Graduates

CHART THEIR COURSE

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- Statewide mass casualty exercise
- BrickStreet provides scholarships
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Our mission statement

The mission of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) is to educate students from diverse backgrounds as lifelong learners in osteopathic medicine and complementary health related programs; to support and develop graduate medical education training; to advance scientific knowledge through academic, clinical and basic science research; and to promote patient-centered, evidence based medicine. WVSOM is dedicated to serve, first and foremost, the state of West Virginia and the health care needs of its residents, emphasizing primary care in rural areas.

Message from

THE PRESIDENT

Every spring I have the opportunity to watch nearly 200 graduates walk across the stage, each with excitement and a bit of determination in their eye as they anticipate their future — the course they have set. Every fall I also have the honor and privilege of seeing more than 200 first-year students don their white coats for the first time. They too have set a course to become osteopathic physicians.

The WVSOM family also sets about their journey to find the brightest applicants, accomplished faculty and loyal staff members who support our mission to educate students of diverse backgrounds, encouraging lifelong learning while emphasizing primary care in rural areas. We are about mission, we are about journeys and we are about family.

On the following pages you will have the opportunity to learn of the varied journeys among our graduates. They are academically prepared, compassionately trained and confident in their abilities. The sky is the limit and although some choose paths that take them far and wide, many choose to remain here in West Virginia or to serve those nationally in rural primary care. It is what we do.

At WVSOM, every decision regarding a course of action is checked against our mission. We analyze best steps, set our course and measure our results. For your review, we have also included an overview of key areas in the last academic year. We give a check-up to the organization and by all counts, we are diagnosed as a healthy and thriving institution.

Most importantly, we wish to connect with you. I invite you to come to campus and see our exciting programs and facilities. The upcoming D.O.c-tacular II all class reunion will take place in August. Plan to visit that weekend and reconnect with old friends. Many activities are planned throughout the weekend that include the grand opening of our new student center, a Saturday evening banquet, CME and a performance from the famous Capitol Steps, which offers some great political satire. It is sure to be a great weekend.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Michael Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D.
UNLIMITED opportunities when charting FUTURE PATHS

KRUTI PATEL
Patel is completing an internal medicine residency with interest in pulmonary/critical care medicine.

SEAN MALARKEY
Malarkey’s residency will provide five years of vascular surgery training with the opportunity to complete two additional years in cardiothoracic surgery training.

KENT JAMESON
Jameson is the medical director of the Monroe Health Center, a federally funded community clinic in Union, W.Va.

ERIC CHICO
Chico went on a mission trip to northeast India where he spent the late mornings sharing his faith with people, early afternoons working in a medical clinic and evenings performing magic.
GEORGE BONDAR
Bondar performs MOH surgeries, which are microscopic guided skin cancer surgeries performed under local anesthetic.

TOM AND KAREN ASHER
The Ashers are medical directors of the Christian Health Association for Sierra Leone in West Africa.

ELSTON JOHNSON
Johnson is working to make a positive impact on the communities around Columbus, Ohio, where he is in an internal medicine residency at Doctors Hospital.
The power of the pen, the wire and the sword

When Sean Malarkey, Class of 2015, began applying for residencies as a medical student he chose one of the most competitive specialties there is — vascular surgery.

There were only 57 spots across the country last year for 51 programs in the ACGME match. Malarkey was ready and he secured a coveted vascular surgery residency at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa.

“I made the decision to pursue vascular surgery through my rotations at WVSOM,” the Troy, Ohio, native said. “It was a possibility but I never really considered it right out of medical school. I assumed that I would do general surgery first with the intention on fellowship training.”

He became intrigued with the specialty during his third year in a general surgery rotation dealing with a patient who required vascular intervention via a catheterization lab.

“A vascular surgeon in Charleston, W.Va., told me that as a vascular surgeon you have a three-tiered approach because you have the power of the pen (medicine), the wire (catheterization/intervention) and the sword (scalpel/surgery) to help patients and prevent the progression of disease. That is what sets it apart from other specialties even though they may share some similar procedures.” Malarkey continued, “The concept of being an interventionalist, and a surgeon with a strong understanding of medicine really spoke to me, and it is the main reason for choosing this specialty.”

In Malarkey’s family, the apple does not fall far from the tree — he will be following his father, an orthopedic surgeon, down the same path. Malarkey initially intended to find a career in public service with his undergraduate degrees in French and government, but one day in the operating room changed his mind.

“I was doing an internship in the hospital back home and went into the operating room with my dad and I was blown away,” he said. “I got to see exactly what my dad did every day and I had that visceral reaction that everyone always talks about. I knew this is what I wanted to do.”

Malarkey’s residency will provide five years of vascular surgery training with the opportunity to complete two additional years in cardiothoracic surgery training, allowing him to offer the full scope of cardiac and vascular surgery to a community.

My dream is to be in a smaller community offering surgical services so that it won’t be necessary for people from the community to travel to larger metropolitan cities for these procedures.
I made the decision to pursue vascular surgery through my rotations at WVSOM.

SEAN MALARKEY, ’15
“The ability to immerse myself in research projects in my second and third year at WVSOM was a way to expand my knowledge.”

KRUTI PATEL, '15
While Kruti Patel, Class of 2015, was growing up in a rural village in Gujarat, India, she received early exposure to preventative healthcare needs in her community. From the moment she shadowed a general family physician in her village, she has wanted to make a difference in people’s lives, which is why she chose to pursue a career in medicine.

While at WVSOM Patel’s fascination with medicine went beyond learning the basics of the body in the classroom — she became actively involved in research projects during her clinical rotations.

“My interest in research stems from my love of medicine and passion to constantly learn and improve on what medicine is today,” she said.

“I approach every patient presentation as a puzzle — sometimes very simple, other times, complex. The ability to immerse myself in research projects in my second and third year at WVSOM was a way to expand my knowledge on recent texts and an opportunity to get intimately involved with the constantly-changing world of medicine.”

The New Jersey resident worked on two case studies during her third year of school and participated in an anatomy intensive rotation with the intent to jumpstart a research project that would continue into her residency. Her research involved a literature review along with intensive dissection of anatomy pertaining to central line placement in order to develop a more comprehensive teaching exercise for students in pre-clinical years. Early exposure, learning effective techniques and the use of cadaver anatomical demonstrations were a focus of the study.

According to Patel, WVSOM students with an interest in research are able to reap the benefits of not only lifelong learning but also acknowledgment during what can be a competitive residency process.

“There are enormous benefits to resident research,” she shared. “It enhances analytic and critical thinking skills, encourages evidence-based medicine and improves the quality of patient care. Involvement in research during undergraduate studies and medical school can help establish a noteworthy project that will enhance clinical training and contribute to ongoing medical research.”

There is no question that Patel plans to continue participating in research projects during her residency at Doctors Hospital-OhioHealth in Columbus, Ohio.

“I will be assisting WVSOM alumnus Dr. Richard McNeilley, a pulmonary/critical care fellow at Doctors Hospital to explore potential benefits of hypertonic saline in inpatient treatment of COPD,” she said.

Patel is completing an internal medicine residency with interest in pulmonary/critical care medicine.
"RHI provided me with insight into a world in which I live but sometimes may not have full access to."

—ELSTON JOHNSON, '15
A passion to serve the underserved

WVSOM is committed to training physicians who have a passion to serve. One of the school’s newest physicians who embodies that passion is Elston Johnson, Class of 2015.

Growing up in Logan, W.Va., Johnson was no stranger to small towns, and it was working for a rural hospital as a nurse in the intensive care unit for three years that made him realize the need for health care options in rural communities. That experience rekindled his desire to study medicine.

“I realized how a lack of physicians can impact an area and truly limit patient access to appropriate care. Many individuals in rural areas rely on their primary care physician to take care of everything because they may not have the ability to go anywhere else,” Johnson said.

His passion to provide care to the underserved carried through to his time in medical school. Johnson was a student in WSOM’s Rural Health Initiative, a program designed to give students first-hand experiences in industries common in rural areas.

“RHI provided me with insight into a world in which I live but sometimes may not have full access to. During my time in RHI, I’ve had the opportunity to participate in several activities that range from seeing what occurs in underground mining to fracking on a gas drilling operation. These activities prepared me for working in a rural area, which will only help me to provide better care,” he said.

Throughout his rotations, Johnson said that his mentors and preceptors expressed how influential primary care physicians can be to a community — a belief he continues to carry with him.

“I believe as physicians we have to have an active role in the community if we want to influence the citizens of that area. We have trained many years to obtain the knowledge we have, but it will benefit no one if we do not spend the time to engage the community and share what we know,” he expressed.

One of the ways he hopes to share his knowledge as a resident is to implement educational opportunities at local stores, churches and community centers in order to provide early detection of diseases than can ultimately lead to larger problems.

“I feel like in rural, underserved areas, education to patients is truly lacking,” he said. “Whether it is the fault of the health care community or patient apathy, I believe it is the responsibility of the health care community to constantly strive to provide this education to patients in order to promote healthy behaviors and healthy living.”

Johnson is working to make a positive impact on the communities around Columbus, Ohio, where he is in an internal medicine residency at Doctors Hospital.
Kent Jameson, Class of 1992, is a native of rural West Virginia. He thrives on caring for the residents of rural communities.

After spending most of his life living and working in rural areas, he set his path on providing medical care to the residents so he decided to apply to WVSOM as a non-traditional student. Before he entered WVSOM he worked at the Board of Education in Monroe County and spent time as a physical therapy aide at a community hospital. The road through medical school was not easy since he spent his first year studying and milking cows to help pay the bills. Jameson is now a family medicine physician in Union — one of the most rural communities in the state of West Virginia.

Jameson said he can’t imagine being anything other than a primary care physician.

“A lot of people knew me before I was a doctor and got to know me more as a physician and that’s the way it’s supposed to be in primary care,” he said. “The relationship is what keeps me going. You feel connected to families. They depend on me, but I depend on them sometimes.”

It was his work with a WVSOM preceptor during his rotations years ago that taught him the power of home visits. Whether it’s providing care to a handicap patient who would otherwise need an ambulance to get to the hospital or evaluating an elderly patient’s needs based on their living environment, Jameson still makes it a point to offer quarterly in-home patient visits.

“That’s what family medicine should be,” he said. Home visits help him to better understand the family’s needs as well as the patient’s needs. House calls, he said, make him feel more appreciated by patients who may otherwise go without medical care.

One of Jameson’s most unforgettable house visits came when he had to deliver some unfortunate medical news to a woman who he had known years before he became a physician. “There was a young female in her early 30s who I’d known before I was a doctor. She didn’t come to the office very often, but she came to see me because she felt comfortable talking to me. She had severe fatigue for several weeks, but that was really her only complaint,” he explained.

After some lab work that was completed to evaluate the patient’s blood count came back, Dr. Jameson recalls the unsettling moment when he knew he would have to deliver news to a patient and friend that would change her life.

