A matter of mission - Passion to serve
Inside this issue

Features

4
Passion to serve

16
White Coat Ceremony

20
Alumni Tower challenge

26
Points of pride

26
Grand Affair

44
School News
Diversity for Equity Grant
Abracadabra
Just say KNOW to drugs!
New plastic bone model
Elect Her: Campus
WVSOM Donation
Rural Practice Day
Underground mines
EMS & EMT training
Rural workforce Day
Student Success Summit
Green Coat Program
Career Fair
Health Expo
Sustainability Summit
Awareness Week
Visit to NOISH
RHI activities

Department

28
Student News
D.O. Day
International Festival
Follies
WVSOM at the Capitol
CMDA
Candlelight Vigil
New ACOOG VP
Research Forum
OMED poster session
Wilderness Med Rotation

54
Alumni News
President’s Letter
AOA Conference
Distinguished Alumni Award
Mid-Winter CME
Summer CME
Adrienne Coopey profile
Rajiv Jain profile
Class Notes

66
Gifts to WVSOM

68
Foundation
Director’s Letter
New Scholarship

71
G.M.S.
Fall Reunion

72
WVOMA
CME Conference

Advertising

17
Capital Campaign

20
Campus Store

26
Employment

65
Alumni OMM CME

73
GA sponsors
Message from

THE PRESIDENT

As we go to press on this magazine, I find myself on the eve of the graduation of the largest class in WVSOM history. Walking past the sounds of the construction of the new Student Center I am reminded of the incredible growth this campus has seen in the recent past; the Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC), tech building, alumni center, improvements to the main buildings and the quad. Central to the expansion on every level of our organization are the students. Each new phase of growth, whether it be a building or program, is checked against our commitment to serve the students whom have a passion to serve others. We ask ourselves how can each step forward benefit our mission to the students, the community, and our founders?

We continue to be recognized nationally for the work of the faculty and students who serve. Most notably, we walk in the front of the pack in the field of osteopathic medicine and the primary care of many underserved people. In fact, throughout these pages you will find countless examples of the service WVSOM students, faculty and staff provide to local and national charities. As I poured through the article “A passion to serve,” I calculated that more than $10,400 dollars were raised by students for charities outside WVSOM. All this while tackling the rigors of medical school.

I believe WVSOM graduates will continue this tradition of service to others throughout their medical careers, which in turn will endear them to the people and neighborhoods in which they practice. Service and outreach builds community and trust, critical parts of the osteopathic philosophy.

So, it is with great pride that I present you with a new issue of the WVSOM magazine. I hope you enjoy the updates, alumni and foundation news, get a glimpse of the new student center, and the many opportunities to be involved with the mission and vision of WVSOM.

We have a fantastic team of faculty, staff, alumni and friends, all committed to improving the quality of medical education and the health care of our community. WVSOM is the perfect place to support future physicians who care. Indeed, it is no mistake that we are about to graduate the largest class in WVSOM history.

Cheryl and I look forward to seeing you at many of our upcoming alumni events.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Michael Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D.
It takes a certain type of person willing to volunteer their free time and contribute to their community through civic engagement. Selfless, humble, giving, passionate — these are just a few of the characteristics that define those who give, but yet ask of nothing in return.

WVSOM students have that drive to give. Whether it’s engrained in them before they begin medical school or if it’s instilled in them while on campus, students understand the importance of contributing to a community and its residents to better society as a whole. It’s why this past academic year, WVSOM students volunteered a total of 14,350 hours of their time to the community through the Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health (T.O.U.C.H.) program, which encourages medical students to volunteer in the area. Their service is also recognized through the Community Outreach and Relief Effort (C.O.R.E.), another program that encourages community service.

Rebecca Morrow, director of Student Affairs, said she is continuously impressed by the
commitment WVSOM students have to causes in which they care deeply.

“In between attending classes, studying, self care and sleep, they somehow manage to carve the time to give service to their adopted Lewisburg and Statewide Campus communities. Those communities are certainly richer for their participation. The students are as well, having practiced leadership, listening and other hands-on skills that will serve them well in the future,” she said.

Onyinyechukwu Okorji, Class of 2017 and the Internal Medicine Club president, said volunteering helps connect students to society.

“We are all here to learn how to practice medicine but volunteering helps us to understand early on about reaching out to communities,” she said. “We pour our hearts the best we can into volunteer work through either individual work or through school clubs. We may be here for just two years, but we work together to make a mark in the community — be it with helping children homes, blood drives, or even reaching out nationally to national rare disease organizations.”

A genuine care and compassion for others is what Paige Monfore, Class of 2017, said is the spark that ignites service.

“We are becoming doctors because we love helping people and we care for people in general,” the Pathology Club president said. “The amount of love and support we have for Lewisburg may not always be apparent or advertised, but it is constantly there and very apparent to both my peers and those around me at WVSOM.”

These soon-to-be doctors are involved in a myriad of service activities, two of which happen right on campus and directly provide for community members. One is the Student Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) Clinic that began in 1995. The clinic is a service where residents can receive musculoskeletal treatment techniques while second-year students hone their skills in osteopathic medicine. It is an educational atmosphere where students incorporate hands-on techniques that they have learned in Osteopathic Principles and Practice classes and labs in medical school.

“The Student OMM Clinic is a great opportunity for the students to learn, and for the people in the community to undergo osteopathic evaluation and treatment without cost,” said Deborah Schmidt, D.O., the clinic’s faculty coordinator. “We’ve had many people come in on referrals from their physicians with musculoskeletal complaints that they’ve had for many years and those complaints have been successfully treated in the student clinic.”

Another service event is the Mini-Medical School offered to residents and high school students. Mini-Med offers insight into the medical field from first- and second-year students. It helps participants learn and gain knowledge on specific health-related topics including the musculoskeletal system; brain and neurology; endocrinology; and cardiopulmonary. High school students participated by receiving hands-on training on the topics of vital signs, atherosclerosis and heart and lung function, using the simulators. They also received an information session about the journey to medical school by explaining necessary prerequisite classes, the MCAT and the admissions process.

“It’s nice to see the community excited about learning about health and medical education,” said Andrea Nazar, D.O., a Clinical Sciences professor and faculty advisor for the program.

The list of service events and the organizations that directly benefit or receive funds from WVSOM student initiatives goes on and on. It all stems from our student group of givers.

“The inherent desire to help, assist, give back, nurture, love and support people is in us all and students enjoy expressing those things through community service,” Monfore said. “I think as students our focus is on making an impact however we can and community service is the perfect avenue to do such.”
**Howl-o-ween bowling party**  
Oct. 24, 2014  
Was a way for students to get involved with the local animal shelter.  
Student participation: 100

**IM Volleyball**  
August through October, 2014  
Was a chance for students to participate in an intramural sport while raising money for the local animal shelter.  
Student participation: 70

**ATLAS CLUB**  
$400  
About 75 POUNDS OF PET FOOD WAS DONATED ALONG WITH TOYS AND COLLARS.

**RAISED $246**  
**Proceeds benefited:**  
The Greenbrier County Humane Society

**American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOOG)**  
$200  
**Proceeds benefited:**  
Now Our Angels in Heaven

**Emergency Medicine Club**  
$2,000  
**Proceeds:** went to the White Sulphur Springs Emergency Management System and the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance System

**Mr. WVSOM**  
JAN. 24. 2015  
The event helped raise money for local EMS agencies.  
Student participation: 14

**Murder Mystery Dinner**  
Nov. 15, 2014  
The dinner brings together the WVSOM and Lewisburg community to support a national organization. This year, faculty and students performed the script, “The Surgical Strike.” This script was based in a British hospital, which tied into medicine.  
Student participation: 120

**Students assisted at WOW event**  
Dr. Andrea Nazar and a group of Obstetrics and Gynecology Club members volunteered their services at the Women on Wellness (WOW) event in November at the Rainelle Elementary School. They assisted with health screenings in vital signs, bone density testing, balance testing, glucose and lipid testing and healthy lifestyle counseling. WOW is sponsored by the National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health.

**Annual Collection**  
2014 - 2015 SCHOOL YEAR  
ACOOG partnered with NOAH, which helps mothers who have unexpectedly lost young children. Donated funds help mothers cope with their grief and loss.

**WVSOM Healthcare Heroes**  
Sept. 20, 2014  
Part of Gov. Tomblin’s “Day to Serve” that offered community education outreach activities for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade.  
Student participation: 5

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**Community service**  
10 HOURS  
was provided to the local food pantry

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**AOCPMR Chapter**  
$700  
**Proceeds benefited:**  
the Wounded Warrior Project

**ATLAS CLUB**  
$326  
**Proceeds benefited:**  
The Greenbrier County Humane Society

**IM Volleyball**  
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Student participation: 70

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**American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOOG)**  
$200  
**Proceeds benefited:**  
Now Our Angels in Heaven
**Glow Yoga**
**Sept. 18, 2014**
Student participation: 50

Proceeds benefited:
Wellspring of Greenbrier and the Integrative Medicine Club

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**Walk to End Alzheimer’s**
**Sept. 27, 2014**

The community event helped raise awareness about Alzheimer’s.
Student participation: 12

Proceeds benefited:
Alzheimer’s Foundation

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**Ugly Sweater Lunch**
**Dec. 12, 2014**

Lilly’s Place is a home for babies suffering from neonatal abstinence syndrome in Huntington, W.Va. The club offers financial support for children in West Virginia.
Student participation: 25

Proceeds benefited:
Lilly’s Place

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**International Festival**
**Feb. 13, 2015**

Club members rely on these funds to help residents in the Dominican Republic. Without the event and donations, the club would not be able to provide care for as many people in the DR.
Student participation: 30, another 30 who provided food for the event

Proceeds went toward purchasing medications for the mission trip to the Dominican Republic

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**Penny War**
**Nov., 2014**

Faculty winners decline the winning prize of baked goods and instead had money go toward the total of money raised. Club members purchased more than 100 cans of food for the food locker.
Student participation: Class of 2017, Class of 2018, faculty

Proceeds were used to purchase canned food for the Lewisburg/Fairlea Food Locker

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**Students serve West Virginians at State Fair**

2,258 BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS + 658 CHILD PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Every year, WVSOM students provide a free service to visitors at the State Fair of West Virginia, checking blood pressures and sharing information on heart health. For the 2014 fair, students and WVSOM health educators took a total of 2,258 blood pressure readings over nine days.

New this year, part of WVSOM’s “under the grandstand” booth offered Wii™ fitness activities for young people and took resting and active heart rates. 658 children participated.

Among visitors to the booth were Senator Joe Manchin and Walt Helmick, West Virginia’s Commissioner of Agriculture. Their blood pressure readings are a secret – but hoping a fun day at the fair had them residing well within the healthy range!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/Club</th>
<th>Hours/Proceeds</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Student Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Medicine Club (ACOFP)</strong></td>
<td>40 HOURS</td>
<td>Dry dog (125 pounds) and cat (118 pounds) food, canned dog (150 pounds) and cat (27 pounds) food, cat litter (75 pounds), 26 toys, 22 packs of treats, six collars and leashes and one crate were collected for the Friends for Life and Greenbrier County Humane Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat for Humanity - Build Day</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Each year, club members spend the day building houses for families in need. It allows students to be active and involved in the community.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat for Humanity - ReStore</strong></td>
<td>19.5 HOURS</td>
<td>Volunteers worked at the “ReStore” store in White Sulphur Springs, which is run by Habitat for Humanity. Students painted the ceiling of the store, helped with store maintenance, and also worked as sales associates, selling home improvement goods to local customers.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holiday pet tree donation drive</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The event collected hundreds of pounds of food and other items, which helped support homeless pets rescued in the area. Both organizations rely heavily on funding and donations.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proceeds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>went to The Greenbrier County Humane Society and Friends for Life.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delta Omega Club</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Book bags, pens, pencils, papers, binders and more was collected to ensure K-12 students in Greenbrier County have the materials they need for a new school year.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stuff the Bus</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The “Stuff the Bus” supply drive was a county-wide initiative sponsored by the Communities in Schools of Greenbrier County (CISGC). CISGC’s mission is “to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical Students for Choice</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 CANS OF FOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proceeds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>were donated to the Family Refuge Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Vagina Monologues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The event raises awareness about females’ mistreatment, promotes female empowerment and embodiment of individuality.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WVSOM’s first-ever Teddy Clinic took place in November at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center. The purpose of the event was to help ease children’s anxiety about doctor visits by educating them on what physicians do and empowering them to participate with their Teddy Bears. More than 50 children visited the clinic and received hands on experience being a “doctor for a day.”
WVSOM med students across the state participated in Day to Serve projects, became health heroes

The annual event began in 2012 as a collaboration between the governors of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia as well as the mayor of Washington, D.C. It grew as a way for residents to work together to improve their communities, according to the Day to Serve website.

During the initiative, the WVSOM campus took on the appearance of a superhero convention, but the reality was that volunteers organized a Healthcare Heroes service event.

Members of 23 campus clubs and several faculty organized the event for children in grades K-6. Dressed in green capes, medical students greeted the children and their parents as they arrived donned in their own favorite superhero costumes to participate in six interactive stations designed to impart knowledge and teach skills in order to create awareness of their personal health and the health of others. Volunteers from the Lewisburg Fire Department were also on hand to demonstrate basic CPR techniques and assessment of an unconscious person.

Students in the Class of 2016, who completed rotations across West Virginia, volunteered in their communities by donating their time at homeless shelters, 5K walks, local humane societies and nursing homes. Below is a list of hospital sites and the services provided by WVSOM students:

**Charleston Area Medical Center and Thomas memorial**
Helped supply meals to those in need at Mana Meals, a nonprofit organization. Students worked in the kitchen preparing food and organizing the garden.

