Inside this issue

Features

4
Investing in the mission

24
Convocation

28
News

Japanese students visit
Beckett receives pediatrics award
National Rural Health Day
Students gain clinical experience in South Africa
Aid to flu clinic
Blood pressure booth at fair
Pharmacology camp
Employees celebrate Halloween
Heart of the Holidays
First-ever simulation week
WVSOM Day of Service
Drug awareness toolkit launch
Grand Affair
Abracadabra Emmy Nomination
Recognition at rural health conference
Battle of the Gorge competition
WV Gear Up
RHI students learn about opioid epidemic

Departments

44
Research
Welcome to the patient lab
Conferences, competitions and awards

48
Faculty & Staff News
New Faculty
Next WVSOM president announced
Other faculty and staff news

51
Alumni
Letter from the board president
Alumni profile: Jessica Smith-Kelly, D.O.
Summer seminar
Class notes
Message from alumni: Why I love what I do
Alumni Tower Campaign

62
Gifts to WVSOM

65
Capital Campaign
Clinical Evaluation Center
Student Center

66
Foundation
Letter from the director
Dr. Dailey’s continuing support

78
G.M.S.

79
We’d like you to meet...
Cheryl Baker

Back cover
Upcoming events
Our mission today is built upon the vision

A message from the President

Wow, it is so difficult to believe that 16 years have passed since I arrived at WVSOM to serve as vice president for academic affairs and dean. Now as president, looking back I am incredibly humbled to have been involved in the growth that has occurred on campus during this time. The progression has been inspired by the foundation of our mission and everyone at WVSOM has contributed to the school’s success!

As you read the stories on the following pages, you will find how people are fulfilling every aspect of our mission and how the benefits reach across our nation. From our students, to our preceptors, to faculty and alumni, the dedication and enthusiasm they share is undeniable!

We get a glimpse of a student, Dimitri Tito, and his journey thus far and the impact growing up in a medically underserved area has made on his future goals. We learn how programs at our Clinical Evaluation Center, the Statewide Campus system, research opportunities and graduate medical education help mold our students to be successful osteopathic physicians and lifelong learners.

We feel compassion as one of our alumni shares her family’s grief over children who succumbed to opioid addiction and how our Center for Rural and Community Health has taken action locally and statewide to help address this crisis.

Our mission today is built upon the vision of WVSOM’s founding physicians. This past August, alumnus John Manchin II, D.O., encouraged incoming students to learn about WVSOM’s history and that of our founders during the white coat ceremony.

Students have been very active as evidenced by the many stories of their contributions to our community. It is so rewarding to talk with them and witness their concern for others’ well-being — what great doctors in the making!

I’m excited to witness the leadership that Jim Nemitz will bring as the next president. He has been a faithful and staunch supporter of our school for 30-plus years, and I know his devotion will help guide WVSOM to the next level.

I am honored to have been asked to continue my contribution to WVSOM’s mission as president emeritus for the next year. Cheryl and I look forward to sharing many more milestones and memories with you, our WVSOM family! It is these relationships and the memories made while fulfilling WVSOM’s mission that we will treasure most.

Best wishes,

Michael Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D.
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.
MORE THAN JUST WORDS,
a mission represents the underlying values of an institution. It is often a test for strength of purpose — the foundation on which a plan is developed — building constantly toward excellence and implemented in day-to-day operations.

While the mission of WVSOM may play an overarching role, each piece of it works synergistically to obtain the best outcome. So whether it’s faculty or preceptors educating students, research opportunities, the president’s vision, or even outreach programs dedicated to benefit West Virginians, it all leads back to one vision, for one medical school, in one small town in one of the smallest states in the country striving to create a meaningful impact in health care for our residents.
STUDENTS INVESTING IN
The very first component of WVSOM’s mission is to educate students from diverse backgrounds as lifelong learners in osteopathic medicine. While it’s clear that the basis of a student’s education is gained on campus through a patient presentation curriculum, it is only the beginning of a student’s medical education. Building upon knowledge gained in the classroom through a team-based learning philosophy, students are able to apply that knowledge through hands-on learning experiences at hospitals and clinics during their third- and fourth-year rotations in WVSOM’s Statewide Campus (SWC) system.

The system consists of seven regions across the state where third- and fourth-year medical students fulfill their clinical rotations in participating West Virginia hospitals and some in neighboring states. This unique approach to teaching is geared toward an enhanced curriculum that encourages students to practice in West Virginia when they graduate. Each regional campus site provides structured programs for students through small group interactions, lectures and clinical cases.

The program has garnered 899 clinical faculty and 2,335 preceptors (physician teachers) — about 1,000 of which are in West Virginia — who provide a stronger infrastructure for clinical and postgraduate training throughout the state.

Physicians, taking on the role of preceptors, hold the responsibility of educating WVSOM students as lifelong learners in osteopathic medicine, and essentially support their transition from students to physicians.

Robert Snuffer, D.O., WVSOM Class of 2001, has been a preceptor about 15 years.

“I just like teaching,” Snuffer said of his decision to become a preceptor. “A large part of it is you can’t learn to be a doctor if you don’t do things doctors do.”

He admits that having student doctors in his town clinic can take longer during the day, but medical students aren’t going to learn how to be good physicians by just watching doctors.

“It does slow you down a bit, but in order to fulfill the commitment you made it is important to allow students to work with your patients. You have to be the one to create that environment. I don’t think students can simply stand on the side and watch over and over again to learn how to be a doctor. You have to place a patient in their care, have them treat the patient and suggest a protocol and then review their work to make sure they are doing everything right,” he said. “We must give students the opportunity to hold instruments and set up procedures — put your hands on their hands.”

“You have to place a patient in their care, have them treat the patient and suggest a protocol and then review their work to make sure they are doing everything right.”

- ROBERT SNUFFER, D.O.
Herbert Oye, D.O., believes in WVSOM’s mission enough to invest his time as a preceptor. Although he isn’t a WVSOM graduate, he has been mentoring medical students at the West Virginia Vascular Institute in Beckley since he moved to West Virginia more than 20 years ago. He received his medical degree at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in 1991 and specializes in endovascular and vascular surgery.

“It’s been my passion since I moved to West Virginia to further the educational experiences of medical students and over the years I found that the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is a good ally in that process,” the physician said.

Not only does Oye think so highly of WVSOM to be a preceptor for two decades, but he currently has four children who are students in each class year at the school. His daughter Monique is a fourth-year, Michelle is a third-year, Melissa is a second-year student and David finished his first semester as a WVSOM student.

Oye jokes that he “should get a discount,” but in all seriousness, said his family has been fortunate to live in West Virginia.

“I started my work in West Virginia not knowing anybody here. My interest in training students in rural medicine and rural surgery kept me here and now my children can get a great education at this institution. We feel privileged they want to stay close to home and hopefully that means they will stay in West Virginia or Appalachia,” Oye said.

Encouraging graduates to practice in West Virginia is one of the main goals of the Statewide Campus program. Dimitri Tito, a second-year student who will be graduating in 2020, understands the importance of becoming a physician in rural or underserved areas.

Tito is a native of Cameroon, a province in Central Africa, and moved to the U.S. when he was about 16 years old. He said that he understands that the Appalachian region is a largely underserved population, much like his native country.

“I grew up in a small city where there wasn’t much access to medical resources,” Tito said. “I think there are a lot of similarities between where I grew up and this area. WVSOM is No. 1 in rural medicine and is one of the top schools in primary care and that’s what I want to go into.”

During Tito’s third year, the Class of 2020 president will rotate in Petersburg, W.Va., which is in the Eastern Region of the Statewide Campus system. He chose this more rural site because of his involvement with the Rural Health Initiative program, which is designed to help enhance the rural and underserved primary care curriculum at WVSOM in order to produce graduates qualified to practice medicine in those communities.

“My interest in training students in rural medicine and rural surgery kept me here and now my children can get a great education at this institution. We feel privileged they want to stay close to home and hopefully that means they will stay in West Virginia or Appalachia.”

- HERBERT OYE, D.O.
In order to produce qualified graduates and practicing physicians, WVSOM is committed to supporting and developing graduate medical education training for its students who will become highly skilled residents vying for competitive and selective residency spots in the future.

WVSOM’s Graduate Medical Education (GME) department is responsible for the academic and accreditation oversight and support of postdoctoral training programs through the Mountain State Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions, Inc. (MSOPTI).
MSOPTI sponsors both American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited postdoctoral training programs. These programs are based in hospitals throughout West Virginia and the surrounding region and also include two Teaching Health Centers, which emphasize primary care residency training in an ambulatory setting. MSOPTI, which is a nonprofit education corporation, is afforded educational and operational support through WVSOM and its partner training sites. The GME department is also responsible for the development of new residency and fellowship programs and assists medical students as they pursue postdoctoral opportunities.

The Graduate Medical Education department benefits students by providing:

- Student consultation on postdoctoral opportunities and procedures
- Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) coordination
- Match participation — for osteopathic medical students pursuing D.O. and dual-accredited postdoctoral programs and the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) for medical students pursuing ACGME, or allopathic programs

Vicki Shuman, D.O., is the associate dean for Graduate Medical Education. One of her roles is that of an academic counselor — assisting students with the application process for residencies and ensuring students’ curriculum vitaeas and personal statements are up to par with what is expected when applying to residency programs. Third- and fourth-year students often make the most of GME’s services, through scheduled education days that detail the process of how to obtain a match and secure a residency after graduation.

Shuman said that the student services provided by GME and resident services provided by MSOPTI overlap to arrive at a seamless transition from student to resident. MSOPTI, along with its partner training institutions, ensures that training occurs in a positive, responsive learning environment that is designed to encourage lifelong learning and the honing of professional skills.

The WVSOM mission directly correlates with the MSOPTI mission, according to Bill Shires, MSOPTI executive director and ACGME designated institutional official (DIO). It includes providing “resources for training future physicians to better serve the nation’s health care needs, with a focus on primary care and osteopathic recognition for the state of West Virginia and surrounding region.”

“The postdoctoral landscape has changed significantly in a short period of time,” Shires said.

In February 2014, the AOA and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) agreed to a memorandum of understanding with the ACGME that outlined a single graduate medical education accreditation system. The new system allows osteopathic and allopathic medical school graduates to complete their residencies and fellowships in ACGME-accredited programs. Beginning in 2015, AOA-accredited training programs have five years to transition to ACGME accreditation. The AOA will no longer accredit postdoctoral training programs after 2020.

Shires said that the GME department has been busy assisting its AOA programs through the ACGME application and site review process. All but two of its residency programs have achieved ACGME initial
accreditation and those two are expected to achieve it this year. MSOPTI’s dual accredited programs are already ACGME accredited and do not need to go through this process. According to Shuman, “in addition to maintaining consistency of training, eliminating duplication and promoting efficiencies, the new system should afford our graduates increased training opportunities.”

While there may be more training opportunities, the competition for postdoctoral training positions will be greater, according to Shuman. There will be more qualified candidates entering residencies in clinics and hospitals.

“We want to make sure that no student or resident in the osteopathic world is caught in this transition to their detriment, so our message to our students is you have to cross all your T’s and dot all your I’s,” she said.

It also means reiterating the importance of the residency application process for students, like Dimitri Tito, who will be graduating in 2020 — the first year residencies will be impacted.

Even after the transition period has ended, the Graduate Medical Education department will continue to provide services that encourage residents to “think osteopathically,” Shuman said.

“Our programs are most often primary care, which supports the school’s mission and will allow us to continue to be attractive to students.” According to Shires, “All MSOPTI sponsored training programs are in the process of obtaining ACGME osteopathic recognition, a designation that ensures osteopathic resources and training will continue into the future.”
RESEARCHERS

INVESTING IN

Feature story

12 | WVSOM.edu • WINTER 2018
MSOPTI hosts an annual Research Day in January for residents who work closely with faculty on a variety of health care topics. But long before they become residents, students — under the guidance of WVSOM faculty — have the opportunity to expand their scientific knowledge through academic, clinical and basic science research.

Interest in research among WVSOM students has increased in recent years, likely due to residencies becoming more competitive.

“One of the reasons we encourage medical students to do research is because we’re relying on these students to advance health care in the future and we want them to always look for ways of doing things differently to improve patient care,” said Kristie Bridges, Ph.D., who has been the director of student research since July.