“My heart sank and I had a terrible feeling of nausea,” Jameson said. “The results were indicative of leukemia and after further testing we’d determined she had AML (acute myeloid leukemia).”

That evening Jameson made the most difficult home visit of his career. He continued additional home visits throughout the following weeks to control the patient’s pain and assess her ongoing symptoms. She was referred to a tertiary care center in Roanoke, Va., but unfortunately only lived for 12 weeks after the initial diagnosis.

Jameson has continued his friendship with the family, and in retrospect he realizes that the family appreciated receiving that grim information in an environment where they felt most comfortable.

“That is family medicine at its best and rural medicine at its best. I never forget it,” the physician said.

The diseases and symptoms of primary care patients have, for the most part, stayed the same in Jameson’s 20 years in practice. But the demand on health care providers has changed tremendously. He said that is due to the ever-evolving changes taking place in hospitals and clinics and how primary care physicians are handling them. A few of the changes include Electronic Health Records (EHRs), meaningful use and patient-centered medical home.

Throughout these changes, patients need someone to help explain and manage their overall care, which is why primary care physicians remain a pivotal part of the medical compendium, he said.

Jameson is the medical director of the Monroe Health Center, a federally funded community clinic in Union, W.Va. He also oversees sites in Peterstown, W.Va., and New Castle, Va.
The relationship is what keeps me going. You feel connected to families. They depend on me, but I depend on them sometimes.

KENT JAMESON, ’92
“The magician on the ship taught magic lessons in the afternoon. He blew my mind and so I learned the tricks he was teaching,” Chico said. “Later that year, I started reading magic magazines and spending my lawn mowing money on stuff for budding magicians and it never stopped.”

Little did he know that he would be able to incorporate this childhood hobby into something imminently more meaningful on his future path as a physician. He has included years of magic tricks with patient visits in his medical practice.

“I love magic, the illusion of deception, science, medicine and those kinds of things. Most of the magic I’ve done for patients was in urgent care centers of the emergency room right out of residency,” Chico said.

Slight of hand tricks proved beneficial for Chico’s diagnostics as well. For example, if he was concerned about meningitis in a patient he would use magic to see how the patient’s neck moved. As his fingers moved through a rubber band trick, he explained that since magic can be done with most items just lying around, (like a rubber band), this tool is readily available to perform in the moment.

“For most people, good magic is fascinating and it’s something that I can offer that is different than what other physicians offer. It leaves a lasting impression on people,” he said.

But Chico almost didn’t become a full-fledged physician. During his last year of residency, he contemplated forgoing his last year to take part in a “magic tour” so-to-speak.

“I considered quitting my last year of residency to figure out if I wanted to do big stage magic or just slight of hand tricks,” he said.

He convinced his supervisor to allow him to work as a physician for three weeks and then travel for magic for three weeks. His journey took him all over the western United States and ultimately to Moscow setting up, performing and tearing down illusion shows. As he would interact with people during his magic travels, he discovered that many did not believe he was a physician — blinded by his illusions and long “hippie” hair.

Since 2007, his practice has become more specialized in the treatment of opioid addiction in Williamson, W.Va. with his focus now including ministry. Chico has incorporated his passion for patient-centered care, his knowledge of magic and his love for ministry work.

Like many WVSOM graduates, Chico is a lifelong learner, obtaining a faith-based master’s degree. When he is asked to speak in his ministry, he utilizes magic to show that things may not be as they appear.

As Chico pursues his passions of magic, medicine and ministry the three “M’s” are never far apart.

Last year, he went on a mission trip to northeast India where he spent the late mornings sharing his faith with people, early afternoons working in a medical clinic and evenings performing magic.
I considered quitting my last year of residency to figure out if I wanted to do big stage magic or just slight of hand tricks.

ERIC CHICO, ’91
Couple sheds light on Ebola virus in West Africa

Tom and Karen Asher have devoted years of medical care to residents in West Africa. During that time, they have offered medical students numerous opportunities to learn the daily operations of small clinics — most of which provide the only health care to an underserved population.

The Ashers are medical directors of the Christian Health Association for Sierra Leone. They oversee 12 hospitals and 40 clinics. And while a month-long rotation with the Ashers is a coveted spot that many medical students want to experience, the past couple years has proven difficult. An Ebola outbreak plaguing many African communities previously ceased student rotations there and made it increasingly difficult for the Ashers due to staff who have passed from the disease.

“We’ve lost a lot of staff,” Karen said. “One of the hospitals lost 50 percent of trained nurses early on when the cases first started appearing.”

One of the biggest issues in the clinics was contamination, Karen said. Clinic staff know the process and protocol of decontamination but are used to so few medical supplies that it isn’t uncommon for staff to re-use supplies.

Karen added that shipments of supplies were sent because of the Ebola outbreak and it took convincing for the staff to understand that more was on the way.

In the last year outbreaks fluctuated — some days there were no cases, but every week there were at least three to four new cases, according to Tom. At the peak of the outbreak, in the winter of 2014, there were about 100 new cases a day. “Until that scenario ended it wouldn’t be a good situation for medical students to have a safe learning experience,” the 1987 WVSOM graduate said.

A country is deemed Ebola free after 42 days of no new cases. In January, officials in Sierra Leone declared that the epidemic in the region had ended. But a second case of the Ebola virus was found there just seven days after, according to CNN news reports.

The disease may prove to be difficult to diminish simply due to native culture. The Ashers attempt to educate people about Ebola, including misconceptions and how most of the contamination comes from cultural issues in villages.

“You know what you are supposed to do but if there is no availability of those supplies what are you going to do?” Tom asked rhetorically. “We have endless supplies here in the U.S. so people forget that those in poorer countries don’t have that option.”

“First of all there are not dead bodies on every street corner,” Karen said about one of the misconceptions. “The government has done a wonderful job of trying to educate people about Ebola. You can’t walk 5 feet without seeing some kind of poster about how to protect yourself from it. Every church, business and restaurant has a hand-washing station to try to cut down on the transmission.”

Another misconception is that Ebola cases are treated in local clinics. Patients with the virus are sent to an Ebola hospital, possibly transferred by an Ebola ambulance and begin a thorough decontamination process.

“Hospitals are doing a good job of not spreading the virus, but there are a lot of cultural factors that make it difficult to stop the spreading,” Karen said. “The biggest one is the burial process. It’s a 70 percent Muslim community and in a Muslim community there are certain protocols for handling a dead body. They wash the body, kiss the body and touch the body. Getting people not to do that any longer, well, they would consider that disrespectful to the dead.”

Contamination is also possible as a result of quarantined farmers. Karen explains that there can be a malnutrition problem during a 90-day quarantine period because farmers who can’t plant or harvest crops have to rely on others to bring them food.

Tom and Karen Asher’s journey to Sierra Leone began with short-term mission trips to Central America before they heard about the need for physicians in West Africa. The couple wanted to make a change, and once there, they found it to be incredibly rewarding.

“Seeing the patients and working with them is awesome but being involved with colleagues or medical students that come over and see the impact it has on patients, I think, is where the true enjoyment and reward comes,” Tom said.
Seeing the patients and working with them is awesome but being involved with colleagues or medical students that come over and see the impact it has on patients, I think, is where the true enjoyment and reward comes.

TOM ASHER, ’87
The twists and turns of a medical career

While many graduates have a straight and clear path set after medical school, others may take a variety of twists and turns in their journey as a physician. George Bondar, Class of 1987, is one example of a graduate who was able to constantly find new avenues to venture down during his career.

Prior to medical school, he was a management consultant.

Bondar grew up in Canada where there aren’t any D.O. schools.

“...I met a D.O. in the state of Washington where I was teaching business who told me that you don’t want to be a doctor badly enough if you don’t consider becoming a D.O.”

Non-Traditional Student

Bondar was 30 years old when he entered medical school.

“WVSOM provided me with the best avenue. I felt we (students) stood out because we had better interpersonal skills from day one of medical school."

George Bondar, ’87

Graduated in the Class of 1987

During residency in St. Louis was a team doctor for a pro-roller hockey team named the “Rattlers.” The team was sponsored by the National Hockey League (NHL).

RESIDENT

Completed D.O. and M.D. residencies.

Preventive medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh

Family practice residency

Dermatology residency at St. Louis University

Dermatology surgery fellowship in Hot Springs, Ark.

During residency in St. Louis was a team doctor for a pro-roller hockey team named the “Rattlers.” The team was sponsored by the National Hockey League (NHL).
GRADUATE

He has six degrees
- Undergraduate and advanced degree in economics
- Master’s degree in health administration
- Master’s degree in public health
- Working on his master’s in international commercial law
- Has a law degree

PHYSICIAN

He’s currently a dermatology surgeon in Largo, Fla.

Bondar performs MOH surgeries, which are microscopic guided skin cancer surgeries performed under local anesthetic.

Works at Armstrong Dermatology/ Dermatology Specialists of West Florida.

COLONEL

Spent 22 years in the Air Force Reserves.

Of those, six years were spent serving in wars — the Gulf War and Iraq/Afghanistan.

In Iraq/Afghanistan between 2003-2004 he was a flight surgeon and provided OMT rounds every morning to the air crew (about 300 people).

“I went from tent to tent offering OMT. It was mostly air crew — from pilots to load masters — with back or musculoskeletal problems.”

After the first Gulf War he performed hair transplants on prominent Saudi Arabian citizens.

Retired as a full colonel with a bronze star.

Retired as a full colonel with a bronze star.
Fulfilling our mission

Our sights are set on expanding patient-centered health care in the nation through our students. We encourage alumni, community leaders and WVSOM stakeholders to set the benchmark for support of this worthy mission.
Strength in numbers

One benchmark is how we stand in national rankings in categories that reflect our vision for the school. There is much to be proud of at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

*U.S. News and World Report* and *Academic Medicine* continue to recognize WVSOM for achievements in the areas of rural health and primary care.

Our students are No. 1 in the nation for passing the COMLEX 2-PE exams that occur following the third year of classes. This accomplishment demonstrates to our students, alumni and stakeholders that the WVSOM experience expertly prepares students to master the medical knowledge necessary to practice medicine. The strong academic foundation further gives students confidence in their knowledge and skills as they move forward in their journey.

While at the OMED Annual Conference, WVSOM students and alumni are regular recipients of the American Osteopathic Foundation awards, which recognize the best and brightest in the osteopathic profession through scholarships, awards and grants.

WVSOM has been accredited by the Council on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) for more than 40 years. During the 2014-15 academic year, WVSOM was also granted initial accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on Oct. 30, 2014. Obtaining regional accreditation by HLC has been a major project for WVSOM, taking more than five years and including two evaluation site visits. The HLC is the largest of six regional institutional accreditors in the U.S. They are involved in accrediting institutions of higher learning in 19 states including all the universities and colleges in West Virginia.