**Grant Memorial Hospital**
Students played Bingo and socialized with residents at the Grant County Nursing Home.

**Mon General**
Students assisted the Mon County Habitat for Humanity during the annual Building on Faith Week. Work was completed at one of the construction sites already underway in Morgantown.

**Davis/St. Joe’s**
Volunteered at the Randolph County Humane Society by socializing with the animals.

**United Health Center**
Volunteered at a homeless shelter (Clarksburg Mission).

**Princeton Community Hospital**
Students volunteered at the Princeton Rays Farm League baseball game, handing out informational guides regarding diabetes and high blood pressure. They also provided free blood pressure checks.

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**WVSOM students on campus and across the state participated in the Gov. Earl Tomblin’s Day to Serve initiative in September.**

**23 CAMPUS CLUBS**
**BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS + 658 CHILD PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES**

**14 STATEWIDE CAMPUS SITES**
**VOLUNTEER TO SERVE A VARIETY OF CAUSES**

**Greenbrier Valley Medical Center**
Assisted an elderly couple with recent onset of chronic health problems to collect winter firewood.
Frederick Memorial Hospital
Volunteers at the site assisted at the “Street on Sept. 13,” a festival in Frederick, Md. They offered assistance in spreading the word to more than 16,000-plus financially struggling workers with information about free tax preparation, asset-building tools and access to other helpful community resources.

Ari Shaeffer, vice president of the WVSOM Student Government Association, said community events like this one play a vital role in helping medical students become well-rounded, knowledgeable student doctors.

“I believe in this type of community service and human interaction during medical school and hopefully these types of community service will help us become better doctors,” he said. “A quality education is more than just books and academics.”

Camden Clark Medical Center
Donated time at the Humane Society of Parkersburg by providing outdoor, indoor and grounds projects.

St. Mary’s and Our Lady of Bellefonte
Volunteered at the Junior League of Huntington’s “Touch-A-Truck” event. Students helped set up the event as well as assisted in its operation. It is hosted for children to see old-fashioned cars, fire trucks and other vehicle equipment.

The WVSOM Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Club hosted its annual Murder Mystery Dinner on Nov. 15, at the Roland P. Sharp Alumni Center. Ticket sales totaled about $700 and benefited the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assist and provide resources to military men and women wounded in duty.

Among the 122 participating “detectives” in “The Surgical Strike” were WVSOM’s own faculty, including Dr. Foster, Dr. Ward, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Hanna, Dr. McLay, Dr. Thatcher, Dr. Clements-Jewery, Adrienne Biesemeyer, M.A., and students Chase Ferrell, OMS II, and Miles Medina, OMS II.

Martinsburg Berkeley Medical Center and Martinsburg VA Medical Center
Volunteered at the Humane Society of Martinsburg by playing with the animals, cleaning the outdoor shed and working on landscaping around the facility.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

Murder Mistery Dinner

$ RAISED $700

Proceeds benefited: the Wounded Warrior Project

Martinsburg Berkeley Medical Center
Volunteered at the Humane Society of Martinsburg by playing with the animals, cleaning the outdoor shed and working on landscaping around the facility.
From former presidents to action heroes, from movie directors to the little kid next door – in August, 2014, it seemed like EVERYONE was participating in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. When WVSOM was issued a challenge by the Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (LUCOM), they were ready. On August 27, 185 students, faculty and staff got doused for a good cause, raising $2,000 for the ALS Association. In return, WVSOM challenged the remaining COMs to not only take the challenge, but beat its participation record!

**Proceeds benefited:**
The ALS Association
Students donated to blood drive

40 DONORS
WELCOMED ON CAMPUS

The Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine Association (SOIMA) organized a Red Cross blood drive Dec. 11, on campus and welcomed 40 donors. The Red Cross organization was pleased with the results.
WVSOM students lend helping hands during Day of Caring

100 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THIS EVENT

At the beginning of every school year, WVSOM students volunteer their time in a partnership for United Way’s annual Day of Caring.

It’s an opportunity for students to not only give back to local communities but also to meet and learn about their classmates. This year, more than 100 first-and second-year students helped with renovation and rejuvenation projects at shelters, schools, libraries and local parks.

Student organizer Rachel Harris said that since WVSOM students represent the entire state of West Virginia as well as nearly every state in the country, the partnership is a chance for students to immediately become involved in the area.

“It is important for students to get out in the community and give back to the community that makes students feel so welcome. Lewisburg is such a friendly town and residents welcome new students with open arms. As a student from Michigan, I came down here and immediately felt the southern hospitality,” Harris said. “Medical school is more than just studying and getting good grades. As physicians we will be interacting with people on a daily basis and be role models in our community, so why not start that role now?”

The Greenbrier Episcopal School was one recipient of that generosity. Gretchen Graves, site coordinator for GES, requested student volunteers to organize storage rooms and help build phase II of its playground facility, which included creating a sandpit, installing a shade spot and making outdoor chalkboards.

“Last year, the students accomplished more work than we had planned. They painted six rooms and did all the outdoor work as well. The parents were amazed,” Graves said. “This year, I realized I needed to be organized and ready for them.”

Proceeds helped:
Shelters, schools, libraries and local parks
Charleston students participated in Alzheimer’s walk

WVSOM students rotating in Charleston took part in the 2014 Walk to End Alzheimer’s event that took place on Oct. 25 at Appalachian Power Park. Student team members were (front row) Brent Pressman, Hallisey Estes, Brandon Basehore, Vincent Sicari, Erin Goode and Tswjfwm Vang (back row) Jeremiah Karrs, Mike Liu and Molly Casto, who organized the team.

Northern region students participated in Race for Intellectual Disabilities

In September, WVSOM base site students from the Ohio Valley Medical Center and Wheeling Hospital volunteered for various event responsibilities during the 5K and 10K road runs for the Race for Intellectual Disabilities in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Pictured are race director Gloria Llewellyn and students Ibukun Kusimo, Marta Tokar, Andy SanFilippo, Natalie Kudlak, Alex Payne and Paul Haffey.

South Central students volunteered

Third-year students from the South Central region volunteered at the Children’s Home Society of West Virginia and the Charleston Homeless and Street Medicine (CHASM) project. (Above) Tswjfwm Vang, Molly Casto, Andrea Ard, Hallisey Estes, Kara Cockrum, Erin Goode and Keith Burke conducted a toy drive to benefit the Children’s Home Society, a statewide private, nonprofit organization dedicated to child welfare.

(Above) Keith Burke, Melanie Ezra, Sunny Patel, Tanner Harrah, Erin Goode, Molly Casto and Mike Liu volunteered their services to CHASM, a nonprofit organization composed of multidisciplinary health care providers who seek to serve the needs of the homeless community in Charleston.
White Coat Ceremony keynote speaker emphasized importance of “emotional intelligence”

It is an event first-year medical students will always remember — the moment they officially receive the white coat signifying their commitment to the osteopathic medical profession.

During WVSOM’s Aug. 23 Convocation and White Coat Ceremony, students received more than a coat, they received a reminder about the importance of empathy and compassion.

Andrew Naymick, D.O., FACOOG, a 1988 WVSOM graduate, delivered the ceremony’s keynote speech. Naymick shared research that documents that D.O.s and M.D.s have higher IQs than members of many other professions but he doesn’t believe having a high IQ necessarily equates to being a high quality physician.

“The often neglected but perhaps more important factor in success is a measure of the EQ — emotional intelligence,” Naymick told the students. “Medicine is both an art and a science ... students who can empathize with others are more likely to give better patient care.”

Naymick also conveyed that each student’s time in medical school will resemble a marriage, or union, between the student and the institution. He explained that “a commitment of giving to each other, learning from each other and growing with each other” will be integral to their success during this journey.

This year, 198 students made that commitment with their family and friends supporting them in the audience.

One of those students was Umar Razzaq, whose family came from Connecticut to witness the special event. Razzaq was coated by his 81-year-old grandmother, Khurshid Razzaq, M.D., who began her medical career in gynecology and pediatrics in Pakistan before moving to the U.S. in 1976 to study psychiatry.

As she slowly made her way onstage, Umar said he was honored to be coated by her. “It meant a lot to have my grandmother coat me because she was a consistent inspiration for me to attend medical school,” he shared. “Also, she was the first person in the family to become a doctor — being a female in Pakistan, this was very rare. I feel as though I have a responsibility to uphold her name and keep her amazing legacy going.”

Naymick practices obstetrics and gynecology and chairs the Department of Obstetrics at Hanover Hospital in Hanover, Pa. He is a member of the WVSOM Alumni Association Board.
Greenbrier County native understands importance of investing in WVSOM

Rob Hunter, D.O., has strong ties with Greenbrier County and WVSOM.

Not only was he born at the local hospital, he attended medical school at WVSOM and later had his wedding reception at the Roland P. Sharp Alumni Center.

Hunter, a 1997 WVSOM graduate, has seen the school grow — both in the facilities on campus and the school's technological advancements — and said he wants to help push forward the school's positive changes.

"Being born and raised in this county I always tried to give back to the community I came from," the emergency room physician said. "The school has grown so much and done so much for me. I always give credit that I wouldn't be where I am if it weren't for WVSOM. So for me to give back is almost natural."

Hunter has been instrumental in providing financial assistance for the school's two most recent construction projects — the expansion of the Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC) and the new Student Center. Hunter and his wife, Rachel, D.O., a recent WVSOM graduate, first purchased an ACLS Classroom in the expanded portion of the CEC. In the new Student Center, the couple purchased the prefunction area and a Student Government Association room.

"I have a lot of pride in the school and like to see that it's growing," he said. "When we see that the school needs help we want to be supportive."

The campus has come a long way since Hunter graduated nearly two decades ago. He recalls sitting in the auditorium-style classrooms in the main building, with the Roland P. Sharp Alumni Center being constructed during his time. His class size was made up of 65 students compared to the class size of 200 today.

Hunter said he was amazed by the architectural renderings for the expanded CEC and the new Student Center. Most importantly to him, is the pleasure to witness the addition of technological improvements on the campus — be it the robotic simulation labs or the use of electronic health records.

"It shows that teaching is evolving and we are training our osteopathic students and residents differently than in my day," Hunter said. "You have to evolve and you have to change and I love to see the technological advances that the school has implemented."

As far as the new Student Center, Hunter is eager to see the latest building completion in a constantly growing campus.

"For Lewisburg in general that's going to be such a beautiful building and tower. For students and alumni they will have a place to go that's going to be amazing," he said.

Hunter works at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. He is the past president of the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) and the Ohio American College for Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP). On the national level, he is currently chair of the Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition (OMED) 2015 and chair of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates (AOA HOD) 2015. In addition, he is vice chair of the ACOFP Federal Legislation committee.
Construction continues on WVSOM’s campus

Immediately following last year’s graduation, the brick walkway was removed, ground was leveled and the construction began. Students, faculty and staff watched as concrete was poured and steel beams (the largest being 78 feet in length) were placed to form the walls of the two story building.

It is exciting to witness the daily progress of this new building and the completion of the Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC) expansion. The additional square footage in the CEC was completed this spring and students have already reaped the benefits. The additional simulation and exam rooms have been utilized for OSCEs and the grand hall for student TBL sessions.

There may be some slight inconveniences at times, but the construction projects are proof that WVSOM is thriving. Progress needs to be made for future generations of students who dream of ultimately making WVSOM their alma mater. We thank the supporters who contribute to the school’s success. There are still opportunities to support the Capital Campaign projects.

To discuss a gift opportunity, please contact:

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Heather Antolini
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hantolini@osteo.wvsom.edu
Indicates donor-secured room
We have reached $50,900 in gifts toward the tower goal of $250,000. With an overall alumni participation rate of 4.5% thus far, we know that we can obtain this goal if everyone pulls together.

Please consider that when you give to this challenge, you are helping the students, programs and mission of WVSOM. If you have given, thank you. If you have not yet, please consider a gift today.

Giving is easy: Go to https://my.wvsom.edu/Alumni/Forms/Tower or call 304.647.6257
Climb to the top of the tower and win!

WANT TO REACH THE TOP THE FASTEST?
The alumni association is hosting a WVSOM all-class challenge and asking your graduating class to make a financial contribution. Take a risk and elevate your class to a new level. Rise to the challenge. The more graduates who donate, the closer that class gets to winning.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?
It’s simple: just make a monetary donation and encourage your classmates to do the same. The two categories will be:
1. The class with the HIGHEST PERCENT OF DONATIONS.
2. The class with the LARGEST MONETARY DONATION.

GRAND PRIZES
The winners will receive the prestigious title of “Best Climbers” and a class bench on campus.

CURRENT STANDINGS
Percent of class that has donated and donation totals as of June
* In the lead.

The WVSOM Alumni Association needs a total of $250,000 to fulfill their commitment to building the tower for our campus.

~ You DO NOT have to be a WVSOM alumni to donate to the tower fund ~

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YOU ARE THE LIVING ALUMNI TOWER
WVSOM
Points of pride

Great things are happening at WVSOM. From academic and program accreditation, graduate dedication to rural family practice, workplace satisfaction and public relations, WVSOM is getting noticed on a national level. Thank you to faculty, staff and students who work hard to support the vision and mission of WVSOM.

WVSOM granted HLC accreditation

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine has been granted full accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Although HLC accreditation is not required of WVSOM, securing the institutional accreditation has been part of the school’s strategic plan.

“We are thrilled to receive HLC accreditation. WVSOM has been fully accredited for its D.O. program since 1978 and voluntarily sought regional institutional accreditation with HLC since it is a gold standard in higher education. Having HLC accreditation is another measure of institutional quality,” said Jim Nemitz, Ph.D., WVSOM’s vice president for administration and external relations.