Research falls under WVSOM’s Office of Affiliated and Sponsored Programs (OASP), which supports faculty, students and staff with preparation and management of research and grant projects.

Bridges said the goal is to match as many students with research projects as possible, whether that means participating in research on campus or at external sites, possibly with preceptors.

“WVSOM is committed to developing new opportunities for research and other scholarly activity,” she said. “Recent initiatives have included expanding our clinical translational research and increasing the number of quality improvement projects. These initiatives are driven by strong partnerships between clinicians and biomedical scientists.”

Although overall research output is at its highest in the history of the school, WVSOM continues to look for additional opportunities to grow in this area.

WVSOM continues its commitment to advancing scientific knowledge through research by designating a building on campus as a new facility mostly used for clinical and translational research.

The facility is referred to as the Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). One of the labs in the CTSC was recently moved there from the Fredric W. Smith Science building. In this newly located research space, the Principle Investigator, Jandy Hanna, Ph.D., studies human movement through the use of motion analysis. The location of her lab in the CTSC freed up space in the science building. Upgrading labs in the science building is a current and ongoing commitment in order to accommodate the needs of WVSOM’s biomedical scientists. In addition to permitting for more bench research space in the Smith Science Building, the CTSC has four newly renovated clinical exam and research rooms for use in clinical and translational projects. WVSOM is seeing more clinical faculty getting involved in these projects. For example, Carolyn Komar, Ph.D., Laurie Bauer, D.O., and Andrea Nazar, D.O., are completing a clinical project that assesses factors that may influence bone density and therefore the risk of developing osteoporosis.

“This really helps with our space needs,” said WVSOM Associate Professor Predrag Krajacic, M.D., who heads the research committee. “It allows greater flexibility for our researchers to access lab space.”

One of the recent upgrades was designating a shared equipment room on the first floor of the Fredric W. Smith Science Building. Several new pieces of equipment were purchased to support research projects, including two new -80°C freezers equipped with emergency backup.
CO₂ tanks and a new ultrapure water purification system. On the second floor, an old darkroom was remodeled and equipped with a new scanning fluorescent microscope that is used for both academic and research purposes.

“By buying the new APERIO microscope we covered two aspects of the mission,” Krajacic said. “It provides academic support for students through its histology module used heavily in the curriculum. At the same time, it provides our researchers with a brand new piece of equipment that, in addition to automated fluorescent imaging, has an integrated deconvolution module required for visualizing discrete cellular components.”

Investing in the tools and facilities needed for research projects is an ongoing effort, Krajacic said, but he finds it encouraging that WVSOM is continuing to show a strong commitment to providing research faculty with the necessary equipment for their success.

Another area of campus where WVSOM’s leadership team invested in upgrades and expansions in the past few years is the Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC). More than just a building, the CEC provides an environment for students to learn how to interact with future patients in order to promote patient-centered, evidence-based medicine.

Standardized patients, or individuals from the community who have been trained to accurately portray the role of a patient with a specific medical condition, and human-patient simulators, which are computer-driven mannequins that talk and breathe, have pulses and pupils that constrict and dilate, help provide students with clinical exposure in a safe and controlled teaching environment.

“We are providing students the opportunity to learn the skills, practice the skills and be able to assess skills that are important to patient-centered care,” said Gail Swarm, D.O., the CEC’s director.

Those skills include interviewing, history taking and performing physical exams. Additionally, working with simulation gives students the chance to work in teams, which is also important to patient-centered care, she said.

“The opportunity to practice, make mistakes in a safe environment and debrief, which is a big part of learning, helps make the learning process easier and more natural for the student and ultimately better for the patient,” Swarm said. “For instance, giving bad news is an uncomfortable thing for physicians to do. Practicing before you have to do it in real life is a valuable experience for students. They can observe the things that could be better and hopefully

PROMOTE PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICINE
INVESTING IN PATIENTS
The concept of patient-centered medicine may be shifting to a more all-inclusive type of health care, considered the “medical home.” More than a decade ago, the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association released the Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home.

The “medical home” does not represent a building, house or hospital, but rather a team approach to providing health care.

The primary care physician organizations state that a medical home originates in a primary health care setting that is family-centered and where a partnership develops between the family and the primary health care practitioner in order to access all medical and non-medical services needed to achieve maximum potential. The medical home maintains a centralized, comprehensive record of all health-related services to promote continuity of care. [See the six aspects of a Patient-Centered Medical Home in the breakout box.] In 2018, the Robert C. Byrd Clinic received National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) internalize that and become involved in the systems to make health care better for patients. And that’s what patient-centered medical care is.”

The concept of patient-centered medicine may be shifting to a more all-inclusive type of health care, considered the “medical home.” More than a decade ago, the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association released the Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home.

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Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition for using evidence-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long-term, participative relationships. The recognition is valid for three years.

Moving forward, Swarm said, patient-centered care will involve better understanding of a physician’s patient population. The Electronic Health Records (EHR) will be a useful tool in obtaining data on a population.

“When we brought in the EHRs, we were trying to teach students that it’s not just about a doctor or nurse using the computer. Physicians can query how many of their diabetics have HbA1c over 8 percent. Where do these patients live by zip code? If they all live in one area, what opportunities exist to assist these patients with self management? This potentially teaches students to get more data from the use of EHRs,” Swarm explained.

The patient-centered teaching methods will be valuable to students like Tito, who already tries to consider a patient’s social, economic and cultural factors to determine how that affects their health.

“Learning about people is important because in the future, when I see patients, drawing from all of my learning experiences, I can look at the things that could impact patients and bring them to my clinic. And learning that is very valuable,” Tito said.

“The opportunity to practice, make mistakes in a safe environment and debrief, which is a big part of learning, helps make the learning process easier and more natural for the student and ultimately better for the patient.”

- GAIL SWARM, D.O., CLINICAL EVALUATION CENTER DIRECTOR
Expanding beyond WVSOM’s classrooms and the campus, the medical school strives to serve, first and foremost, the state of West Virginia and the health care needs of its residents, emphasizing primary care in rural areas.

WVSOM programs such as the Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH) help serve the needs of West Virginians in conjunction with assisting and working with community-based organizations. The CRCH is a resource center designed to help improve the health and well being of West Virginians.
and recognizes the importance of professionals and community members working together to improve the state’s health profile through research, education and outreach opportunities.

Drema Mace, Ph.D., the executive director of the CRCH, said having strong community partnerships ties into WVSOM’s mission of serving the health care needs of its residents.

“Having successful community partnerships is important because there is more strength in numbers and by collaborating we can build an infrastructure in the community that benefits the overall health of our community,” she said.

The role of the CRCH is a varied one. The program has garnered community participatory research for students and faculty; sponsors the Greenbrier County Health Alliance and works closely with the alliance in order to provide farmers markets, work to create a child development center in Rupert and a project where senior centers can have access to fresh fruits and vegetables; and offers statewide training through the Community Health Education Resource Persons (CHERP) program, designed as a community health worker training program. WVSOM has the license for providing evidence-based Stanford University programs to educate people about chronic disease self management, chronic pain self management and diabetes. The center also works with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a federal funding agency for substance abuse.

“One of the goals of the center is to expand our services statewide in the coming years and part of that process is reaching out to local nonprofits and providing assistance to build a better infrastructure in our state,” she added. “Developing programs within our local nonprofits will impact the health of West Virginians through the programs that are being built.”

Another educational effort by the CRCH was the creation of an opioid toolkit, designed to bring awareness to the rising epidemic in the state and offer resources for those trying to recover. The original idea for a drug awareness toolkit in our area came from a recommendation from the local United Way in February 2016.

“Having successful community partnerships is important because there is more strength in numbers and by collaborating we can build an infrastructure in the community that benefits the overall health of our community.”

- DREMA MACE, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CRCH
The template, which was given by Washington County, Wis., was further developed with feedback from different relevant organizations in the area, according to Haylee Heinsberg, a CRCH health education coordinator who helped oversee the creation of the toolkit.

After months of discussion to create a useful resource, the “Prescription Opioid and Heroin Awareness Toolkit” came to be, in collaboration with the Community Addressing Prescription Drug Epidemic (CARÆ) Coalition. Last June, a kick-off event took place on WVSOM’s campus to introduce the prevention guide to the community and begin distribution. [See story on page 35.]

“We are trying to make people more aware of this disease, community resources and the places to get help and to at least start a conversation about how to impact this epidemic,” Heinsberg said of the resource tool.

The toolkit was presented at the West Virginia Rural Health Conference in October. As a result, neighboring counties started expressing an interest in the toolkit. During that time, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration also started using it as a model for other areas of the state — hoping to replicate the toolkit in all 55 counties.

“If our toolkit can be a guide to open conversation of coming together as a community in order to make a positive change — and provide support to a caregiver, loved one and family members, to reinforce that people are trying to get clean and sober — then we can start to make a dent in the problem,” she said. “Ninety-one people a day die from opioids. If there was an easy solution it would’ve been fixed a long time ago.”

The toolkit will be gaining national exposure as well. Mace and Heinsberg will present “An Opioid Toolkit: A Rural Community Education Project” at the National Rural Health Association’s annual conference on May 11 in New Orleans, La. The toolkit, along with a provider packet and a series of public service announcements, all come together as one synergistic effort for people to see there are others dealing with the same situation, Heinsberg said.

WVSOM’s mission to serve the needs of West Virginians isn’t just one sided — there are also meaningful benefits for students and alumni who serve the health care needs of residents in rural areas.

Dimitri Tito may only be just over halfway through his second year of medical school, but he has already committed so much of his time and efforts to helping his community through volunteer efforts.

“My background, coming from an underserved area, I kind of know what it’s like to be in a community and being in need. That’s why when I came to medical school I wasn’t just thinking about studying all the time. I was thinking about what I can do for others,” he shared.
Even before Tito officially started medical school he jumped in to volunteer for a community in need. Tito arrived to Lewisburg in Summer 2016, the same time much of southern West Virginia was impacted by heavy flooding.

A group of second-year students organized a Facebook group seeking volunteers to work to cleanup houses in nearby towns. Tito didn’t hesitate to help — even going as far as to crawl in spaces underneath houses to ensure a clean foundation.

“It was an opportunity to start helping and I just got to West Virginia,” he recalled. “We organized many different trips to houses. Right away, I felt the involvement that WVSOM had in the community, and for me, it was very important.”

In addition to flood recovery efforts, Tito has volunteered for WVSOM Cares, has taken blood pressure readings at the state fair and is a member of the Cultural Integrity Committee, which is in the process of organizing culturally diverse standardized patient encounters as a learning opportunity for students. Tito, who is heavily involved in the community as a student, hopes to eventually enter a family medicine or internal medicine residency.

Tito may be headed down a similar path as another former student who was heavily involved — Christopher Donovan “Dino” Beckett, D.O. In the last WVSOM magazine, the Class of 2000 graduate was featured for being awarded the 2017 Rural Health Practitioner of the Year during the National Rural Health Association conference.

Beckett returned to his home of Williamson, W.Va., in 2003 and since then has made great strides in improving the community and the health needs of its residents. He created the Williamson Health and Wellness Center, a free clinic designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center in the Fall 2013. The clinic serves residents of Mingo County in West Virginia and Pike County in Kentucky. Since its opening, the wellness center went from seeing nearly 7,500 patients a year to more than 20,000.

Beckett is an active member of the Mingo County Diabetes Coalition, which focuses on access to healthy eating, physical activity and active living, as well as enhancing access to care through the use of community health workers. He has also helped establish a community garden and a local farmers market.

There are many alumni, like Beckett and Snuffer, who attended WVSOM and decided to practice in West Virginia after they graduated to serve the needs of their community and state. It all goes back to continuous, quality training by people who are completely invested in WVSOM’s mission.

“It’s all about training people to become doctors and training them the right way. I’m actually still learning, because I learn a lot of things from students I precept. They just went through all this training and it’s refreshing for me as well. It keeps me going and up-to-date on what’s happening,” Snuffer said, proving that learning is lifelong.
Even with all of WVSOM’s employees working together to support the school’s mission, there is one person who oversees the entire vision and who ensures that the mission is being fulfilled. For WVSOM, that person is Michael Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D., the school’s president.