1st
IN THE NATION
among all medical schools graduating physicians who practice in rural areas. *(Academic Medicine)*

3rd
IN THE NATION
for the percentage of medical school graduates entering primary care specialties. *(U.S. News & World Report)*

5th
STRAIGHT YEAR
WVSOM was recognized as a Great College to Work For by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Recognized for the third time for reaching honor roll status.

17th
STRAIGHT YEAR

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine has been identified by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the nation’s top medical schools.

100+
STUDENTS
have benefited from an international experience.
Diagnosis of a healthy organization

WVSOM has a healthy and thriving organization. Each decision at WVSOM is measured against our mission for the school, our commitment to our students and our vision for health care in our nation.

Expert Faculty
Students learn directly from experts in their field of study.

Accomplished Students
Students have the highest pass rate of any osteopathic medical school in the nation for the COMLEX 2-PE.

Superior Work Force
Voted one of the nation’s Great Colleges to Work For for five years.

National Recognition
Top tier in the nation for primary care, rural health care, medical schools and places to work.

Fiscally Responsible
WVSOM’s financial plan is strategic and well-managed in an environment of ever-changing resources.

Exceptional Facilities
Students learn in state-of-the-art spaces such as the simulator and standardized patient labs in the Clinical Evaluation Center.

Sustainable Mission
The WVSOM mission focuses on care for rural populations. We serve the students so they may serve others.

Gold Standard Accreditation
Achieved HLC accreditation in 2014, renewing COCA accreditation in 2015-16.

Successful Alumni
Alumni have the reputation of becoming leaders in osteopathic medicine, community engagement, public service and the military.

“Our students are at the heart of what we do. We serve them so they can serve others. There simply is not a more noble mission than that.”

JIM NEMITZ, PH.D.
Vice President for Administration and External Relations
Our students

WVSOM students hail from across the United States. The number of applications increase each year. This past year, more than 5,000 students applied for admittance into WVSOM. There are only 200 seats available. This highly selective process allows WVSOM to make mission-driven decisions based on the student experience, academic rigor, passion to become an osteopathic physician and a strong match for success.

49%
INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS FROM 2010 - 2015

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<td>2015</td>
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Our personnel are key personnel

Faculty and staff continue to grow in alignment with WVSOM’s mission and vision. For the fifth consecutive year, WVSOM received recognition as a “Great College to Work For” in the U.S., according to a survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. WVSOM was also recognized on the chronicle’s honor roll as a college that received the most recognitions within their category. Most significant is that this independent survey of employees yielded greater than 60 percent participation, much higher than most other institutions with WVSOM earning high marks for its performance in the following workplace categories.

WVSOM was recognized for:

- Compensation and benefits
- Facilities, work spaces and security
- Professional/career-development programs
- Respect and appreciation
- Teaching environment
- Tenure clarity and process
GIFTS for your GRADUATE

WVSOM LOGO EMBOSSED BAGS

Alumni sweatshirt

CAMPUS STORE

Order ONLINE:
www.wvsom.edu/aboutWVSOM/campus-store

CONTACT:
Cindi Knight
304.647.6299
c knight@osteo.wvsom.edu

Join a team dedicated to improving health care in rural areas through medical education

OPEN POSITIONS

Associate Director of the Center for Rural and Community Health
Assistant Director of Medical Simulation
Director of the Clinical Evaluation Center
Family Medicine Faculty (with or without hospital)
Geriatrics Faculty
Pediatrics or Pediatrics/Internal Medicine Faculty
Pharmacology Faculty
Psychiatry Faculty

APPLY

Leslie Bicksler: 304.647.6279 or lbicksler@osteo.wvsom.edu • www.wvsom.edu/employment
U.S. Senator speaks at WVSOM graduation

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) celebrated its 38th annual commencement ceremony with a keynote speech by U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito.

Capito addressed 193 participating graduates in the Class of 2015 on May 30 at WVSOM’s campus in Lewisburg. The graduation ceremony is a result of four years of hard work in both the classrooms and clinical settings — all culminating in graduates receiving their Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees.

Capito imparted words of wisdom on students before they officially became physicians. The words she conveyed were those about the importance of community and the pursuit of individual happiness.

“You’re incredibly lucky to be a part of the medical community at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. It is much deeper and stronger than you know,” she told the graduates and their families.

She shared how West Virginia is similar to “one big small town.” Watching individuals grow up and supporting them as they later accomplish their goals is what living in a small community in West Virginia is like, Capito explained.

“We care for one another, we’re interested in one another’s families and we know each other’s names,” she said. “The community that you have built here during your time in medical school is no different. The academic and practical training that you have received — whether treating patients at the Robert C. Byrd Clinic, in the Statewide Campus, or benefiting from the curriculum — goes hand in hand and has prepared you well to be a dedicated doctor.”

Capito said that during her 14 years in Senate she has learned the importance of doing what makes her truly happy — a sentiment she hopes the graduates take with them long after they leave WVSOM.

“The senator shared her personal story about being a pre-med student at Duke University, where she eventually majored in zoology. She realized the medical profession wasn’t something she wanted to pursue, but stated that the path one takes doesn’t always follow a straight line.

She shared this story to convey her admiration for what medical students are able to accomplish. But her zoology degree wasn’t a complete waste when she entered politics. “Nevertheless, my zoology major has served me well, because after all, it has made me be able to work in the biggest zoo in America and that’s Washington, D.C.,” she joked.

“Enjoy the journey now that you’ve graduated,” Capito concluded. “Don’t always be fixated on the destination and be happy in your pursuit. The ride is what you’ll remember. And this community will be with you the entire way.”

“Each of you will define happiness differently, but my message to you is don’t define your happiness as a goal. While your goals should contribute to your happiness, they should not define them.”
Michael Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D., president and Craig Boisvert, D.O., FACOP, vice president for academic affairs and dean, led the ceremony and awarded the degrees. The WVSOM Board of Governors vice chair Cheryl Schrieber; WVSOM Alumni Association President Mark Waddell, D.O.; and the president of the West Virginia Osteopathic Medicine Association Art Rubin, D.O.; provided messages to guests.

The ceremony concluded with the graduates reciting the osteopathic oath, which officially acknowledges their transition from student to physician.
White Coat Ceremony speaker, alumnus conveys theme of humility and passion

Two hundred and twelve first-year students took part in one of the most momentous events of their medical school journey — WVSOM’s annual Convocation and White Coat Ceremony.

The white coat symbolizes each student’s commitment to the osteopathic medical profession and his or her pledge to serving communities and residents. Charles Davis, D.O., a 1982 WVSOM graduate, knows firsthand what it’s like to make that commitment. Even though he graduated medical school more than three decades ago, without the experience of a white coat ceremony, he imparted words of wisdom to the newly recognized student doctors during the ceremony’s keynote speech.

“Serving requires a deviation from the norm. It’s usually not a natural behavior and it must be a mindset. It must be a choice. Serve. Serve those around you. Serve your classmates. Serve your community. Serve your friends.”

He went on to explain how service also requires the mindset of humility, which can often be a fine line between arrogance and confidence.

“What is humility?” Davis asked rhetorically of the audience. “It’s to be humble and not be prideful … It’s part of your character and who you are when no one is looking. Serving with humility may mean stepping beneath your abilities to do the simplest of jobs while reaping the biggest rewards.”

He said he hopes that the Class of 2019 recognizes that greatness is not found in possessions, power, position or prestige, but rather it’s discovered in goodness, humility and service. Most of all medical students should act with passion.

“Be passionate physicians, be passionate to learn, be passionate about your career, be passionate about your willingness to be humble, be passionate about your willingness to serve and be passionate about being physicians of characters,” he concluded. “Your patients will notice it. They will be drawn to it and you will change many lives.”

ARROGANCE

HUMILITY It’s part of your character and who you are when no one is looking.

CONFIDENCE

Davis is the owner/physician of Davis Eye Center with offices in Columbus, Akron and Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and The Center for Surgery in Cuyahoga Falls. He is the vice chair on WVSOM’s Board of Governors.
One student hoping to change lives and continue a legacy of family physicians is John Apgar of Huntington, W.Va. (Shown right with his father David Apgar, D.O., Class of 1980.) His grandfather, Carlton G. Apgar, D.O., was one of the four founders of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. He is the newest family member to reach for the title of D.O. after his name.

Apgar recalled his emotions when he first learned he’d be attending a medical school that his grandfather co-founded.

“The family aspect was very big for me,” he said. “When I got the acceptance letter I called everybody and started crying on the phone. I have been completely blessed.”

He said he knows his grandfather would be proud of how much the campus has grown and the progress WVSOM has made moving forward.

The ceremony also included brief greetings from President Michael Adelman, D.O., Board of Governors Chair David Rader, Alumni Association President Mark Waddell, D.O., and West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association President Art Rubin, D.O.

The White Coat Ceremony is part of WVSOM’s Alumni Weekend hosted by the Alumni Association. Graduates return to campus for continuing medical education and other events including a barbecue and reunion dinner. Some physicians assist in the convocation by distributing white coats to students.
WVSOM news and events

Students display work at research forum

The annual Faculty/Student Research Showcase gives WVSOM students the opportunity to present medical posters for research they have conducted with the help of other students and under the supervision of faculty members.

This past fall, eight posters were part of the presentations and six posters were presented as lightning talks. Presentations allow students to showcase their research by explaining his/her process, as well as answer questions from attendees.

People’s Choice poster winners

“Prednisone and Fluoxetine Prevent Exercise Induced Rapid Exhaustion in C. Elegans Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Mutants.”

James Phillips, OMS II
Devin Rollender, OMS II
Christopher Carls, OMS III
Faculty advisor: Predrag Krajacic, M.D.

WVSOM student’s research poster wins second place at OMED

Second-year student Lauren Wackerman received a second place ribbon in the Research Abstracts and Poster Session during the AOA’s Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition (OMED) that took place Oct. 15-21, 2015 in Orlando, Fla. Her research project was titled “Intra-Individual Variability in Salivary Uric Acid and Insulin Levels.” Student Kemper Steffe was a research contributor while Kristie Bridges, Ph.D., acted as the supervisor and faculty mentor.

Displayed posters at OMED in Orlando, Fla.

Lauren Wackerman
Kemper Steffe
Joanna Wieckowska
Devin Rollender
James Phillips
Christopher Carls
Sarah Pyatt
AOA leader visits WVSOM campus

The American Osteopathic Association’s (AOA) Chief Executive Officer paid a visit to WVSOM to discuss the scope of the osteopathic profession as well as the shift taking place with the AOA and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) transition.

Adrienne White-Faines and Kenya McRae, vice president of research, provided a presentation to faculty, staff and students on May 4, 2015. White-Faines reflected on the importance of osteopathic medicine and explained how the profession has been more relative as of late.

“Osteopathic medicine is on the cusp of redefining medicine in the U.S. and internationally,” she told the audience.

She cited that the number of D.O.s has grown more than 200 percent over the past 25 years with more than 10 percent of all U.S. physicians who are D.O.s.