WVSOM remains fully accredited by the appropriate body of the American Osteopathic Association, currently their Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). The HLC accreditation announcement comes five years after WVSOM’s Board of Governors initially decided that the school should seek regional institutional accreditation. The review process involved a rigorous self-assessment, a site visit by a team of administrators and educators and a review of the site visit report by the HLC.

“WVSOM is meeting the highest standards of institutional quality, fulfilling its mission now and able to do so for the foreseeable future. The HLC accreditation provides that extra stamp of approval,” he said.

The Higher Learning Commission is the nation’s largest association overseeing higher education accreditation and accredits more than 1,000 colleges and universities in 19 states, including West Virginia.
WVSOM Marketing and Communications department honored with Collegiate Advertising Awards

WVSOM was named among the top in the nation in the 2014-2015 Collegiate Advertising Awards (CAA) program. The CAA is an elite program recognizing higher education organizations for excellence in communications, marketing, advertising and promotions of their schools.

WVSOM’s Marketing and Communications department received Gold Awards, which represent the top 5 percent in the nation, in two categories — the 2014 Grand Affair for a fundraising campaign and the WVSOM Summer Magazine for a single magazine publication category.

The program had more than 900 entries from across the U.S., representing a diverse plethora of educational facilities from small community colleges to large schools and universities.

All submissions were reviewed and scored by a national panel of industry experts, with a possibility of 100 total points. Participant’s entries competed against similar-sized organizations in their specific groups and categories. Awards were issued for entries that received top marks from judges placing them in the top 16 percent of the nation for educational advertising excellence. Judging criteria included creativity, layout and design, functionality, message effectiveness, production quality and overall appeal.

WVSOM recognized by U.S. News for 17th year

WVSOM is once again being recognized as one of the nation’s top medical schools.

The school is ranked No. 13 in family medicine by the U.S. News & World Report “America’s Best Graduate Schools” 2016 annual publication. WVSOM is also ranked No. 14 in rural medicine. This is the 17th consecutive year WVSOM’s specialty programs have received recognition.

“Part of WVSOM’s mission is to educate students who will serve the health care needs of West Virginia residents, emphasizing primary care in rural areas,” said WVSOM President Michael Adelman, D.O., J.D. “This annual recognition in family medicine and rural medicine reinforces our commitment in achieving our mission.”

Among all medical schools in the nation, WVSOM continues to be No. 3 in the percentage of graduates entering primary care specialties, based on 2012-2014 residency data.

Medical school deans and senior faculty from across the U.S. determined the specialty rankings based on educational programs. Results were calculated from a survey of accredited M.D. and D.O. medical schools across the country. The U.S. News & World Report recognizes institutions that offer top programs spanning specialties like business, law, medicine, engineering and education.
WVSOM continues to be recognized as one of the great schools in the nation to work for, according to a survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

For the fourth consecutive year, WVSOM was listed as one of the great colleges to work for by The Chronicle’s annual report on academic workplaces. The school was also selected for the Honor Roll, which is given to institutions that were most recognized within their size category.

Results were based on a survey of 278 colleges and universities along with independent surveys of employees at participating schools.
WVSOM received honors in seven categories:

» Compensation and benefits
» Facilities, workspaces and security
» Job satisfaction and support
» Professional/career-development programs
» Respect and appreciation
» Teaching environment
» Tenure clarity and process

WVSOM President Michael Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D., cites the sense of community among the school's employees for the recognition.

"WVSOM has a unique identity compared to most medical schools that are part of larger universities or health systems. The faculty and staff, even the students, are part of a tightly-knit, mountain community. People look out for each other and we take personal pride in the student physicians who pass through our halls on their way to professional lives of care and compassion," Adelman said.

"Being rural doesn’t mean we don’t offer state-of-the-art medical education and technological innovation," he continued.

"Currently, WVSOM is beta-testing the use of Google Glass in medical education and our Clinical Evaluation Center is one of only 33 simulation centers worldwide accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). As educators of patient-centered and evidenced-based medicine, the principles of holistic care that we model for our students necessarily permeate the fabric of our personal and professional interactions. What makes WVSOM a great place to work? The answer comes down to one thing — the people."

Leslie Bicksler, WVSOM associate vice president of Human Resources, said The Chronicle’s recognition affirms the quality of WVSOM employees.

"In my experience, what makes WVSOM a ‘Great College to Work For’ is the combination of really bright, hardworking individuals who care deeply for the school and its mission," she said. "It’s the right people in the right positions."

Liz McMillen, editor of The Chronicle of Higher Education, said the schools listed in the survey not only offer outstanding workplaces, but also innovative educational experiences.

"The Chronicle’s reporting shows that more colleges and universities are seeking ways to improve their workplaces," she said. "The ‘formula for success’ continues to evolve, yet there are certain common features among institutions that achieve significant levels of worker satisfaction. The Great Colleges to Work For program allows our readers to learn about the colleges that seem to be getting it right."

Survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit and a survey administered to faculty, administrators and staff. The primary factor in deciding recognition was employee feedback.
An elegant evening laced with masks and mysteries were part of this year’s Grand Affair — an event that supports West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine student scholarships.

On Nov. 8, more than 450 guests gathered in the Colonial Ballroom at The Greenbrier Resort for a “Venetian Masquerade” themed event, which is hosted by the WVSOM Student Government Association.

The event raises money for medical students through scholarships. This year, there were 54 silent auction items, the WVSOM Foundation’s “FOCUS on Excellence” car raffle and 21 sponsors for the event.

Jim Nemitz, Ph.D., WVSOM’s vice president for administration and external relations, said that this year’s event was one of the best.

“Having a ‘Venetian Masquerade’ themed event in The Greenbrier’s Colonial Ballroom made for a fabulous evening. The
inclusion of a strolling menu with food stations featuring Italian-inspired cuisine, an energizing DJ with a state-of-the-art sound system and a silent auction with tempting selections contributed to the memorable event,” he said. “We were pleased to have a record number of sponsors for this major fundraising event this year.”

Heather Antolini, the WVSOM Foundation director of institutional development, said the car raffle helped garner more financial support from WVSOM alumni and community members.

The WVSOM Foundation thanks Greenbrier Ford for their donation of the brand new Ford Focus, which was won by David Darden of Beckley.

WVSOM thanks all of its sponsors

for the Grand Affair. They are Gillespie’s Flowers & Productions; The Greenbrier Resort; WVSOM Alumni Association; WVSOM Foundation; Spring Hill Cardiology/Dr. and Mrs. Badshah Wazir; Dr. and Mrs. Art Rubin and Acorn Technology; Davis Eye Center/Dr. and Mrs. Charles Davis; WVVA Healthcare Alliance; Rick Greco, D.O., FACOI; Charleston Area Medical Center; Raleigh General Hospital; Greenbrier Valley Medical Center; AccessHealth Teaching Health Center; Bailey & Wyant; First National Bank; Drs. Gail and Howard Feinberg; Thomas Health System; Dermatology Centers/Thomas M. Karrs, M.D.; Robert C. Byrd Clinic; Meritus Health; and Graystone Consulting.

SAVE-THE-DATE

for next year’s event

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015,
AT THE GREENBRIER
Students traveled to D.C. for D.O. Day

Snow and 1,500 osteopathic white coats blanketed Washington D.C. for the annual D.O. Day on Capitol Hill on March 4.

Each year, osteopathic medical students and faculty convene in the nation’s capital for an opportunity to engage with members of Congress and their aids on various topics. This year’s discussions pertained to easing the burdens on and increasing opportunities for osteopathic medical students; ensuring the future physician workforce; and reforming Medicare physician payment. WVSOM was represented by about 115 students and faculty members.

A rumor of a government shut down due to the inclement weather was disappointing news to AOA national liaison officer Amir Eslami, OMS II, who worked to organize the event since November.

Eslami, who values the political aspect of medicine as much as the practice of medicine, said, “It’s good for students to learn more about what medicine is outside the classroom and approach the congressmen who are making laws about the osteopathic profession.”

The House of Representatives shut down, and although the Senate remained open, the West Virginia representatives were not available. However, fifteen meetings were arranged with various state senators. Students who did not engage in meetings took advantage of the opportunity to attend informative sessions led by Lorenzo Pence, D.O., and AOA trustees to discuss the main event topics. Students had the opportunity to ask meaningful questions, allowing them to more fully develop a deeper understanding of the discussions.

Although the weather affected the full congressional experience, the osteopathic student community made the trip productive by mingling with acquaintances from other COMs, debating the relevant topics and meeting with available lawmakers.

SOMA club members, who were responsible for coordinating the event, thank the WVSOM Foundation and Alumni Association in assisting with funding and transportation. WVSOM students said they are appreciative of the generous financial and positive moral support they received from the school community that made this trip possible.
“Thank you for everything you do.” It was a seemingly simple sentiment expressed by a Dominican patient who waited 20 minutes for a translator to convey his heartfelt gratitude to then first-year student Taylor Simmerman during the 2014 service trip.

The $1,500 raised Feb. 13, at the PAX Club’s annual International Festival, will again positively impact a struggling third-world community.

Donations were being collected for the service trip, March 21-28, to the Dominican Republic. All monetary gifts were spent on medications and supplies for Dominican patients.

The spirited International Festival atmosphere was sparked by students willing to share their talents and cultural traditions. A group of 14 first-year students met over the fall and winter to choreograph a three-part medley of songs and dances with a South Asian and Middle Eastern influence. The performance included Dabke, a Mediterranean circle folk dance; a quintessential glamorous Bollywood dance; and a popular dance style known as Bhangra, originating from India.

Students and faculty prepared a variety of cultural dishes. First-year students Tom Kashiwagi and Michael Savilla demonstrated sushi preparation, to the delight of guests. Several faculty members and local merchants donated items to the auction, such as tickets to the West Virginia Symphony, dinner at Prime 44, a Swedish massage, a health club membership, a Pandora bracelet, handmade items and antiques.

Simmerman, now a second-year student, said the funds raised for the trip are extremely important to the Dominican people. “For a majority of these people, we are the only source of health care they have for the entire year. They rely on us to visit annually. You develop a deeper appreciation for the U.S. health care system after you experience a third-world country health care system.”

The WVSOM Center for International Medicine and Cultural Concerns offers the opportunity for the PAX (International Peace) Club to experientially learn about practical and specialized global medicine through hands-on programs. The objective is to develop culturally aware, sensitive and knowledgeable osteopathic physicians.
The Student American Academy of Osteopathy (SAAO) Club hosted Follies Feb. 28, at Carnegie Hall, raising $2,200 to assist students planning to attend the national AAO conference.

Second-year student and master of ceremonies, Kevin Mutch, entertained the audience between acts that included poi performance art, belly and Bollywood dance numbers, magic, and vocal and instrumental performances spanning multiple genres.

Dr. Emily Thomas said that Follies is a great opportunity to get to know students beyond their academic accomplishments.

Second-year student Anne Goho demonstrated her unique musical spoon talent that she honed crewing on a wooden circa 1800s three-masted ship. Intrigued by a German crewmate’s ability to provide nightly entertainment with silverware, she asked for a lesson. “There’s something enjoyable about having the ability to pick up a set of spoons anywhere and jam,” Goho said.

During high school, a Japanese magician inspired first-year student Tom Kashiwagi to embrace the art. He joined medical missions and performed professionally for the elderly and children in hospitals and shelter homes.

“Thats when I knew I wanted to become a doctor and a magician — to incorporate magic into my medical practice and bring laughter to my patients.”

SAAO members may have spent the evening backstage, but according to second-year student Christine “Cj” Hart, they didn’t miss all the entertainment — Dr. Foster and Friends kept the green-room lively, jamming with other musicians.
WVSOM filled the House of Delegates hall of the state Capitol with informational booths as Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin declared Feb. 4, 2015, as WVSOM Day in West Virginia.

The governor presented the proclamation to WVSOM President Dr. Michael Adelman and Board of Governors members David Rader and Dr. Charles Davis. WVSOM students and employees were in the audience for the presentation.

WVSOM was also presented with a Resolution from the Senate and a Citation from the House of Delegates.

“It is such an honor for the legislators to recognize the role WVSOM plays in addressing the health care needs of West Virginia,” Adelman said. “WVSOM is proud of the physicians we have trained and we continue to fulfill our mission of providing primary care physicians for rural areas.”

Throughout the day, about 30 employees and 10 students were available to address any questions the legislators or members of the general public might have had about WVSOM. Secretary of State Natalie Tennant visited each booth. She started by having her blood pressure taken by students, observed the heart and lung sounds of the simulators and learned about the many programs and initiatives WVSOM offers.

This was the third annual WVSOM Day at the Capitol — an event that has grown each year. WVSOM representatives offered the following booths: free blood pressure readings by students, admissions, marketing, Statewide Campus, international studies, alumni, human resources, foundation, patient simulators, Rural Health Initiative, Rural Physician Recruitment, Center for Rural and Community Health, Healthy Children’s Initiative, research, AHEC and MSOPTI.
The Christian Medical and Dental Association held its annual Thanksgiving dinner and auction Nov. 17, at the Roland P. Sharp Alumni Center. About 250 people attended the dinner, which was also open to the community.

$5,600 RAISED

The proceeds benefited the CMDA medical mission trip to Guatemala in March 2015.

Vigil honored shooting victims

In the wake of the tragic shooting of three Muslim college students Feb. 10, in Chapel Hill, N.C., more than 50 WVSOM students, faculty and administrators gathered for a candlelight vigil on Feb. 12, to honor the victims. The frigid temperature, gusty wind and snow did little to affect the determination of the school community to stand together in solidarity against the violent act that took the lives of Deah Shaddy Barakat, his wife Yusor Mohammad, and her sister Razan Mohammad Abu-Salhi.

