



# VITAL SIGNS

The news beat of Midwestern University

FALL 2018

## MWU Students Celebrate Match Day

On the morning of Friday, March 16, students from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine gathered to open a letter. In Glendale, it's sunny and mild. In Wrigleyville, it's chilly. But in both locations, a collection of deceptively unremarkable envelopes contains long-anticipated news of these students' medical futures. After four years of rigorous studying, osteopathic medical students found out on "Match Day" where they will perform their residencies and in what specialty field. AZCOM and CCOM students opened their envelopes at approximately the same time as other graduating medical students throughout the U.S. and learned where they matched for their residency training out of a wide range of locations and various specialties. The training programs are highly competitive and students vie to fill coveted spots.

"I feel completely ecstatic and relieved," said Dean Karahalios (CCOM 2018), who matched in Pediatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, New York. "It's a little hard to process now. It just happened a few minutes ago, but I'm very excited."

For some students, the Match Day results were not a complete surprise.

A significant portion of each graduating class chooses to participate in the osteopathic match, which is held earlier in the year. "I did the D.O. match, so luckily this paper says what my email said a month ago," said Kelly Mackessy (CCOM 2018), who matched in surgery at Ohio Health Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. "I feel great. It was my number one choice. It's where I'm from and all my family is there, so I'm excited to be going home. All my surgery mentors are there so I'm very excited to go forward and be a surgeon."

In Arizona, Kyle and Caitlin Pipkin, both members of AZCOM's Class of 2018, waited nervously for the moment at 9:00 AM when Kyle could open his envelope and find out where he matched. Caitlin, who as a member of the U.S. Navy had already discovered her match results to Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia, was not sure whether she and her husband would be in the same region, let alone the same zip code. After Kyle opened his letter, he wordlessly turned to Caitlin and embraced her -- he had matched to Eastern Virginia Medical School Hospital in Pediatrics. "Now we know we'll get to live together!" Caitlin said happily.

This year, the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) celebrated its largest residency Match Day ever with more than 43,000 applicants from U.S. and international medical schools hoping to fill 31,757 positions.



Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine students rejoice after learning where they matched for their residency programs.

## INSIDE

## Students Provide Free Day of Kids' Dental Care



Students from the College of Dental Medicine-Illinois (CDMI) and the College of Dental Medicine-Arizona (CDMA) participated in the national Give Kids a Smile programs, providing free dental care and education to children in the community.

CDMI students partnered with the DuPage County Health Department Dental Clinic and the College of DuPage Dental Hygiene Program to provide screenings, dental sealants, prophylaxis, and addressed urgent care needs for nearly 100 children under the supervision of board-certified dentists.

Students and faculty from CDMA hosted nearly 200 local children and their families at the Midwestern University Dental Institute on the Glendale Campus, spending the morning providing treatments and educational materials to families to reinforce the importance of good dental hygiene.

Children in Illinois and Arizona received free dental care from dental students at Give Kids a Smile.

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# President's Message



Kathleen H. Goeppinger, Ph.D.  
*President and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Midwestern University*

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

I have talked about us being an academic community, like an extended family, ever since I accepted my position as your President and Chief Executive Officer 24 years ago. Never did I imagine that it would be all of you, my extended family extending to me your support, condolences, and understanding following the sudden and very unexpected death of Dr. Arthur Dobbelaere. Dr. D. and I collaborated on designing and constructing every building and every academic program while we shared our vision and excitement about Midwestern University for the past 24 years. His vision and exceptional ability to analyze, manage, and communicate with everyone will be forever missed. We have all lost our master of ceremonies, our manager, and dedicated colleague.

Dr. D. leaves behind many strong and wonderful teams whom he dutifully prepared for their leadership positions for many years. I know that the grief and loss will be forever with all of us who were fortunate to know him, but I believe we owe it to Dr. D. to carry on his passion for Midwestern University. I too have committed myself to carrying on our vision of excellence in teaching, research, and creating world-class facilities. The past two months have been very difficult for me as I continue to mourn the passing of our beloved colleague and friend, but I must thank each and every one of you for the wonderful cards, letters, and notes. I was overwhelmed with gratitude, and I never imagined so many departments would take the time to send a group sympathy card – or drop a note reminding me that you care.

It is for this outstanding demonstration of care and consideration that I thank all of you. I very much appreciate being a part of this wonderful academic family. It means a great deal to me. Thank you.

Dr. G.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen H. Goeppinger, Ph.D."

