

2008 Annual Chapter Report

Sigma Sigma Phi

Iota Chapter

Michigan State University

College of Osteopathic Medicine



COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICINE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Sigma Sigma Phi Convention 2008

Las Vegas, NV

Sunday, October 26, 2008

2008-2009 Officers

President: Syed Mohiuddin

Vice President: Sandra Larson

Secretary/Treasurer: Tim Larsen

Editor: Robert Marcotte

Faculty Advisor: Dr. John Thornburg, D.O.

2007-2008 Committee Chairpersons

Academics: Belsam Saif & Deena Nasr

Awards: Kiel Beltnick

Diversity: Bisi Alli

Finance: Zubair Ahammad

Induction: ShantiVirupannavar

Membership: vacant (formerly Joshua Koenig, but he resigned last week citing personal reasons)

Pledge/Rush: Nisha Hakhu

Osteopathic Medical Scholars: Zuie Wakade

Outreach: Steve Proper

Social: Rachel Gruner

Volunteer: Emma Rodgers

Membership for 2008-2009

Ahammad, Zubair	Koenig, Joshua	Rodgers, Emma
Alli, Bisi	Korolev, Igor	Runge, Rebecca
Beltnick, Kiel	Kousa, Youssef	Saif, Belsam
Beszka, Monica	Krier, Joshua	Saultz, Jennifer
Carp, Julia	Larsen, Tim	Stevenson, Ryan
Centilli, Michael	Larson, Sandra	Tuxhari, Snezhana
Collins, Brendan	Liu, Chyong-Jy Joyce	Virupannavar, Shanti
Filizetti, Chena	Maheshwari, Shweta	Wakade, Zuie
Freschauf, Amanda	Marcotte, Robert	Weemes, Kris
Garelik, Jessica	McGinnis, Stephen	Wittsock, Justyna
Gruner, Rachel	Mohiuddin, Syed	Wright, Shawna
Hakhu, Nisha	Nasr, Deena	
Jackson, Lisa	Organek, Natalie	
Kang, Stephanie	Proper, Steve	

Meetings

This year's meetings are held monthly during the noon hour, usually near the middle of the month. Each e-board member and committee chair is required to attend and submit an update. The updates are compiled and distributed to all members along with the agenda during each meeting. They are also sent out to the general body in advance of each meeting. Basic updates consist of in-progress/upcoming projects, and a list of involved members. These updates enable us to spend less time "updating" and more time actively discussing new and ongoing ideas, maximizing our time together.

Member Activities

- **Nothing But Nets Basketball Tournament**

This tournament was sponsored and SSP and co-supported by the American Medical Students Association CHM/COM chapters. We raised \$1000 to purchase 100 treated bed nets to send to Africa to help prevent the spread of malaria. The three-on-three tournament consisted of 12 teams (\$15 each) and numerous volunteers. Prizes were donated by a local sporting goods store (Playmakers) and gift certificates from a local restaurant.

- **Lansing Day**

We are currently planning a program to commemorate the city of Lansing with an emphasis on providing medical education and care to its patrons. This will include OMM and other medical services, motivational talks, and various giveaways. We want to honor, educate, and serve the underserved population of Lansing. We are currently seeking a major keynote speaker to increase participation such as MSU head basketball coach Tom Izzo.

- **Medical Mission Trip to Haiti**

A few SSP students will be visiting Haiti during their spring break this year. Each student will be paired with a local English-speaking physician, and they will serve Haitians at the Christianville Clinic. The SSP Mongolian Barbeque fundraiser is helping raise funds to send medicine and medical supplies with these students to Haiti.

Committee Activities

In order to maximize the chapter's output and ensure involvement of all of our members, eleven committees were formed based on community/school projects and administrative business. Each is headed by a chair who is in charge of their respective committee duties, members, and sub-committees that are created at their own discretion.

Academics Committee

- **Journal Club**

Sigma Sigma Phi has continued the tradition of Journal Club, where medical scientists can come and talk about new and upcoming research relevant to course curriculum. Professors are invited to give talks on research they have participated in that they feel will be beneficial for us to know as clinicians. Additionally, we also encourage current dual degree DO/PhD students to come and give a talk on research that they are currently involved in, as well as current students who have participated in research prior to their medical career here at MSUCOM.

- **Academic Tutoring**

The academics committee works closely with Study Buddies, a student services organization that organizes and recruits tutors for at-risk students. We coordinate and schedule tutoring for those that need to remediate classes, in addition to organized review sessions. Over the summer, we organized three "mock" Anatomy Practical Exams for the first years taking anatomy.

- **Weekly Boards Questions**

This year the Academic Committee is set to launch its newest component, weekly Boards review questions. Every week (including the holidays) from November through May, this committee will create (or distribute copyright-free) Boards questions to the second year class to promote ongoing review in preparation for COMLEX.

- **Microbiology Review Session Breakfast Bake Sale**

On Tuesday October 27th, while all first year COM and CHM students will be on campus (for a microbiology quiz), we will hold a bake sale. Tim Hortons Restaurant has donated 96 donuts and 180 coffee cups, and others have promised to bake goodies. All proceeds will be split between buying

supplies for the SSP Medical Mission Trip to Haiti and the local Boys and Girls Club of America. .

Membership Committee

This committee is developing fair and objective guidelines for the selection process based on grades, community service, and extracurricular activities. Applications for 2009 will be ready on January 2nd. Additionally, we will be hosting an informational session on November 3rd on how to fill out the SSP application so that the best assets of the candidate can be successfully emphasized.

Diversity Committee

The diversity committee was created to create a greater awareness of the various types of populations that we will be serving as physicians, be it based on ethnicity, religion, or disability.

