ensuring access to quality medical education for all Michigan residents.”

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“We are very aware of and grateful for our partnership with the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation,” said Dean Strampel. “Their forethought, determination and support through the years have contributed exponentially to the health care profession in our state and region.”

The Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation will continue to operate in order to process outstanding loans and collect future gifts, which may periodically be made to the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Endowment in MSUCOM. The Foundation board will continue to advocate for MSUCOM and the profession in the state of Michigan.

In 2005, the foundation was inducted into MSU’s Joseph R. Williams society in recognition of $5 million in contributions to MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Students face a number of challenges when they become part of the MSUCOM family, and one of the problems that inevitably comes up is how can they afford the approximately $140,000 needed to attend medical school. Thanks to the donors concerned about this issue, a number of scholarships are available to the students to offset some of the expenses they face. Such scholarships come from individuals like Phyllis and Walter Dell who, through the creation of their endowed scholarship, were able to help recipients like Kelly Janis, a second-year student who grew up in East Lansing.

The creation of a scholarship is not only an opportunity to assist future generations of D.O.s, it’s also an opportunity for donors to reward students who focus their energies on things like community service. The Kay E. White Scholarship, for example, was established by the former associate dean of student services to assist students with an extensive history of volunteering at non-profit organizations with the hope of encouraging recipients of the award to continue their involvement in the community well into their professional careers.

While many of the scholarships were created through individual donations, groups and organizations have stepped up to the plate as well. The Ingham County Osteopathic Auxiliary Scholarship is one such example. This particular scholarship is given to Michigan residents, strengthening the commitment MSUCOM has to produce physicians for the state.

Still others, like the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation, have been in partnership with us for decades on a variety of endeavors including providing scholarship opportunities for each new generation of D.O.s. Establishing endowed scholarships is a great way to invest in the future of osteopathic medicine as well as an opportunity to reach out to current students who will one day be in a position to reach out to future students of MSUCOM.

As the cost of a medical education continues to grow, endowed scholarships will continue to be an important source of assistance which students at MSUCOM will be able to utilize for generations to come.

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Robert Snyder, D.O., F.A.O.C.A., says he can hardly believe that it has been 25 years since he graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine. His class – the Class of 1979 – celebrates its silver anniversary this year.

“I had the most wonderful classmates,” he says. “They were all bright caring people. We really accomplished a lot when we were in school.”

He has accomplished quite a bit since then too, both personally and professionally. Dr. Snyder is an anesthesiologist at Mid Michigan Medical Center – the same hospital in which he was born – in his hometown of Midland. He lives there with his wife, Shelley, a senior financial analyst at Dow Chemical. They have two children, Ken, a junior at Michigan State University, and Kacie, who studies at the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Snyder was the first D.O. to practice anesthesiology at Mid Michigan. Now, he is a part of a team that includes five other D.O.s, all fellow graduates of MSUCOM.

His dedication to osteopathic medicine goes beyond the operating room. He has a clinical faculty appointment in the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties. Among his many professional honors, he is a past-president of both the Michigan Society of Osteopathic Anesthesiologists and the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists and serves as a board examiner.

Dr. Snyder is a dedicated Spartan as well. His Green and White roots go back to his grandparents, who both graduated from Michigan State. Since getting his bachelor’s degree and D.O. from MSU, he has contributed a great deal of time and money to his alma mater. The Snyders have donated several gifts, including one given at the request of MSUCOM’s former dean Allen W. Jacobs, D.O., Ph.D., to benefit the construction of the Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building. They are also active members of the alumni association and can often be found cheering at Spartan sporting events.

Robert and Shelley have been recognized for their efforts as members of the Jonathan L. Snyder Donor Society. “Becoming a doctor was a dream for me, and MSUCOM gave me the opportunity to make it come true,” says Ms. Snyder. “I want to make MSU as strong as I can.”

There is a special bond that exists between doctors and their patients. Talented physicians do more than just treat disease. They can be supporters, confidants, and friends. So sometimes patients feel that the word “thanks” is not enough to express their gratitude. That’s why the College of Osteopathic Medicine has established the Grateful Patient Fund.

It is part of a new campaign that allows patients to show appreciation for physicians by supporting the community that creates them. Maybe their doctors are MSUCOM alumni, or perhaps they just want to contribute to the growth of osteopathic medicine. The Grateful Patient Fund is a unique opportunity to recognize their physicians and, at the same time, help ensure future generations of D.O.s. Donations can be made in honor of a favorite doctor or to support a particular program or research area. The college’s development office can assist donors who have specific requests for their contribution.

As part of the campaign, the college is distributing brochures to MSU clinics to inform patients and provide information about contributions. To obtain brochures for yourself or your practice, or to learn more about the Grateful Patient Fund, contact MSUCOM’s Office of Development at (517) 355-8555.

Supporting students

Osteopathic students at MSUCOM have received a new opportunity, courtesy of the spouses of area D.O.s. The Ingham County Osteopathic Auxiliary has established a new endowed scholarship to help future physicians pay their way through medical school.