The outpouring of support made first-year student Ahmed Hassabelnaby feel safe and proud to be part of the WVSOM community. “The vigil would have brought ease to the victims’ family members. Our community proved it is stronger than ever as we stood united,” he said.
In October, Malesa Price was elected vice president of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists organization during the annual ACOOG conference in Dallas. In this role, Price will keep all ACOOG chapters apprised of events and scholarship opportunities, and organize student events at future conferences. During her one-year term, Price wants to create learning experiences for other students while developing positive relationships with physicians, students and administrators in the medical field.

**Fall Research Forum displayed student work**

The Dr. William Blue Faculty/Student Research Forum allowed WVSOM students to present medical posters about research they have conducted under the supervision of faculty members. Thirteen posters were part of the presentations. Second- and third-year students provided lightning talks for seven posters. The presentations allowed students to briefly explain their research and answer questions from attendees.

Christopher Carls, OMS II, and James Akers, OMS II, were the People’s Choice poster winners for their research on “Exercise Induces Rapid Exhaustion in C. elegans Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Mutants.” Their faculty/staff advisors were Bethany Hampton, B.S., and Predrag Krajacic, M.D.

**Dr. William Blue Recognized during the Forum for his Dedication to Research.**

Dr. Blue retired in January 2014 after 22 years of service to WVSOM. He was an experienced professor in the area of microbiology.

**WVSOM student won second place at OMED poster session**

At the AOA’s Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition (OMED) that took place Oct. 25-29 in Seattle, WVSOM student Timothy Bikman, OMS III, earned a second place ribbon in the Research Abstracts and Poster Session for research on “Experiential Learning: An Irreplaceable Tool in Osteopathic Student Education.” John Ford, OMS III, was also a research contributor, but did not attend the conference. The work was under the supervision of faculty mentor Deborah Schmidt, D.O., and staff member Lance Ridpath, M.S.

Judges for the poster session are qualified volunteers from various colleges of osteopathic medicine. Students typically have 5-7 minutes to present their poster and answer judges’ questions.
The second annual Wilderness Medicine rotation took place July 29 to Aug. 10, 2014, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, located in the New River Gorge. The location is the new permanent home for the National Boy Scout Jamboree and serves as a three-season high adventure camp for Boy Scouts of America. With scouts in the Gorge taking part in outdoor activities, the need arose for medical professionals to attend to potential injuries. This area is an ideal site for teaching essential skills related to wilderness medicine in the Appalachian environment.

Medical students and residents taking part in the rotation have a full two weeks of didactics and outdoor workshops. The National Boy Scout Jamboree takes place every four years. During a Jamboree year, participants will serve as medical staff on the Summit also, making this a four-week elective. In the non-Jamboree years, the elective will be two weeks, with the same didactic requirements and some additional clinical shifts in the Summit Health Center providing medical care for scouts.

The rotation is open to osteopathic and allopathic medical residents and fourth-year medical students. It is co-sponsored by WVSOM and the emergency medicine residency at Ohio Valley Medical Center (OVMC) in Wheeling, WV. The rotation preceptor is Lisa Hrutkay, D.O., emergency medicine faculty at OVMC.

Last summer, four residents from OVMC and one from Grandview Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, participated. Three WVSOM students participated in the rotation: Kayleigh Pung, Stephanie Ptakowski and Navraj Rai. Guest lecturers included two residents who participated in the Wilderness Medicine rotation the previous year: Dr. Jared Halterman, a resident at OVMC, and Dr. Michael Antolini, a resident at AccessHealth Teaching Health Center in Beckley.

WVSOM students interested in the Wilderness Medicine rotation or course curriculum can find more information at www.wvwildmed.com.
New this summer!

Legacy Football Jersey
Under Armour $42.99

“Old Main” Sweatshirt
Under Armour $29.99

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Under Armour $29.99

Visor
Under Armour $22.99

Zoom Power Charger for iPhone & iPad
$110

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www.wvsom.edu/aboutWVSOM/campus-store
School news

WVSOM received grant to promote diversity, equality

WVSOM was awarded a $5,000 “Diversity for Equity” grant to fund programs that increase cultural diversity on campus and promote equal access to higher education opportunities.

WVSOM’s grant funds are used to develop an institution-wide strategic plan on diversity as well as to continue with educational efforts aimed at bringing a mutual understanding and respect among all individuals and groups at WVSOM. Areas of special need to be addressed include:

- A program to increase understanding of the “big picture” of diversity
- A program on work-life balance
- A program that takes a closer look at gender transitioning

Rebecca Morrow, Ph.D., director of Student Affairs, said that the financial support is helpful since part of WVSOM’s mission is to educate students from diverse backgrounds as lifelong learners in osteopathic medicine.

“The WVSOM Committee on Social Justice and Cultural Diversity is excited to have received this grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission,” she said. “This grant will help make it possible for us to undertake programs this year that will further our diversity-related vision and goals.”

The Diversity for Equity program is a joint initiative of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. The program aims to foster campus environments that are inclusive of various generational, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Projects funded through the initiative focus on closing achievement gaps among underrepresented populations and preparing students to live and work in a diverse world.

Abracadabra wraps taping season 4

WVSOM continues to support the Healthy Children’s Initiative by communicating healthy choices through the children’s show Abracadabra. The fourth season of Abracadabra is expected to begin airing on WV PBS this fall. Viewers are in for a treat this season as the Abracadabra cast visits Capitol Market in Charleston to see what foods farmers provide; Joey learns to adapt to wearing braces; the Abra Kids learn about STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math); Nastini learns proper nutrition when he gets sick; Joey becomes a cowboy when he gets lost in his imagination while reading a western; and Nastini reveals he has a brother!

A Thanksgiving special is also new to the storyline. This episode will give viewers healthy options for the Thanksgiving meal and focus on being grateful and appreciating others.

“The Abracadabra lessons range from teaching children to lead a healthy lifestyle, using safety precautions and stimulating an interest in science to developing acceptable social behaviors,” said creator Michael Adelman, D.O. “We try to provide real life situations that children can relate to and Thanksgiving is a perfect holiday to focus on.”

The Healthy Children’s Initiative at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine helps raise visibility of WVSOM throughout the state in addition to improving the health of the next generation of West Virginia residents. It fits into the WVSOM mission by reaching rural areas within West Virginia to educate children about health, nutrition, exercise and stimulate their interest in science.

“The Board of Governors for WVSOM has consistently supported Abracadabra and the important role it plays in improving the health of West Virginia’s youngest citizens,” state Cheryl Schreiber, WVSOM Board of Governors Chair. “Board members even enjoyed watching part of an episode during a board meeting.”

Abracadabra is endorsed by the West Virginia Department of Education and supported by the WVSOM Board of Governors and WV Public Broadcasting. Underwriters include Charleston Area Medical Center, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of West Virginia, Brickstreet Foundation and WV Mutual Insurance Company.

Taping for Season 5 is expected to start this summer.
Ready, Set, KNOW!

And they’re off! Driven by a keen curiosity and a passion for learning, local high school students eagerly participated in the second annual WVSOM “Just say KNOW to drugs!” pharmacology camp, gaining valuable insight to the inner workings of drug interactions in the body.

The free camp ran June 23 – June 27, 2014, and the overall experience for those interested in a medical career far outweighed the one-week loss of sacred summer vacation.

“The program provides research and clinical exposure in such a fun, interactive way; the students don’t even realize they’re learning,” said Raeann Carrier, Ph.D., WVSOM’s assistant professor of pharmacology and the camp organizer.

Each day began with a lecture on topics such as antibiotics, pain medications and drug abuse, followed by hands-on application in faculty research labs and OPP labs, where students analyzed and evaluated their experiments through observation, reasoning and communication with faculty and WVSOM second-year student mentors Katie Thomas and Lewis Akers.

The combination of lecture and experimentation helped students gain a strong understanding of the material. “Sim Man,” one of WVSOM’s patient simulators, proved to be a highlight, utilized to demonstrate the effects alcohol has on the body.

The Southeastern Area Health Education Center (SE-AHEC) and WVSOM’s Rural Health Initiative partnered with the camp this year, offering lunchtime health talks – a welcome addition to the curriculum. RHI Program Coordinator Janet Hinton; second-year students, Brittany Streets and Zachary Conrad; and Mike Peterson, D.O., Class of 2008, reviewed topics with the high school students, everything from sanitation and nutrition to health care careers.

This exciting week of discovery culminated in the Parents’ Showcase, where students displayed the results of their learning. “Bravo” to these young scholars for taking their curiosity about medical science to the next level.
Peter Ward, Ph.D., partners with Bone Clones to improve medical education

“Dem Bones, Dem Bones … Dem Dry Bones,” goes the old spiritual that reads like an elementary anatomy lesson: “The toe bone’s connected to the foot bone, the foot bone’s connected to the heel bone…”

Of course, no self-respecting anatomist would ever make reference to the “foot bone” to describe such a complex structure as the human foot. There are 26 bones in the foot alone and WVSOM associate professor of anatomy, Peter Ward, Ph.D., is partnering with osteological reproductions distributor, Bone Clones Inc., to ensure WVSOM students understand that human anatomy, both connected and disconnected.

“When students are examining each other in the Clinical Skills Lab, their partners are healthy and the body areas they are examining are intact,” Ward explained. “In the true clinical setting, they will most likely be examining an area with injury – such as a torn rotator cuff or an ankle sprain. So they are attempting to learn about injured anatomy by examining intact partners, this isn’t really very helpful. They need to develop a “feel,” to identify bone and ligament injuries that may not be visually observable.”

That’s where the osteological reproductions come in. Ward is working with Bone Clones, of Canoga Park, Calif., to create a line of plastic bone models that are not only anatomically correct, but can simulate an injury. “It’s not only about how good a specimen looks,” he said, “but how it feels when examined.” Once each specimen is manufactured, faculty and students will be able to ‘toggle’ the specimen to demonstrate how the area feels within different clinical scenarios.

“We’re creating an ongoing line of medical education models with Bone Clones,” said Ward. “Anticipated models would demonstrate ankle ligament rupture, knee ligament rupture, shoulder separation, torn rotator cuff, spondylolisthesis, intervertebral disc herniation, and more.”

These osteological models would be appropriate for medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training students, all of whom need to understand musculoskeletal injuries to diagnose and treat injury. With Dr. Ward’s guidance, future health care providers who learn using the WVSOM created and endorsed osteological reproductions will gain important clinical skills and confidence in their hands-on diagnosis – a valuable service for the weekend athlete who shows up in the emergency room or the soccer mom who arrives at her local clinic with an injured child.
Elect Her-Campus Women Win returned to WVSOM

Elect Her-Campus Women Win, the only program that trains women students to run for student government and future political office, was presented at WVSOM in January for the second year in a row.

A joint program of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Running Start, Elect Her has been offered at a total of 50 sites around the nation and Jamaica. All enrolled WVSOM students, as well as Greenbrier East and Greenbrier West high school students and New River Community and Technical College students were invited to the event.

The program focuses on the need for an increased number of women to run for elected office. WVSOM was the only institution in West Virginia to host Elect Her in 2015.

“We are thrilled to host Elect Her in West Virginia,” said Rebecca Morrow, WVSOM director of student affairs. “This program provides a great opportunity for students who are interested in running for office, either on campus or beyond, to hone and practice their campaign skills.”

Of the thousands of Elect Her alumnae, many have taken the skills and tools they learned from the leadership training program and used it to launch successful campaigns for student government positions and even local office. In 2015, Elect Her will reach 13 new schools in five new states, including Iowa, one of four states that have yet to elect a woman to either chamber of Congress.

The program was funded through a successful grant proposal submitted by the WVSOM Office of Student Affairs and the WVSOM Delta Omega student organization.

WVSOM donates computers

WVSOM donated 43 Dell Studio One “all-in-one” desktop computers (without bases) to Greenbrier East (GEHS) and Greenbrier West (GWHS) high schools.

What’s interesting about this contribution is that not only will the donation serve the technology needs of the high school students, but it’s also providing an opportunity for vocational projects at each school. Kevin Warfield, the GEHS Project Lead the Way teacher, and Steve Tincher, GWHS welding teacher, will be working with their classes to design and then weld a usable stand for the computers.

“This will be an opportunity for these students to work on a design/production project that will not only test their skills but also benefit county students who will then be able to use the computers,” stated Vicky Cline, Director of Technology and Testing for Greenbrier County Schools.

Thanks to WVSOM employees Larry Ware, vice president of finance and facilities; Kim Ransom, director of information technology; and Ernest Piercy, warehouse supervisor; for coordinating this effort.
Emphasizing primary care in rural areas of West Virginia is a common thread that binds the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine’s mission and goals.

That idea of encouraging medical students to practice in underserved communities throughout the state was reinforced early March during the fourth annual Rural Practice Day, which was hosted by WVSOM’s Rural Health Initiative (RHI) program.

The event featured a demonstration and air-medical evacuation simulation with helicopters from the National Guard, HealthNet and Air Evac. The three agencies explained hoist operations, hot loads and how to transfer patients from military to civilian aircraft.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for the medical students,” said Janet Hinton, RHI program coordinator. “We also involved other agencies for a more realistic demonstration including the Lewisburg Fire Department, Greenbrier County EMS and the West Virginia State Police.”

Second-year student James Mason helped coordinate the simulation and said it is rare to get such a unique experience in medical school.

“RHI teaches us how to treat our patients in the most unique workplaces — logging fields, coal mines and now through the air with some of the most advanced equipment in the country. After this demonstration, future physicians understand the capabilities of aero medical transport and how it can improve their patient’s outcome, which is the entire goal of medical school,” Mason said.