“We’ve gone from being a very good institution that wasn’t well recognized in the state or nation, to an institution that is highly respected in the state and nation. That was done in a variety of ways, but it’s about building on the foundation of what was here and just increasing the caliber,” Adelman said.

He emphasized the importance of allowing an institution to grow and its employees to constantly find opportunities to make it better than it was before.

Looking back on his eight years as president, it’s easy to identify the programs and initiatives that were created or enhanced under Adelman’s presidency — all of which closely support a component of WVSOM’s mission.

Adelman recalls when he first conceptualized the creation and construction of the Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC), which years later underwent an expansion. The facility better accommodates the newest curriculum after it changed from a basic course system to a more clinical presentation curriculum. Or the Statewide Campus system, which was developed by Adelman as dean but has since expanded its regions and emphasis on providing in-state rotations for students in their clinical years.

Fundraising, community relations and legislative relationships have all been built over the years, Adelman said, proof that if an institution delivers on its mission then more and more people will continue to support it.

“We’ve received more money for the school than in previous years for student scholarships. Additionally, we were in a financial situation where we could build a Student Center, which was really needed for our students. Our relationship with the community has never been better and it hasn’t always been that way. We have a strong working relationship with the legislature, and we have a national reputation, which is evidenced by the fact that we’ve gone from about 800 applicants in 2002 when I started as the dean to almost 5,000 applicants now.”

As Adelman nears the final months as the president of WVSOM, he is reminded of the years of tireless work and commitment he has given to the school and can’t help but to think of its constant growth — evolving from a medical school in the 1970s on the brink of being closed down to more than 40 years later as a standard of excellence in the osteopathic community for graduating students who are committed to practicing primary care in rural areas.

“It’s very inspiring,” Adelman said. “I remember what it was like and what it took to get the school here. I’m incredibly proud of the legacy that I hope I’m leaving. I’m leaving this institution better than I found it, but with a caveat that it was in pretty good shape when I found it and we just improved upon that.”

Even after Adelman retires, WVSOM employees and all those who are associated with the school that care about its success will work to constantly incorporate its mission and achieve the school’s purpose. Investing in the mission is more than just words. It means that WVSOM is always making strides in order to achieve a greater, more positive health care impact in the state for all who are living and working in West Virginia.
"I remember what it was like and what it took to get the school here. I’m incredibly proud of the legacy that I hope I’m leaving."

- MICHAEL ADELMAN, D.O., D.P.M., J.D., WVSOM PRESIDENT
WVSOM alumnus revisited school history during WHITE COAT Ceremony speech
John Manchin II, D.O., reminisced about WVSOM’s history during his keynote speech at the school’s annual Convocation and White Coat Ceremony.

On Aug. 26, Manchin, who was part of the first WVSOM graduating class in 1978, spoke to 207 first-year medical students about the importance of knowing their medical school’s history, including the founders’ fortitude and determination in creating a successful osteopathic medical school that would serve rural areas of West Virginia.

“Before I go any further I have to pay tribute to our founders, and I’m reminded of a famous quote from Winston Churchill. ‘Never was so much owed by so many to so few.’ Please take the time to learn about these early founders of WVSOM — Dr. Apgar, Dr. Bailes, Dr. Wallington and Dr. Newell,” Manchin said to the students. Manchin recognized O.J. Bailes, D.O., the last living founder of WVSOM, who is now 93 years old and part of the day’s ceremony. He also acknowledged the family members in attendance of the four founders.

“You all must be so proud and your family heritage will live on in all the students who have been given the opportunity to become osteopathic physicians,” he said.

The White Coat Ceremony is the first step in the medical school journey as the white coat symbolizes each student’s commitment to the osteopathic medical profession and his or her pledge to serving communities and residents.

Manchin offered the new students some advice he received from the school’s first president Dr. Roland P. Sharp. “Listen to the patient — listen to the patient. It may not be the word you’re used to but they will tell you what’s wrong,” he said.

While Manchin spent time revisiting the school’s more than 40-year history, he also looked to the future. He spoke of how the incoming class was unique in that they have grown up in the electronic age surrounded by information technology.
“Medicine is evolving quickly. We might speculate what might come from Amazon’s rumored AI, or artificial intelligence,” he said. “You should expect WVSOM will be evolving with changes and you will get to live and work through these changes ... just know that we physicians support our school and its evolving medical training for future students.”

Before wrapping up his speech, Manchin recognized that this was WVSOM President Michael Adelman’s, D.O., D.P.M., J.D., last White Coat Ceremony before retiring in the summer. Earlier in the ceremony, Adelman officially recognized the new student doctors.

“Class of 2021, our White Coat Ceremony not only welcomes you to our family, but welcomes you to the community of osteopathic physicians,” Adelman shared. “This symbolizes the beginning of a four-year journey in osteopathic medicine. Putting on that white coat won’t transform you into an osteopathic physician — there is a lot of work ahead for you and our faculty to get your coat to fit. But we expect you to grow intellectually and emotionally.”

The ceremony also included brief greetings from Board of Governors Vice Chair Robert Holstein, D.O., Alumni Association President Mark Waddell, D.O., and West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association President Clark Milton, D.O.

Manchin is a partner, chief executive officer and president of the Manchin Clinic in Farmington, the Manchin Clinic of Bridgeport and Manchin Clinic South in Fairmont, W.Va. He has served as a member of the WVSOM Board of Governors since 2009 and has been a WVSOM adjunct assistant professor of family practice since 1990.

The White Coat Ceremony takes place in addition to 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 alumni assist in the ceremony by presenting white coats to students.
Family travels around the world to attend White Coat Ceremony

The Convocation and White Coat Ceremony was the first time first-year medical student Tenzing Lama saw his family in about two years.

His parents, who are Tibetan but currently live in Nepal, made the long journey from their home, a country in Southeast Asia nestled between China and India. Lama’s mother, father and sister knew this was a milestone in Tenzing’s life that was not to be missed.

“We heard that this was important for our son, the beginning of the white coat, so we decided this was a life achievement and for him to go to such a good school — we had to come,” Lama’s father said after the ceremony.

A huge smile stretched across his mother’s face, who simply stated, “We are very proud of him.”

The Lama family had never attended a White Coat Ceremony before, and Tenzing is hoping to be the first in his family to become a doctor.

“My mom and dad lived in a refugee camp for more than 30 years,” he said. “They’re very proud that I’m the first one to get accepted to medical school and hopefully become a doctor.”

The Lamas live in Nepal near the Tibetan Refugee Camp where they used to live for three decades. Tenzing’s family traveled by plane and Amtrak train to spend a quick, 24 hours together — a brief moment in time that they will all cherish for years to come.
Japanese osteopathic students visit WVSOM

For the fifth consecutive year, WVSOM hosted seven students and one faculty member from the Japan College of Osteopathy who were on campus for an intensive anatomy lab experience June 23-28. The visit provides opportunities for the Japanese students to learn from the human body.

“This is something they are unable to do in Japan. It is so helpful for D.O.s to see the interior of the human body and to be able to use OMT to heal the human body,” said Peter Ward, Ph.D., the students’ faculty advisor and teacher.

Beckett received outstanding resident award in pediatrics

Jordan Beckett, D.O., Class of 2015, was recognized as the Osteopathic Resident of the Year in pediatrics from the American Osteopathic Foundation and the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians during an honors gala at OMED 2017 in Philadelphia.

Beckett is a third-year resident at the dually accredited pediatric residency program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She will complete her residency in June. Beckett is committed to rural health and completed several rural training rotations. She was involved in the Rural Health Initiative while at WVSOM. She is working with WVSOM to help expand rural access to pediatric inpatient and outpatient care, including drug education and rehabilitation.
Students gained clinical experience in South Africa

Fourteen Class of 2020 students traveled to South Africa in June and July as part of WVSOM’s Center for International Medicine and Cultural Concerns (CIMCC) program. The students participated in the Student Health And Welfare Community Organization (SHAWCO) at the University of Cape Town’s student run mobile medical units. Students learned about HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis; attended lectures on cross-cultural medicine; and participated in interactive roundtable discussions with persons affected by HIV (caregivers, physicians and support persons) and persons who have survived an AIDS related illness. In the clinical setting, students took medical histories, discussed patient presentations, learned about admitting both adults and children to the hospital and provided OMT demonstrations to South African medical students and physicians.

Between 2011-2016, a few WVSOM students participated in public health in infectious disease rotations, and a number of students have traveled to South Africa for summer programs focused on epidemiology. Summer 2017 marked the first clinical experience, and will hopefully continue in summer 2018.

Students, staff and faculty showed their support for National Rural Health Day

Everyone on campus was encouraged to get out and move with a walking contest in support of rural health. Winners were Angie Hill, Karen Ayers and Patti Crawford. WVSOM is No. 1 in the nation graduating physicians who practice in rural areas of America.

► Afrede aids in flu clinic

Momina Afrede, OMS III assisted with a flu clinic in October at the Mary C. Snow Westside Elementary School, as well as directly administered flu shots to preschool-fifth grade students.
High school students learn about pharmacology

High school students from across West Virginia visited WVSOM for the fifth annual “Just Say Know to Drugs,” from June 26-30. Raeann Carrier, Ph.D., and WVSOM students provided the high school students with an introduction into the world of pharmacology. Throughout the week, students learned about antibiotics and disease transmission, conducted hand-washing experiments and looked at preventative/alternative medicines. A student favorite activity from the week was the daphnia experiment. Students were tasked with measuring the heart rate of the daphnia, a tiny water flea, under control and unknown drug conditions.

Johnna Ball, a senior at Herbert Hoover High School, explained that she signed up for the camp because of the word pharmacology. She plans to attend pharmacy school and thought the camp would be a good introduction.

“I want to be a pharmacist. This helps with what you need to know before you go to pharmacy school,” she said.

The camp culminated with students’ presentations that showcased what they had learned.

WVSOM employees celebrated Halloween

Halloween festivities swept across campus on Oct. 31. The fun began with the Classified Staff hosting the annual costume contest. The winners were members of the anatomy department as board game pieces in first place, Karen Ayers as Van Gogh in second place and Tiffany Wright as Little Miss Muffet in third place. The anatomy group gave their first place winnings of $50 to members of the alumni association and foundation for their group costume, redneck safari.

The competition continued with a table-decorating contest in the main building hallway. Winners included Dezi Davis in first place, RHI in second place and the foundation and alumni association in third place. The day ended with trick-or-treating for children around the main building.

WVSOM students, staff provided blood pressure readings at state fair

A total of 2,512 people benefited from having their blood pressure checked during the West Virginia State Fair that took place in August in Fairlea.

Second-year medical students administered most of the free readings — offering 1,465 checks to visitors. WVSOM physicians and Clinical Evaluation Center staff members were also available to perform screenings.

A Teddy Bear Clinic was also part of WVSOM’s blood pressure booth under the grandstand. The clinic provided 647 children the opportunity to “play doctor” as well as educate them about basic hospital visits. They learned about heartbeats, took temperatures, bandaged the bears and examined the stuffed animals’ eyes, ears and nose.

WVSOM also collaborated with Greenbrier Valley Medical Center at a state fair booth to provide information about osteopathic medicine. Residents provided OMT demonstrations. Osteoporosis and scoliosis screenings were also available, as well as information about cardiovascular risks and how to modify those risks. Bridgett Morrison, D.O., and other WVSOM faculty and graduates volunteered to provide the demos.
Students spread generosity to local families during holiday season

WVSOM instills in its students the value of being actively involved in their communities. Every day, students make an effort to be engaged with future patients in the local area, and the same was especially true the beginning of December.

WVSOM students spread generosity and holiday cheer by helping nearly 50 children from 20 foster families have a better holiday season during the annual Heart of the Holidays event. Sigma Sigma Phi (SSP), a community service organization, organized the event, which helps families provide a memorable Christmas for their children through donations of clothes and toys.

“SSP, in partnership with the [Greenbrier County] Children’s Home Society, reached out to families that are taking care of foster children to provide Christmas to these children and to help relieve any burden the family may be experiencing,” said Belinda Evans, WVSOM’s director of student affairs. “I believe this is a huge impact on the families. When they attend the event here on campus, they are surrounded by loving, caring individuals who want to make the holiday a little less stressful.”