The ICOA is also involved with the profession on the state and national level. Shelley Wieting – wife of MSUCOM professor Michael Wieting, D.O. – is the president-elect of the Auxiliary to the American Osteopathic Association, and the second Ingham County auxiliary member to head that group. “We may be small in number,” says Ms. Young, “but we have made an impact.”

Five of the anesthesiologists in Dr. Snyder’s practice are MSUCOM alumni. (l. to r.) Thomas Olen (’92), Dr. Snyder, Gregory Marcoe (’87) and Wayne Bedell (’90). Not pictured: Thomas Tarn (’91)
All in the family

by Steven D. Bevier

When Mark and Toula Guilfoyle first arrived at MSUCOM as students in 1980, they knew that the experience would change their lives, but perhaps they didn’t know how much. After all, they didn’t yet know each other. Still, they met as first-years, and the rest, as they say, is history. By the time they graduated with the Class of 1984, they were already married. Both have since gone on to successful careers in osteopathic medicine. Mark is a board-certified radiologist and Toula is board-certified in family medicine. They live in the town of Sand Point, in the “thumb” of Michigan.

“Everything that we have, we owe to the college,” says Toula. “It is because of this school, that we have achieved so much.”

The Guilfoyle family has certainly demonstrated their appreciation for their alma mater. They recently pledged a substantial gift of $500,000 to the college, to be used to refurbish the student lounge in the basement of Fee Hall. This is just one of several donations and planned gifts that they have made to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and to Michigan State. They have previously established the Guilfoyle and Milios Endowed Scholarship, and pledged an additional $200,000 to MSUCOM. Including gifts to the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Lyman Briggs School, they have pledged a total of $455,000 to MSU.

In memoriam

The memory of a former student is creating a lasting legacy at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. A $275,000 gift was recently presented to MSUCOM from the estate of George Kabakovich, the father of Holly Kabakovich, D.O., a 1986 graduate of the college.

Holly Kabakovich grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and earned a dual degree in biology and psychology from Loyola University before coming to MSUCOM. After graduation she completed her residency in the Department of Family Medicine, and she literally wrote the book on it, by helping to put together the residency manual and establish objectives for the program. She also received a master’s degree in public health from Harvard University.

Dr. Kabakovich passed away in 1995, but is remembered fondly by former classmates and friends. “She was a good student, very conscientious,” says Kay White, MSUCOM’s former associate dean for student services. “She was never too busy to help someone out.” Adds Pamela Thompson, D.O., Class of 1986, “She was a good friend.”

The money from the family trust will be used to set up a scholarship fund for future osteopathic students with an interest in family medicine. The gift was presented to the college by Dr. Kabakovich’s cousin, Carolyn Callerd, at the annual SilverFest celebration in September.

MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine earns $1.5 million grant

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSU/COM) will use a $1.5 million grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations to fund a professorship dedicated to furthering biomedical research in the area of the neuromusculoskeletal system.

The grant from the Columbus, Ohio-based foundations will help create an endowed chair – the Osteopathic Heritage Professor. “This major gift from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations will have a significant positive impact on our college, on the osteopathic profession and on the health of literally millions of people,” said William D. Strangeways, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. “Because this research will help us to better understand the way in which nerves, muscles and bones function and relate, it will be applicable to a wide variety of health conditions, ranging from osteoarthritis to sports injuries.”

The first Osteopathic Heritage Professor will be recruited for his or her expertise in the neuromusculoskeletal system, which is not well understood even though more than 80 percent of Americans suffer pain of musculoskeletal origin.

The faculty member who will be working in the new Center for Neuromusculoskeletal Research at MSUCOM, will provide the leadership necessary to coordinate the efforts of scientists in many disciplines, including biochemistry, neurology, physiology and radiology.

“We are proud to be associated with Michigan State,” said Rick Vincent, president of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations. “The university and the college have solid reputations. We look forward to the research that is expected to advance the science of osteopathic medicine and health care, as well as advancing the science of medicine in general.”

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundations’ roots were first established in the 1960s with the incorporation of the Doctors Hospital Foundation in Columbus, Ohio. Today, two private, nonprofit foundations comprise the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations. They share a common mission and vision, while maintaining separate boards and funding concentrations, primarily in center and southeastern Ohio. The Columbus-based foundation supports community health and quality of life issues, as well as osteopathic medical education and research throughout the nation.

For additional information on the foundations, visit the Web at www.osteopathicheritage.org.

From MSU Today Nov. 30, 2004

Holly Kabakovich, D.O.

From Communiqué Spring 2004
Riverside Hospital Guild funds osteopathic medicine scholarships

Riverside Hospital in Trenton, Michigan, may no longer exist, however its legacy will live on forever through the students of MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. Riverside Hospital, formerly part of the Henry Ford Health System, closed its doors on December 31, 2002. While preparing for the closing of the hospital, the Riverside Osteopathic Hospital Guild and members of the staff at the hospital found themselves with some funds remaining. Rather than divide the monies between themselves, an idea was spawned to put it to charitable use.