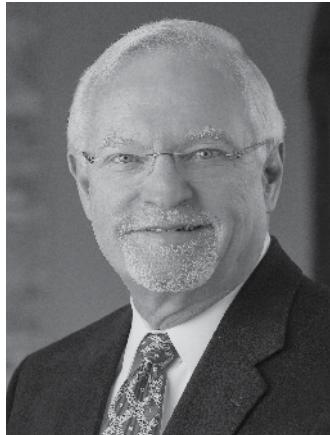
## IN MEMORIAM: ARTHUR G. DOBBELAERE, PH.D.

**Midwestern University mourns the passing of long-time executive and beloved colleague and friend, Arthur G. Dobbelaere, Ph.D., who died on September 4, 2018.**

Dr. Dobbelaere served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Midwestern University, a position he held since 1995. He was responsible for the on-going operations of the University and planning in areas such as physical plant, campus administration, campus engineering, human resources, media resources, information systems, and risk management. In this role, he masterfully managed the projects related to the design and construction of 52 buildings, including state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory spaces, simulation labs, student housing, support facilities, and parking on the University's 105 acres in Downers Grove, IL, and 156 acres in Glendale, AZ. The legacy he left at Midwestern University is immeasurable.

Beyond his numerous professional contributions to Midwestern University, what Dr. Dobbelaere will most be remembered for are the countless ways he impacted the lives of his colleagues, his employees, and our students. He was the master of ceremonies at every campus event, from White Coat and Commencement ceremonies, to faculty and staff recognition dinners and holiday celebrations. His warm smile, quick wit, and genuine affection for every member of our academic family will never be forgotten. At every meeting he ran and on every committee he served, Dr. Dobbelaere always set a high level of expectation for excellence, and he always asked exactly the right questions.

Dr. Dobbelaere was a member of the University's Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1995, serving as the Chair of the Human Resources Committee from 1991 to 1992 and as Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the University Oversight Committee from 1993 to 1995.



Prior to being employed by the University, Dr. Dobbelaere had 20 years of academic experience at Loyola University Chicago, beginning as an assistant professor in the Department of Economics. From 1986 to 1996, he was professor and Director of Loyola's Institute of Human Resources and Industrial Relations, a graduate program offering the Master's Degree in Human Resources and Industrial Relations. While at Loyola he served as an expert witness on economic matters in personal injury litigation and as a management consultant to various corporations nationwide.

Dr. Dobbelaere made a home in the Glendale community. He served on the City of Glendale Municipal Properties Corporation, Arrowhead Hospital Board, and Glendale Planning Commission. He was the Past Chair of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce.

He had a great appreciation for the history of the University, and took tremendous pride every year as our student population grew to over 6,800 students with 11 colleges offering 27 degrees. The vision and commitment of Drs. Goeppinger and Dobbelaere are reflected in every aspect of the University's success.

Dr. Dobbelaere received a B.A. in economics from St. Benedict College in 1970, an M.A. in economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1973, and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1975.

A lifelong sports fan, Dr. Dobbelaere was known to cheer on the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team, the Arizona Cardinals, and the Chicago Cubs. He loved golfing, reading, traveling, and spending time with his loved ones.

# Faculty, Staff, and Student Research and Activities Update

## APPOINTMENTS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

**Ashley Burkart, (AZCOM 2021)**, was selected as a 2018 Paul Ambrose Scholar by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research. Ms. Burkart was also selected to attend the Public Health Leadership Symposium in Philadelphia, PA.

**Ian Coker, (AZCOM 2020)**, was elected President of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians National Executive Student Board.

**Ryan Dyches, (AZCOM 2019)**, was appointed as the Student Director for the American Osteopathic Foundation Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents. Mr. Dyches also received the Arizona Osteopathic Charities Scholarship.

**Christian Evans, PT, Ph.D. (CHS-Downers Grove)**, Professor, was awarded one of two Illinois Physical Therapy Foundation Grants for 2018 for his project "Potential Sources of Infection in a Physical Therapy Outpatient Clinic: Implications for Patient and Provider Safety." Co-investigators were **Mae Ciancio, Ph.D. (CHS-Downers Grove)**, Associate Professor, **Teri Elliot-Burke, PT, M.H.S., WCS (CHS-Downers Grove)**, Assistant Professor and Academic Clinic Coordinator, and second year PT students, **Casey Sutton, Nick Pitsoulakis, and Olivia Uebelhor**.

**Charles Finch, D.O. (AZCOM)**, Chair, Clinical Education, received a grant from the Phoenix General Hospital Osteopathic Endowment Fund to provide ultrasound-based training.