SSP President Aaron Hess said one of the benefits of attending medical school in a smaller town is the opportunity to play a more crucial role in the community.

“When students come here for two short years they can still have a vital impact in the community and peoples’ lives. As far as this event, I think that giving back — especially around the holiday season when you see these kids’ faces when they get to sit on Santa’s lap and open a gift — is what we strive for as physicians and our patient-centered care comes straight from that and is part of why people go into medicine,” he said.

During the event, which was in its 18th year, children partook in activities like getting their faces painted, decorating cookies and coloring. In addition to the gift each child opened with Santa, they were given a gift to be taken home.

“Students are humbled when the wish lists have items such as personal items and not just toys,” Evans said. “Some of the students are overcome with emotions when they see an infant that is a lot smaller than it should be or when they see a child with a developmental problem. The students read about this and are tested on this but to see it in person they realize that all they are required to give these children is time.”

WVSOM’s Pediatrics Club hosted a diaper drive in conjunction with the holiday event and offered face painting. Family Medicine Club members hosted the cookie-decorating table, and SSP members had the coloring book table.

“When students come here for two short years they can still have a vital impact in the community and peoples’ lives.” - SSP President Aaron Hess
Simulation, the creation of realistic circumstances in order to teach skills and enhance competencies, is rapidly changing the face of education in health care. This style of learning was presented during the first-ever Healthcare Simulation Week, which took place Sept. 11-15.

During the week, WVSOM’s Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC) staff provided different training scenarios and demonstrations for staff and students. Those activities included a pop-up simulation contest between faculty, staff and students to locate Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) on campus; an open lab observation where faculty and staff observed second-year students participating in an open lab case; a moulage demonstration where participants could use a selfie booth to show off their fake cuts, wounds and scrapes; and a “Life in the ER” presentation where attendees observed an emergency room and obstetrics simulation.

These unique activities are how WVSOM students experience learning nearly every day at the CEC throughout their medical education — one of the benefits of attending one of the few osteopathic medical schools in the country that is accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare.

WVSOM’s CEC participated in first-ever simulation week
“The CEC provides opportunities for medical students to not only practice common medical emergencies but also encounter unusual presentations via multiple simulation modalities,” said Gail Swarm, D.O., the CEC’s director.

Healthcare Simulation Week, sponsored by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, celebrated professionals who use simulation to improve the safety, effectiveness and efficiency of health care delivery. New technologies are emerging that present new opportunities to improve patient care, and as a result, it is an emerging field in which many health care professionals are finding a lifelong career.

Using simulation, learners address critical skills including procedures, dynamic decision-making and communication. Essential teamwork behaviors such as managing high workload and coordinating under stress are practiced. Simulation-based training encompasses a broad range of experiences, including the use of task trainers, human-patient simulators and learning various technical procedures that range from suturing to delivering babies. It also includes standardized patients (role-players) who act as patients and fully staged scenarios that prepare providers for catastrophic events such as natural disasters or mass shootings.

Dr. Christine Park, president of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, said that health care systems are embracing simulation as an effective set of strategies that enhance the quality of health care.

“Numerous studies demonstrate that simulation more effectively prepares all types of providers, including physicians, nurses and first responders across the full spectrum of experience,” Park said. “Simulation provides the opportunity to learn, analyze error and maintain life-saving skills before working on actual patients.”

**SIMULATION:**
the creation of realistic circumstances in order to teach skills and enhance competencies
Students participated in Day of Service

As students settled into the new academic year at WVSOM, 154 first- and second-year students spent their first Saturday of the semester volunteering for the WVSOM Day of Service. In July, students visited seven locations across Greenbrier and Monroe counties to give back.

“The WVSOM Day of Service is a great opportunity for students to help improve the community that they will be calling home for at least the next two years. It helps them not only to reach out to the community and community members, but to learn about volunteer opportunities and locations they may wish to help with in the future,” said Langley Salyers, OMS II. Salyers is the Student Government Association T.O.U.C.H. coordinator who helped organize the event.

Locations that benefited from student volunteers included Alderson Hospitality House, Child and Youth Advocacy Center, Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity, Greenbrier Episcopal School, Eastern Greenbrier Middle School, Montwell Park and Lewisburg United Methodist Church.
CRCH and Greenbrier County CARxE Coalition launch drug awareness toolkit

After a year of collaboration with several local organizations, the Greenbrier County CARxE Coalition (GCCC) launched the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Awareness Toolkit in June at an event hosted by WVSOM.

The toolkit is one of many steps the coalition is taking to address the substance abuse issue in Greenbrier County. The prevention guide educates the public about the prescription opioid crisis, provides local resources to families, organizations and those battling substance use disorder, as well as raises awareness in the community of the current epidemic.

“Our goal is to connect the community with the resources available. We also want to have people bring the needed resources to develop support with substance abuse,” said Drema Mace, Ph.D., director of the WVSOM Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH).

The crisis is widespread not only in Greenbrier County but across West Virginia. A recent study by the West Virginia Health Statistics Center showed at least 818 in the state died of drug overdoses in 2016. The coalition hopes the toolkit will be an example for other counties on how to address the crisis.

Another objective the GCCC hopes to address is the negative stigma associated with those addicted to opioids and even those who are working to overcome addiction. The coalition hopes to do this by sharing the stories of those affected by the crisis. Two people spoke about their experiences with substance abuse, each from a different perspective, during the event.

Patricia Browning, D.O. gave a parent’s perspective of the crisis. Two of her adult daughters died of heroin overdose after years of struggling with addiction. She explained that her family’s lives were full of shame and guilt due to their drug habit. Browning encouraged the audience to learn from her story and to be compassionate to those dealing with a drug dependency so others do not have to feel the same.

“This drug epidemic is like the epidemic of the 1900s — the contagious diseases the children got. It hits every race, religion, socioeconomic group,” she said.

Casey Butler, a recovering addict, echoed the same sentiment of support for persons of addiction because it can happen to anyone.

“It does not discriminate against anyone. I never set out to get addicted. That wasn’t my dream,” he said.

Butler struggled with addiction for 18 years. In his sobriety he has become a peer recovery coach for the Greenbrier County Drug Court and is now back in the workforce. He believes the solution is a community effort and is happy to be one piece of the puzzle by driving people to rehab or leading support groups for other persons with addiction. Butler continued by saying it was important to show others that recovery is a possibility.

Both Browning and Butler acknowledged that the coalition’s prevention guide was an important step for the community in addressing the opioid crisis.
Grand Affair raised MORE THAN $25,000 for student scholarships
Extravagant masks sparkled throughout the Colonial Ballroom at The Greenbrier Resort in celebration of the “Masquerade” theme during WVSOM’s annual Grand Affair. Guests enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing while raising money for the Student Government Association’s (SGA) scholarships. This year the event raised $26,453.

“The Grand Affair is SGA’s largest fundraising event every year. The event was everything that we had hoped it would be, but the real excitement is going to be in the spring when we can distribute the scholarship funds that we raised to our fellow students,” said Reina Lopez, SGA president.

Jim Nemitz, Ph.D., vice president for administration and external relations, shared Lopez’s enthusiasm for the successful evening.

“This year’s Grand Affair was a fabulous event. The beautifully decorated ballroom was filled with guests dressed in masquerade enjoying delicious food and having fun dancing the night away. The event had a successful silent auction and, combined with the generous support of our sponsors, raised funds for student scholarships,” Nemitz said.

The SGA scholarships are awarded to students who exemplify academic leadership, community involvement and the osteopathic medical profession.
Many area supporters stepped forward to help underwrite the event and the students at WVSOM. Sponsors of the Grand Affair included:

**BENEFACTORS**
- Gillespie’s Flowers
- The Greenbrier Resort

**PLATINUM**
- Cabell Huntington Hospital
- Charleston Area Medical Center
- Davis Eye Center/Charles H. Davis, D.O.
- Greenbrier Valley Medical Center
- Highland Hospital
- Medical Missions & Imaging, PC
- Morgan Stanley
- Raleigh General Hospital
- WVSOM Alumni Association, Inc.
- WVSOM Foundation, Inc.

**SILVER**
- Bailey & Wyant, PLLC
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- Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital
- Meritus Medical Center
- Summit Health

**BRONZE**
- Dermatology Centers, Inc./Thomas M. Karrs, M.D.
WVSOM’s Abracadabra received regional EMMY® nomination

The children’s television series, Abracadabra, received a nomination for the Ohio Valley Chapter’s 53rd Annual Regional EMMY Awards.

The show, produced in partnership with West Virginia Public Broadcasting (WVPB), received a nomination in the Children/Youth/Teens Category. Abracadabra, which is part of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine’s (WVSOM) larger Healthy Children’s Initiative, is in its fifth season. The TV series features magic, ventriloquism, humor and original music to demonstrate important lessons about health, nutrition, exercise and science.

“We are very honored to receive this nomination for Abracadabra,” said Michael Adelman, D.O., WVSOM president and creator of the television series. “Our main objective is to raise awareness of the importance of making healthy choices to improve the well-being of West Virginia children and their families.”

Adelman appreciates the accolades, but realizes the highest honor is witnessing the change in lifestyle that the show inspires youth to make.

“It is heartwarming to hear parents say that their child wants to try new vegetables and wants to be more active,” Adelman replied.

“West Virginia Public Broadcasting is proud to help produce and to air Abracadabra. West Virginia children need to see West Virginia’s healthy role models, and that’s what this show does,” said Scott Finn, West Virginia Public Broadcasting executive director.

John Hale, WVPB video graphics and videographer, said the show sends a positive message to younger viewers on the importance of eating healthy, exercising and health interactions.

“These values should be commonplace, but with the current perceptions about West Virginia it is good to know that there is a program out there sending a positive and educational message to our viewers,” he said. “This nomination shines a light on the healthy lifestyle choices our young people make today. With soda and sugary foods readily available it’s easy to forget the healthier options that are available to not only children but adults as well.”

“The nomination for an Emmy award is a very special one to me personally,” said Aaron Shackelford, associate producer and editor for the show. “I have been involved in many noteworthy projects at West Virginia Public Broadcasting, but this project is special because I was heavily involved from the beginning.

To PBS, it brings a different kind of message to the children of West Virginia than a standard kid’s show. It brings a message from West Virginia to West Virginia, and that is important.”

“WVSOM is very fortunate to have the support of WVPB for this project,” said Marilea Butcher, producer for Abracadabra. “Everyone pulled together to ensure a high quality program to entertain and educate the young viewers. This show would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors: the Charleston Area Medical Center, The BrickStreet Foundation, and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of West Virginia.”

Besides the Abracadabra series, three additional components make up the Healthy Children’s Initiative to engage youth and reinforce the core elements of healthy living — community outreach, online experiences and publications/resources. The community outreach involves presentations to larger audiences at elementary schools or community centers and to individual classrooms at elementary schools. Parents and teachers can join children in health and nutrition games, science experiments and magic tricks on the Abracadabra website at www.abracadabra.org or use the educational resources available.

EMMY winners were announced at the Ohio Valley Regional EMMY Awards program in August at the Lawrenceburg Event Center in Lawrenceburg, Ind. Unfortunately, Abracadabra was not an award recipient.
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“A person’s health should not be more determined by their zip code than by their genetic code. West Virginia must be vigilant to keep its hospitals and clinics open in rural communities for citizens to have access to health care.”

- Patti Crawford, WVSOM’s director of rural outreach

A WVSOM fourth-year student and staff member were recognized for their contributions to rural health in the state of West Virginia.

Lucas Hamrick received an award for “Outstanding Rural Health Student of the Year” during the West Virginia Rural Health Association’s annual Rural Health Conference. Additionally, Patti Crawford, WVSOM’s director of rural outreach, received 2017’s “Excellence in Rural Health.”

The Outstanding Rural Health Student of the Year recognizes extraordinary student activities within the field with significant accomplishments in rural health. The Excellence in Rural Health award is given to an individual or organization in recognition of exceptional contributions to the improvement of health to the people in rural West Virginia. It honors creative work of particular effectiveness in applying knowledge or innovative organizational work to the betterment of community health.

Crawford said she was humbled to have been recognized for her work in rural communities.