Dr. Margaret McQuiston, a graduate of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and a doctor at Riverside Hospital, wanted to make sure that the hospital’s legacy would remain. Dr. McQuiston inspired the members of the volunteer guild, who had worked very hard to raise money for hospital equipment, interns and resident assistants, to make positive use of the money remaining. Together the women of the guild created the Riverside Osteopathic Hospital Guild Endowed Scholarship.

The scholarship was finalized and is endowed for $79,000. The story doesn’t end here though. Dr. McQuiston and the fellow staff members of Riverside Hospital decided to follow in the footsteps of the guild and help out osteopathic medicine students as well. “Medical education has been important in my life, and I wanted to assist with an endowment. Assisting with the endowment will ensure that osteopathic education will continue,” stated Dr. McQuiston. Together the staff of the hospital was able to create an additional endowed scholarship for $45,000.

These scholarships are available for students of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. By creating an endowed scholarship, this gift will keep on giving for years to come. The average medical student graduates with a debt of $120,000. “Any defraying of the cost of education will help keep students in primary care medicine,” said William Strampel, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. “It’s the idea of paying it forward. If somebody does a good deed for you, then in the future that good deed can be magnified through others.”

No holds barred

A commitment to ensuring the future of osteopathic manual medicine spurred a generous donation to MSUCOM from Buffalo Sabres player Jason Woolley and his wife Danica in honor of Lynn F. Brumm, D.O., professor emeritus of family and community medicine.

Their gift of $115,000 supports the college’s new state-of-the-art Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Laboratory, which puts MSUCOM in the vanguard for teaching these techniques. Housed in the old E106 Fee classroom, the facility’s special features include excellent sight lines, underfloor wiring, electronic treatment tables, Internet access, and the ability to project digital slides, video and audio. The laboratory can also be used as a videoconferencing center for teaching manual medicine to students and physicians in other locations.

In a September 20 dedication ceremony, attended by about 150 persons, Brumm noted that the Woolleys’ gift was really a gift to MSUCOM students.

“It was important to Danica and Jason to ensure the future of this profession. They provided the best facilities to educate osteopathic physicians who will know how to use manipulative medicine and will employ it in their practices,” Brumm said.

In an interview, Woolley noted that the impetus for the gift was Brumm’s “compassion and professional care” following a nagging injury he suffered as a National Hockey League player.

“In 1994, when I was playing for the Washington Capitals, I had a bad abdominal injury,” Woolley said. “After three months rest, I wasn’t better. I thought it was the end of the road.”

Woolley, a MSU hockey star who returns to the East Lansing campus every summer, was referred by his former athletic trainer to Brumm, who was able, using only osteopathic manipulative techniques, to help him to resume training. Later, during the 1999 Stanley Cup playoffs, Brumm was called in to treat several members of the team.

“He gave us a new lease on life,” Woolley said. “Not a day goes by that we don’t think about how Doc saved our career, and we wanted to make sure this would be available for others.”

From Developments Summer 2003

From Communiqué Fall 2002

Danica Woolley, Lynn Brumm and Jason Woolley
Jon Kabara: Planned giving

The MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine has a number of programs – some long standing, others brand new – to encourage students who are underrepresented minority groups or who are disadvantaged to become osteopathic physicians. These efforts are important not only because diversity helps students and the profession, but because it helps patients – developing osteopathic physicians who return to communities where they are most needed, providing care in a cultural context that's familiar and comfortable.

A program new to this year, called "OsteoCHAMPS," (Osteopathic Careers in Health and Medical Professions) forges partnerships with Michigan high schools to encourage capable young students who might not initially know about osteopathic medicine to consider it as a career. In addition, these students are taught ways to enhance their study skills, motivation, leadership and basic science knowledge.

OsteoCHAMPS first iteration was a long-term partnership with Ethelene Jones Crockett Technical High School in Detroit. Under the leadership of Margaret Aguwa, DO, chairperson of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Norma Baptista, PhD, director of Minority Student Services, the Crockett program expanded from initial presentations about the profession to a ten day mini medical school. This program will soon be expanded to Muskegon schools and then to other sites around the state with students eligible to attend a summer academic enrichment program on campus.

Any medical education is extremely expensive, and the college succeeds in recruiting these applicants must be able to offer financial aid to disadvantaged students. To that end, endowed scholarships have been established.

The Margaret Aguwa, DO, MPH, Endowed Scholarship was created to honor the founder of OsteoCHAMPS, Students, particularly those in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and the Association of Minority Osteopathic Medical Students (AMOMS), joined forces with MSUCOM's Office of Minority Student Services and alumni in this initiative.

The Edward N. Hodges, III, JD, Endowed Scholarship was established by Botsford General Hospital and its medical staff to honor the chairperson of its board, who's also an ex officio member of the governor-appointed Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board. The hospital board and medical staff have each pledged $2,000 a year for the next five years, fully endowing the scholarship at the end of that time. In addition, members of the Botsford administration are challenging other statewide campus system hospitals to match their contribution.