**Timothy Hanke, PT, Ph.D. (CHS-Downers Grove)**, Associate Professor, was selected as a member of the Movement System Task Force Diagnosis sub-group as part of the Academy of Neurologic PT.

**Janet Helminski, PT, Ph.D. (CHS-Downers Grove)**, Professor, was asked to be part of the Sensory (SENS) peer review panel of the 2017 Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program for the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. In addition, Dr. Helminski is the recipient of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) 2018 Service Award from the APTA Special Interest Group for her ongoing Vestibular Rehabilitation Research, Clinician Continuing Education, contributions as a content expert to task forces and committees, and participation on a committee to develop a description of advanced practice. She was also inducted into the Ba'ra'ny Society

at the Ba'ra'ny Society Meeting in Uppsala, Sweden. The Ba'ra'ny Society is an international interdisciplinary society founded in 1960 and facilitates contacts between basic scientists and clinicians engaged in vestibular research and stimulated otoneurological education and research.

**Gary Johnson, D.D.S. (CDMA)**, Assistant Professor, received the "Olav Alvares Award for Early Career Scholars Who Published Outstanding Articles in the Journal of Dental Education" at the 2018 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session in Orlando, FL.

**Pamela Jurgens-Toepke, D.D.S., M.A. (CDMA)**, Group Practice Coordinator, received a Masters of Arts degree in Educational Administration, Adult, and Higher Education from the University of South Dakota. She also was appointed president of the national dental honor society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon-Beta Epsilon Chapter.

**Robert Kramer, D.M.D., FICD, FACD, CS (CDMA)**, Associate Professor, was awarded fellowship in the American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute, a year-long program designed to develop the nation's most promising individuals at academic institutions to become future leaders in dental and higher education.

**Tracy Middleton, D.O., FACOFP (AZCOM)**, Chair, Clinical Education, was named Educator of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP).

**John C. Mitchell, Ph.D. (CDMA)**, Assistant Dean, received funding from Beijing JingCi Medical Equipment Company totaling \$10,000 for his project "Physical and Mechanical Properties of a New Composite Material for Dental Prostheses."

**Ashlesh Murthy, M.D., Ph.D. (CVM)**, Associate Dean, obtained funding for student research scholarships from Boehringer-Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program in the amount of \$10,000. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) will match these funds, bringing the total funding to \$20,000. Dr. Murthy also obtained a new student fellowship award from PetSmart Charities totaling \$5,000.

**Klodiana Myftari, Pharm.D., BCACP (CCP)**, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, was selected for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation's 2018-2019 Faculty Scholars Program. This program, designed in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh, is designed to promote pharmacy-based patient care research.

**Nicole Paprocki, (CCOM 2019)**, was selected for the "35 under 35 Young Leaders Making an Impact Award" by Chicago Scholars, a nonprofit organization that helps academically ambitious students from under-resourced Chicago communities to complete college and become the city's next generation of diverse leaders.

**William Peppo, D.O., FACOI, FCCP (AZCOM)**, Chair, Clinical Education, was named Teacher of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI).

**Janey Prodoehl, PT, Ph.D. (CHS-Downers Grove)**, Associate Professor, and others were awarded the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy's Golden Synapse Award. This award recognizes the most outstanding article published each year voted on by Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy reviewers and editorial board members, based on the article's conceptualization, execution, presentation, and contribution to physical therapy practice.

**N. Jim Rhodes, Pharm.D., M.Sc., BCPS (CCP)**, Assistant Professor, received funding from the Center for Anti-Infective Research and Development, Hartford Hospital. His project, "A United States Based Program to Evaluate the In Vitro Potency of Gram-Negative Therapies Against Contemporary *P. aeruginosa*," is funded from February 16, 2018 through August 15, 2018.

**Marc Scheetz, Pharm.D., M.Sc., BCPS (CCP)**, Associate Professor, received funding for a sub-award agreement from Northwestern University for a collaborative Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics, Inc. grant project in the amount of \$32,400 for the project, "A Pilot Study to Define Colistin Population PK and Interrogate Renal TD."

**Katherine Schofield, D.H.S., OTR/L, CHT (CHS-Glendale)**, Assistant Director, Occupational Therapy, was elected Treasurer of the Arizona Occupational Therapy Association's Board of Directors.

**Shannon Scott, D.O., FACOFP (AZCOM)**, Medical Director, Multispecialty Clinic, was named the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' (NBOME) Item Writer of the Year for COMLEX Level 2 CE.