Why has the profession grown at such an exponential rate? White-Faines said it’s because more students are understanding that osteopathic medicine is a viable option and thus are choosing to study it. Osteopathic philosophies go beyond the boundaries of primary care, she said, and into medical specialties.

While the profession continues to grow, a shift is taking place in the industry. Previously, the AOA accredited osteopathic programs while the ACGME accredited allopathic programs. With the transition of AOA-ACGME, the single accreditation system will oversee both types of graduate medical education programs.

White-Faines said the single accreditation program is in the best interest of patients, hospitals and graduates, who will have better access to all postdoctoral training programs. While the process could take about three to five years to be completely unified, the transition is another step in the right direction for osteopathic medicine.

The number of D.O.s has grown more than

200% over the past 25 years

>10% of all U.S. physicians are D.O.s.
WVSOM welcomed students for orientation week

The familiar sights and sounds of students breathed new life into the WVSOM campus as faculty and staff welcomed about 215 new students for orientation week beginning July 28, 2015.

As the Class of 2019 arrived on campus, they were greeted by Dr. Rebecca Morrow and Belinda Evans at breakfast. Students picked up their orientation packets and then spent time getting to know each other at a mix and mingle event. The IT department distributed complementary laptops to each incoming student.

First-year students spent the rest of orientation week learning about Aspire, student services, standards for professionalism, curriculum, policies, Soft test, library resources, team-based learning, suicide prevention, safety, immunizations, student health and the WVSOM Foundation. Dr. Michael Adelman presented a session about the difference between college and medical school. The Alumni Association offered students complimentary Italian ice.

On Wednesday, July 29, second-year students arrived and began their series of orientation sessions. Later that evening, Student Affairs offered a social opportunity by hosting a mentor/mentee cookout at the alumni center.

Dr. Adelman formally welcomed all new and returning students at a president’s reception on Thursday at the alumni center.

215 NEW STUDENTS
were welcomed during WVSOM’s 2015 orientation week
Students participate in Day of Caring

A total of 150 first- and second-year student volunteers participated in the United Way’s Day of Caring Aug. 1.

Student organizer and second-year student, Renee Marchegiani, hoped to have 115 student volunteers but was pleased with the unexpected wave of volunteers who answered her call to action. “I am proud of the Class of 2018 and 2019 for signing up in record numbers,” she said.

This year marked the largest student volunteer turnout for the event, which was established to promote the value of volunteerism and increase awareness of local human service agencies and schools. As a bonus, classmates have the opportunity to meet and get to know one another before diving into the rigors of medical school.

Second-year student Emily Gagorski enjoyed the opportunity to serve her community.

“I helped paint a wall and clean up the sidewalks in Lewisburg,” she said. “Many people stopped to thank the ‘O-school’ students.”

Lori Deskins, site coordinator for Camp Wood, said the camp houses large groups of people who help build local Habitat for Humanity homes, but the maintenance of the dorm itself is often neglected.

“The WVSOM volunteers caulked and painted one of our dorms that houses 24 bunks. The students arrived with great attitudes and said they want to return. We are completely dependent on volunteers,” Deskins said.

Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas counties benefited from the Day of Caring. The students performed a variety of tasks such as landscaping, painting, cleaning and organizing the Family Refuge Center, the United Way office, St. James Episcopal Church, Greenbrier Episcopal School, Peyton Hospice House, Pocahontas County High School, Monroe Health Center and the towns of Lewisburg and Rainelle.
WVSOM students make an impact on local families during the holidays

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine students opened up their hearts to help 50 children in 25 local families have a better holiday season this past December.

Sigma Sigma Phi members organized the annual Heart of the Holidays event, which helped families provide a memorable Christmas for their children through donations of clothes and toys, as well as with a holiday meal. Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honor society that partnered with the Children’s Home Society and the Off to the Right Start program this year.

Taylor Hockman, president of Sigma Sigma Phi, said the overwhelming support for this year’s event far exceeded his expectations.

During the event, children were occupied with activities like painting and coloring, listened to Christmas songs sung by medical students and had a special visit from Santa Claus. Each child was given a toy to open from Santa, a gift to be taken home and a turkey for the family.

Hockman said more than 400 presents were donated which included a donation from a pharmaceutical company of 20 boxes of PediaSure, 20 boxes of Pedialight and children’s medicine. The American Medical Facilities Management based out of Charleston also made a significant donation — the organization made a $1,700 donation to help support local families.

WVSOM’s Pediatrics Club hosted a diaper drive in conjunction with the holiday event, which proved beneficial as this year was one of the youngest groups of children in the history of Heart of the Holidays, according to Hockman.

“We have 27 kids under the age of 2 this year,” he said. “I think with a young group the idea of Santa and a traditional Christmas means even more. For many of them this is their Christmas.”

Forty-five Sigma Sigma Phi students, 15 Pediatrics Club students and more than 100 guests were part of the event.

“What’s unique about this event is that it’s not just students who are involved,” he said. “It’s one of the events on campus where you bring faculty, staff and students together to work for one common cause and help people in the community. We all should work together to help out our community, which is something our school stands for and it’s part of the SSP mission.”
BrickStreet scholarships awarded

Six first-year WVSOM students received scholarships from the BrickStreet Foundation Aug. 7. The announcement, made at the end of afternoon class, took the students by surprise.

“I was speechless. This scholarship recognition is an excellent confidence booster at the beginning of medical school,” said scholarship award winner Victor Rendon.

Tanner Tuggle, Lauren Kirby, Michelle Oye and Rendon were awarded $10,000 one-time scholarships. Morgan Aguirre and Daniel White were awarded $80,000 scholarships, paid out over four years.

“It is a blessing and a relief when I consider the effect it will have on my future,” White said. “Having a smaller loan to repay will allow me to pursue opportunities such as medical missions, that I would not have been able to do otherwise.”

Tuggle, who was caught off-guard by the honor, said, “I feel blessed and humbled to be a recipient of this scholarship. Thanks to the generosity of BrickStreet, this scholarship will certainly assist me as I pursue my goal of becoming a doctor in southern West Virginia.”

Heather Antolini, WVSOM director of Institutional Development and executive director of the WVSOM Foundation, said the school is grateful for the generosity from BrickStreet Foundation and BrickStreet Insurance for making a commitment to support medical students.

“In addition to demonstrating their dedication to ensuring quality health care in West Virginia, and all the locations they serve, they have also set a positive example for other foundations and corporations to follow,” Antolini said. “We appreciate both the financial contribution and the leadership that BrickStreet has provided through this gift.”

BrickStreet Mutual Insurance Company initiated The BrickStreet Foundation to promote the quality of life in the communities they serve in West Virginia, Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Eligible applicants must come from a state where BrickStreet is established.

The BrickStreet Foundation is in the second year of its three-year commitment to provide $600,000 in scholarships for select WVSOM students.
GRAND Affair
2015

450 GUESTS
$41,392 RAISED
24 SPONSORS
Grand Affair raised funds for student scholarships

The Roaring 20s were alive and accompanied with feather hair bands, flapper dresses and dapper men’s suits during the Gatsbyesque-themed Grand Affair this year.

The event, which took place Nov. 7 at The Greenbrier Resort, supports West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine student scholarships. A total of $41,392 was raised during this year’s event — with $7,392 raised in silent auction items and $34,000 raised from 24 sponsors.

More than 450 guests attended the fundraising event, which is hosted by the WVSOM Student Government Association. In addition to a strolling buffet and dancing, there was an Instagram social media campaign developed by the Marketing and Communications department. Grand Affair guests could visit a photo booth, donning extravagant 1920s props and sharing their photos on Instagram for a chance to win a gift card. In addition to social media, guests received a complimentary printed copy of their picture.

WVSOM thanks all of its 2015 Grand Affair sponsors

BENEFAC TORS
Gillespie’s Flowers
The Greenbrier Resort

PLATINUM
AccessHealth Teaching Health Center
Charleston Area Medical Center
Cathy Dailey, D.O.
Davis Eye Center / Charles H. Davis, D.O.
Dr. Deering and Associates
Fairmont Regional Medical Center
Raleigh General Hospital
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Rubin and Acorn Technology
WVSOM Alumni Association, Inc.
WVSOM Foundation, Inc.

GOLD
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center
Marietta Memorial Hospital

SILVER
Bailey & Wyant, PLLC
Drs. Gail and Howard Feinberg
Premier Bank (formerly First National Bank)
Ohio Valley Medical Center and East Ohio Regional Hospital
Thomas Health System
Western Maryland Health System

BRONZE
Dermatology Centers, Inc. / Thomas M. Karrs, M.D.
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Meritus Medical Center
Robert C. Byrd Clinic
WVSOM students, staff participate in statewide mass casualty exercise

WVSOM students acting as victims, eight residents from Greenbrier Valley Medical Center and Access Health, smoke, flames and a “crashed” airplane fuselage set the scene for a statewide mass casualty drill on Sept. 19, 2015, at the Raleigh County Airport near Beckley. More than 130 faculty, staff and students volunteered for the event from WVSOM alone, with more than 400 participants and 30 agencies from across West Virginia. The mock training was an unexpected drill for many health providers in offering emergency medical care to the injured.

“Preparation and collaboration can only be learned through conducting an exercise or responding to a real event,” WVSOM Alumnus, West Virginia State Surgeon and West Virginia Air National Guard Col. Steve Eshenaur, D.O., said of the importance of organizing a training of this magnitude. “Every responder walked away from this event having first-hand experience collaborating with other agencies and learning what preparation is required to conduct a better response in the future.”

The mock airplane crash, which Eshenaur said was one of the largest mass casualty training events in the state’s history, included everything from confused patients to a pre-term labor scenario. Victims’ common symptoms ranged from lacerations, fractures, burns, respiratory distress and several “deaths.” Victims were not only scattered across the airplane and runway, but also in nearby woods and trees.

Victims were flown via Blackhawk helicopters, Air Evac and HealthNet helicopters to Raleigh General Hospital and Beckley Regional Hospital. One WVSOM student volunteer gained a different insight as a “victim.”

“Situations like this happen,” first-year student Daniel Truong said. “This puts you in a different perspective acting as the patient so now I can see how I’d handle the situation as a physician.”

Eshenaur said that medical students filled the need for examples of the wounded “playing the part” during a mass casualty exercise.

The responding agencies conducted an after action review where representatives deemed the value of the exercise in removing assumptions, encouraging collaboration, identifying strengths and weaknesses, determining capabilities, and implementing plans that had been developed individually into a cohesive response. Confidence in the ability of the participating agencies to respond to an incident was markedly improved by the exercise, Eshenaur said.

WVSOM’s Rural Health Initiative, the National Guard and the federal government coordinated the exercise.

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TIMBER!

RHI students gained insight into logging industry

Fifteen third-year Rural Health Initiative students trekked deep into the woods Sept. 28 to learn about timber and logging from industry experts.

The event was one of RHI’s efforts to offer students first-hand experience and knowledge about industries that affect the health of West Virginians.