“During the past 40 years, I have been working in rural health and I have seen a lot of changes, but one thing remains constant. It is the importance of rural health care,” she said. “A person’s health should not be more determined by their zip code than by their genetic code. West Virginia must be vigilant to keep its hospitals and clinics open in rural communities for citizens to have access to health care. Training physicians who can thrive in rural communities is imperative to keeping health care available to all West Virginians.”

Hamrick, a native of Clay, W.Va., is one of the medical students being trained to become a rural physician. He is working to fulfill his dream of practicing medicine in underserved communities while completing his final year of rotations.

“I have had the pleasure of experiencing medical practice at many flagship institutions within our state and also had the pleasure of working with the highest quality physicians. I have learned a great deal during my medical education, and I hope to continue learning during residency. I will continue to be dedicated to the practice of medicine in West Virginia and I hope to be part of innovation in health care as a whole, as well as expanding access to all services for our rural populations,” Hamrick said. “Quality health care in West Virginia is on the rise — everywhere across the state we are improving and innovating. I look forward to being a part of that in the years to come.”

Hamrick has been involved in:
- Rural programs and teaching opportunities
- Green Coat Program
- Just Say Know to Drugs pharmacology camp
- Community Outreach and Relief Effort (C.O.R.E.) program
- WVSOM’s Rural Health Initiative program

Crawford has served as:

- Regional community health promotion specialist for Southeastern West Virginia
- Campus coordinator of the West Virginia Rural Health Educational Partnership program
- Southeastern Area Health Education Center’s first executive director
- Director of rural outreach and also provides supervisory oversight for WVSOM’s Rural Health Initiative program
Seven WVSOM students participated in the Wilderness Medicine Rotation July 31-Aug. 11 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, W.Va. Students were challenged with workshops including rope rescue and swiftwater rescue. The rotation culminated with the Battle in the Gorge, a competition that provides students the opportunity to put their newly learned skills to the test.

“It makes use of a lot of the skills they learned throughout the rotation. They find it challenging,” said Lisa Hrutkay, D.O., a WVSOM alumna and rotation organizer. While the WVSOM students did not place in any event, the students did well in the competition. The teams competed against local EMS and rescue squads.
RHI students learned about the opioid epidemic

Rural Health Initiative (RHI) third- and fourth-year students learned about opioids in West Virginia in October at Camp Dawson, W.Va. RHI mentors Steve Eshenaur, D.O., and Pete Palko, D.O., with the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) supervisor, diversion investigator and resident agents gave students an insight to how they handle opioids within their line of work.

Palko and Eshenaur hosted an open discussion regarding primary care rotations and residency options in West Virginia and a substance abuse overview. DEA agents focused their discussion on diversion case examples, how to work with the DEA, and examples of when doctors had been prosecuted.

The Greenbrier County CAR&F Coalition provided students with the Opioid Toolkit. The coalition works to educate the public about the prescription drug abuse problem, provides local resources to families, organizations and those battling addiction, as well as raises awareness in the community regarding the current epidemic.

Campers were then given a cut banana and the tools to practice their suture skills.

RHI, SE-AHEC train WV Gear UP students at Concord University

WVSOM’s Rural Health Initiative (RHI) and Souttheastern Area Health Education Center (SE-AHEC) introduced the medical field to more than 50 students at the WV Gear UP camp on June 16, at Concord University. Students learned how to perform simple sutures, basic CPR skills and how medicines act in the body. Staff members at the Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC) also attended and provided students the opportunity to see and work with a human-patient simulator.

Second-year RHI student, Janet Kowalsky, and first-year RHI student, Garin Bergeson, presented information on cuts, abrasions and how to perform a suture. Campers were then given a cut banana and the tools to practice their suture skills. Angie Amick showed students the full size simulator and explained its many functions. The campers were then able to see a simulated seizure, learn how to perform CPR and compressions, check for a pulse, listen to a heartbeat and administer medicine intravenously. Julian Arbaugh, admissions counselor senior, discussed the process of applying to medical school and provided information about WVSOM.

The RHI and SE-AHEC programs also had assistance from Concord undergraduate and pre-osteopathic student Nick Yost and University of Charleston undergraduate and CAMC Green Coat Program graduate David Runyon.
Welcome to the patient lab
Cochran sees the possibility in expanded clinical research

Jill Cochran, Ph.D., APRN, C-FNP is making a difference in the health and lives of West Virginia residents through medical practice and research. Her research lab is not the typical basic science research lab with test tubes and microscopes. Instead, it has medical equipment and real patients - the clinic exam room.

“Welcome to the patient lab,” Cochran said. “You can’t separate medical practice and research. In the clinic ‘every day practice’ is a type of research and we use that research to change how we treat patients. It is easy for medical professionals to feel as though they are not contributing to research due to the demands of a full practice,” she continued. “However, if a health practitioner is seeing patients, then they are collecting and evaluating data.

As we notice patterns of success (e.g.; improved patient health) in our practice, we need to collect, evaluate and report these data.”

WVSOM provides Cochran the ideal setting for a health care professional. As a WVSOM faculty member, she is encouraged and supported to conduct clinically based research through the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI) and she practices primary care at the Clinicians use a drawing of a human body to “walk through” each area, symptom or malady to ask what medication the patient is taking.
WVSOM Robert C. Byrd Clinic (RCBC). Each day she challenges students to not only care for individual patients, but to look for progress in trends and victories and then discuss the findings.

Cochran has been led to specific research projects through observations in her own practice. “We need to take the problems we face in practice and translate the questions into research. Currently, our latest clinical research has to do with reconciliation of medications taken by our patients,” Cochran said.

Cochran was intrigued when she attempted to obtain a comprehensive list of all medications and supplements from her patients to understand the possible interactions of the medicines. After experiencing first-hand with her mother how difficult it was to compile a complete and accurate list of all her medications, she wondered if there was a way to improve a patient’s health through “med reconciliation,” — the reconciliation of all medications used by one patient and what effect their interaction has on that patient — and a research project was born.

Cochran’s plan was to understand and improve patient reporting of all medications to include over the counter, prescription medications and home herbal supplements. The research project began by asking patients how they report medications and what would help them remember to report all medications and supplements.

As a part of her research, Cochran began to consider the serious ramifications of physicians making decisions on incomplete or false information. She determined that different methods of gathering medication lists could be tested and data collected on what seemed to work in the Robert C. Byrd Clinic. Then, with the support of a WVCSTI HOPE (Health Outcomes and Policy Evaluation) grant she began collecting data on clinical tools with patients. One tool, titled Med Manage, has had great success. Clinicians use a drawing of a human body to “walk through” each area, symptom or malady to ask what medication the patient is taking.

“We are working to make an impact in primary care. We can help patients and families have a more thorough knowledge of all of their medications,” Cochran said. “Thus far, our team has seen a significant increase in the number of reported medications from patients when the Med Manage tool has been used.”

Cochran’s next round of this clinical project, which will involve two WVSOM students, will focus on geriatric patients. This target audience tends to take certain types of over-the-counter medications and may be the most vulnerable to issues involving unreconciled meds.

She is also focused on finding the appropriate platform to share findings in clinical research. “We are building this foundation of knowledge that could significantly improve medication reconciliation. Could this reduce the number of re-admission rates in elderly patients? How will we share it with colleagues throughout the state and beyond? And, how will we learn of the success that others have had in their clinical practices?” she asked rhetorically.

“Clinical translational research is driven from the bedside of patients.”
- Jill Cochran, Ph.D., APRN, C-FNP
WVSOM students presented posters at the Osteopathic Medical Education Conference (OMED) on Oct. 8, in Philadelphia Pa. New this year, all posters were delivered electronically.

The following students presented:

Raji Akileh; Tuoen Liu, M.D., Ph.D., faculty mentor:
- “Inhibition of hspa9 gene disrupts erythroid maturation in human hematopoietic progenitor cells.”

Patricia Wilt and Madison Chase; Crystal Boudreaux, Ph.D., faculty mentor:
- “Rotavirus mediates upregulation of protein kinase STK11IP in mammalian cells.”

Shruti Iyer and Pejmahn Eftekhazadeh; Rebecca Scopa Kelso, Ph.D., faculty mentor:
- “Pediatric skeletal bone growth rates in the lower limb.”

Kelsey Full and Aamir Mohiuddin; Joyce Morris-Wiman, Ph.D., faculty mentor:
- “Alterations of glia and vasculature in the aging mouse brain.”

Trenton Ferguson and Jacob Helsel; Kristie Bridges, Ph.D. and Predrag Krajacic M.D., faculty mentors:
- “C. Elegans as a model organism for investigating uric acid metabolism.”

Alyssa Gates and Kelsi Rogers; Maureen Basha, Ph.D., faculty mentor:
- “Analysis of systemic hormone exposure in a rodent model of vulvovaginal atrophy with menopause.”

Daniel Truong, Ethan Szpara, Melissa Villa, Leanne Chen and Philip Su; Jodi Flanders, D.O., faculty mentor:
- “A quality improvement study of Type II Diabetes Mellitus in rural underserved Mayan communities.”
WVSOM students participated in summer extern program

Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) sponsors a Summer Research Extern Program open to first-year medical students. For six weeks, students are assigned to various clinical faculty to assist with ongoing research projects.

In 2017, eight of the 10 students selected were from WVSOM. Students presented their research at a Young Researchers Forum in July at CAMC. Participants included:

2. Jason Gilbert, OMS II. “The Use of Beta Blockers for Heart Failure Patients without COPD”
3. Lance Workman, OMS II. “Emergency Room Visits and Hospital Readmission Rates after Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer at CAMC”
4. Meg Riley, OMS II. “Congenital Heart Defects in West Virginia: Incidence and Teratogenic Effects”
5. Carly Heatherly, OMS II. “Cardiovascular Outcomes of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement”
6. Paul Singh, OMS II. “MRSA Nares Swab to Guide De-escalation of Empiric Vancomycin Cage in Hospital Acquired Pneumonia”
7. Loc Tran, OMS II. “Procalcitonin as a Marker of Sepsis and Bacterial Infection in Critically Ill Children”
8. Taylor George, OMS II. “Incidence and Predictors of Surgical Site Infections after Lower Extremity Vascular Bypass”

Delmar placed first in competition

Second-year student Kayla King Delmar placed first for her poster entitled “Processes and barriers related to medication reconciliation in a rural West Virginia primary care clinic.” Delmar presented the poster at the 13th annual West Virginia Geriatrics Society Scientific Assembly in September at the University of Charleston. She won the opportunity to have up to $1,200 applied to her travel to the American Geriatrics Society Meeting, taking place May 3-5, in Orlando, Fla. WVSOM authors also included on the poster were Jill Cochran, Ph.D., APRN, C-FNP and Tina Plaugher, M.S.

Students competed at WVOMA

WVSOM students participated in the Student Showcase Poster Competition on Nov. 4 at the West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association meeting at The Greenbrier Resort. Eighteen posters were entered into the competition. Winners were:

FIRST PLACE: Joshua Van Allen, OMS II, Rinata Azizbayeva, OMS III, Hung Wen Lin, Ph.D. and Jake Neumann, Ph.D. “Palmitic acid methyl ester induced neuroprotection”

SECOND PLACE: Lindsey Kent, OMS III and Corey Robinson, Ph.D. “Growth of Borrelia burgdorferi in human serum: variance in host susceptibility”

THIRD PLACE: Aaron Hagg, OMS II and Peter Ward, Ph.D. “Encountering the chondroepitrochlearis muscle in the gross anatomy lab”

Golden awarded first place

Jennifer Golden, OMS IV was awarded first place for her poster “The Effects of Mindfulness on Anxiety and Academic Goals in Medical Students” at the Academy of Integrative Pain Management Conference. Coauthors included Michael Blahut, OMS IV, Alexandra Collado, OMS IV, Lance Ridpath and Deborah Schmidt, D.O.
Faculty hires

Hilary Hamric, D.O.
Assistant professor clinical sciences
Dr. Hamric began working at WVSOM July 24. She is a 2014 WVSOM graduate and completed her pediatric residency at West Virginia University Hospitals. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from West Virginia University. Hamric has experience as a pediatric trauma coordinator, as well as a pediatric transport nurse. She has also been involved with many community outreach activities, including the Southeastern Area Health Education Center and Mini-Medical School.