"Helping to raise the money for and awareness of these programs to allow underrepresented minority students and students from the underserved areas of Michigan to be exposed to the philosophy of osteopathic medicine, our faculty, and our staff is truly a rewarding experience for me both personally and professionally," noted Barbara Ball McClure, director of development. "It allows me to help those who might not normally be able to afford an advanced degree pursue their dreams, hopes and aspirations."

Both scholarships will be given each year to one or more MSUCOM students, with preference given to minority students. To contribute, contact Barbara Ball McClure, MSUCOM Director of Development. A10 E. Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1106, 517-355-8355, ballmccl@msu.edu

From Communiqué Spring 2001

A path to health careers

The charitable remainder unitrust

It's a "charitable remainder unitrust," and it's a powerful medium for planned giving to MSUCOM. It's similar to other types of trusts, except that MSUCOM receives the remainder interest, and to qualify for the federal charitable deduction, the trust must be irrevocably funded. The chief advantage and difference between a trust and other charitable remainder trusts (GRAT) is that the income payment you receive varies yearly as the fair market value of the trust's assets fluctuates. An annuity trust pays a fixed rate of interest, and cannot be supplemented. One can always fund an additional annuity trust at a later date, but the rate will depend on the Committee on Gift Annuity rates.

"The Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) can be added to over the years. A CRUT benefits the donors and their families because they receive income from the trust until it reverts to the college," said Barbara Ball McClure, MSUCOM's development officer. "It allows the gift of appreciated stock or property with no capital gains tax penalty."
A legacy in scholarship

by Pat Grauer

It's a rare job in which intelligent people toil hard for more than 100 hours a week, live modestly, and pay tens of thousands of dollars for the privilege to do it! Yet MSUCOM has more than 500 such workers. They're called osteopathic medical students.

Scholarships are critical for student support at the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Though loans are available through government and other sources, scholarships can alleviate the burden for osteopathic students and, in many cases, make the difference as to whether medical school is feasible at all. During 2001-2002, costs to single Michigan residents attending MSUCOM are budgeted at $38,530 a year ($17,448 of which is tuition), and nonresident students at $58,330 a year ($37,248 of which is tuition).

At present MSUCOM has established 27 scholarships and awards for our students, all of which reflect varied purposes and priorities of their donors. Most offer annual awards in the $400 to $1,500 range, though a few are in the $5,000 to $10,000-a-year range. “Scholarships offer donors an extraordinary opportunity to honor someone,” noted Barbara Ball-Clare, MSUCOM's director of development. “They live on in the work of professional healers.

If the scholarship is endowed, which requires $30,000 minimum in a single fund, it provides a perpetual legacy that can reflect the values and interests of the individuals,” she said.

For more information about scholarships administered by MSUCOM, see http://www.com.msu.edu/student-life/scholarships/scholarshipinfo.html. To establish or contribute to a scholarship fund, contact the MSUCOM Office of Development, 517/355-8355; ballmccl@msu.edu.

From Communiqué Winter 2001

When “thank you” isn’t enough

by K. Friday

After the symptoms have disappeared, the stitches removed, and the soreness forgotten, most former patients pay little attention to their physicians.

Not Walter and Phyllis Dell. They did not want to forget the DO who had helped them, so they decided to do something about it.

The Dells' involvement with osteopathic medicine began when Mrs. Dell was diagnosed with cancer. As serious as the diagnosis was, the Dells firmly believe that things could have been much worse without the efforts of Timothy McKenna, DO. Through perseverance and a devotion to quality care, Dr. McKenna's efforts paid off: Mrs. Dell's cancer went into remission, and she survived without having to suffer the debilitating effects of chemotherapy or radiation.

Grateful for Mrs. Dell's second chance and impressed with Dr. McKenna's approach to health care, the couple decided that a “thank you” wasn't enough. Instead, they would show their gratitude by supporting the profession which had done so much for them and which promised to help so many in the future. “We don't have any children,” Mr. Dell explained, “and we wanted to do something for humanity.” Since Dr. McKenna had learned his skills at Michigan State’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Dells decided to help the college continue its commitment to quality care. In 1996 they founded the Phyllis K. and Walter P. Dell Endowed Scholarship, a scholarship given annually to second or third year students enrolled in the Medical Scientist Training Program.

For the 1999-2000 academic year, two students were awarded the scholarship: Jennifer Ballew and Jackie Dao. As is fitting for a scholarship connected to surviving cancer, this year's recipients both work in MSUCOM's Carcinogenesis Laboratory under the supervision of Justin McCormick, PhD, and Veronica Maher, PhD.

For several years, the scholarship has helped talented students concentrate on their education and gain valuable research experience, and each year, the Dells have had lunch with the recipients to learn more about their studies. Impressed with the students' work, and heartened by the impact of the scholarship, the Dells decided that they wanted to help MSUCOM, its programs, and its students even more.

In 1999, Mr. and Mrs. Dell decided to include a bequest in their will on behalf of MSUCOM. The Dells will donate a portion of their assets to continue the endowed scholarship, but the remainder will be used as a research fund for both the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Human Medicine. This new endowment, which will be administered by MSUCOM, will provide funding for basic and clinical research at the colleges.