**Kelly Sippel, (AZCOM 2019)**, won first prize in the 8th Annual A. Hollis Wolfe Case Competition held in Glendale. Ms. Sippel will represent AZCOM in the National Case Competition at the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) Convocation.

*Continued on page 4*

**Patricia Steffen-Sanchez, M.S., OTR/L, BCP (CHS-Glendale),** Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy, received Board Certification in Pediatrics from the American Occupational Therapy Association.

**Tamara Turner, Ed.D., OTR/L (CHS-Glendale),** Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy, was selected for the Hospice of the Valley's 2018 Dementia Care Fellowship.

**Kathy Vo, (AZCOM 2019),** received the Student Government Association (SGA) Research Scholarship.

## PRESENTATIONS, SPEECHES, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Susan Cornell, Pharm.D. (CCP),** Associate Director, Experiential Education, presented "The New Age of Insulin: Exploring the Latest Trends in Insulin Therapy" at the FOCUS 2017 Special Session, The Art and Science of Diabetes Management in Wisconsin Dells, WI; "Strategies to Improve Adherence to Insulin FRC In Type2 Diabetes Patients: Are You Up to Speed?" at the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) Core Concepts Course in Chicago, IL. Dr. Cornell, and others, presented "Basal Insulin Therapy Module 1: Efficacy and Safety of Basal Insulin in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes" and "Basal Insulin Therapy Module 2: Using Patient Cases to Address the Challenges of Transitioning to Newer Basal Insulins" as part of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Advantage Podcast.

**William H. Devine, D.O. (AZCOM),** Program Director, OMM, and **Robert D. Devine, D.O. (AZCOM),** Clinical Assistant Professor, presented "Osteopathic Philosophy and Models: From Theory to Practice" at the 2017 European Osteopathy Congress.

**Brooke Griffin, Pharm.D. (CCP),** Vice Chair, Pharmacy Practice, **Kathleen Vest, Pharm.D., CDE (CCP),** Associate Professor participated in the "Seizing the Opportunity: Preparing Pharmacists for Contraceptive Prescribing" roundtable presentation at the Annual Pharmaceutical Care Lyceum in Deep Portage, MN.

**David Jenkins, D.P.M. (AZPod/CHS-Glendale),** Professor, Podiatry, presented talks on safe hiking and provided search dog demonstrations at the MORIAH Cooperative for special needs children in Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Jenkins is a member of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Canine Search and Rescue Posse.

**Medha Joshi, Ph.D. (CCP),** Associate Professor, and **Anil Gulati, M.D., Ph.D. (CCP),** Associate Dean, presented the poster "Physicochemical Characterization of Lyophilized Liposomal Formulation of IRL-1620" at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

**Pamela Jurgens-Toepke, D.D.S. (CDMI),** Group Practice Coordinator, **Kelli Christensen, D.D.S. (CDMI),** Clinical Assistant Professor, **Robert John, D.D.S. (CDMI),** Group Practice Coordinator, and **Yosif Jabir, D.D.S. (CDMI),** Group Practice Coordinator presented "OSCEs: The New Frontier in Dental Licensure" at the American Dental Education Association Annual Session in Long Beach, CA. **Dr. Jurgens-Toepke** and **Lillian Obucina, D.D.S., J.D. (CDMI),** Assistant Professor, presented the poster "Dental Students' Attitudes on the Effectiveness of Mock Employment Interviews" at the same conference.

**Mary Ann Kliethermes, Pharm.D. (CCP),** Vice Chair, Pharmacy Practice, presented "Why is the EHR No Longer the EHR?" at the Annual Pharmaceutical Care Lyceum in Deep Portage, MN.

**Diana Semmelhack, Psy.D., ABPP (CHS-Downers Grove)** Professor, Behavioral Medicine, spoke at the annual Living Well Health Fair sponsored by *The Chicago Defender*. Dr. Semmelhack addressed the signs of psychopathology and stigma among members of the African-American community and how to seek help.

**Kathryn Wdowiarsz, Pharm.D., BCPS (CCP),** Assistant Professor, presented "The New Kid on the Block: The Role of Betrixaban in VTE Prophylaxis" as part of the CEImpact.org Log-in to Learn Webinar Series.

**Volkmar Weissig, Ph.D. (CPG),** Chair, Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-hosted and co-chaired the 8th World Congress on Targeting Mitochondria in Berlin, Germany, in his capacity as President of the World Mitochondria Society. The conference was attended by 273 participants from 44 countries.