“WVSOM RHI students learn the industry including the culture and the terminology to be able to relate and communicate with workers when they come in as patients,” said Janet Hinton, RHI program coordinator. “Often patients won’t openly talk about or describe how they feel or how they were injured unless they have someone to open up to that understands what has happened or what they do every day.”

Students visited the Arch Run Logging Company near the Greenbrier State Forest where they hiked to logging equipment in the woods, watched a demo of tree cutting and talked to a logger and equipment operator. This year’s visit was unique in that one man was responsible for the entire logging site operation.

“Last year we saw a group or family that ran the business but this year the one man cut the trees, took them to the loading site, trimmed them to fit on the truck, loaded them to the truck and then drove the truck to the saw mill,” Hinton explained.

Zachary Conrad, a third-year RHI student, said that witnessing the sole logger manage all aspects of the site was a unique educational opportunity.

“To see that he spent so much time in that hazardous environment, alone, exposed and away from his family allowed us a unique insight to the types of health care challenges he and others in the industry face,” Conrad said.

Later that day, students traveled to Smoot to visit a working sawmill. The Smoot sawmill had been closed since December 2013 after a fire at the facility destroyed half of the production building where timber is cut and sorted. Now fully functional, RHI students were able to spend time with employees and witness a demo of logs transformed into boards.

RHI achievements

1,436 RURAL ROTATIONS
were performed by WVSOM students in 2014-15 – more than any other medical school in West Virginia and one of the top in the nation.

140 WVSOM STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS
participated in RHI Rural Practice Day 2015, a training exercise for multiple agencies from across the state including the WV National Guard and first responder organizations.

9,157 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
were introduced to rural medicine opportunities through RHI pipeline activities.

16 RURAL PHYSICIANS
serve as mentors to encourage WVSOM students, reinforce student interest in rural primary care practice and demonstrate the quality of life in a rural community.

Information provided from the 2014-2015 academic year.
New residency in NMM

A Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (NMM) residency program kicked off at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center (GVMC) June 25, 2015 with the arrival of junior resident Marissa Zajac, D.O., and senior resident Jessica Smith-Kelly, D.O.

The program is a collaborative effort between GVMC, Mountain State OPTI and WVSOM. The residents perform hospital consults and accept new patients in the RCBC OMM department under the supervision of WVSOM OPP faculty. They also participate in educational programs at WVSOM, MSOPTI and GVMC. WVSOM faculty members David Beatty, D.O., and Charles McClung, D.O., serve as program directors.

Osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine is a primary residency disciplined in the neuromusculoskeletal system, its comprehensive relationship to other organ systems and its dynamic function of locomotion. The principle focus of the discipline is osteopathic and patient-centered; specifically, it embodies structural and functional interrelation, body unity, self-healing, and self-maintenance. Specialists in this discipline must interpret and demonstrate specialized knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences, clinical evaluation and management of disorders of the neuromusculoskeletal system and its related visceral and somatic structures. Specialists in this discipline must demonstrate knowledge of the indications, risks and benefits of manipulative medicine in treatment of patients with neuromusculoskeletal disorders. The special needs of the state of West Virginia and the role that the NMM physician plays in the coordination and care of the people of the state will be stressed in the educational program.
David Webb, M.D.
Assistant professor
pathology

Dr. Webb received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Marshall University where he also received his Bachelor of Science degree in medical technology. Dr. Webb completed his residency at the University of Virginia, Department of Pathology, and served as a clinical instructor and fellow in breast and gynecologic pathology for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Magee Women’s Hospital. He is board certified in anatomic pathology and clinical pathology.

Jacob Neumann, Ph.D.
Assistant professor
biomedical sciences

Dr. Neumann has a doctorate degree in pharmacology from Southern Illinois University, Department of Pharmacology, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Neurology at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Neumann has also served as a postdoctoral associate with the University of Miami. He is a pharmacologist who will be conducting bench research at WVSOM. His research focuses on the neurotransmission alterations that transpire following various pathologic diseases (stroke, cardiopulmonary arrest, etc).

Laurie Bauer, D.O.
Assistant professor
clinical sciences

Dr. Bauer is board certified in clinical pathology and blood banking/ transfusion medicine and has completed fellowships in blood banking/ transfusion medicine and molecular medicine. She is a graduate of the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio, and completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in statistics from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. Bauer is an Oracle Certified Professional.

New faculty hired

New faculty hired
Thomas Richardson, D.O.
Assistant professor
osteopathic principles and practices

Dr. Richardson completed his undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary sciences from the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., and is also a 2010 graduate from WVSOM. He completed his family medicine residency at Kingman Regional Medical Center in Kingman, Ariz., where he served as chief resident. He completed his NMM/OMM residency at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Leslie Buchanan, D.O.
Assistant professor
osteopathic principles and practices

Dr. Buchanan is a 2010 graduate from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her family medicine residency at Kingman Regional Medical Center in Kingman, Ariz. Following her residency, she worked as an adjunct faculty member at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE).

In memory of
Daryn Straley, D.O.

The WVSOM family mourns the passing of one of our faculty, Daryn Straley. Our hearts break for his family, wife Kathy, and daughter Lilly.

Dr. Straley was an associate professor of family medicine and although relatively new to the WVSOM faculty, he was a valued member of the department of clinical sciences as an attending physician and resident supervisor.

He was devoted to his students and always willing to help.

He is greatly missed.
Tell us about the alumni association

WITH SHANNON WARREN,
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS/CME

What are some of the most rewarding aspects of directing WVSOM Alumni Association activities?

Our priority is to engage alumni and support WVSOM students, therefore, my role is rewarding on many levels. We provide alumni the opportunity to stay connected with WVSOM, which was the first step on their path as physicians. I enjoy seeing alumni when they recognize an old friend they haven’t seen in a long time. I also witness first-hand the pride and amazement when WVSOM alumni walk around campus and see the enhancements on campus and the facilities. When we are hosting an event at WVSOM it is great to see alumni interacting with students, telling old stories and sharing the common bond of the WVSOM experience. Nothing is better than being able to extend a scholarship to a deserving student.

What is the purpose of the WVSOM Alumni Association?

The mission of the WVSOM Alumni Association is to support the alumni of WVSOM in their pursuit and practice of osteopathic medicine as well as their continued engagement in WVSOM to include alumni events, CME opportunities, and support for WVSOM students.

Each year more alumni are returning to campus or to one of our off-site events to re-engage with one another. They have a great time! As we build our active alumni base we will then be able to implement new programs such as student mentor programs and an alumni speakers bureau for students to learn from WVSOM alumni who have gone before them.

I would encourage all alumni to re-connect by contacting our office or registering for upcoming events.

As a 501 (c) (3) corporation, your gifts made payable to the WVSOM Alumni Association are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Plus, your support is making a difference and very much appreciated!

alumni@osteo.wvsom.edu
304-647-6257

How is the Alumni Association governed?

Our Board of Directors is charged with the governance of the association. The 11-person Board of Directors represents a number of class years in order that we gain wisdom from many perspectives. Officers are elected for two-year terms while Members-at-Large serve for three years. In addition, there is a one-year resident member and the Immediate Past President who serve ex-officio on the board.
Why is the Alumni Association funding the tower at the new Student Center?

Naming the Alumni Tower is the Alumni Association's first large-scale campaign to support the students of WVSOM. The tower will not only be a reminder of the support alumni have provided to students every year for decades, but the tower campaign is also an opportunity to show a united front in the need for student support. The Alumni Tower is more than a symbol. Every gift designated to build the Alumni Tower allows more funding to be available for Alumni Association Student Scholarships, student grants and many worthy programs and events.

These growing scholarship opportunities support the mission of WVSOM, by making a significant contribution to students' education, who then have more freedom to select inspired areas of practice rather than financially motivated decisions.

The tower project is the major focus of our fundraising efforts this year. There will likely not be another opportunity for alumni to be at the center of the WVSOM campus. If every alumnus stopped right now and gave as little as $100, the tower would be funded. It would take so little to do so much. I encourage you to give today.

What activities do the Alumni Association support?

The Alumni Association plays an active role in the everyday activities at WVSOM.

- Support student-led fundraising events such as the Grand Affair.
- Provide an “Almost Alumni” luncheon during graduation week that includes a gift for each graduate. There is also a graduation brunch for alumni spouses and significant others.
- Host Alumni Weekend at the end of August. The weekend includes the White Coat Ceremony in which the Association sponsors and purchases white coats for the incoming class. Continuing Medical Education is also offered during this weekend. Lunches, dinners and picnics are provided for those attending.
- Offer Continuing Medical Education during the Mid-Winter Osteopathic Seminar in Charleston, W.Va., and the Summer Seminar in Myrtle Beach, S.C.
- Award grants through the Alumni Association Grant Program to faculty, staff and student organizations to help provide “extras” that are not available through departmental budgets or other funding sources such as providing the bus transportation for students to travel to D.O. Day on the Hill.
- Award the Distinguished Alumni recognition annually.
- Provide three WVSOM Alumni Association scholarships at $5,000 each annually.

Dues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESIDENTS</th>
<th>ACTIVE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>LIFE MEMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$15 annual</td>
<td>$50 annual</td>
<td>$500 one-time payment</td>
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Incentives:

A complimentary, one-year membership is given to each member of the graduating class for that year.

THE LIFE MEMBER RECEIVES
10% discount toward registration on WVSOM sponsored CMEs
10% discount on any purchases from the WVSOM Bookstore
Nearly 200 alumni, families hit the beach for annual CME

This past summer, Myrtle Beach, S.C., welcomed one of the largest Summer Seminar CME classes. The annual event has become popular over the years largely because the schedule is family-friendly with the conference ending at noon each day for alumni to enjoy afternoons at the oceanside location.
A total of 193 alumni attended the seminar, which took place June 17-20, 2015 at the Kingston Plantation. The event is designed to help physicians acquire the required continuing medical education credits necessary by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). It was sponsored by WVSOM and the WVSOM Alumni Association.

Fifteen presentations were offered to seminar attendees, as well as OMT workshops. The range of presentations included infectious diseases, urology case studies, when to consider hospice, dealing with chest pain, sepsis management, advanced wound care, pediatric vaccine updates, eating disorders and acupuncture as an adjunct to OMT.

The Family Picnic Reception took place June 18 at the Palmettos Pavilion where alumni and their families enjoyed a barbecue buffet and entertainment for children. Michael Adelman, D.O., once again presented a magic show and Jim Nemitz, Ph.D., enlightened kids with science experiments – most notably standing on a carton of eggs without breaking them.

New to this year’s reception was a “traveling” photo booth where guests could dress in wacky beach hats, glasses and props for a keepsake beach picture.