Gabor Szalai, Ph.D.
Associate professor microbiology/immunology
Dr. Szalai began working at WVSOM July 10. He received his Ph.D. in immunogenetics from the Technical University of Budapest in Hungary, then became an assistant professor and postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Biochemistry and Food Technology at the same institution. Following his further postdoctoral research and research assistant and associate professor positions at the University of South Carolina, he was the director of the USC Peromyscus Genetic Stock Center for nine years, leading research projects in cryopreservation, genetic mapping and epilepsy. He was most recently the genetics manager at Taconic Biosciences in Albany, N.Y.

James W. Nemitz, Ph.D.
named next WVSOM president
The WVSOM Board of Governors selected James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., as the medical school’s next president. Nemitz, who has been employed with WVSOM for the past 31 years and currently serves as the school’s vice president for administration and external relations, will begin his role on July 1. Nemitz will be WVSOM’s seventh president.

“I am truly honored to be selected as the next president of WVSOM. This is a place that I’ve devoted a majority of my career, it’s a place that I love with all my heart and it’s a place that I deeply care about,” Nemitz said after his announcement.
Classified Staff raised money to honor Anna Marie Counts

The Classified Staff hosted a soup and sandwich fundraiser to honor the late Anna Marie Counts in October at the Roland P. Sharp Alumni Conference Center. The luncheon and silent auction raised $1,424. Funds went toward purchasing a bench on campus in Counts’ memory. An additional $795 was donated to go directly to the bench. Sponsorship of a campus bench is $1,500. The Classified Staff voted to put the remaining balance of the money toward a scholarship in Counts’ name.

Schmidt traveled to Bratislava

Deborah Schmidt, D.O., associate professor, represented AACOM at the 2017 Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine - Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT) Expo in October in Bratislava, Slovakia. SNOMED CT is a standardized, multilingual vocabulary of clinical terminology that is used by physicians and other health care providers for the electronic exchange of clinical health information. Schmidt and John Garlitz, D.O. have been working with AACOM via Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP) to make sure that the Glossary of Osteopathic Terminology is accurately represented in SNOMED CT.

Photo courtesy of Deborah Schmidt, D.O.

Boudreaux received grant

Crystal Boudreaux, Ph.D. received a $30,000 research grant from the West Virginia Institutional Development Award, Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (WV-INBRE) for her project “Role of serine/threonine kinase interaction protein during rotavirus replication.”

Ward elected secretary

Peter Ward, Ph.D. was elected secretary of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists for a three-year term.
WVSOM launched the Take A Seat campaign. By claiming where you sat in the WVSOM classrooms, you will have the opportunity to leave a legacy of your time spent at WVSOM – where your journey began. In doing so, you will support future students through the WVSOM Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund, creating a lasting legacy for the donor in one of the most utilized areas on campus.

CLAIM YOUR PLACE TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
Contact the Office of Alumni Relations
alumni@osteo.wvsom.edu • 304-647-6373

EXPLOR E YOUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:
Family Medicine Faculty
Medical Physiology Faculty
Microbiology Faculty
Pathology Faculty
Pharmacology Faculty
Psychiatry Faculty
Assistant Dean for Assessment and Educational Development

WVSOM.edu/employment
Leslie Bicksler,
Associate Vice President of Human Resources
304.647.6279
WVSOM is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to enhancing diversity among its faculty and staff.
A lot has happened at WVSOM lately. The Student Center is in full operation. Dr. Michael Adelman has announced his retirement. The Board of Governors has selected Jim Nemitz, Ph.D. as WVSOM’s next president beginning July 1. Finally, my term of office as your Alumni Association president is ending and Rob Olexo, D.O. was elected to replace me.

With all that has been going on, I have been thinking about WVSOM’s mission. As we go forward, how do we maintain our position as a leader in primary care? How do we continue to produce the best osteopathic physicians in the world in the face of rising costs and physician shortages? How do we grow?

My answer came as I was working — doing what my school taught me to do. A patient came to the ED [emergency department] and we were surprised to see her because several weeks before we endotracheally intubated her and flew her to a tertiary care center. She had respiratory failure and severe COPD. We did not expect her to survive. It was a pleasant surprise to see her alive (though not well.) She had no family to care for her and could not care for herself, including meal preparation and basic toileting.

As I examined her, I realized that it was her birthday and she was with strangers. When I made this, and my plan known, my staff sprang into action. A quick trip to the local grocery store yielded the needed supplies and shortly we were standing at her bedside with a cake and other party supplies belting out a loud, albeit off-key rendition of “Happy Birthday.” (I was more off-key than most.)

The broad, edentulous smile on her freshly scrubbed face and the pure delight in her eyes told me the impromptu party had really touched her. She even shed a few tears. Arrangements were made for admission and eventual placement to care for her needs. She knew that even in the midst of loneliness, someone cared about her.

That’s when it hit me. The secret to fulfilling WVSOM’s mission is not in numbers or money or politics or even “bricks and mortar.” The secret is caring about people, one individual at a time. It is physicians and professors who care about students enough to make sure they have the best medical and scientific knowledge available. It is clinicians who are passionate about applying that knowledge correctly. It is about caring for people as individuals and wanting the best for them. It is about modeling that caring for the physicians we train. Yes, it may even be about putting your dignity aside for a moment to make a patient smile by singing an off-key song.

That is the secret to WVSOM’s past, present and continued success. Caring is why D.O.s make a difference. That is how we will fulfill our mission.

It has been my honor to be your Alumni Association president and I remain;

Respectfully yours,

Mark Waddell, D.O.
WVSOM Class of 1990
President, WVSOM Alumni Association
Jessica Smith-Kelly, D.O., Class of 2012

Alumna exemplifies WVSOM mission

Jessica Smith-Kelly, D.O. is a good role model of the type of graduate WVSOM aspires to educate. The Class of 2012 graduate entered WVSOM as an out-of-state student, became a graduate teaching assistant in osteopathic principles and practice (OPP), secured a residency spot in primary care and has since returned to Lewisburg to practice medicine and teach WVSOM students.

“I knew that I wanted to teach osteopathic manipulation in a school setting, so when I was nearing the end of my residency I was applying for Plus One residency and they were getting ready to start one here. I found out that WVSOM was going to have an opening for OPP faculty. I thought, ‘well that’s kind of my dream job,’ so I applied,” Smith-Kelly said.

Her 10-year, long-term plan for herself was expedited once she completed her Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Plus One (NMM/OMM +1) residency at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center. Smith-Kelly has been a faculty member at WVSOM for a little more than a year. She said that her work as a graduate teaching assistant (GTA) in her third and fourth year of studies helped solidify the decision to eventually become a teacher.

“Before, I never thought I would want to teach,” the internal medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine physician said. “When I was a GTA I may not have been able to explain techniques well, but I could say ‘put your hands here’ and I could explain techniques through palpation and sensation. Seeing students finally get a concept and having that light bulb go off was very rewarding. It made me start to think that I really liked the teaching aspect.”

Smith-Kelly said that being completely hands-on in terms of explaining OPP to students is the best way she knows to encourage students to integrate the skill in everyday practice.

“I love osteopathic manipulation. I use it pretty much every single day in my own practice. To have such an awesome tool that we learn as part of our training — I think everybody should get the opportunity to learn it to the best of their ability.

“I’ve had students say to me, ‘wow you just had a patient with high blood pressure and sinuses and you were able to do manipulation.’ I think when people realize they can become proficient enough with their hands to be able to incorporate OMT in a practice they’re more willing to use it and more willing to practice it,” she said.

“I try to remind students that they have this extra skillset, where it doesn’t matter what field they’re going into, but they can find a way to utilize it pretty easily for themselves.”

The Colorado native is the first to admit that she oftentimes has a somewhat unconventional way of performing OMT techniques. She relies mostly on what her hands tell her. She also has to adjust techniques that are more difficult to execute based on her height.

“Once you have a basic understanding of the mechanics of how the body works you can utilize that in how you see fit. Using those skills you have with your hands and being able to think, ‘this doesn’t feel right,’ can tell you a lot,” she explained. “I’m also a little shorter so I’ve had to modify a few techniques to be able to perform them. You have to do that sometimes so you don’t hurt yourself. If you’re seeing positive benefits and the patients are getting better that’s the ultimate end goal.”

Smith-Kelly’s patients must be satisfied with the care they receive
“I love osteopathic manipulation.

I use it pretty much every single day in my own practice. To have such an awesome tool that we learn as part of our training — I think everybody should get the opportunity to learn it to the best of their ability.”

- Jessica Smith-Kelly, D.O.
About 170 alumni, physicians ‘Learn by the Sea’ at annual CME

It’s better to learn by the sea.

That was the theme of the annual Summer Seminar CME in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where 172 alumni and other health care professionals attended continuing medical education sessions, which took place June 14-17 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 is also an event that provides a relaxed schedule and family-friendly environment.

John Hibler, D.O., Class of 1979, was a speaker and session attendee. He said that he has attended a majority of the alumni sponsored CMEs at Myrtle Beach and this year’s presentations were some of the best regarding subject matter.

“I would strongly recommend this conference to any alumni or other D.O.s or M.D.s who enjoy the setting of Myrtle Beach.”

- John Hibler, D.O., Class of 1979

The next Summer Seminar will take place JUNE 13-16, 2018.
“I would strongly recommend this conference to any alumni or other D.O.s or M.D.s who enjoy the setting of Myrtle Beach,” he said.

Sixteen presentations were offered to seminar attendees. Presenters discussed a range of subjects such as practical topics for primary care physicians, opioid addiction, osteopathic approaches to neck pain, urological case studies, new thoughts on psoriasis, sexually transmitted infections, pediatric rashes, and a pulmonology review.

**WVSOM Faculty and Physician Presenters Were:**

Elaine Soper, Ph.D.  
Ginamarie Foglia, D.O.  
Emily Boothe, D.O.  
Jessica Smith-Kelly, D.O.  
Andy Naymick, D.O.  
Faith Payne, D.O.  
John Lackey, D.O.  
Billie Jean Crigger, D.O.  
Michael Nicholas, D.O.  
John Hibler, D.O.  
Manuel Ballas, D.O.  
Jennifer Bailey, D.O.  
Robert Pepper, D.O.  
Andrea Nazar, D.O.  
Maple Landvoigt, M.D.

The Family Picnic Reception took place June 14 at the Palmettos Pavilion where alumni and their families enjoyed a buffet, magic entertainment for children provided by WVSOM President Michael Adelman, D.O., and Jim Nemitz, Ph.D., who showed kids different science experiments. A towel origami was part of the reception and a number of raffle prizes were distributed by the WVSOM Foundation, who sponsored the reception.

The seminar was sponsored by the WVSOM Alumni Association.
1979
Scott Keller, D.O., FAAFP, traveled to Kosovo to sign a doctors exchange agreement through the Ministry of Health and the Dekalb Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia. While in that rebuilding eastern European country, Keller and his medical team, along with several Kosovar physicians, delivered much needed health care to rural mountain villages. This effort grew out of the refugee clinic that Keller directs in Clarkston, Ga., considered to be “the most culturally diverse square mile in the U.S.”

1983
Gregory Burnette, D.O., is serving a seven-year term as a commissioner for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. This position is appointed by the West Virginia governor, is confirmed by the West Virginia Senate and is one of seven commissioners who are responsible for season dates and limits for game and fish species in the state.

1984
Robert Gum, D.O., MPH, is completing his fourth deployment to Puerto Rico as the chief medical officer for the National Disaster Medical System. He arrived just after Hurricane Irma and survived Hurricane Maria. Prior to being in Puerto Rico, Gum was in Louisiana and Texas for Hurricane Harvey.

1985
Thomas Gibbs, D.O., is the medical director of a new drug and alcohol detox unit that opened Oct. 30, 2017 — the CommQuest-Alliance Detox Unit in Alliance, Ohio. He is also the medical director for RecOR in Massillon, Ohio, which focuses treatment on opiate addiction, both intensive outpatient and residential treatment.

1988
Richard Durham, D.O., and his wife, Linda, wanted to share that their son, Jonathan Durham, graduated in July 2017 with a master’s degree in music scoring for film, television and video games from the Berklee College of Music in Valencia, Spain. He also has a bachelor of music in songwriting from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. Jonathan is pursuing a doctorate.