Having seen first hand what the profession and its students can achieve, the Dells can be confident that their new commitment to research will help the physicians of tomorrow and their patients. MSUCOM, for its part, can be confident that the Dells have a very special way of saying “thank you.”

From Communiqué Spring 2000

Jackie Dao, Phyllis and Walter Dell, Jennifer Ballew
Magens establish million-dollar fund to strengthen intellectual environment

Myron S. Magen, DO, has made a career of honing scholarship in the osteopathic profession. MSUCOM’s charter dean, Magen, worked for two decades to cultivate research in the profession, bringing to the college as faculty a number of highly recognized scientists. He encouraged basic research in biomechanics to establish baselines for osteopathic principles and practice.

He stressed academic excellence, urging the profession to make the most of MSUCOM’s ties to a world-class university. He established programs for ongoing faculty development, and nurtured the profession’s first joint DO/PhD program.

Now Magen’s at it again. As dean emeritus and the Walter F. Patenge professor of pediatrics, he and his wife Ruth have established a million-dollar endowment. Its purpose is to “assist faculty and students in attaining career goals or providing support for research projects that will strengthen the intellectual environment of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Michigan State University.”

The Dr. Myron S. and Ruth Magen Fund will be administered by the dean of the college, who will create the processes for distribution.

“It’s our intention that the fund would provide great flexibility to the dean,” Magen said. “It could be used by faculty and students to strengthen scholarship, provide seed money for research, or assist with additional education. It’s an effective way of betting on people,” he said.

From Communiqué Spring 1999

Dr. Greenman gives back to college and profession

By Tom Oswald

Philip E. Greenman, DO, calls it “giving something back” to his school and profession. Students, faculty and staff in MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine call it typical Phil Greenman generosity.

“It is a $2 million gift. Dr. Greenman and his wife, Patricia, have made to the college; he has served for more than 25 years. The donation, which establishes the Philip E. and Patricia B. Greenman Endowed Enrichment Fund, is the largest planned gift in the history of the college.

“We wanted to use these funds to help the college with research activities that are uniquely osteopathic,” Dr. Greenman said. “Our thought was to provide long-term funding for start-up grants.”

Specifically, the funds would be used for research focusing on cost-effective patient care provided by osteopathic medicine, studies to help determine the efficacy of osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), basic research, and the training of osteopathic medical students.

“Osteopathic medicine has a long history of producing some of the world’s finest primary care physicians,” Dr. Greenman said. “We’re hopeful these funds will help provide the infrastructure needed to support and increase research activities.”

“This gift represents a phenomenal opportunity for the osteopathic profession, not only in Michigan, but on a national level,” said Wayne C. Meech, president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association. “Research on issues unique to osteopathic medicine is long overdue, and thanks to the generosity of one of the nation’s leading OMM specialists, this can now begin.”

“Dr. Greenman has made outstanding contributions to this university as a teacher, doctor and researcher,” said MSU President Peter McPherson. “These research funds will allow us to document and confirm what we know through experience and observation.”

Dr. Greenman was among the first to develop video presentations for OMT instruction. He has written four books, 10 book chapters and countless papers on OMT. He was recently selected for honorary membership in the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation - one of only 10 persons to achieve the recognition - for his introduction of manual medicine to allopathic physiatrists.

Earlier this year he won the 1998 Gutensohn/Denslow Award, the highest honor of the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Research. It is given to a recipient of someone in the osteopathic profession who has contributed immensely to research and education.

From Communiqué Fall 1998

Phil and Pat Greenman

Dr. Greenman’s MSU career began in 1972 when he was appointed chairperson of what was then known as the Department of Biomechanics (now known as the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine). He has served the college in a number of roles, including associate dean and associate dean for academic affairs.

A favorite among students, Dr. Greenman was described by one student as “the master” while another referred to him as the “Michael Jordan of osteopathic instructors.”

Prior to coming to MSU, Dr. Greenman spent 19 years in private practice in Kenmore, NY. He earned his DO degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.
Pedro Rivera Scholarship: Building on a legacy of commitment

The word “leisure” is probably not in his vocabulary. Pedro Rivera, DO, was already giving back to the community at a time when his peers were more interested in watching television and lobbing footballs. Even as a busy osteopathic medical student, Dr. Rivera had begun a lifelong commitment to voluntarism, spending precious free time not relaxing, but working long hours in the Migrant Health Program, a system of temporary clinics established to meet the health care needs of mid-Michigan’s migrant farm workers.

That continuing commitment has recently been recognized with the establishment of the Blue Care Network of Michigan Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Pedro Rivera, DO. The scholarship is a permanent restricted fund benefitting students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“Blue Care Network approached MSUCOM for the scholarship endowment because of the interest on the part of employees to pay tribute to Dr. Rivera,” said Sheila Wright, regional communications manager. “This seemed like a perfect solution to our problem of how to best honor Pedro and lay a foundation for the continuation of this work. We felt that it was only fitting that the company show its support for this effort by matching employee contributions, and our board of directors agreed. This partnership with MSUCOM is very much in keeping with our company’s mission providing the best health care possible to our community.”