Esteemed faculty and physician presenters:

- John Irwin, J.D., M.D.
- Ginamarie Foglia, D.O.
- Samuel Deem, D.O.
- Terence Rhodes, M.D., Ph.D.
- Randy Blackburn, D.O.
- Christopher Epling, D.O.
- Edward Eskew, D.O.
- Gregory Schaefer, D.O.
- Joan Allman, D.O.
- Charles McClung, D.O.
- Norman Cottrill, D.O.
- Casey Cottrill, M.D.
- Andrea Nazar, D.O.
- Deborah Schmidt, D.O.
Class notes

1978
Edward Eskew, D.O., is associate medical director for the WV Medical Professionals Health Program and since October 2015 has been a staff physician working in addiction medicine at Pretera’s Addictions Recovery Center East in Dunbar, W.Va.

James Halley, D.O., has been retired for two years. Dr. Halley served 20 years in the Navy, private practice and taught family practice residents before retiring. He has kept his license, works for a free clinic and performs physicals for the Boy Scouts of America.

1979
John Hilbler’s, D.O. son, John Thomas Hilbler, D.O., joined his dermatology practice in Zanesville, Ohio.

1984
Carl Hoyng, D.O., retired from active practice on Oct. 1, 2014, after 30 years in the same practice, Family Care Center in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Hoyng has continued working as Medical Director of Providence Medical Group Clinical Laboratory for the past 10 years.

Dan Wilson, D.O., is leaving Central Vermont Medical Center after 14 years and taking a position in emergency medicine at Heywood Hospital in Gardner, Mass., to be closer to family.

1986
Gail Dudley, D.O., is board certified in four areas of medicine and can now work from home full time. Dr. Dudley still works part time in hospice care and also works for a company called Health Integrity. The company deals with fraud, waste and abuse work for Medicare and Medicaid.

Teresa Kilgore, D.O., will be the president of the South Carolina Osteopathic Medicine Society (SCOMS) for 2016-2017. Her term starts in June.

Roland Powers, D.O., is deployed for a year in Djibouti, Horn of Africa, as the task force surgeon. Dr. Powers is charged with all U.S. Force health protection and working in Mogadishu, Somalia to develop a health services support system for their new military. He travels often, working in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

1987
Wesley Marner, D.O., has been in general/family medicine since residency extending from Mississippi for six years at Greenville and Hollandale, followed by a move to Eufaula, Ala., where he has worked for the last 23 years. Dr. Marner retired from both general staff at Medical Center Barbour and his office but still practices with Hospice with Kindred Health. He and his family live off the land — hunting deer and fishing.

1988
Andy Naymick, D.O., has welcomed 5,000+ babies (now adults) into this world since residency. He and his wife, Stephanie, will celebrate 30 years of marriage this year. Dr. Naymick also serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

1989
Mark Mitchell, D.O., along with his wife and daughter, have created a company called Choice Customer Care, with the vision of replacing the outdated nurse’s call button with a bedside tablet computer. The computer has icons for the most frequently needed items such as drink, bathroom, pain medication, etc. They will begin beta testing and afterward will have a nationwide launch.

1990
David Bennett, D.O., has been practicing emergency medicine for 23 years, the last 13 years in the Phoenix, Ariz., area where he and his family reside.

1991
Randall Steffens, D.O., obtained certification at a Rural Health Clinic and Urgent Care in Weimar, Calif., in November 2015. Steffens practiced full-time emergency medicine for the last 15 years.

1996
Michael Crews, D.O., drove in a 24-hour race at Virginia International Raceway last August and his team came in second. Dr. Crews is in practice in Bastian, Va.

Thomas White, D.O., is the 2016 medical staff president of St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, W.Va.

1997
Matt Arvon, D.O., purchased the West Virginia Vein and Skin Centers in Beckley. He also has an office in Charleston, W.Va. His office offers evaluation and treatment of issues related to acute and chronic venous insufficiency and lower extremity lymphedema. Primarily they complete Venous Duplex Ultrasound evaluation of the lower extremities, compression sclerotherapy and catheter directed Endovenous Laser Ablation.

Thomas Bowden, D.O., is president of Charleston Internal Medicine, Inc., which includes seven physicians and two nurse practitioners. He is the medical director of Aledade W.Va. ACO comprised of only private primary care physicians which expands the role of primary care as the leader in health care.

1999
Rob Blok, D.O., was published as a co-author. “Outcome Measures of an Intracanal, Endoscopic Transforaminal Decompression Technique: Initial Findings from the MIS Prospective Registry” can be found in the December 2015 edition of the International Journal of Spine Surgery.

William Livesay, D.O., was the Medical Director of the Year recipient from HealthSouth in Charleston, S.C. This award recognized Dr. Livesay’s exceptional leadership, exemplary performance in the development of quality clinical programs and overall clinical knowledge.

2003
Melissa Puher, D.O., will start a Palliative Care fellowship in Birmingham, Ala., in July. Dr. Puher, her husband and puppy plan to move to Alabama in June.

2004
P. Lynn Bell, D.O., a physical and rehabilitation provider, has been awarded the President’s Distinguished Service Award for 2015 by the Southern Pain Society. The award recognizes outstanding and dedicated service to the organization. Dr. Bell practices in Hattiesburg, Miss.

2005
Evan Condee, D.O., was recognized as one of the Top Outpatient Practitioners at King’s Daughters Medical Center in Kentucky where he practices urgent care.

Mike Kasey, D.O., received recognition as one of the Top Outpatient Practitioners at Kings Daughters Medical Center in Kentucky. Dr. Kasey is a nephrologist.
2007

Hilary Basham, D.O., is medical director of Bedford Memorial Hospital Emergency Department in Bedford, Va. BMH is affiliated with Centra Health in Va.

Karthik Mohan, D.O., has a gastroenterology private practice in Miami, Fla.

Faith Payne, D.O., is Chief of Surgery at Raleigh General Hospital, president of the Raleigh Medical Society and a new member of WVOMA (WV Osteopathic Medical Association).

2008

Albert Fogle, D.O., relocated his family and practice to his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pa. He was hired by Allegheny Health Network (AHN) at Allegheny Valley Hospital (AVH) as a geriatric extensivist. Dr. Fogle is the first geriatric extensivist. He is also medical director of a skilled nursing facility and medical director of the Community Care Network. He transferred to the Pennsylvania National Guard from the West Virginia National Guard and was appointed as the brigade surgeon (physician) for the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat team (2nd IBCT) of infantry soldiers in western Pennsylvania.

2010

Stephen Funkhouser, D.O., graduated from internal medicine residency from Ohio Valley Medical Center in Wheeling, W.Va., in January 2014 and began working as an attending hospitalist at Washington Hospital in Washington, Pa., in March 2014. Dr. Funkhouser has taken a job with Wilmington Health and will be relocating to Wilmington, N.C., this summer working as an internal medicine hospitalist at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport, N.C., and at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, N.C.

James Harman, D.O., is the Chief Resident of Neurosurgery at Hackensack University Medical Center/Saint Barnabas Medical Center. Dr. Harman will enter a fellowship in vascular/endovascular neurosurgery at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa.

Laxmi Shah, D.O., joined Premier Medical Associates in Pittsburgh, Pa., as a neurologist.


2011

Adam Zucconi, D.O., is sports medicine fellowship trained and working in an orthopedic office and in primary care.

Nicole Spicer Zucconi, D.O., is associate program director of a residency program in New Jersey.

Nina Yokochi-Funkhouser, D.O., is completing her fifth and final year of postgraduate training at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. She is specialized in psychiatry and will be sub-specialized in child and adolescent psychiatry after the completion of her fellowship this summer. Dr. Yokochi-Funkhouser became board certified in general psychiatry in September 2015 by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). She has taken a job with Carolinas Healthcare System and will work as an inpatient psychiatrist at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington. She will treat adult patients and children/adolescents in psychiatric crises in their ED.

2012

Joanna Holstein, D.O., is in private family practice in Tucson, Ariz., at Orange Grove Family Practice.

Jennifer Maerki, D.O., is the 2015-2016 chief resident at Rutgers, N.J for hematopathology. She will enter a hematopathology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, N.Y., in 2016.

Alison Stalzer, D.O., will finish her OB/GYN residency at CAMC in June 2016 and has accepted a job with Lake Health Obstetrics in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Stalzer was a chief resident this year as well as Resident of the Year in 2014.

Michael Switzer, D.O., is serving in the Army. His accomplishments include several publications, posters, QI projects, captain of the winning Army Internal Medicine Jeopardy team for 2014 and honor graduate from residency. Dr. Switzer is a first year fellow in pulmonary critical care at Walter Reed.

Hans Watson, D.O., completed the flight medicine course and is publishing a study on “Treatment guidelines for individuals with PTSD and concurrent traumatic brain injury.”

2013

Julie Petersen, D.O., will graduate from the Grant Family Medicine Residency in Columbus, Ohio, in June 2016 and then will be a Robert Phillips Jr. Health Policy Fellow at Georgetown and the Graham Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Petersen is also serving as the resident representative to the AAFP Commission for Governmental Advocacy.

Maryna Popp Switzer, D.O., was resident of the year for her first and second years and is chief resident of her program. She will be continuing her medical education in cardiology at St. Louis University.

2014

Sara Freibert Evans, D.O., is in her second year of OB/GYN residency at St. Vincent Women’s Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind.

Andrew Naymick II, D.O., completed a traditional internship at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center in June 2015. Dr. Naymick served soldiers in the TriCare clinics in Norfolk until November and is completing flight surgery training in Pensacola, Fla. He will be deployed in May for two years with a fighter wing of the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Bethaney, are proud parents of their black Labrador Kolsch.

Adelle Schweller, D.O., is in her second year as a pediatric resident at CAMC in Charleston, W.Va.

Eric Schweller, D.O., was published in JAOA in December 2015 for research completed with Dr. Peter Ward, anatomy associate professor at WVSOM. Dr. Schweller also completed TRI at CAMC in Charleston, W.Va. (June 2015) and is currently on active duty with the U.S. Air Force as a flight surgeon in Sumter, S.C.

Christopher Tanga, D.O., had a paper accepted for publication entitled “Treatment of Complex, Combined Renal Artery Aneurysm and Renal Arteriovenous Fistula with Nephrectomy” in the International Journal of Angiology.

Michaela Weaver, D.O., is a second year surgery resident in Queens, N.Y., and busy planning for her marriage later this year.

1988

Lisa Vaughn, D.O., married Melissa Lawrence, her partner of 27 years, on July 12, 2015. Together they have three daughters and five grandchildren.

1999


2004

P. Lynn Bell, D.O., married Sara in May 2011.

2013

Megan Thompson, D.O., and Michael Krease, D.O., married October 2015 in Louisville, Ky. Classmate Dr. Sara Freibert Evans and her husband, Tom, attended the ceremony.
2003

2004
P. Lynn Bell, D.O., and wife, Sara, had a son, Cameron, May 27, 2014.

2005
Christi Hughart, D.O., and Christian de Guzman, announced the birth of their daughter Lacy. She was born on Dec. 21, 2015, weighing 7 pounds and 3 ounces. Lacy is named after her late great-grandfather, Lacy Roosevelt Hughart.