1989
Patricia Arnett, D.O., lost her husband on March 6, 2017. She is coping by traveling to incredible locations such as India, Thailand and Bali.

Mark Mitchell, D.O., FACOPED, FACEP, relocated from Chicago to Florida where he is the emergency department medical director at Adventura Hospital and Medical Center — a Level II Trauma Center located just north of Miami with an annual volume of 75,000 and an emergency medicine residency program.

Paul Thompson, D.O., is the director of obstetrical anesthesiology at Lenox Hill Hospital/NorthWell Health in New York City.

1991
Randall Steffens, D.O., is the CEO/medical director for StallantHealth, a certified Rural Health Center, 21 provider, multi-specialty group on the campus of Weimar Institute in Weimar, Calif.

1992
Col. David Romine, D.O., MPH, is serving as command surgeon, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, Headquarters, Department of the Army, the Pentagon. Romine is the human factors lead on the premier Army team for preventing loss of life and equipment. He is one of two master flight surgeons in the Army, boarded in both aerospace medicine and family medicine, and maintains an active OMT consultative service for soldiers. He is a graduate medical education adjunct faculty teaching osteopathic medicine to residents and medical students across three specialties.

1993
Marla Haller, D.O., was named the WVSOM Statewide Campus regional assistant dean for the Central West Region. In this role, Haller will monitor the progress and performance of students based within the Central West Region, and will serve as the chief academic, administrative, financial and public relations liaison for WVSOM in that region.

Rhonda Hamm, D.O., announced that construction has started on the Spring Forth Healing Center. The center is located on the Greenbrier River Trail and will offer therapeutic retreats with psychiatric, recreational and nature therapy. It will offer an osteopathic approach to healing of the body, mind and spirit and will have a health care provider only program to address burnout.

1996
Kelli Ward, D.O., MPH, FACOPED, FAOAME, is the presumed Republican nominee in her race for the U.S. Senate.

1997
Tom Bowden, D.O., celebrated the 16th year of Charleston Internal Medicine, Inc., which he founded in 2001. The facility has grown to nine medical providers, consisting of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and a hospitalist. The office was renovated to include cardiac stress labs, Echo/US lab, a retina imaging room, five additional exam rooms for a total of 16 exam rooms and full lab. The facility also completed Performance Year One in the Aledade WV ACO and was awarded a significant payment for the quality and cost performance.

1998
Karen Snider, D.O., FAAO, FNAOME, was inducted as a fellow in the National Association of Osteopathic Medical Educators in April 2017 at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Conference.

1999
Philip Chua, D.O., was named hospitalist director at Davis Medical Center.

2000
Shane Scott, D.O., and his colleagues opened the Internal Medicine & Pediatric Clinic, a 17,000 square foot primary care clinic in his hometown of New Albany, Miss. Scott is board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics.

2001
Catherine Chua, D.O., was named chief medical officer of Davis Health Systems. She completed a fellowship in population health management in 2016-2017 with the American Hospital Association-American Medical Group Association (AHA-AMGA) and graduated from the Intermountain Health System Advanced Training Program.
2003

Chad Adkins, D.O., was awarded the 2016 Primary Care Outstanding Preceptor Award for the WVSOM Statewide Campus South Central Region.

G. Michael Gould, D.O., was named chief medical officer of Burke Primary Care in Morganton, N.C.

Ray Hayes, D.O., was named the medical director of the Neonatal Transport team at the Janet Weis Children’s Hospital, Geisinger Medical Center.

2004

Josalyn Mann, D.O., was named the WVSOM Statewide Campus regional assistant dean for the Central East Region. In this role, Mann will monitor the progress and performance of students based within the Central East Region, and will serve as the chief academic, administrative, financial and public relations liaison for WVSOM in that region.

2005

B.J. Belcher, D.O., FAAP, has a new job as the lead pediatric hospitalist for Capstone Pediatrics in Nashville, Tenn.

2006

Jessica Castonguay, D.O., MPH, completed a one-year fellowship program at Northeast Ohio Medical University. The fellowship, in academic medicine, has two tracks: teaching and leadership. She participated in the teaching track, which included designing a teaching tool or redesigning a curriculum. She was awarded the Most Innovative Project for the two tracks for the academic year and has been accepted into the leadership track for next year.

Kristin Bowman, D.O., was named the medical director of Amedisys Hospice Services (AHS) in Bluefield, W.Va. after serving as associate medical director for four years. AHS assists Mercer, McDowell and Wyoming counties with both outpatient and inpatient hospice services.

2007

Hilary (Foster) Basham, D.O., was awarded the Bedford Memorial Hospital Physician of the Year. She was also elected president of the medical executive committee for Bedford Memorial Hospital for 2018-2020. BMH is located in Bedford, Va., and is a part of Centra Health.

Hamad Husainy, D.O., is the CEO of a new company, Sycamore Physician Contracting. Sycamore offers a new innovative way to hire physicians and nurses using technology and reduction of cost to the health care system.

2008

Dawn Ruminski, D.O., FS, is an active duty major and the Brigade Surgeon for the largest military police brigade in the Army. She is responsible for the health and readiness of more than 4,300 service members on five installations along the East Coast. Her command team submitted her for Army Female Physician Leader of the Year. Ruminski is addressing pain and is simultaneously making steps toward correcting the opioid dilemma facing the country. She has graduated from the Helms 300-hour physician acupuncture course, as well as Kinetacore’s Functional Dry Needling level one course. She has become an instructor for battlefield acupuncture. All of these adjuncts are non-narcotic means of pain control, which she uses daily in concert with OMT. She also took her preventive/aerospace medicine boards. She was crowned the Lifetime National Classis Miss Heart of the USA in November 2016. This is a pageant system that raises money for food and other non-perishables for food banks, churches and outreach organizations across the country.

2010

Sarah Volz, D.O., started working with Alaska Neonatology Associates and is heading up outreach medicine for the group.

2011

Tiffany Guglielmo-Roxby, D.O., was named the new chair of pediatrics for WVU Medicine Berkeley Medical Center. Guglielmo-Roxby is a pediatrician with Shenandoah Community Health Center in Martinsburg, W.Va., and has been a member of the medical staff since September 2015.

Colin Zhu, D.O., became one of 204 physicians to be board certified in lifestyle medicine — the first-ever certification in this field. His book, Thrive Medicine: How to Cultivate Your Desires and Elevate Your Life was released on Amazon on Dec. 15, 2017.

2012

James Brock, D.O., published his first peer-reviewed, scientific article entitled "Pleuropulmonary Blastoma, Type 1R." Brock is in his final year of pediatric pulmonology training at UC-Irvine.

Lori McCoy, D.O., opened the first direct primary care practice in Flatwoods, Ky., and the tri-state area in October 2017. The practice is called Advanced Primary Care.

Rameen Shafiee, D.O., was named vice chairman for the emergency department at Western Maryland Health System in Cumberland, Md.

Timothy Snow, D.O., matched for his first choice at Duke University Medical Center for bariatric and minimally invasive surgery fellowship for 2018-2019.

2013

Brittany Smirnov, D.O., finished her dermatology residency in 2017 and is practicing with Dermatology Associates of the Palm Beaches in West Palm Beach and Delray Beach, Fla. In other news, she and her husband, Michael Smirnov, Ph.D., welcomed their first child, Lev Constantine Smirnov.

2014

Christopher Tanga, D.O., worked on four different publications during his residency that were all published in 2017. He also had the privilege of presenting his most recent work on lower extremity arterial injuries at an international conference in Vienna, Austria. He won the “Young Investigator Award” at this conference, as it was a competitive presentation on an international stage.

Katherine Hedian, D.O., is working as a rural family practice physician at a federally-qualified health center in Esmont, Va.

2015

Elise Anderson, D.O., matched into a cardiology fellowship at West Virginia University/Charleston Area Medical Center.
**ENGAGEMENTS/MARRIAGES**

**2007**

**2009**

**2007 and 2012**

**2013**

**2015**

**2016**
Conley Coleman, D.O., married his wife, Christina, in 2017.

**BIRTHS**

**1986**
Andrew Gombash, D.O., welcomed his first grandchild into the family. His daughter, Dr. Sara Gombash-Lampe, and her husband, William, had a son, William Andrew Lampe.

**2005**
Cindy Lubinsky, D.O., celebrated the birth of her daughter on Nov. 12, 2017. Lubinsky obtained her certified wound specialist physician (CWSP) certificate on Nov. 18, 2017, and was approved to become a fellow of the American College of Family Physicians in March 2018.

**2006**
Chris Kennedy, D.O., and his wife, Michelle, welcomed a baby girl, Lillian Faith, on Aug. 14, 2017. Kennedy and Michelle were married on June 5, 2016.

**2008**
Ariz Anklesaria, D.O., and his wife, Amy, announced the birth of their son, Azdyn, born Nov. 9, 2017. Azdyn joins big sister, Amila.
Carrie (Crigger) Tavelli, D.O., and husband, James, announced the birth of their second son, Owen Matthew, born Nov. 24, 2017.

**2009 and 2010**

**2010**
Kelly (Tanceusz) Ternes, D.O., and her husband had a baby girl, Madison Anne, on July 4, 2017.

**2010 and 2011**

**2011**
David Silber, D.O., and his wife, Lina, welcomed a son, Austin Silber, on Sept. 10, 2017.

**2012**
Nicole Philips, D.O., and Jamie Lively, D.O., welcomed a baby girl, Thea Anne Lively, on Nov. 29, 2017.

**RETIREMENTS**

**1981**
Rick Foutch, D.O., retired as a full bird colonel in the U.S. Army.

**1984**
Bob Must, D.O., retired and is now busy with a nonprofit organization that he helped found, the Yew Mountain Center.

**1985**
Michael Brackenrich, D.O.

**1986**
Susan Osborne, D.O.

**1988**
Paula Gregory, D.O.

**1996**
Louis DeMicco, D.O.

**1997**
Jennifer Ravenscroft, D.O.

**2000**
Paula Martin, D.O.

**2001**
Virgil Kenneda, D.O.

**2003**
Amy Brown, D.O., Jessica Lucas, D.O.
Tad Lucas, D.O.

**2004**
Cindy Armstead, D.O.

**2006**
Christy Campbell-Smalley, D.O., Ryan Fitzwater, D.O.

**2007**
Ronbir Biswas, D.O., Phillip Cox, D.O.

**2008**
Jill Gherman, D.O.

**2009**
Amos Lane, D.O., Clarissa Renken, D.O.

**2010**
Michael Brackman, D.O.

**2011**

**2012**
Rene Brown, D.O., Matthew Davis, D.O., Lori McCoy, D.O.

**2013**
Deborah Mathis, D.O.

**2014**
Zachary Halsey, D.O.

**2017**
Shannon Armistead, D.O., Julianne Corcoran, D.O.

**IN MEMORY OF**

**1984**
John D. Wargo, D.O., passed away on July 25, 2016. Wargo was a graduate of South Allegheny High School and graduated from Alderson Broaddus University before attending WVSOM. He had a lifelong passion for medicine and was a bodybuilding enthusiast.

**2001**
Frank Poland, D.O., passed away on Jan. 5, 2018. Dr. Poland received his undergraduate degree from Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, W.Va. He was a loyal employee to Dermatology & Associates in Princeton and was the owner of Prompt Care in Daniels. Dr. Poland is survived by his wife Heather, four children and one granddaughter.
I sat across the table from Allan Roberts, Ph.D. and Jim Wells, Ph.D., waiting on the interview process to begin, as an eager applicant desiring approval from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine acceptance committee. As is custom in medical school interviews, I was asked, “Why do you want to become a doctor?”

Without hesitation I followed with the stereotypical answer of, “I want to help people.”

Dr. Roberts pushed farther and said, “Why do you really want to become a doctor?”

I looked down at the table, then back up to him. Finally speaking from my heart, I replied, “I’ve seen illness, and I’ve witnessed suffering. My mother has terminal breast cancer, and when I was 13, my father was stricken with Guillain–Barré syndrome and was hospitalized for 12 weeks. I want to ease suffering; I want to help others. I want to hold their hands when they hurt, when they cry and when I can’t do anything else, I want them to know that someone cares.”