Dr. Rivera, honored with the Upjohn Award for Community Service when he graduated from MSUCOM in 1978, moved first to Arizona for service in three small satellite clinics for the U.S. Public Health Service.

One of 10 children of migrant farm workers, Dr. Rivera has been active in the Lansing community throughout his career, most recently as chief of family practice for Blue Care Network. He volunteered at the Cristo Rey Health Center in Lansing for nearly a decade, serving as medical director for a portion of that time. In addition, Dr. Rivera spent many of his personal vacations traveling to the Yucatan Peninsula to provide health care to Mayas through DO-Care, an international osteopathic service organization.

At Blue Care Network, Dr. Rivera was known for his exemplary skill in osteopathic manipulative medicine, which earned him recognition in sports medicine, culminating in his appointment as a physician for the Lansing Lugnuts baseball team. Having suffered a stroke in 1996 at the age of 43, Dr. Rivera is responding well to therapy. He was recognized by the college in 1996 as the recipient of the Dean’s Alumni Community Service Award.

Voluntarism the focus of The Kay E. White Scholarship

In her role as assistant dean for student affairs at MSUCOM for more than 17 years, Kay White, Ph.D., scanned a lot of admissions files and wrote a lot of dean’s letters of recommendation. “Nearly everyone admitted had strong records of volunteer service,” Dr. White said, “and it was interesting to see how many carried that through as students, and finally as busy professionals. If you look at active rosters of service clubs such as Rotary, Kiwanis or Zonta, they always include busy professionals,” she said. “They’re valued and treasured members of those organizations.”

An ardent volunteer herself, Dr. White decided at her retirement to leave a legacy that would encourage service to others. She established The Kay E. White Scholarship Fund for MSUCOM students, to be given to the second-, third-, or fourth-year student in good academic standing who had demonstrated a strong commitment to voluntary service - service that was most likely to continue after graduation.

“Dr. White established this expendable scholarship to benefit worthy and capable students enrolled at MSUCOM,” said Dee Telman director of development for the college. “This award is intended to encourage students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals, the motivation to achieve these goals, and the initiative to seek opportunities to further their progress.”

“Whether it’s in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the United Way, Planned Parenthood, Scouting, or other worthy volunteer activities, I wanted to recognize and encourage students’ participation,” Dr. White said. “In addition, I wanted to offer an opportunity to students who might not be eligible for other sorts of scholarships in the college.”

Diana and Pedro Rivera at the scholarship reception

Dr. Kay E. White

From Communiqué Spring 1998

From Communiqué Spring 1998
The Michigan Association of Physicians from India (MAPI) and the local Lansing chapter of MAPI have made a significant and lasting contribution to their community by establishing two endowed scholarships for Asian Indian students enrolled at Michigan State University’s Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and Human Medicine.

The scholarships have been fully endowed at the $20,000 level in each college. The Michigan Association of Physicians from India Endowed Scholarship Fund for Students of Asian Indian Heritage will support at least one student from each medical school in perpetuity. As the endowment grows over time, and with additional gifts, the amount of income available to support the scholarship will increase.

MAPI’s contribution in COM and CHM is of particular significance because the association raised $40,000 from its membership within a six-month period to endow the two scholarships. Donors who establish endowed scholarships typically take the full five-year period allowed by the university to fully fund an endowment.

Students and faculty of the College of Osteopathic Medicine contributed more than $2,000 to the MAPI endowed scholarship fund in memory of the COM student, Kanwal Kahlon, who was killed in a train accident in December 1996. The Michigan Association of Physicians from India Endowed Scholarship Fund for Students of Asian Indian Heritage is intended to increase diversity within the medical colleges. Through its support, MAPI will enhance educational opportunities and access for students of Asian Indian heritage, and especially for those who are economically disadvantaged.

From Communiqué Summer 1997

The Edgar L. Harden endowed memorial scholarship was established by Elizabeth Harden to honor the memory and work of her late husband Edgar Harden, Ed.D. As president emeritus of Michigan State University, Dr. Harden was a vocal and dedicated advocate of the osteopathic profession in Michigan. He was very active bringing the College of Osteopathic Medicine to MSU, and wrote the college’s charter. Many believe the creation of MSUCOM in 1969 as the first publicly assisted, university-based osteopathic medical school in the nation, was due in large part to Dr. Harden’s efforts.

The scholarships from this endowment will be used primarily to recruit incoming first-year medical students to the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

From Communiqué Winter 1997

Philipp and Vera Gerhardt endowed the Philipp and Vera Gerhardt Research Fund for undergraduate research excellence awards and for graduate research travel awards in microbiology.

The Gerhardts endowed this fund to encourage, assist and recognize research excellence in microbiology by students at Michigan State University. During his decade as chairman of the multi-college Department of Microbiology and Public Health, from 1965 to 1975, Philipp Gerhardt, Ph.D. was noted for recruiting outstanding teaching and research faculty into the department. According to Professor Gerhardt, his wife helped greatly in the recruitment process as a “consummate hostess” for visiting prospects.