“WVSOM and RHI permitted me to develop a nationally recognized Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) exercise right here on our campus. Where else can you do that in a medical school?”

~ James Mason

John Ford, a third-year medical student, has attended Rural Practice
“It was quite the adventure,” he recalls of being right in the belly of a Black Hawk chopper. “This was my first time working with the Black Hawk platform. It is a much more powerful aircraft than I had thought. Being hoisted up in tandem with the medic is an experience I will never forget.”

Jennifer Bannister, a first-year student, attended the event because of the importance rural health has on her — she has lived and worked exclusively in rural areas even prior to enrolling at WVSOM.

“I am fully aware and intricately tied to the health and economic disparities of rural Appalachia,” Bannister said. “I am fortunate to find myself in a position to serve some of those needs going forward and wanted to know more about how I can do that as an osteopathic physician.”

Rural Practice Day also allowed participants to learn about financial incentive programs available for rural practices and educated student participants about rural practices through testimonials from rural physicians. The group of five successful rural physicians was all WVSOM alumni who represented different fields of primary care, including pediatrics, D.O. surgery, family medicine, internal medicine and psychiatry.

“This shows students the various opportunities in the state as well as allow them to hear the physicians’ stories of why those doctors decided to stay in rural primary care in West Virginia as opposed to other states,” Hinton said.

Ford thinks that these types of events that focus on rural medicine show students that there is much more variety than expected when it comes to primary care in rural practices.

And Bannister adds that the rural practice experience is rewarding.

“The health disparities in rural medicine are large. Generally, these areas feel the economic, social and health care crisis of the nation more deeply than others,” she said. “The physician shortage is real, especially in these areas. Good doctors are needed in rural America. Further, doctors need rural America. The opportunity for a rich, fulfilling life does lie in the practice and lifestyle of rural primary care.”
RHI students explored underground mines

Medical students didn’t necessarily become miners but they did descend about 800 feet underground to explore two coal mines.

The experience was part of WVSOM’s Rural Health Initiative event — designed to provide students in the program with an understanding of the coal industry, its environment and potential worker illnesses and injuries related to the industry. It was the third year the RHI program has provided coal mine simulation scenarios for students. Eleven third-year students and two fourth-year students participated in the event, as well as eight WVSOM staff members.

“The RHI events within industries such as the coal mines give students a better understanding of physical and emotional demands workers face daily. Thanks to companies and organizations such as the Mine Academy in Beaver, W.Va., and the two coal mines we visited, the students were able to experience some of those demands for themselves,” said Janet Hinton, RHI program coordinator. “A unique and exciting part we all witnessed was seeing the coal or fossils that no one else has ever seen before. Experiences such as this will help students to better understand the workers’ overall health and allow them to improve the doctor/patient relationship.”

The two-day event began with RHI students visiting the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beaver, W.Va., in order to receive training and become familiar with typical industry equipment. It was also a day for students to work through two different scenarios with the WVSOM Clinical Evaluation Center’s simulators. One simulation
required students to provide medical assistance in a coal miner’s rescue chamber while the other represented a miner injury from a piece of equipment.

A small, smoke-filled rescue area, low visibility and a breathing apparatus that made it difficult to communicate were all factors RHI students had to overcome in the scenarios. Steven Halm, D.O., FAAP, FACP, Clinical Evaluation Center medical director, said that the coal mine medical simulation exposure provided students with an experience that carries out WVSOM’s mission of serving the West Virginia population by becoming familiar with the unique needs of rural state workers.

“The most beneficial parts of the medical simulation exercise were learning to work as a team and utilizing each member’s skills to bring together the best possible care for their patient — better teamwork results in better patient outcomes,” Halm said. “Our students didn’t read about it in a book, but clearly experienced it in the simulation exercises.”

The second day students strapped on their boots and hard helmets to observe miners in their element — Arch Beckley Coal Mine in Eccles and Speed Mine near Cabin Creek outside of Charleston. In the depths of darkness, students spent about three hours watching a roof bolter stand with his arms above his head to support the roof. Students also observed a continuous miner, which is a machine that cuts and loads coal in one continuous operation, scrape the floor of the mine.

“As the elevator descended 800 vertical feet into the mine below, I knew I was in for an incredible experience,” recalled Ryan Quinn, a fourth-year WVSOM RHI student. “Leaning forward not to hit my head on the roof above, myself and a group of RHI students saw roof bolting, continuous miners in action and belts carrying coal out of the mine to the surface. When we surfaced, I had an incredible appreciation for the hard work and occupational dangers experienced by coal miners in an industry that’s been vital to West Virginia.”

Other students agreed that the visit was one of the best experiences they’ve had as a medical student.

“As future physicians, it gave us tremendous insight into various injuries and health issues we will be treating. I have a newfound respect for all the men and women who work there every day,” said Cassidy Smith, a third-year RHI student.

These events are designed to encourage students to practice medicine in rural areas — something that has been a 40-plus-year mission of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and something that students like Quinn said they are now inspired to do.

“I want to stay in West Virginia and practice in a rural community,” he said. “It’s through these tremendous experiences afforded to me by the Rural Health Initiative that I’m able to build rapport as a provider by giving patients a sense of understanding that can’t be had without seeing their work first hand. Without RHI, my care would be sufficient but not connected. I want patients to know I understand them as well as their injuries.”

Chip Clay, MSHA training instructor, said that sharing industry knowledge with medical students is rewarding.

quoted Cassidy Smith, a third-year RHI student, as saying, “As future physicians, it gave us tremendous insight into various injuries and health issues we will be treating. I have a newfound respect for all the men and women who work there every day.”
Summers County Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Medical Technician students visited the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in October to receive hands-on training for medical scenarios.

The EMT students heard presentations from WVSOM students who are members of the Emergency Medicine club. The EMT students then toured the gross anatomy lab and visited the Clinical Evaluation Center to participate in simulation scenarios designed to allow them to practice skills.

Steven Halm, D.O., FAAP, FACP, CEC medical director and associate professor of clinical science, said the simulation team provided scenarios with the facility’s high-fidelity manikins, which involved motor vehicle accident patients with significant head trauma and leg wounds. Following the 10-minute scenarios, medical students and EMT students discussed their performance and ways to improve for future encounters.

WVSOM Emergency Medicine club members and RHI students helped guide the EMT students and assisted them with working in teams.
Twelve third-year students and two fourth-year RHI students, along with Dr. Lorenzo Pence, Dr. David Brown, Patti Crawford and Janet Hinton, attended the Rural Workforce Day Jan 22. at the West Virginia capitol. The event, sponsored by the West Virginia Rural Health Association, was an opportunity for community members and the health care workforce to get involved in the legislative process. RHI program students and staff scheduled appointments with 22 senators and delegates. With the average West Virginia physician age at 50, the students discussed the need for primary care providers and specialists in rural and some urban areas. Students shared their personal interests in primary care and the benefits of legislative participation in the WVSOM RHI program.

Funding for the RHI program provides opportunities that prepare medical students and residents as primary care physicians by educating them about state industries affecting the health of workers.

Rural Health Conference

The WVRHA hosted the 22nd annual Rural Health Conference Awards luncheon and presented the 2014 Outstanding Student of the Year Award. The award recognizes extraordinary student initiative and performed activity demonstrated within the field of rural health. Efforts may include clinical, infrastructure development, research, promotional or volunteer activities. This year’s award was presented to RHI student Darby Mullen Ford, OMS IV.
Janet Hinton and Patti Crawford presented at the Student Success Summit in Morgantown, W.Va., titled “Supporting students for WV hometown health careers.” Through funding from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), WVSOM is participating in a Rural Health Initiative (RHI) grant program. The RHI mission is to enhance the rural primary care curriculum at WVSOM in order to produce graduates uniquely qualified to practice medicine in under served communities of the state. WVSOM believes the foundation of its success starts much earlier in community collaborations with secondary education, colleges and universities, and health care careers, including but not limited to osteopathic primary care physicians. The presentation introduced participants to the program’s outreach efforts in providing high school and college students with hands-on experience and professional mentoring.

Green Coat Program hosts orientation

The RHI program hosted its first Green Coat Program Orientation for the four undergraduate students from the University of Charleston who will be working at the Charleston Area Medical Center. While at WVSOM, the students visited the Clinical Evaluation Center, the gross anatomy lab, watched an OMT presentation and obtained information on how to apply to WVSOM from the admissions office and RHI staff. The students are exposed to clinical responsibilities in a hospital environment and are mentored by WVSOM’s Statewide Campus Regional Assistant Dean, Dr. Art Rubin, as well as other health care professionals. The job requires 8-10 hours per week for 20 weeks and is similar to a college work-study program. The students began working at CAMC on Aug. 4.

Students earned Green Coat certification.

Four University of Charleston students, Varun Shah, Crystal Nyberg, Kenny Nguyen and Hajer Mazagri, received certification for the Rural Health Initiative’s Green Coat Program Jan. 21. The Green Coat Program is a collaboration between CAMC and WVSOM to provide undergraduate students, with an interest in the health profession, an opportunity to gain clinical exposure and learn responsibilities in a hospital environment. The enhanced opportunity for acceptance into a health care profession, increased patient interaction competency and educational insights from experienced physicians and other health care professionals is beneficial to the participants.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Green Coat program offers undergraduate students interested in health careers an opportunity to gain exposure to clinical responsibilities in a hospital environment. Students are mentored by regional assistant deans from WVSOM’s Statewide Campus system, along with alumni and other health care professionals.
Career Fair

WVSOM staff participated in a “Career Fair” at Ronceverte and Alderson Elementary schools. Participants included Dr. Lorenzo Pence, Angie Amick, Belinda Evans, Matt Carver, Dr. Raeann Carrier, Janet Hinton and Donette Mizia. Employees discussed the various careers that they have at WVSOM.

Health Occupations Today Expo

WVSOM RHI Coordinator Janet Hinton, RHI students Jordan Beckett and Sasha Rhiter, and Statewide Campus Director for the Central region, Adrienne Tucker, participated in the Health Occupations Today (HOT) Expo at the Armed Forces Center in Elkins, W.Va. The expo hosted students from Tygart Valley, Elkins, Lewis County, Tucker County, Preston County, Upshur County and Barbour County. About 380 students participated in the expo, which included exhibitors from Davis Health Systems, Broaddus Hospital, Army National Guard and Health Net Aeromedical Services.

Boy Scouts of America Sustainability Summit

The Boy Scouts of America Sustainability Summit took place at The Greenbrier. Janet Hinton and two RHI students participated in the Sustainability Summit hosted by the Boy Scouts. RHI student Michael Bledsoe, who is also an Eagle Scout, and RHI student James Mason attended the event. Bledsoe has participated in various activities with the BSA such as the family practice tent during the 2013 Jamboree. Mason was invited to this event by his RHI mentor Col. Steve Eshenaur, medical director for the summit. The RHI program display was set up in an effort to recruit scouts to consider a career as a D.O. as well as to display the participation from RHI students, WVSOM residents and graduates during the 2013 Jamboree.
Second RHI activity

WVSOM RHI Class of 2016 students, the RHI Program Coordinator, Dr. Lorenzo Pence and Dr. Dwight Bundy participated in the second RHI activity involving the timber/logging and sawmill industries. Tom Crickenberger and Rick Persinger of Mead Westvaco provided the opportunity for the group to visit a logging site next to Williamsburg W.Va. The group was also able to watch the loggers take trees from the site before cutting and loading them onto a truck for transport to the sawmill. Students were able to talk to loggers to find out more about their occupation. 

After lunch, the group went to a sawmill where they watched the logs being unloaded from the trucks and processed through the mill to the final outcome of loading boards onto the trucks for transport to various suppliers. The sawmill is located near Covington, Va. At this sawmill the students were able to witness the process as well as talk to workers about their occupation. The event proved beneficial because students now have a first-hand experience of the industry from talking to actual employees and witnessing the way that they could have injuries and/or illnesses from their occupation.

Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Week

Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Week at White Sulphur Springs Elementary School took place at the end of October. Dr. Raeann Carrier, Janet Hinton, Dezi Davis and RHI students Brittany Streets and Samantha Frazier visited the White Sulphur Springs Elementary School to talk to students about tobacco and alcohol abuse. The theme for the day was “I mustache you to say KNOW to drugs!”

Visit to NIOSH

RHI students from the Class of 2016 and Class of 2015, along with Dr. Lorenzo Pence and Janet Hinton visited the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Morgantown. The students learned about black lung research, learned how to perform B-readings of chest X-rays, attended presentations by staff from the CDC-Division of Respiratory Disease Studies and toured the virtual reality laboratory used by NIOSH to conduct safety testing for occupational injuries. Carl Werntz, D.O., MPH, was the leading physician who planned the event.
New faculty hired

Maureen Basha, Ph.D.
Assistant professor
biomedical sciences

Dr. Basha began working at WVSOM July 1. She completed her Ph.D. in animal physiology at the University of Minnesota and completed her postdoctoral studies of urogenital smooth muscle at the University of Pennsylvania. Her Bachelor of Science degree was earned at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. She has extensive teaching experience both prior to and following her postdoctoral studies with students ranging from non-science majors, nursing students, adult learners, first-year medical students and upper level undergraduate science majors.

David Manna, Ph.D.
Assistant professor
biomedical sciences

Dr. Manna began working at WVSOM July 1. He has a Ph.D. in biochemistry, microbiology and molecular biology from Pennsylvania State University and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Manna received his Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in biotechnology from the University of Delaware. His teaching experience comes from his postdoctoral fellowship where he was actively involved in both research and teaching.

Cory Robinson, Ph.D.
Assistant professor
biomedical sciences

Dr. Robinson began working at WVSOM Aug. 25. He received his Ph.D. in microbiology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He also has a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. He has several years of experience teaching medical students as he served as an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine teaching medical microbiology and basic and clinical immunology.