Deanna Mangieri, D.O., and husband, John, welcomed their first child, Jonas Maxwell Ross, on Sept. 20, 2015.

2006
Jessica Close, D.O., and husband, Aaron, announced the birth of their son, Nathan Timothy Close, on July 10, 2015, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and 21 inches long. Nathan joins big sisters Abigail, Caroline and Stella.

2010 & 2011

2011

Adam Zucconi, D.O., and Nicole Spicer Zucconi, D.O., announced the birth of their second daughter, Quinn Alexis Zucconi, on Sept. 28, 2015. She joins big sister, Lilian Joy Zucconi, who was born April 27, 2014.

2011 & 2012
Dave Williams, D.O., and Natalie Portela Williams, D.O., welcomed their first child, Connor David Williams, on Jan. 20, 2016. Connor weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long.

2012
Hans Watson, D.O., and his wife welcomed their fourth child, Tanner Watson.

2012 & 2013

2014
Sara Evans, D.O., and her husband, Tom, welcomed their first son, Frank Patrick, on Dec. 20, 2015.

Hans Watson, D.O., and his wife welcomed their fourth child, Tanner Watson.


Christopher Tanga, D.O., and his wife, Bethany, announced the birth of their second son, Charles Christopher, on Feb. 3, 2016.

1982
Zouheir Fares, D.O.

1985
Richard Harris, D.O.

1986
Michael Kovalick, D.O.

1993
Charles Kelly, D.O.

2001
Kelby Faulkiner, D.O.
Gregory Howes, D.O.

2002
Billie Hall, D.O.

2005
Deborah Cotes, D.O.
Christopher Daniel, D.O.

2006
Kristin Bowman, D.O.
Carmen Burrell, D.O.

2007
Tracy Lester, D.O.

2008
Jeremy Benger, D.O.
Eric Schneider, D.O.

2009
Jennifer Beverage, D.O.
Bartley Brown, D.O.
Amanda Zarowitz, D.O.

2010
Ashley Bainbridge, D.O.
Michael Cheshire, D.O.
Mary Hendricks, D.O.
Bradley Hendricks, D.O.
Donald Pyle II, D.O.
Nelson Smith, D.O.

2011
Grace Falbo, D.O.
Daniel Farmer, D.O.
Saad Zafar, D.O.

2012
Leslie Koretz, D.O.
Alumni reception takes place at Disney’s Epcot in Orlando

More than 100 alumni, their families and WVSOM staff attended a reception in “China” at Epcot on Oct. 19. Epcot is one of Disney World’s theme parks in Orlando, Fla., that promotes international culture by offering a glimpse of various countries.

The alumni reception was part of the annual AOA Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition that took place at the Orange County Convention Center this year. Alumni were able to reconnect with classmates, as well as WVSOM employees.

Guests were granted early admission to Epcot, were treated to a dinner buffet and finished the night with a fireworks show. The Alumni Association hosted the reception.
Alumni Tower Campaign

We have reached $76,319 in gifts toward the tower goal of $250,000. With an overall alumni participation rate of 6% so 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.

$101-$500
Michael Antolini, D.O., ’12
Jennifer Bailey, D.O., ’10
Manuel Ballas, D.O., ’93
Dan Breece, D.O., ’92
Jason Buckland, D.O., ’04
Dwight Bundy, D.O., ’84
Richard Burdeaux, D.O., ’91
John Cavell, D.O., ’81
James Chambers, D.O., ’78
Benjamin Chopski, D.O., ’11
Heidi Clark, D.O., ’02
Shawn Clark, D.O., ’02
Paul Conley, D.O., ’97
Rosella Conrad, D.O., ’93
Jonathan Cook, D.O., ’93
Edward Corkran, D.O., ’86
Curt Cornelia-Carlson, D.O., ’87
David Cummings, D.O., ’86
Christopher Daniel, D.O., ’05
Sam Deem, D.O., ’04
James Deering, D.O., ’78
Rus DeMicco, D.O., ’99
Carla DiPiero, D.O., ’14
John Dombrosky, D.O., ’79
(in memory of)
Gail Dudley, D.O., ’86
Claudia Duncan, D.O., ’90
Gene Duncan, D.O., ’79
Linda Eakle, D.O., ’79
John Facinoni, D.O., ’78
Lynette Gogol, D.O., ’95
Amanda Goin, D.O., ’05
Donald Gullickson, D.O., ’83
Michael Harron, D.O., ’92
Jessica Harvey, D.O., ’07
Brad Hendricks, D.O., ’10
Mary Hendricks, D.O., ’10
John Hibler, D.O., ’79
Lisa Hrutkay, D.O., ’93
Randy Huff, D.O., ’80
Kristy Huffman, D.O., ’93
Dan Johnson III, D.O., ’95
Curran Jones, D.O., ’01
Angel Justice, D.O., ’09
Gregory Kelly, D.O., ’78
Afewori Kidane, D.O., ’95
Clay Lee, D.O., ’97
Matthew Lively, D.O., ’93
Paul Lomeo, D.O., ’86
Marshall Long, D.O., ’83
Kathleen Malley, D.O., ’83
John Manchlin II, D.O., ’78
Brad McCoy, D.O., ’01
Jeff McCray, D.O., ’07
Satish Menon, D.O., ’89
Mark Mitchell, D.O., ’89
George Moses, D.O., ’93
Katherine Naymick, D.O., ’89
David Nicholas, D.O., ’93
David Oliver, D.O., ’94
Kara O’Karma, D.O., ’00

$51-$100
David Allen, D.O., ’78
William Armstrong, D.O., ’87
David Appgar, D.O., ’80
Kelly Appgar, D.O., ’13
Matthew Arvon, D.O., ’97
Derek Ballas, D.O., ’12
Lorraine Byrd, D.O., ’90
Richard Benson, D.O., ’78
David Butler, D.O., ’05
Connie Calvert, D.O., ’05
Hayes Calvert, D.O., ’05
Maryann Cate, D.O., ’88
Ronald Chattin, D.O., ’83
Adrienne Coopey, D.O., ’01
Michelle Endicott, D.O., ’01
Rick Foutch, D.O., ’81
Stephanie Frame, D.O., ’97
Kathy Fry
Mitch Fuscado, D.O., ’85
Jesamyn Fuscado, D.O., ’11

C. Wayne Gallops, D.O., ’85
John Garlitz, D.O., ’97
John Glover, D.O., ’86
Ryan Harris, D.O., ’05
James Hill, D.O., ’01
David Hinchman, D.O., ’82
Carl Hoysig, D.O., ’84
Michael Kasey, D.O., ’05
Maria Khan, D.O., ’09
Cindi Knight
Natalie King, D.O., ’06
Wesley Lockhart, D.O., ’83
Steve Mascio, D.O., ’93
Dominick McClain, D.O., ’79
Virgil McGrady, D.O., ’88
Waid McMillion, D.O., ’03
Roseline Michel, D.O., ’01
Melissa Miller, D.O., ’93
Brad Miller, D.O., ’85
Andrew Naymick II, D.O., ’14
James Nemitz, Ph.D.
Michael Nicholas, D.O., ’79
Rajendra Nigalay, M.D.
Joule O’Connor, D.O., ’91
Nunzio Paganaro, D.O., ’11
Susan Painter, D.O., ’84
Mick Paroda, D.O., ’87
Bonne Portier, D.O., ’91
David Pucci, D.O., ’03
Angelo Ratini, D.O., ’84
Belinda Smith, D.O., ’83
Jonathan Stanley, D.O., ’07
Frank Swisher, D.O., ’88
Emily Thomas, D.O., ’08
Dan Trent, D.O., ’83
Lee Weisberger, D.O., ’79
Ralph Wood, D.O., ’82
George Woodard, D.O., ’83
Terry York, D.O., ’88

$25-$50
Roderick Doss, D.O., ’03
Abigail Durden, D.O., ’00
Jamie Latos, D.O., ’13
Madonna Ringsward, D.O., ’79
Kimberly Wichlan, D.O., ’96
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 Feb. 29.

38%* 1979 $7,950*
30% 1978 $3,050
18% 1983 $3,175
17% 1993 $3,075
13% 1984 $2,260 1986 $3,550
12% 1981 $3,175
11% 1985 $2,400 1997 $3,810
10% 1982 $5,250 1989 $6,900
2001 $1,150 2005 $900
9% 1988 $1,300 1998 $2,150
8% 1992 $3,750 1999 $2,000
7% 1987 $1,150 1990 $1,600
1994 $2,025
6% 1980 $3,350 1995 $850
2000 $1,995
4% 2003 $325 2004 $805
2007 $1,350
3% 1996 $150 2002 $550
2008 $550
2% 2009 $350 2010 $1,400
2011 $450
1% 2006 $350 2012 $350
2013 $125 2014 $700

* In the lead.

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

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

Lifetime giving leaders

PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL DONORS
$100,000+

Businesses
BrickStreet Foundation, Inc. Hildegard P. Swick Estate The Greenbrier Hotel Corp. Hollowell Foundation, Inc. WVSOM Alumni Association*

FOUNDER’S CLUB DONORS
$50,000-$99,999

Businesses
American Assoc. of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Harron Foundation West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association* The National Osteopathic Foundation

PATRON DONORS
$25,000-$49,999

Businesses
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center Raleigh General Hospital American Chemical Society First National Bank Greenbrier Real Estate Service

BENEFACtor DONORS
$5,000-$9,999

Donations from 2013-2016 listed by lifetime giving category

DEAN’S COUNCIL DONORS
$10,000-$24,999
David P. Allen, D.O. * Greg and Jill Alman Carlton Appgar, D.O.


Businesses
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center Raleigh General Hospital American Osteopathic Association First National Bank Greenbrier Real Estate Service

BFuEFACtor DONORS
$2,500 - $4,999

Businesses
Community Health Systems, Inc. American Beer Co. Dermatology Centers, Inc. Bailey, Joseph & Sitnick, PLLC Lewis, Glasser, Casey & Rollins, PLLC CAMC Health Education and Research Institute Southeastern Area Health Education Center

SPONSORS DONORS
$2,500 - $4,999

Businesses
Community Health Systems, Inc. American Beer Co. Dermatology Centers, Inc. Bailey, Joseph & Sitnick, PLLC Lewis, Glasser, Casey & Rollins, PLLC CAMC Health Education and Research Institute Southeastern Area Health Education Center

ASSOCIATE DONORS
$1,000 - $2,499
Supporting the Capital Campaign

$750,000 raised for the Student Center

Thank you to our donors

TOWER
WVSOM Alumni Association

OPEN STUDENT STUDY LOUNGE
Lori Tucker, D.O.

QUIET STUDENT STUDY LOUNGE
Spring Hill Cardiology, PLLC and
Dr. and Mrs. Badshah Wazir

STUDENT RECREATION LOUNGE
Patrick Pagur, D.O., and
Billie Wright, D.O.

PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION PARLOR
Andrew Thymius, D.O., and
Tiffany Thymius, D.O.

LARGE PRE-FUNCTION AREA
Dino Beckett, D.O.

TERRACE
Michael Nicholas, D.O.

ENTRY LOBBY
David and Martha Rader

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM 1
Drs. Robert and Rachel Hunter

SMALL PRE-FUNCTION AREA
Drs. Robert and Rachel Hunter

STUDENT COPY CENTER
Brian DeFade, D.O.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE 1
Michael Nicholas, D.O.

To discuss a gift opportunity, please contact:

Michael Adelman  304.647.6200  madelman@osteo.wvsom.edu
Jim Nemitz  304.647.6368  jnemitz@osteo.wvsom.edu
Marilea Butcher  304.647.6367  mbutcher@osteo.wvsom.edu
Shannon Warren  304.647.6382  swarren@osteo.wvsom.edu
Heather Antolini  304.647.6374  hantolini@osteo.wvsom.edu
Remaining spaces
- Large Conference Hall with stage ($500,000)
- Dining Lounge and Food Court ($125,000)
- Campus Store ($100,000)
- Five Student Government Offices ($20,000 each)

Additional naming opportunities
- First Year Lecture Hall ($250,000)
- Second Year Lecture Hall ($250,000)
- Main Building Lecture Hall 1 ($100,000)
- Main Building Lecture Hall 2 ($100,000)

* Indicates donor-secured room
CLINICAL EVALUATION CENTER (CEC)

Remaining spaces
- Twelve Robot Labs ($35,000 each)
- 22 Standardized Patient Labs ($25,000 each)
- Standardized Patient Lounge ($10,000)
- Conference Room ($10,000)
- Simulation Entry/Lobby area ($10,000)
- Book Library ($5,000)
Thank you to our donors

RECEPTION AREA
Spring Hill Cardiology, PLLC and
Dr. and Mrs. Badshah Wazir

ACLS ROOM 1
Drs. Robert and Rachel Hunter

ACLS ROOM 2
James Deering, D.O., and
Jodi Flanders, D.O.

ACLS ROOM 3
Drs. Rafael and
Letetia Villalobos

ACLS ROOM 4
Drs. Rafael and
Letetia Villalobos

ACLS ROOM 5
Dr. Samuel and Emily Deem

ACLS ROOM 6
Susan Painter, D.O.

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Rosa Stone, D.O.

STANDARDIZED PATIENT LAB 2
Jeff Braham, D.O.

EMERGENCY SIMULATION LAB
Charles Davis, D.O.

GRAND CONFERENCE HALL
John Manchin II, D.O.

GRAND HALL LOBBY
Dr. Melanie Crites-Bachert and
Mr. Richard Bachert

LARGE CLASSROOM
Lewis Whaley, D.O.

MEDIUM CLASSROOM
Drs. Cheryl and
Michael Adelman

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Sophia Sibold, D.O., and
Chris Flanagan, D.O.

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Allen Finkelstein, D.O.

OFFICE 3
Carmen Damiani, D.O.

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Naomi Wriston, D.O.

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West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association

WELCOME OFFICE 2
Paul Conley, D.O.

ROBOT BIRTHING CENTER
Manuel Ballas, D.O., and
Derek Ballas, D.O.

ROBOT CONTROL ROOM
Class of 1983

ROBOT VIEWING ROOM
John Lackey, D.O.

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Heather Antolini

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Lydia Weisser, D.O.

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM 3
Class of 1982

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R. Alan Spencer, D.O.

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM 5
Jim Nemitz, Ph.D.

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM 6
Hal Armistead, D.O., and
Amy Roush, D.O.

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM 7
Class of 1990

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM 8
Randy Blackburn, D.O.

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Dr. and Mrs. Art Rubin
Tell us about the foundation

With Heather Antolini,
Director of Institutional Development

What is the purpose of the WVSOM Foundation?
First and foremost, we work to build a strong foundation of support providing short term and long term funding streams to WVSOM. As state funding for higher education wanes across our nation, the foundation’s support becomes central to the ongoing mission of WVSOM.

During the last year, the WVSOM Foundation Board created, approved and implemented a five-year strategic plan. As a part of that plan, the board adopted the following official mission statement:

“The WVSOM Foundation employs sound financial management to support the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine through a culture of philanthropy and fundraising.”

What is the most critical need the WVSOM Foundation sees in supporting WVSOM?
The analysis we performed as a part of our completed strategic planning process indicated that the area of greatest need at WVSOM is funding for meaningful scholarships. The cost of a quality medical education has increased dramatically over the last decade and continues to rise. The current average debt for a medical education nationwide is approximately $250,000, and the average for our students at WVSOM is only slightly lower than that. Therefore, the WVSOM Foundation Board of Directors feels strongly that building a substantial endowment to provide scholarships that underwrite the cost of medical education at WVSOM is our first and most important priority. We have recently embarked on a new campaign to establish a significant endowment to address this growing need and anticipate that this will be our most important area of focus for the next several years.

Who are you seeking to partner with in this mission?
Traditionally, the majority of contributions in support of WVSOM and our foundation have come from alumni. However, over the last year our foundation has begun to reach out to a larger donor base. In addition to WVSOM alumni, we are now also inviting corporations, appropriate organizations, foundations and philanthropic individuals who share our passion to join us in providing financial resources to help take WVSOM to an even greater level of success. The process of engaging these new participants has not only increased funding for projects like our Capital Campaign and new scholarships, but each time we approach a new potential donor we have the opportunity to educate others and spread the word about the exceptional quality of the medical education we provide at WVSOM.
What accomplishments has the WVSOM Foundation experienced during the last year?

The foundation has accomplished a lot in this last year. We provided direct support for several student groups and activities including hotel rooms for students attending D.O. Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C., funding medical supplies for the PAX Club mission trip and supplying funds for the Grand Affair to enable the Student Government Association to raise money for their scholarship fund. We started a new Foundation Student Committee (FSC) to engage students in the activities of the WVSOM Foundation, as well as serving as a liaison between the foundation and the student body to keep us in touch with their greatest needs. The FSC was active in organizing and providing leadership for our second annual “Thank-a-Thon,” where students spent a Saturday morning calling more than 300 donors just to say “thank you” and share how contributions to the WVSOM Foundation have positively impacted their experience at WVSOM.

We have continued to actively raise funds for the school’s major campaigns such as the Capital Campaign and the 5 for 5 Campaign. However, the greatest success we experienced this year is in the area of scholarship development. We are pleased to say that we were able to award more scholarship dollars in 2015 than ever before. We are especially grateful to all of the donors who made that possible, particularly the BrickStreet Foundation who has committed more than $1.5 million toward providing scholarships for WVSOM students. In addition, the WVSOM Foundation was awarded a $1 million challenge grant in December 2015 from the Maier Foundation to jump start our new scholarship campaign. Then we received a $1 million pledge for our new scholarship endowment from the Regional Healthcare Foundation in Fairmont, W.Va. to begin our campaign in 2016. What a great way to start the new year!

How do gifts to the foundation support WVSOM students?

Donations to the WVSOM Foundation assist students in a variety of ways that have a direct impact on their educational experience. Contributions to the Capital Campaign have enabled the expansion of the Clinical Evaluation Center as well as the construction of the new Student Center, which will provide much needed study space, recreational environments and a full cafeteria for our students. Other contributions help to provide for cutting-edge technology, special educational resources and supplies, stipends for external speakers and unique learning opportunities that may not be included in tuition or covered by state resources. Additional funds support student scholarships, which are becoming essential to our emphasis on rural primary care as the cost of medical education increases.

Your gift impacts the lives of our students and the future of patient-centered health care.

Please consider supporting the mission of WVSOM by making a tax-deductible gift to the WVSOM Foundation.

Call (304) 647-6374 or go to wvsomfoundation.org (“DONATE NOW” tab) to make your donation online.
BrickStreet Foundation donates $900K to WVSOM

The official announcement was made during a luncheon on Dec. 3, 2015. It was then that scholarship student recipients expressed their gratitude for this significant support. Many recipients have cited that they are now free to select their future path of choice, such as primary or rural care, rather than being motivated by financial issues.

“This is a first of its kind in the history of WVSOM,” said WVSOM President Michael Adelman, D.O. The donation was the largest single gift since the school's founding in 1972. “I'm thrilled to have BrickStreet make such a profound commitment to WVSOM students through this scholarship endowment. BrickStreet Foundation should also be credited for its keen awareness of the ramifications of extraordinary debt that can be placed on physicians as they select their future paths. This generosity will not only benefit the students directly, but it will impact their future patients as well.”

Kirk Aguirre, business director for the WV Large Business team at BrickStreet Insurance, served as a representative from the company. He explained how one of the goals of the BrickStreet Foundation is to give back to communities where “we live and work.”

“One of the products of this foundation is the scholars program, which is a program that provides educational opportunities at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels. This is a specifically targeted program that allows us to reach our injured work community as well,” he said.

“We partner every day with the product of this institution as we collectively try to bring injured workers back to work and the levels of care that are expected. It’s not a strange partnership that we would be here. We hope to continue the success and vision that Dr. Adelman, the board and foundation have set into motion.”

Lori Tucker, D.O., is the vice president of the WVSOM Foundation and a 1997 graduate. She thanked the company for allowing the school to be a more affordable option for potential students. Knowing that scholarship funds are available for medical students helps ease the burden of student debt, she said.

One student who has directly benefited from a Brickstreet scholarship is third-year student Taylor Simmerman. She was the recipient of another scholarship that was provided by BrickStreet about two years ago. She recalls the moment when her mother called her in tears informing her that BrickStreet was giving her a full scholarship for the remainder of her three years in medical school.

“I cannot describe the feeling of relief this scholarship has provided me. BrickStreet’s generosity has erased $60,000 in debt and financial stress from my life,” she shared at the luncheon. “Many medical students are limited by the financial burden of simply being a medical student. Books are expensive, taking boards is expensive and suddenly going out to eat with friends can become a game of roulette with your debit card. This scholarship has allowed me to budget my finances so that I have had the opportunity to expand my learning beyond the classrooms and campus of WVSOM.”
The cadets who spent most of their formative years at the Greenbrier Military School have an opportunity to reminisce about the past every year during the former school’s reunion. These cadets and their families gather on the third Saturday in October every year to recognize the mission of the Greenbrier Military School and how each of their lives was shaped by the institution. Former cadets typically share stories about the specific structure that went into every day of their lives and the demerits they’d receive when that structure was tested. Each of those moments; however, helped to transform lighthearted and carefree boys into men with leadership and discipline.

Although a medical school has replaced the military school for decades now, these men take pride in reliving what once was on the grounds of WV SOM’s campus. They share stories. They laugh. They are nostalgic about a time when life was often deemed simpler.

While the number of former cadets seems to dwindle every year, WV SOM is committed to keeping the history of GMS alive.
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 2015.

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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!*

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WVSOM FOUNDATION

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