From 1975 to 1992, Professor Gerhardt was associate dean for research and advanced studies in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. He established the dual D.O./Ph.D. Medical Scientist Training Program and initiated the peer reviewed faculty research support program. This intramural investment fostered more than 20 percent compounded annual growth of extramural grants and contracts to the college.

After retirement in 1992, Professor Gerhardt continued actively in education, research and service. He published an 800 page treatise, Methods for General and Molecular Microbiology. He still maintains a research grant and publishes scientific articles, recently in popularized style. He serves as a director of a small biotechnology company which recently filed for regulatory approval in Canada (and soon in the United States, Europe and Australia) of a vaccine against a cancer, malignant melanoma.

The research fund will support the annual Gerhardt Undergraduate Research Excellence Award and the Gerhardt Graduate Research Travel Awards in Microbiology.

From Communiqué Winter 1997

Shown at the presentation of the checks to endow the MAPI scholarships in MSUCOM and MSUCHM are: (from left) Anant Bhogainker, MD, treasurer, MAPI; Kusum Kumar, MD, MSUCOM liaison for MAPI scholarship; Suresh Gupta, MD, president-elect, MAPI; Ram Nagappan, MD, regional director, MAPI Lansing Chapter; Verinder Aggarwal, MD, chairman, MAPI board of trustees; Allen Jacobs, DO, PhD, MSUCOM dean; Ashir Kumar, MD, faculty member, MSUCHM; William Abbott, PhD, MSUCHM; Gayatri Garg, president, MAPI; Majid Taj, MD, resident, MSUCHM; and Surekha Rav, past president, MAPI.
Betty Davis established this endowment fund in memory of her husband, James Davis, D.O., a dedicated family physician and professor in the MSUCOM Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Davis always wanted to be a physician, but was unable to pursue his dream until after he graduated from Canisius College, the University of Buffalo, the Naval Officer Candidate School at Cornell University, and served his country as a commanding officer in World War II. Following the war, Dr. Davis joined the sales staff for Parke Davis, where he worked for 10 years. He then attended the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and received his D.O. degree in 1965. Dr. Davis was strongly committed to being a primary care physician. This scholarship will assist talented second-year students interested in primary medicine to pursue their goals.

From Communiqué Winter 1997

Betty Davis

Walter Laird, D.O., was considered a pioneer in the osteopathic profession. His wife Mona Laird, daughter June Whipp and son-in-law Donald Whipp, established this scholarship in his memory. Born in 1902, Dr. Laird received his D.O. degree from the Des Moines Still College in 1924. He spent most of his life serving the small farming community of Ithaca, Michigan, where he received and responded to many house calls and late night phone calls for medical help. His patients often paid for his services with whatever they could spare—produce, chickens, eggs, beef and other homegrown products and livestock. Dr. Laird attempted to retire, first in Indian River, Michigan, and eventually in Detroit, but his desire to help others kept him working full time. In his final act of caring and dedication to the osteopathic profession, Dr. Laird donated his body to the anatomy program for medical students at Michigan State University. The scholarships will benefit worthy and capable students who intend to pursue primary care medicine at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

From Communiqué Winter 1997

Mona Laird

$1 million endowment was established by an osteopathic anesthesiologist and his wife from Phoenix, Arizona. Although not a graduate of MSUCOM, the anonymous donor’s intent in making such a sizeable gift was to promote osteopathic medical education in Michigan. The endowment was created to provide scholarship support to benefit students enrolled in the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

From Communiqué Winter 1997

The Philip E. Greenman, D.O., Endowed Fellowship in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Joyce and Marvin Tanner of Montreal, Canada, established this endowment to honor their trusted physician and friend, Philip Greenman, D.O., F.A.O. Currently associate dean at MSUCOM, Dr. Greenman has been an osteopathic physician for more than 40 years. He is recognized nationally and internationally for his work in manual medicine. Joyce Tanner believes Dr. Greenman empowered her to become an active participant in her own treatment through his knowledge and understanding of the musculoskeletal structure and its functions. “I have been most privileged to be Dr. Greenman’s patient. I will be forever grateful for his healing hands, his brilliance, his continued optimism, and his sincere caring,” Mrs. Tanner said. Funded through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Tanner, the fellowship will enable MSUCOM students to increase their skills and knowledge of osteopathic manipulative medicine in order to help patients improve their physical conditions through treatment and education.

From Communiqué Winter 1997

Joyce and Marvin Tanner

Anonymous Endowed Scholarship

Joyce and Marvin Tanner

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From Communicai...
Well-known osteopathic physician, John Palmer Wood, leaves legacy behind

by Dee Telman

John Palmer Wood, DO, a pioneer in orthopedic surgery and a legend in the osteopathic profession, died on Feb. 1, at the age of 91.

Wood, known as much for his humanity as for his skills in medicine, lived his life in accordance with a philosophy that, “any man must leave the wood pile higher than he found it, that the next traveler may likewise benefit.”