Angela “Machelle” Linsenmeyer, Ed.D.
Associate dean for Assessment and Educational Development

Dr. Linsenmeyer began working at WVSOM Dec. 1. She has a Doctorate of Education in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in information and communication technology development at Oklahoma State. She has presented both nationally and internationally on faculty development methods and has experience teaching student assessment and program evaluation courses.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

www.wvsom.edu/employment
Leslie Bicksler 304.647.6279
lbicksler@osteo.wvsom.edu

WVSOM is seeking to fill the following positions:

- Family Medicine Faculty
- Internal Medicine Faculty
- Pathology Faculty
- Pediatrics or Pediatrics/Internal Medicine Faculty

WVSOM.edu • SUMMER 2015 | 49
Larry Davis, Ph.D., is a busy man. From sunup to sundown, his calendar is filled with appointments. To see him is to catch him “in between,” either just on his way to ... or just out of ... a meeting or presentation or rehearsal for one of the area’s many theatrical productions. Apparently, retirement will do that to you.

For thirty years, Davis taught biochemistry and cell physiology at WVSOM, working closely with students on problem-based learning, reviewing with them before endocrinology exams or coaching them to explore sound treatment best practices. It was not just a job, it was a passion. Now in his seventh year of retirement, Davis continues to share that passion with WVSOM students and with young people in the Greenbrier Valley community through his work with Sigma Xi.

A global scientific research society founded in 1886, Sigma Xi is a member-based association of nearly 60,000 scientists and engineers, who are elected to membership as a result of their research achievements. Sigma Xi’s worldwide network of multi-disciplinary chapters can be found within universities and colleges, government laboratories and industry research centers.

Recently, the Greenbrier Valley Chapter of Sigma Xi received the 2013 Sigma Xi Chapter Program of Excellence Award for distinguished performance.

The 2013 award, presented to only eight of 520 current Sigma Xi chapters, salutes exceptional chapter activity, innovative programming and true community leadership and embodies Sigma Xi’s mission: To improve the human condition by enhancing the health of the research enterprise, fostering integrity in science and engineering, and promoting the public’s understanding of science.”

The Greenbrier Valley Chapter of Sigma Xi is based at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) in Lewisburg, W.Va. Members come from across the south of West Virginia and the western part of Virginia, and include medical students and basic science faculty from WVSOM, chemical and mechanical engineers at MeadWestvaco, as well as scientists from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, W.Va.

Among its annual activities, the Greenbrier Valley chapter sponsors a Regional Middle School Science Fair for students from Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas counties. The chapter also hosts talks of broad interest to the scientific community, as well as laypersons, field trips to member work sites (e.g., the Green Bank Telescope), and two annual Sigma Xi – WVSOM Research events for faculty and students, one in the spring and another in the fall.

A member of Sigma Xi since 1972, Davis was elected the chapter president for 2014-2016 after the previous president moved out of the state.

“So many people assist with the efforts of the local chapter,” he said. “Brian Griffith, Ph.D., at WVSOM put together the regional middle school science fair and Barbara McCutchan, Ph.D., a fellow with the Virginia Tech Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability, played a major role in providing information to the national organization. Chris Kennedy, a student in WVSOM’s class of 2017, was invaluable in helping us to organize student participation. It’s definitely a team effort.”
New Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean

Craig Boisvert, D.O., FACOFP

WVSOM is pleased to announce that Craig Boisvert, DO, FACOFP, has accepted the appointment of vice president for academic affairs & dean.

Dr. Boisvert received his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from the University of Vermont and his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the University of New England College of Medicine in Biddeford, Maine. He completed his internship and family practice residency at Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital in Lancaster, Pa. In 2006-2007, he completed a Health Policy Fellowship with the American Osteopathic Association at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the New York Institute of Technology.

He joined WVSOM in 1988 and has filled multiple roles at the institution including professor of family medicine, chair of the clinical science department and associate dean of Predoctoral Clinical Education. He serves on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA) and is a prior president of the West Virginia Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP).

Dr. Boisvert is a past president of the West Virginia Affiliate of the American Heart Association and served many years on their Research and the Program Development Committees. He is a current AHA BLS and ACLS Instructor.

Dr. Boisvert has a strong interest in prevention and has served on the ACOFP Committee on Prevention, the WV Health Care Advisory Authority Expert Panel on Cardiovascular Disease and the WV Tri-state Children’s Health Improvement Consortium Advisory Panel.

“I believe my first priority as dean is to assess and fine-tune the new case presentation model being used to deliver the first- and second-year curriculum that was begun three years ago,” said Boisvert. “I would like to see continued faculty development in the Statewide Campus and, lastly, I look forward to participating and leading the faculty in the development of a five-year strategic plan.”

According to WVSOM President Michael Adelman, D.O., J.D., “Dr. Boisvert was overwhelmingly recommended for this position by the constituent groups on campus. He has exceptional organizational skills and is trusted by our faculty and staff. During our search for a new dean, Dr. Boisvert received high marks for his fairness, his work ethic and his perseverance in achieving excellence. I am excited to have him in this leadership role and know he will continue to advance WVSOM’s commitment to producing outstanding osteopathic physicians who serve our state and beyond.”
Steven Halm, D.O., FAAP, FACP, associate professor and medical director of the Clinical Evaluation Center, was recognized as a physician of distinction in the field of internal medicine. Halm was recently selected as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP).

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is a national organization comprised of M.D.s and D.O.s that are medical specialists applying scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment and compassionate care of adults across a wide spectrum of illnesses ranging from minor to complex. The ACP is the largest medical specialty organization in the U.S. with 137,000 members. Fellowship in FACP is a mark of distinction representing the pinnacle of integrity, professionalism and scholarship for doctors with careers in internal medicine. Dr. Halm is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP), a similar distinction for the specialty of pediatrics.

John M. Garlitz, D.O., represented WVSOM at the Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP) business meeting in September at the A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Mo. ECOP is a committee of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine that meets biannually to help standardize the teaching of osteopathic principles and practice (OPP) at U.S. osteopathic medical schools. Dr. Garlitz, an associate professor of OPP, participated in a Clinical Years subcommittee and carried WVSOM’s vote for changes to ECOP publications The Glossary of Osteopathic Terminology, Core Curriculum for Osteopathic Manual Medicine, Clinical Osteopathically Integrated Learning Scenarios (COILS), and Foundations of Osteopathic Medicine 4th Edition.

David Beatty, D.O., was appointed to the NBOME National Faculty in the Clinical Department of OPP/NMM after successful completion of the NBOME Item Writing 101 course. He has been a COMLEX item writer for more than 20 years and has served on OPP and exam review committees. Beatty is a professor and chairman of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice at WVSOM.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) announced in February, that Lorenzo Pence, D.O., FACOFP, accepted the position of senior vice president for osteopathic accreditation. The position was created as part of the transition to a single accreditation system for graduate medical education (GME). In the new role, Pence will be responsible for oversight as well as providing insight, context and continuity to the ongoing process of enforcing and developing osteopathic standards, policies and strategies under the new accreditation system. Pence will leave WVSOM and assume his new position at the ACGME headquarters in Chicago this spring.

Halm recognized as a physician of distinction

Steven Halm, D.O., FAAP, FACP, associate professor and medical director of the Clinical Evaluation Center, was recognized as a physician of distinction in the field of internal medicine. Halm was recently selected as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP).

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is a national organization comprised of M.D.s and D.O.s that are medical specialists applying scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment and compassionate care of adults across a wide spectrum of illnesses ranging from minor to complex. The ACP is the largest medical specialty organization in the U.S. with 137,000 members. Fellowship in FACP is a mark of distinction representing the pinnacle of integrity, professionalism and scholarship for doctors with careers in internal medicine. Dr. Halm is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP), a similar distinction for the specialty of pediatrics.
Amick earned CHSOS certification

Angie Amick was among the first 21 Certified Healthcare Simulation Operations Specialists (CHSOS) to receive certification by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare in February. The growing field of simulation operations is the result of the increasing demands for skills, knowledge and abilities to meet the operational needs of busy simulation centers and labs. This initial group of individuals from Qatar, Israel, and the United States received the distinction by demonstrating the knowledge and skills required to support and deliver quality health care simulations. The certification was designed to support and recognize key CHSOS from all over the world.

Percussion technique workshop presented

Charles McClung, D.O., assistant professor in Osteopathic Principles and Practice, presented a Percussion Technique workshop to second-year students on Jan. 9. The technique utilizes a vibratory device to amplify myofascial release for the treatment of chronic or resistant somatic dysfunctions. Students who completed the course could use the Percussion Technique as a treatment option in the Student OMM Clinic. OPP faculty and GTAs assisted in the event, which was attended by 102 Class of 2017 members, making it the best-attended percussion workshop since the course was initiated in 2004.

Employee earned certifications

Tina Wise participated in a certificate program in standardized patient-based education Oct. 26-31, at the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Department of Medical Education.

The intensive week long session took place at the Graham Clinical Performance Center, a comprehensive multi-modal simulation center, internationally recognized for innovation in standardized patient education.

The program was designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to create compelling educational programs using standardized patients, alone and in combination with other simulation modalities. During the training session, Wise enhanced her abilities to write, train, debrief and assess effective standardized patient cases. She also earned a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) certification that same month. CHES are professionals that have met the standards of competence established by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc. and successfully passed the CHES examination. Health Education Specialists are professionals who design, conduct and evaluate activities that help promote the health of all people. The CHES designation is an indication of professional competency and commitment to continued professional development.

Crawford attended NRHA Policy Institute

Director of Rural Outreach, Patricia Crawford, MS, CHES, attended the National Rural Health Association’s Policy Institute Feb. 2-5, in Washington D.C. More than 440 rural health advocates from around the nation gathered on Capitol Hill to ask West Virginia’s senators and representatives for their support in funding rural hospitals, clinics and medical training. WVSOM has been an organizational member of NRHA for several decades, and Crawford is an NRHA board member.

Deputy administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, Marcia Brand, Ph.D., was honored for her years of dedication to rural health. Brand, a native West Virginian, posed with the West Virginia Delegation present at the Policy Institute: Ashley Noland, with the Higher Education Policy Commission; Debrin Jenkins, with the West Virginia Rural Health Association; Hilda Heady, with Atlas Research; Crawford, with WVSOM; Brandon Carmen, with the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health; and Sandra Pope, with the West Virginia AHEC Program.
Dear WVSOM alumni,

Well, it happens to all of us eventually. No matter what we do to prevent it, no matter how studiously we ignore the possibility, the inevitable happens. Doctors become patients. In a matter of moments, I went from being a physician standing at the bedside to being the patient in the bed. Without warning, planning or preparation, I became the person on the working end of the stethoscope instead of the listening end. Instead of giving patient care orders, I became the object of those orders. Suddenly my world changed. A lot of the diagnostic tests that, in the past have flowed so blithely from my pen onto the order sheet became very real to me. I won’t bore you with all of the details. I will tell you that I learned about ED visits, air ambulance flights, tertiary care centers, cardiac CT angiography, endoscopy, ultrasound, multiple specialty consults, countless lab studies and eventual surgery. Through it all I tried to be a good, compliant patient but I’m certain I failed.

I was cared for by an extensive team of doctors representing multiple disciplines. Each of them was highly trained, experienced and caring. After all of their hard work, they arrived with the conclusion that I was a conundrum. Eventually, one of our alumni Ben Hensley, D.O., evaluated me. With wisdom beyond his years he told me, “Common things are common, let’s take out your gallbladder and you’ll feel better.” He was right. He didn’t lose sight of his patient. He hadn’t forgotten principles of osteopathic medicine.

Sometimes, in the rush of science, “best practices,” diagnostics, business and overwhelming patient loads we can do the right things and practice “good medicine” but lose track of our purpose. Sometimes we need to be reminded of the basics. According to the AOA, the “Tenets of Osteopathic Medicine” are:

1. The body is a unit, the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.
2. The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing and health maintenance.
3. Structure and function are reciprocally interrelated.
4. Rational treatment is based upon an understanding of these basic principles of body unity, self-regulation, and the interrelationship of structure and function.

While I hope you never have to have a “patient experience,” I hope that mine will remind all of us to consider the “whole patient” when we choose a course of “rational care.”

Sincerely,

Mark Waddell, D.O., ’90
President, WVSOM Alumni Association

Dr. Waddell is board certified in family medicine. He is an emergency medicine physician in Gassaway, W.Va., affiliated with Braxton County Memorial Hospital.
About 80 alumni and their families attended a reception in the observation deck of the Space Needle on Oct. 27. Alumni members were in Seattle to participate in the annual AOA Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition that took place at the Washington State Convention Center. The reception area, 520 feet above ground, offered views of downtown, the harbor and Mt. Rainier.

AOA Osteopathic Medical Conference enjoyed from the Space Needle

Alumni attended AOA House of Delegates meeting

ACOI President Rick Greco D.O., FACOI, and ACOEP President Mark Mitchell, D.O., FACOEP, (both WVSOM alumni) attended the AOA House of Delegates meeting in Chicago. Both spoke before the House of Delegates as they participated in the debate regarding the graduate medical education single accreditation system in association with ACGME.
Summer CME
Summer Seminar offered fun in the sun for WVSOM alumni

Every summer, hundreds of alumni and their families head to the beach for a seminar that not only offers continuing medical education but fun in the sun.

The Summer Seminar took place June 11-14, 2014, at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The seminar was sponsored by WVSOM and the WVSOM Alumni Association and was approved for 20 credit hours by the AOA CCME.

The schedule was packed with lectures by presenters who share knowledgeable experience in the medial topics provided.