- **Eastern High School Mentorship Program**

This program was launched by the diversity committee just a couple of weeks ago. All recruited student mentors were required to sign a letter of commitment to the program for the next three years. We will be working with local underserved high school 9th graders to help them with their academic and personal lives, and we will hopefully inspire them to achieve significantly beyond their school's 44% graduation rate.

- **Black History Month**

This committee has established a program to raise awareness of the role of African Americans in medicine, and we already committed a physician speaker who will discuss "the history of African Americans in medicine".

- **Diversity Panels**

Starting on November 15th, this committee will host a series of speakers and panels in order to increase awareness on how to treat patients from different ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds.

Finance Committee

- **Schuler's Gift Wrapping**

We will be gift wrapping for people at a local book store during the holiday season. All proceeds will be split between our organization and a local charity.

- **Medical Specialty Info Dinner**

We plan on inviting a few physicians of varying specialties to a local restaurant. Each physician will be at their own table, and tickets will be sold to sit on the table of the given physician to foster informal Q&A/social time with a specialist of interest for the student.

- **March Madness Tournament Bracket**

We will have a college-wide tournament with every person putting in \$5-10 into the pool, and the proceeds will go to the preferred charity of the winner and runner-up.

Induction Committee

After the selection process is complete and membership is announced during spring semester, members are initiated at the Induction Ceremony. The induction ceremony is a formal dinner event that celebrates membership into Sigma Sigma Phi. This year, we plan on holding the event off campus at a restaurant in Lansing.

Osteopathic Medical Scholars Committee

- **OMSP-SSP Mentor Program**

The OMSP-SSP mentor program is in its second year, where an SSP member is matched up with an Osteopathic Medical Scholar. The Osteopathic Medical Scholars Program was created for 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students at Michigan State University who are interested in a career in osteopathic medicine. Sigma Sigma Phi members serve as mentors, which is especially helpful during the medical school application process. In addition, we are also role models for aspiring Osteopathic medical students.

Outreach Committee

This committee is responsible for reaching out to the community and educating them on osteopathic medicine and osteopathic manipulation. We go to local high schools and recruit students who are interested in a career in Osteopathic Medicine, as well as attend college career fairs and represent MSUCOM and SSP. In fact, a major emphasis has been placed this year on reaching out to colleges throughout Michigan and the Midwest to raise osteopathic medical awareness. By the end of the year, we will have had 30 students give presentations at 12 universities in Michigan and also one in Indiana. Each student of the 30 students have already attended a training session we organized.

Pledge/Rush Committee

The Pledge/Rush committee is responsible for recruiting and welcoming new members to Sigma Sigma Phi. Every year, MSUCOM hosts an organization fair, where different clubs and student groups on campus can recruit members. The committee chair will also distribute SSP informational flyers to all first year's mailboxes in order to raise awareness about who we are and things we do.

Social Committee

- **Charity Event at BD Mongolian's BBQ benefiting an Orphanage in India**

India is a nation ravaged by extreme poverty and a deep lack of care for orphaned children. One of our members has been a lifelong donor to the orphanage, and in our effort to support the global health crisis, we decided to donate all of this year's proceeds from this charity to this orphanage.

Volunteer Committee

- **Stuff-A-Bus**

In this program, we will setup shop outside a local toy store and ask for new toy donations. We will also ask for all faculty, staff, and students to donate toys as we attempt to stuff-a-bus and distribute toys to the youth at a local homeless shelter and soup kitchen during the holiday season.

- **Ronald McDonald House “Family Dinner Night”**

This is one of our centerpiece activities scheduled for next semester, where we will cook dinner for families in need at the Ronald McDonald House. We will invite physician faculty to join us in this event.

- **Friendship Clinic**

Friendship Clinic is a student-run clinic that is jointly organized by MSUCOM and MSUCHM. The goal of the clinic is to provide basic healthcare to the underserved population of the Lansing area while giving first and second year medical students an opportunity to improve their clinical skills. Members present their findings and differential diagnoses to supervising physicians. Students are able to gain confidence in their clinical skills and network with local area physicians who are willing to volunteer their time.

Selection Criteria

Because MSUCOM is a pass/fail school, we value a candidate's participation in community service and extracurricular activities. The ideal Sigma Sigma Phi candidate has achieved the fine balance between academic excellence and dedication to the community, and that it was we are looking during the selection process. Candidates must have successfully passed all of their classes with Grades > 84%. In addition, the amount of extracurricular and community service involvement while at MSUCOM is strongly indicative of their ability to balance the challenges of first year medical school. Because many of our students had previous lives before medical school, we ask them to include any pertinent activities that may demonstrate their leadership skills and assets that they may contribute to Sigma Sigma Phi.

Additionally, applicants are required to write a one page essay, describing how they have best distinguished themselves in the MSUCOM community. They are also asked what contributions or talents they can add to SSP and the osteopathic profession, and what they hope to gain by becoming a member.

Member Requirements

Members are required to maintain excellent academic standing in all of their courses in addition to completing at least four hours of community service per semester. In the event that a member fails a class due to extenuating circumstances:

- The first time, they remain an active member, but must successfully complete remediation.
- The second time, membership is inactivated until remediation has been completed.
- The third time, membership is terminated immediately.

Conclusion

We have a wonderful group of students who are remarkably bright, diverse, and dedicated to MSUCOM and the osteopathic profession. Many of our projects have already been completed successfully, and our group looks forward to witnessing the growth of Sigma Sigma Phi here at MSUCOM. The Iota Chapter is proud to represent the academic excellence and dedication to community service here at MSUCOM, with extraordinary generosity and integrity.