I could tell by the smile on Dr. Roberts’ face that I had said the right thing.

During my four years of medical school, I experienced the death of my mother (breast cancer), father-in-law (colon cancer) and best friend (myocardial infarction). As rotations progressed and then internship and residency, I witnessed illness, suffering and hurt. Yet, I also was blessed to see joy, hope, laughter, friendship and love. Since then, I have kept my promise to Dr. Roberts to laugh, cry, hug, pray and to sit there quietly and hold patients’ hands when words do not serve justice for their suffering. I am now, and have been for the past 21 years, a practicing family medicine physician in a small town of Troy, Ala.

I feel that in my heart this philosophy of compassion still holds true. With the ever-increasing awareness of physician burnout, more and more clinicians are losing interest in their respected fields. Physicians face MIPS, Macros, meaningful use, patient medical centered home, joint commission and HRSA audits. Clinicians are disgruntled by EMRs and the burden of the opioid crisis. On a daily basis, physicians battle HMOs, insurance carriers, Medicare and Medicaid denials. Yet, through it all, the desire and need to show empathy and kindness to patients remains. I remind myself not to get flustered with EMRs, insurance carriers and the checking of boxes to meet criteria so deemed by the appropriate entity. Physicians must be the patient’s advocates when they are most needed. The cause of caring and being compassionate is why I must endeavor to be that advocate.

I make sure to celebrate small accomplishments with patients (ex. 3 pounds weight loss during a month’s span, drop of A1C from 9 to 8). I try to be less critical of their setbacks. When a patient passes on, I still cry. I still remember the joy of delivering babies during residency and the excitement of holding new life.

I want to encourage patients, to be their coach, their advocate and most of all, their friend.

Ben Allen Smith, D.O., FFAFP, medical director at Southeast Alabama Rural Health Associates
WVSOM Class of 1992

“I want to encourage patients, to be their coach, their advocate and most of all, their friend.”
We have reached $127,334 in gifts toward the tower goal of $250,000. With an overall alumni participation rate of 8.6 percent 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.

As of Jan. 20, 2018

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Percent of class that has donated and donation totals as of Jan. 20, 2018.

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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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STUDENT CENTER

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Dining Lounge ($125,000)
Open Student Study Lounge ($100,000)
Campus Store ($100,000)
Amphitheater ($100,000)
Student Promenade ($50,000)
Four Student Government/Student Affairs 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)

CEC

12 Robot Labs ($35,000 each)
22 Standardized Patient Labs ($25,000 each)

TO DISCUSS A GIFT OPPORTUNITY, 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
The WVSOM Foundation ended the 2017 calendar year well, as we reached our $100,000 Annual Fund goal. We are grateful to the many businesses and individuals that contributed to this fund that enables us to have unrestricted dollars to provide necessary resources to many areas of need at WVSOM.
We would especially like to thank our Annual Fund partners, businesses and organizations that have made a five-year commitment to support our foundation at a higher level of giving. Our current Annual Fund partners are Haven Ltd., Little General Stores, Davis Eye Center, Manchin Clinic, West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association, West Virginia State Medical Society, Premier Bank and BB&T. We invite other entities that share the values of WVSOM’s mission to join us by contributing to the Annual Fund. We are also thankful to Dr. Angela Pendelton and Dr. Michael Antolini, both members of the Class of 2012, for serving as co-chairs of the campaign.

Unrestricted dollars are the most difficult for any nonprofit organization to raise, but they are essential for us to meet our mission of supporting the school and our students. Gifts to the Annual Fund provide us with resources that can be used to support external learning opportunities like mission trips, D.O. Day on the Hill, guest lecturers, community outreach projects or Money Matters for Medical Students. They also provide funds for the Student Emergency Fund to assist students with unforeseen personal emergencies. In addition, 25 percent of each gift to the Annual Fund goes to build the Cheryl and Michael Adelman Endowment as an investment for future use. As Dr. Michael Adelman prepares to retire in 2018, we encourage alumni and friends of WVSOM to honor the many contributions that he and his wife, Cheryl, have made to WVSOM by recognizing them through a gift to the Annual Fund.

The WVSOM Foundation has also been actively building a new financial assistance program to help underwrite the cost of medical education. The cost of medical education has created a tremendous burden of debt for our students and we hope to help provide an alternative solution. We are working to build a large endowment by seeking contributions from hospitals and other health care related businesses to provide financial assistance to students who will then make a commitment to return to work in their communities. We have identified a number of prospects who are interested in this opportunity because they share our values and want to attract high quality, caring WVSOM graduates who will serve as providers in their regions. Alumni and friends affiliated with organizations who may be interested in this arrangement should contact the WVSOM Foundation to schedule a presentation to learn how they can participate.

In addition, the WVSOM Foundation is excited about the selection of a new president and looks forward to working with our friend, Dr. Jim Nemitz, to develop new opportunities to enhance our resources to support the student experience at WVSOM. We welcome him to this new leadership position.

As we move forward in 2018 and beyond, we invite you to become involved with the WVSOM Foundation and make a difference through gifts of your time, talent and treasure. If you are already one of our many active donors, THANK YOU! If not, we would love for you to join our team. We value gifts of any amount, and there are many ways to give. We accept contributions by mail, online, through transfers of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, estate planning and more. We are also always looking for individuals who would like to work alongside us to spread the word about WVSOM and help us with fundraising and philanthropy efforts. If you are interested in the WVSOM Foundation and would like to discuss how you might contribute, please call me and let’s talk about the best way for you to become involved.

Heather Antolini,
Director of Institutional Development
“I have been a strong supporter of the school because without the opportunity it gave me I would not be a physician today,” the 1989 graduate said. Dailey practices pediatrics for the Coplin Health System in Parkersburg, W.Va. “After leaving the school to pursue my career as a pediatrician, I never lost sight of how I got there. I returned to the school to teach and practice for a short while and have never lost my love for the school.”

Her four-year medical school experience and support she received from educators in achieving her personal goal to be a physician are reasons she in turn helps WVSOM fulfill its overall goals and mission.

“I believe in paying it forward,” Dailey said. “Donating to our school just seems natural. I started a scholarship in memory of my brother, Randy Dailey, and then continued to participate in most of the campaign projects at the school. I believe it’s important for our alumni to return to the school to witness its amazing transformation. Seeing the transformation to a first-class medical school has been an incredible journey … In order to continue this progress, I encourage all alumni, and particularly the Class of 1989, to donate in order to continue the progress that has been made and to keep our institution strong and competitive.”

Dailey doesn’t just give financially. She has committed a lot of time and energy to contribute to WVSOM’s success by serving as a board member to the alumni association and currently to the foundation board.

Dailey is currently the secretary for the foundation board and serves as the Continuing Education Committee chair. She is also a member of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee and most recently the Scholarship Committee. In her role on the board, she helps recruit donors and acts as a steward for the money that is managed.

But making financial contributions and volunteering her time to the foundation’s board wasn’t enough for Dailey. She always seems to take it one step further to spread the word about WVSOM. Several years ago, she hosted an event in Parkersburg along with WVSOM leaders to increase awareness and encourage community support of the school.

“My family and I hosted an event to engage and...
“It is difficult to continue to effectively produce new graduates who want to pursue primary care due to the amount of debt medical students incur. Whatever we can do to assist we must, and this begins with donating.”

encourage our graduates to learn how the school has grown and what it has to offer,” she said, adding that it was a great opportunity to offer information to alumni about how the school has evolved and how dedicated it is to educating physicians to practice in primary care.

“Medicine is changing at such a fast pace and the cost has increased as well,” Dailey said. “It is difficult to continue to effectively produce new graduates who want to pursue primary care due to the amount of debt medical students incur. Whatever we can do to assist we must, and this begins with donating.”

In addition to the scholarship given to a student annually in memory of her brother, Dailey has made financial contributions to WVSOM as a capital campaign donor by purchasing a room in the Clinical Evaluation Center, a sponsor for Grand Affair and as a supporter of student clubs with donations to the DOCARES mission trips. She has also supported the foundation’s annual fund and the alumni association’s various fundraisers, the Tower Campaign, White Coat Club and President’s Challenge Campaign.

Dailey’s total giving to WVSOM places her on the Lifetime Donor list in the Founder’s Club level.

**CHERYL AND MICHAEL Adelman Endowment**

The best way for donor donations and the foundation’s support for WVSOM students to maintain excellence.

Gifts can be made to the Annual Fund in honor of Drs. Adelman through any of the following methods:

**BY MAIL:**
Send checks made payable to WVSOM Foundation (Note Adelman Annual Fund Gift in the memo) to:
WVSOM Foundation
400 Lee Street North
Lewisburg, WV, 24901

**BY PHONE:**
304-647-6374

**ONLINE:**
www.wvsomfoundation.org
Click “DONATE NOW”
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 2017.

Thank you for helping WVSOM raise more than $25,000 for student scholarships

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Give Today
Contact Heather Antolini
304.647.6374
www.wvsomfoundation.org
hantolini@osteo.wvsom.edu

WVSOM Foundation continues to grow resources for the benefit of our students through several giving programs and opportunities, such as
- Student Scholarship Funds and Endowments
- Annual Fund
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- Planned Giving

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GMS alumni returned to campus

Greenbrier Military School (GMS) alumni honored their alma mater for their annual reunion on Oct. 19-21 in Lewisburg. Friday evening, members of the former military school gathered on campus for the flag ceremony. Before the ceremony, alumni took the opportunity to reconnect with old classmates and share memories of their time spent at the school.

The local JROTC participated in the ceremony and four members honored the school by wearing GMS uniforms. Greenbrier East High School marching band provided the music.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT WVSOM?

For 43 years. I began Nov. 18, 1974, when WVSOM was the Greenbrier College of Osteopathic Medicine.

WHAT CITY/TOWN ARE YOU ORIGINALLY FROM?

Durbin, W.Va. (Pocahontas County)

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

The front porch of the main building. I’m partial to the main building since I’ve worked in it from the beginning of my employment. I have enjoyed sitting on the front porch on break or at lunch with co-workers, solving all of the world’s problems.

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE OR FUNNY MEMORIES AT WVSOM?

I can’t think of just one, but to have been a part of WVSOM’s growth and see the many changes take place on campus — the beautiful buildings constructed and the growth within the program — is a wonderful feeling. I have worked with the best of the best — from presidents to staff.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT WVSOM (AS AN INSTITUTION OR AS AN EMPLOYER) THAT HAS MADE YOU WANT TO WORK HERE FOR SO LONG?

I’ve stayed so long because I’m happy in my job. There were changes with each new president so the job would vary to some extent, but I didn’t feel that I was doing the same work all the time. WVSOM is an ideal place to work with great benefits and I wanted to stay close to family.

TELL US SOMETHING WE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU OR AN INTERESTING FACT.

I didn’t know what an osteopathic physician was when I applied for a job in 1974. I looked it up so I could at least sound a little informed. Dr. Roland Sharp had always been our family physician in Pocahontas County, but I had no clue he was an osteopathic physician. He was just “Dr. Sharp.”

CHERYL BAKER TIDBITS:

- Has worked with every WVSOM president since the school’s inception
- Her son, Kevin, was born on graduation day in 1985. Obviously, she didn’t attend graduation that year!
- Has taken minutes at approximately 100 Board of Governors meetings, and still uses shorthand in taking minutes
- Her first job at WVSOM was in the admissions department
WVSOM POINTS OF PRIDE

20th Consecutive Year
WVSOM was ranked one of the nation’s top medical schools for the 20th consecutive year.
U.S. News & World Report

No. 1
WVSOM is No. 1 in providing primary care physicians for West Virginia.
W.Va. HEPC Health Sciences Report Card

No. 1
WVSOM is No. 1 in the nation graduating primary care physicians who practice in rural Appalachia.
Academic Medicine

No. 1
WVSOM is No. 1 in the nation among all medical schools graduating physicians who practice in rural areas.
Academic Medicine

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING | SUMMER | FALL

May 26  
GRADUATION

June 13-17  
SUMMER SEMINAR

August 25  
CONVOCATION/WHITE COAT CEREMONY

August 23-26  
ALUMNI WEEKEND

November 3  
GRAND AFFAIR