Fifteen presentations were offered to seminar attendees, as well as a hands-on workshop in joint injections, IUD insertion/removal and basic ultrasound. Presentation topics included vaccine development, influenza updates, prostate cancer screening, visceral manipulation, ADHD, common dermatology conditions and hypertensive non-emergencies.

WVSOM alumni, faculty and staff who provided presentations were Mike Kasey, D.O.; Brian DeFade, D.O.; Britt Zimmerman, D.O.; Mark Waddell, D.O.; Peter File, D.O.; Tiffany Thymius, D.O.; Michael Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D.; Victoria Shuman, D.O., FACOFP; David Pucci, D.O.; John Hibler, D.O.; Adrienne Coopey, D.O.; and Robert Hunter, D.O., FACOEP, FACOFP, CMD.

Activities for alumni and their families took place during the
much-anticipated family reception at the Palmettos Pavilion on June 12. Guests enjoyed a barbeque dinner and children were entertained with a magic show presented by Michael Adelman, D.O., and sciences experiments delivered by Jim Nemitz, Ph.D., as Professor Science from the PBS TV show Abracadabra.

WVSOM Foundation Executive Director Heather Antolini brought back friendly competitions for beach towel gear and wear. Cliff Myers won a prize for the most beach towels while Brad Miller from the Class of 1985 received a prize for the oldest beach towel (from 2001). The winner with the oldest beach T-shirt went to Jean Duncan while Mark Waddell was recognized for most loved item (an old beach bag).
Nearly 250 alumni converged in Charleston, W.Va., to attend WVSOM’s 32nd annual Mid-Winter Osteopathic Seminar that took place Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Embassy Suites.

The seminar offered 24 sessions, more than any other seminar in the past. The jam-packed weekend spanned sessions in a variety of medical topics, some of which included allergy testing, pneumonia, Ebola and emerging outbreaks, spine injections, pediatric respiratory illnesses, managing suicidal patients, disaster preparedness, new drugs, becoming an effective preceptor and evaluating osteopathic principles and practices in a clinical setting.

Faculty and alumni represented a majority of session presenters.

The luncheon also recognized Research Poster award winners. They were:

— RESEARCH —
1st Place  
Nathan Hale, D.O.
2nd Place  
Dale Robertson, D.O.
3rd Place  
Autumn Lemley, D.O.

— CASE STUDY —
1st Place  
Mary Hendricks, M.S., D.O.
2nd Place  
Angela Pendleton, D.O.
3rd Place  
Meagan Chianumba, D.O.

People’s Choice  
Alex Katich, D.O.

The WVSOM Alumni Association
THANKS
all of this year’s presenters:
Ashley Zawodniak, D.O.; Chandra Kumar, M.D.; David Killeen, D.O., FCCP; Jonathan Stanley, D.O.; David Manna, Ph.D.; Andrea Nazar, D.O.; Jennifer Bailey, D.O., FAAP; Bridgett Morrison, D.O.; Russell DeMicco, D.O.; Jill Cochran, Ph.D., APRN-FNP; Christi Cooper-Lehki, D.O.; William Wilson, M.D.; Steven Eshenaur, D.O.; Christopher Terpening, Ph.D., PharmD, BCACP, CGP; Barry Doublestein, DSL; and Charles McClung, D.O.

Next year’s Mid-Winter seminar will take place Jan. 29-31, 2016, so mark your calendars.
During WVSOM’s annual Mid-Winter Osteopathic Seminar in Charleston, W.Va., Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, one alumnus and one professor emeritus were recognized for their ongoing commitment to the school.

Rodney Fink, D.O., Class of 1987, was presented the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award. Alumni Association Board President Mark Waddell, D.O., Class of 1990, made the announcement during the alumni luncheon.

“We’re in a roomful of giants who do a great job day in and day out. These people increase their knowledge to make themselves better physicians and ease suffering to make other people’s lives better,” he said. “One example of someone who has this leadership and integrity is Dr. Rodney Fink.”

Fink, accepting a commemorative Blenko glass pitcher with the Alumni Association seal, said there is one reason for all his support — he loves the school.

“WVSOM is my motivation,” he stated simply.

The Alumni Association established the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award in 2008 to annually recognize graduates who have demonstrated outstanding personal and professional achievements.

Another individual with close ties to WVSOM received an Honorary Alumni Award. Larry Davis, Ph.D., professor emeritus, was a longtime biochemistry faculty member at the school.

“He has taken a special interest in all our lives and helped to encourage all students, not just medical students,” Waddell said of Davis. Dr. Davis, who will receive a brick with his name on it in the alumni walkway, was surprised with the special recognition.

“I have enjoyed many WVSOM Alumni Association events over the years, but none so much as the luncheon during the Mid-Winter Conference in Charleston,” he said. “My honorary membership bestowed at that time pleased me to no end. I’ll never forget Dr. Mark Waddell’s kind comments before the presentation. It was a grand experience to share that occasion with the many WVSOM graduates, faculty and staff in attendance.”
Alumni Profile
Alumna devotes time to understanding adolescent behavioral health

Adrienne Coopey, D.O.,
Class of 2001

Adrienne Coopey, D.O.,
offers her expertise in child adolescent psychiatry to a variety of programs throughout North Carolina.

The 2001 WVSOM graduate resides in Asheville, where she works at Mission Hospital, but her services span a much greater geographical area. Her greatest focus is inpatient work with children, ages 4-18, through emergency department consultations and in the pediatric unit.

However, she also provides help to an agency called Community Care of Western North Carolina, a state agency that manages Medicaid in North Carolina, as well as offering telemedicine services to emergency departments, pediatric practices and the school system.

“Understanding behavioral health service is tough for physicians,” Coopey said. “There are not enough child psychiatrists to go around.”

The demand is great and the supply is low. That’s exactly why Coopey lends a helping hand whenever and wherever she can. Providing services to so many young patients for different organizations and programs means Coopey experiences a wide range of issues — from severe trauma cases due to an adverse event, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, to more common issues like family abandonment, parents in prison, or divorced parents.

In addition, the Appalachian region has specific behavioral health triggers such as poverty and substance abuse.

Of course, the most traumatic events require the most understanding and care. Coopey’s experience in this area is a benefit to other physicians. Her goal is ultimately to evaluate and educate the health care industry regarding children who have experienced an adverse event — the root cause of 90 percent of inpatient children.

“I’d love to determine what primary care doctors can best do to help the children who have experienced adverse effects not knowing what to do or where to turn,” she said.

Another common childhood issue in the behavioral science arena is bullying. While bullying isn’t a new concept, the way in which children are bullied is. Coopey said that the opportunity for adolescents to engage in bullying has increased with social media.

“Left unmonitored, social media allows constant interaction. Children are not protected enough, in my opinion, by adults from that interaction,” she said. “Well into the night children are interacting on social media and that’s an opportunity for bullying.”

Cyber bullying has constantly evolved since she began practicing psychiatry and it’s difficult to control because bullying is ever-changing.

“By high school, children not only have a cell phone and constant Internet access, but they have computers they use for school in their room by themselves. That’s just an exposure that we’re not protecting our children from,” she said. “Putting limits on their interaction on the Internet will help — make the access only available in a public setting in the family home, not while they are alone in their room.”

It’s also important that adolescents mentally detach from technology. Exposure to light from use of television, computers and mobile phones is interfering with their ability to fall sleep. The children involved are often lulled into a feeling that they are wide-awake.

“Even though adolescent brains are telling them they need to stay up later, children really need more sleep — roughly nine hours a night,” Coopey said. “They should be closing down these devices two hours before their time to sleep.”

Coopey is passionate about what she does. “Educating and supporting public health awareness in the community is important to me. What happens to children not only affects their behavior and mental health, but their medical well-being and their future.”
Over the past year, politicians have been holding Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals across the nation accountable for overall patient care.

Rajiv Jain, D.O., who has worked in the Huntington, W.Va., VA Hospital emergency room department since 2000 said the situation isn’t as dire as the media has made it seem.

Dr. Jain addresses the misconception associated with wait times in Veterans Affairs hospitals across the nation, saying that is an issue for all hospitals and clinics.

“I think that every VA has their issues and wait time is certainly one of them, but it’s hard to assess,” the 1996 WVSOM graduated said.

Jain does the best he can to see as many patients as he can because he genuinely enjoys caring for people who have served our country.

He is not a newcomer to this issue, for the last six years, he has worked as the director of the emergency room department and said patients in Huntington are processed fairly quickly — averaging about 40-45 patients in a 24-hour period. Most of the cases he sees are for acute or urgent care issues such as congestive heart failure, heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, or blood pressure management. The 80-bed facility does not typically deal with trauma cases.

Another common issue that has affected the healthcare industry is the nation’s primary care shortage.

However, WVSOM continues its work to educate students who will graduate and commit to serving in primary care roles as physicians.

“Covering the needs of primary care patients is a little arduous. I think the VA in Huntington issued a statement that it takes an average of 29 days to get into see a primary care physician, which is probably one of the lowest in the state. I think the federal guidelines say it should be less than 14 days for a patient to be seen, so technically we’ve exceeded the recommended federal guidelines,” Jain said. “I think this is where information is misconstrued. The primary care shortage is a problem throughout the nation right now, not just in the VA. There is an over abundance of primary care patients and there aren’t enough providers to give them the care they need.”

Job satisfaction is one of the perks that Jain said physicians can benefit from veterans hospitals. He touts generous vacation days, sick time, lifetime health insurance for the family, matching pension plan, reimbursement program for student loans and a stipend for a week of continuing medical education credits each year as other benefits to consider. The work is with a tightly-knit group. Jain’s emergency room staff is constantly changing, but consists of a total of six physicians.

“At the end of the day, my job satisfaction is unmatched when I leave work and I feel I’ve made a difference in someone’s life.”
1979
Scott Keller, D.O., is the medical director for a group of dedicated volunteers that serve the underserved in the Atlanta area from a mobile medical unit under the name of Grace Medical Missions.

Steve Richman, D.O., was selected as the West Virginia Rural Health Practitioner of the Year, by the West Virginia Rural Health Association. The award was presented Oct. 16, 2014, at the West Virginia Rural Health Conference.

Naomi Wriston, D.O., chaired the basic course in Occupational Medicine for AOCOPM in Ft. Lauderdale this past March.

1984
Randy Blackburn, D.O., joined Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter as a hospice and palliative care resource physician in Onslow County, N.C. Dr. Blackburn will serve as the medical director.

1986
Roland Powers, D.O., was recalled to active duty. Dr. Powers will be the Combined Task Force Surgeon for Horn of Africa for one year.

John Glover, D.O., was re-elected to the Board of Governors and the Nominating Committee of the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) on March 12, at the AAO’s Convocation in Louisville, Ky. Dr. Glover has been a member of the AAO Board of Governors for more than 20 years.

1987
Kathy Vasquez Goodman, D.O., retired from U.S. government in August 2014. Dr. Goodman is now working part-time as an urgent care physician for both Emcare South Florida and Florida Hospital’s Centracare Urgent Care.

Norman Cottrill, D.O., has been named the 2015 Pediatrician of the Year by the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Cottrill is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics with the Department of Pediatrics at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

Richard Van Buskirk, D.O., was re-elected to the Board of Governors of the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) on March 12, at the AAO’s Convocation in Louisville, Ky. He will serve another three-year term on the board.

1990
Fara Movagharnia, D.O., is the chief of surgery in the Plastic Surgery Department at the WellStar Windy Hill Hospital in Marietta, Ga., and since August 2014, the chief of staff. He has also been a consultant for Georgia Medical Care Foundation for several years; the sole founder of the Center for Gender Reassignment Surgery and the Center for Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery in Atlanta, Ga.; and clinical associate professor of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at PCOM-GA campus.

1996
Donet Glasscock, D.O., received the OPP Integration Teaching Award at the WVSOM Spring Awards Ceremony on April 15, 2015.

Kelli Ward, D.O., has formed an exploratory committee for her running in the U.S. Senate in 2016. She has completed her second term in the Arizona State Senate and also served as Chair of Education and Vice Chair of Health and Human Services in additional to several committees.

1998
Karen Snider, D.O., is one of four osteopathic physician nominees from AAO to serve on the ACGME Board of Directors to govern the single accreditation system for graduate medical education, effective Jan. 1, 2015.

1999
Tom Takubo, D.O., was elected in November 2014 to the West Virginia State Senate representing District 17. Dr. Takubo is dedicated to improving economic development, job creation and education in the state.

2004
Scott Lewis, D.O., and his practice, Lake Cumberland Rheumatology in Somerset, Ky., won the Small Business of the Year award from the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce in 2014. They also won a Community Partner Achievement Award for participation with the Pulaski County Schools Gifted and Talented Students Program.

2005
Brian Gullett, D.O., was promoted to Northern Region Medical Director for ERx Group, LLC, supervising services in West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Prior to this, Dr. Gullett had been serving as the emergency medical director at Wetzel County Hospital for the past seven years.

2007
Karthik Mohan, D.O., is in private practice at Advanced Gastroenterology of South Florida, in Miami, Fla.

Bridget O’Brien, D.O., started as a breast surgical oncologist. She completed a breast surgical oncology fellowship.
at University of Miami/Miller School of Medicine and Jackson Memorial Hospital in June 2014. Dr. O'Brien completed a general surgery residency at WVU/CAMC in June 2013.

Frederick Pich III, D.O., was named the medical director of the Southeast Alabama Emergency Medical Services (SEAEMS) Council Inc. Dr. Pich is an emergency room physician at Southeast Alabama Medical Center.

Richard Fogle, D.O., is now working for the Allegheny Health Network in Pennsylvania. Dr. Fogle is part of a team that goes outside the walls of the hospital and visits patients at home who are at risk for hospital readmissions. The program is designed to cut down on multiple hospital readmissions.