This philosophy is a testimony to a physician who contributed significantly to the profession of osteopathic medicine, and to the orthopedic surgery and shows a particular physician at work refining orthopedic surgery.

Wood practiced orthopedic surgery at many of the Detroit area hospitals as well as the outlying areas. He served in a number of professional positions ranging from chief of staff to consulting orthopedic surgeon.

Recognized for his expertise in sports medicine, Wood’s patients have included many professional athletes from the Detroit Lions, Pistons, Red Wings and Tigers, as well as high school athletes from the Detroit area.

During his career, Wood was recognized numerous times for his lifelong dedication to the practice of medicine.

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOP&S) have each awarded him highest honors, presenting Wood with the Distinguished Service Award.

In 1984, Wood received the Orel F. Martin Medal, the most prestigious honor awarded by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons and the Walter F. Patenge Medal of Public Service from MSUCOM.

Wood also has presided over several organizations including the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics (AOAO), the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine, the AOA, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery of the State of Michigan and MACRPS.

Wood’s talents also transcended the medical field into writing and publishing.

He served as the editorial chairman for the AOAO, the American College for Osteopathic Surgeons, and the Journal of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, and the Journal of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics (AOAO), the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine, the AOA, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery of the State of Michigan and MACRPS.

Wood's book Osteopathic Orthopedics and other Selected Papers: A Reminiscent Review (1985) attests to his long-standing commitment to disseminating his knowledge through the written word. The book provides a historical perspective to the specialty of osteopathic orthopedics and shows a particular physician at work refining the mastery of his art.

Dr. John Palmer Wood is survived by his wife Ruth, and two children; Virginia Brown and John R Wood III.

The family, friends and colleagues of Dean Myron S. Magen have contributed more than $800,000 to a newly established educational fund in his honor.

The Myron S. Magen Medical Education Fund will provide funding to support creativity in medical education, increase research in the field and fund training in medical education research methodology.

Applicants to the fund must be affiliated with MSUCOM and should demonstrate an interest in medical education. Each applicant's written proposal will be evaluated yearly by a committee appointed by the COM dean. All applications are due by April 1 of each year and should be sent to the dean's office.

For information about contributing to the Magen Medical Education Fund, contact Sandra Kilbourn at the Office of Continuing Medical Education, A306 East Fee Hall, East Lansing, Mich., 48824 836 or call (517) 353-9714.

From Communiqué August/September 1991

Magen educational fund established

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From Communiqué August/September 1991
Stefan Kobiljak’s family supports ILRC to help educate tomorrow’s physicians

MSUCOM’s planned Interactive Learning Resource Center (ILRC) will help educate physicians for the challenges of the twenty-first century. A gift of $500,000 in memory of Stefan Hans Kobiljak, Jr. will help establish the facility, which will bear his name.

Kobiljak, a 1985 MSUCOM alumnus, had begun an internal medicine residency at Henry Ford Hospital in 1986, with an intention to specialize in rheumatology. The gift in his memory was presented to the college by his parents, Stefan and Pat Kobiljak of Grosse Ile, and his brother Kurt and sister Karin.

“We are very grateful to the Kobiljaks for their generous gift,” said Perrin Parkhurst, director of instructional systems.

The new facility will be on the first floor of Fee Hall. The facility will include 32 carrels, 30 computer workstations, conference facilities for 12, additional study space for up to 52, new lighting and ventilation and a total capacity of 126. The facility will be over 4,000 square feet in size.

Current MSUCOM facilities for audio-visual and computer aided instruction are located in the Carrel Room in the basement of Fee Hall. Facilities now include eight computer workstations, four Macintosh SE computers and four IBM compatibles. The room is less than 1,500 square feet in area. There are no conference facilities. The 29 carrels are crowded in the room, and study space is limited. The room has no windows or air conditioning system. Total capacity is 66.

The ILRC has been in development since 1987 and is intended to update and improve on existing facilities available to students, Parkhurst said. “The ILRC is designed to function as a central facility where students can come together to access information and we can assist them in accomplishing the educational objectives of the College’s curriculum,” Parkhurst said.

Parkhurst wrote the initial grant proposal for the ILRC submitted to the National Library of Medicine in 1987 with Patricia Grauer, director of health information and assistant to the dean, and ILRC advisory committee chairperson; Sashi Reddy, systems manager of Information Systems and Analysis; and Robert Esdale coordinator for special projects.

The proposal identified five objectives to be met by the project: (1) the relocation and expansion of the current Carrel Room to provide better access to existing resources; (2) establishing a state-of-the-art teaching/learning center using computer-assisted and interactive videodisc instruction and support; (3) providing electronic linkages to university sources, community hospitals and major medical data bases such as MEDLINE; (4) promoting computer literacy among the College’s students, faculty, clinical faculty and continuing medical education participants; and (5) developing administrative and operational support services for the project.

“The new facility will be an improvement on the existing facility in that it will be larger, more up to date, more pleasant, and we’ll have a staff who are responsive not only to the student’s needs but to the faculty needs as well,” Parkhurst said.

From Communiqué October 1989