Emily Thomas, D.O., was the recipient of the Atlas Club Golden Key Award at the WVSOM Spring Awards Ceremony on April 15, 2015.

Amanda Michael, D.O., was named the osteopathic director of the Shenandoah Valley Family Medicine Residency Program in Front Royal, Va.

Louis Nardelli, D.O., is working as a full-time in-patient psychiatry/consultation psychiatrist at Winchester Medical Center in the D.C. Metro area. Dr. Nardelli finished a residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in psychosomatic medicine at VCU Hospital Systems in Richmond.

Ashley Smith, D.O., will complete her neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship this year. She is the first D.O. to ever complete this fellowship at WVU. In the fall, Dr. Smith will start a new job in Redding, Calif., in a level 3 private practice NICU.

Nicole Zuconi, D.O., joined the Inspira Health Network and is now providing primary care to families in Millville, N.J. Dr. Zuconi is also leading a clinical research study on weight loss protocols for primary care physicians.

Angela Rivers Saunders, D.O., accepted a fellowship in gastroenterology at Plaza Medical Center of Fort Worth, Texas.

Phillip Saunders, D.O., accepted a hematology/oncology fellowship at Nassau University Medical Center of Long Island.

Natalie Slone, D.O., will be starting a pediatric hematology oncology fellowship at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas, in July 2015.

Dana Vanino, D.O., transferred from a neurology residency in Charleston, S.C., at Medical University of South Carolina to a neurology residency program at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa.

Edwin Avallone, D.O., will be Chief Resident for Internal Medicine at University of Kentucky for 2015-2016. Dr. Avallone was also Resident of the Year for 2013-2014.

Jessica Smith, D.O., was elected 2015-16 chairperson of the Postgraduate American Academy of Osteopathy at the AAO convocation in Louisville, Ky. Dr. Smith earned first place in the research competition with her poster presentation “Lack of Knowledge about Osteopathic Medicine Leading to Declining Utilization of OMM in the Hospital: A Research Survey.”

Send us your info!

Tell us what you’re up to and we’ll share your news with the WVSOM community.

Here are some of the ways you can contribute to your magazine:

1. Submit updates (professional and personal) to class notes
2. Comment on the content of each issue

alumni@osteo.wvsom.edu
2004

2006
Aaron Kelley, D.O., and his wife, Stephanie, announce the birth of their fourth son, Joshua Hunt Baraka Kelley, on Oct. 25, 2014, in Kenya.

2007
Stacey Gallagher, D.O., and her husband, Sean, had their second child, Ivy Nicole, on Jan. 8, 2015. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long.

2008
Kevin Silver, D.O., and his wife, Sara Prupas, D.O., had a baby boy, Jackson Clark Silver, on Oct. 15, 2014. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

2009

2009 and 2010

2010
Chellie Abe, D.O., and her husband, Brian, welcomed daughter, Claire Ella Abe, on April 6, 2015. Claire Ella weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and joins sister, Caroline Marie Abe, and brother, Owen Deskin Abe.

Ashley Bainbridge, D.O., and her husband, Matthew, welcomed daughter, Aubryn Marie Bainbridge, on March 19, 2015. Aubryn weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. She joins brother, Casen Lawrence, and sister, Reilyn Marie.

2008

2010
Glenn Ballengee, D.O., passed away Jan. 3, 2015, in Huntington, W.Va. He was a board certified anesthesiologist and practiced in Indiana for 35 years. Surviving are his sons, Adam and Andrew Ballengee; a stepdaughter, Tracey Bailey; her son Joe; and his sister, Becky Ballengee.

2012

2013
Candice Wise, D.O., and her husband, Stephen, welcomed daughter Ellie Grace on March 17. Dr. Wise is in her second year of family medicine residency in Front Royal, Va.

1978
Glenn Ballengee, D.O., passed away Jan. 3, 2015, in Huntington, W.Va. He was a board certified anesthesiologist and practiced in Indiana for 35 years. Surviving are his sons, Adam and Andrew Ballengee; a stepdaughter, Tracey Bailey; her son Joe; and his sister, Becky Ballengee.

2014
Lee Winkler, D.O., died Aug. 25, 2014. Dr. Winkler was serving with the U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and was in an OB/GYN residency.

1989
Joan Worthington, D.O., died Sept. 26, 2014, in Thomasville, Ga. At the time of her death, Dr. Worthington was campus minister at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla. Dr. Worthington is survived by her daughter, Jessica Ann.

2004

2012
Julian “Dew” McKenney, D.O., died Jan. 7, 2015, in Suffolk, Va. He is survived by his wife, Marie, and two daughters, Marissa and Julia.

2009
1982
Bruce Hensley, D.O.

1984
Kim Kirkland, D.O.

1990
Raymond Harron, D.O.

1992
Michael Harron, D.O.

1997
Stephanie Frame, D.O.

1999
Robert Blok, D.O.
Rae Godsey, D.O.

2001
Adrienne Coopey, D.O.
James B. Hill, D.O.

2003
Mark Clarkson, D.O.
Melanie Crites-Bachert, D.O.
David Pucci, D.O.
Paul Ratcliff, D.O.

2007
Trey Remaley, D.O.

2008
Kristy Huffman, D.O.
Scott Marshall, D.O.
James Paugh II, D.O.

2009
Gilbert Rice, D.O.

2010
Amber Warren, D.O.

2013
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I love this quote by Helen Keller because it reminds me first of how important the work of our foundation is, and more importantly, that it is enabled and carried out by the aggregate of everyone’s contributions, no matter how large or small.

The WVSOM Foundation has been working steadily over the last year to grow our giving and support for WVSOM. The last quarter of 2014 gave us much to celebrate at the end of another calendar year and we have many new opportunities in 2015.

Our scholarship program received a big boost at the end of 2014 with a new three-year commitment from the BrickStreet Foundation. This contribution from BrickStreet will provide for a number of $10,000 and $20,000 “BrickStreet Scholarships” to multiple students over the next few years. We are grateful to them for their partnership in supporting our students. We are also appreciative of contributions made to endow two additional scholarships. The “John & Nancy Chambers Memorial Scholarship Fund” was established by Michael and Matthew Chambers in memory of their parents who were well-loved members of the WVSOM family for many years. This fund will provide scholarship dollars for worthy students from rural communities who intend to practice in underserved areas. Also, the Osteopathic Principles and Practices Department established the “Marlene A. Wager 10-Fingered OP&P Scholarship” in memory of Dr. Marlene Wager for the purpose of recognizing the student voted as the most skilful in Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment by their peers.

We had a good time with our FUNraising efforts over the last year, as well. Thanks to long-time foundation board member, Steve Talbott, and his company Greenbrier Ford, the WVSOM Foundation was able to raise more than $30,000 for student scholarships through our “FOCUS on Excellence” raffle. Congratulations to David Darden, CEO of Raleigh General Hospital in Beckley, W.Va., who won the brand new Ford Focus, provided by Greenbrier Ford.

We have also enjoyed several opportunities to provide direct support to our students this year. We were once again able to help more than 80 students from WVSOM to attend “D.O. Day on the Hill” where our school was well represented by one of the largest contingencies present. We also supported the PAX 10th anniversary mission trip to the Dominican Republic by providing them with funds to purchase much needed medicine and supplies. In April, the WVSOM Foundation sponsored “Money Matters for Medical Students”, an educational event developed to assist our students in successfully making the transition from

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YOU can get involved in moving the WVSOM Foundation forward, please contact the WVSOM Foundation at 304-647-6374 or send an email to hantolini@osteo.wvsom.edu
being a medical student living on borrowed money, to a resident making a moderate income, to earning an above-average salary as a practicing physician. In addition, we were fortunate to be able to disburse more than $150,000 in total scholarships and awards to our students this year. However, none of this would be possible without the selfless support of our many generous donors.

To express gratitude for the many ways that our contributors have supported WVSOM and our students during the last year, the WVSOM Foundation hosted our first “Thank-a-Thon.” About 30 students signed up to spend the day making personal phone calls to individual donors to say “thank you” and tell them how their gifts have made a difference in the experience of our students. Students spoke directly with almost 300 donors and left special messages of gratitude for calls answered by voicemail. Several students also made valuable connections with alumni through this event that resulted in follow-up correspondence and new friendships. This was such a joyful and fun experience for the students, our foundation staff and our donors that we hope to make it an annual event.

If you are already a donor, thank you for your part in moving us forward. If you have not yet joined our team, I encourage you to become a part of the WVSOM Foundation and help us to humbly accomplish our great and noble task of supporting the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Everyone can make a difference!

Heather Antolini, 
Director, Institutional Development 
WVSOM Foundation, Inc.
BrickStreet Foundation provides WVSOM students with generous scholarships

Nine West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine students became the recipients of a generous donation by the BrickStreet Foundation, which is affiliated with the BrickStreet insurance company.

The $600,000 donation will be awarded over a three-year period. While scholarship amounts varied for each recipient, this year’s (2014-15) academic scholarships total $200,000, which should help cover tuition costs. This year’s scholarship recipients were Taylor Simmerman, Breann Poling, Monique Oye, Jillian Teubert, Jennifer Meadows, Blaire Williams, Jasyn Blankenship, Justyn Blankenship and Jarrod Warren.

The donation comes as a result of the school’s mission to educate students who will serve in primary care roles once they graduate — an ideal that BrickStreet leaders say is vital to the state.

“The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine has been a great asset to the community as they focus on primary care and rural medicine,” said Greg Burton, president and CEO of BrickStreet. “The decision to contribute to WVSOM was simple as its mission and focus aligns with BrickStreet’s philosophy of investing in the future of the state of West Virginia and across the region.”

WVSOM President Michael Adelman, said the generosity of Mr. Burton and the BrickStreet Foundation is invaluable to the scholarship recipients.

“We are extremely thankful to Mr. Greg Burton and the BrickStreet Foundation for providing these scholarships. I know the students are more than thrilled to have this financial burden of attending medical school lifted,” he said. “Additionally this proves that people recognize the extraordinary work WVSOM is doing to prepare our students to serve patients in underserved communities.”

Second-year student Taylor Simmerman of Charleston, W.Va., was one of the first students to receive news that she had been awarded a scholarship. She will receive $20,000 a year to cover her in-state tuition for the remaining three years she’s in school.

Simmerman’s relationship with BrickStreet began before she entered medical school. She completed an internship for the company in her junior year of undergraduate school, working in the medical management office. While at BrickStreet, she worked hand-in-hand with Randall Short, D.O., a WVSOM alumnus.

“I learned a lot at BrickStreet as an intern — about the health care system behind the scenes, how the insurance process works and how doctors can serve different roles other than just in a clinical setting,” Simmerman said.

Burton said the partnership with WVSOM reinforces BrickStreet’s commitment to support organizations that make a difference to neighbors and communities.

“The future of medicine is not only important from a workers’ compensation standpoint, but also for general health and well-being. As such, there is no substitute for educating our future health care workers with the skill sets that will be vital to tomorrow’s success,” he said. “That’s why we are proud to partner with WVSOM to invest in the future of our community.”

From left to right: Melissa Rubin, WVSOM Foundation president; Randall Short, D.O., WVSOM Board of Governors; Greg Burton, BrickStreet president and CEO (also now a member of WVSOM Board of Governors); Michael Adelman, D.O., WVSOM president; and Heather Antolini, director of Institutional Development.
Honoring Greenbrier Military School

Former faculty, students and families gathered on the third Saturday in October to honor the dedication and mission of the Greenbrier Military School. Although the buildings have changed to house the work of WVSOM, the memories remain and are relived as former cadets talk about a pivotal time in their lives.

Many harken back to their years at GMS as defining moments, moments that have often supported victories in all areas of their lives following graduation. While at GMS, former cadets experienced opportunities to practice leadership, discipline, and honor — all important traits in lives of significance and purpose.

WVSOM is honored to have GMS in its history and looks forward to many more festive celebrations.
November 5-8, 2015

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This program is anticipated to offer 20 hours of AOA Category 1-A CME credit, pending approval by the AOA Council on Continuing Medical Education

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Program details on the web

www.wvoma.org or contact Penny Fioravante at 304-793-6842 or penny@wvoma.org

We encourage you to get involved with YOUR WV Medical Association. Join us!
The support of student scholarship funding is a key focus of WVSOM and we rely heavily on the generous donations by Grand Affair sponsors. The following pages are dedicated to the individuals and partners who have graciously provided financial support to create an elegant event in 2014.

TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE 2015 EVENT, CONTACT MARIETTA CHANEY AT 304.647.6400 OR MCHANEY@OSTEO.WVSOM.EDU

Your sponsorship can include tickets to the event, advertising in the event program, name and logo on ballroom banners, recognition in media releases, advertising in this magazine and recognition in the student’s eNewsletter. Don’t miss the opportunity!
You are our FOUNDATION

because we are committed to helping the next generation of WVSOM student doctors through

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Many thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Art Rubin and Acorn Technology for their generous support of WVSOM student scholarships and the 2014 Grand Affair.

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Dr. Wazir and staff welcome you to our new beginning. We want you to have your best experience and a pleasant visit. We are here to help you as best we can.

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collaborate with the School
to help train the physicians
of the future.
Dr. Rick Greco is an active and regular supporter of WVSOM. Thank you for your sponsorship of the 2014 Grand Affair, which supports student scholarships. Your donation will positively impact the lives of others.
PROUD SPONSORS
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2015 Dates to remember

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No. 3 in the nation for percentage of medical school graduates entering primary care specialties (U.S. News & World Report)

2014 Recognition as one of the best colleges to work for in the country (Chronicle of Higher Education)