The following CCP faculty members presented at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting in Orlando, FL:

• **Jacob Gettig, Pharm.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.,** Associate Dean, **Milena McLaughlin, Pharm.D., M.S.,** Assistant Professor, and others. "Effect of a Postgraduate Training Elective on Pharmacy Students'

Knowledge, Confidence and Success in the Residency Process" poster;

• **Christine Schumacher, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP,** Associate Professor, **Kathleen Vest, Pharm.D., CDE,** Associate Professor, and others. "Engage with Your Learners: It's Time for Pharmacy Preceptors Phamily Pheud!" poster;

• **Dr. Schumacher, Lea Dela Pena, Pharm.D., BCPS,** Associate Professor, **Jill Borchart, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP,** Vice Chair, Pharmacy Practice, and others. "Advocating for the Pharmacy Profession through Involvement in a Type 1 Diabetes Day Camp as a Postgraduate Year-2 Pharmacy Residency Learning Experience" poster.

As part of the MWU Community Health Lecture Series, the following Glendale faculty have presented recently at the Glendale Library-Foothills Branch:

• **Mark Kargela, DPT, PT, OCS, FAAOMPT (CHS-Glendale),** Clinical Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy, "Chronic Pain: How to Get Movement Back into Your Life";

• **Matthew Cuneo, D.V.M. (CVM),** Clinical Assistant Professor, Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, and **Alexandra Brower, D.V.M., DACVP (CVM),** Director, Diagnostic Pathology Center and Chair, Population Medicine, "Marek's Disease and the Valley Poultry Community";

• **Charles Veltri, Ph.D. (CPG),** Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, "Discovering New Drugs: Looking for Leads in Nature";

• **Michael Quinlan, Ph.D. (AZCOM),** Associate Professor and Chair, Physiology, "Habitats and Habits: Venomous Creatures of the Desert";

• **Mindy Burnworth, Pharm.D. (CPG),** Professor, Pharmacy Practice, **Richard Dobrusin, D.O., M.S. (AZCOM),** Clinical Associate Professor, and **Mark Kargela, DPT, PT, OCS, FAAOMPT (CHS-Glendale),** Clinical Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy, "Chronic Pain and Opioids: New Solutions and Alternatives";

• **Heather F. Smith, Ph.D. (AZCOM),** Director, Midwestern University Body Donation Program and Associate Professor, Anatomy, "Bequeathing the Gift of Medical Education";

• **Nellie Goetz, D.V.M., M.P.H. (CVM),** Clinical Assistant Professor, Shelter Medicine, "Feral Cats: Debunking the Myths and Understanding the Risks."

## STUDENT GROUPS AND UNIVERSITY AWARDS

The Midwestern University Office of Communications received three honors in the 33rd Annual Educational Advertising Awards, sponsored by the Higher Education Marketing Report. Midwestern received a Silver Award for the *President's Report* annual report; a Bronze Award for a communications search piece entitled, "You Always Wanted a Career in Healthcare;" and a Merit Award for the *Midwestern University Magazine* Winter 2017 Issue. The Educational Advertising Awards is the largest, oldest, and most respected educational advertising awards competition in the country.

### The Excellence in Service

**Program** is a way of recognizing faculty and staff for handling difficult situations in an outstanding manner when providing service to members of our academic and local communities and others with whom we conduct university business. Nomination forms are available at [www.midwestern.edu/excellence\\_in\\_service.html](http://www.midwestern.edu/excellence_in_service.html)

## RECIPIENTS OF THE EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

Downers Grove Campus 2017:

**Marsha Babka, D.D.S.**  
**Paulette Burdick**  
**Michael Chutich, D.D.S.**  
**Molly Gardner**  
**Joshua Gasiorowski, Ph.D.**  
**Thomas Hajek**  
**Susan Hershberg**  
**Judith Burton Hess, PT, D.H.S., OCS**  
**Kimberly Huntington-Alfano, D.O.**  
**Jason Huls**  
**Sarah Keller, PT, D.PT, NCS**  
**Steve Landin**  
**Michele Larson, M.Ld.**  
**Kimberly Martinez**  
**Cathy Pratscher**  
**Zina Russell-Jackson**  
**LeeShelle Short, M.H.R.M.**  
**Minetta Wallingford, DrOT, OTR/L**

Downers Grove Campus 2018:

**Peter Chang, D.D.S**  
**Karyn DiNovo**  
**Ivan Guachichulca**

**Mary Hirt**

**Jack Kelderhouse**  
**Lisa Knecht-Sabres, D.H.S., OTR/L**  
**Caryn LaBuda, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO**  
**Susan Laurenzana**  
**Kelly Lempicki, Pharm.D., BCPS**  
**Mark Ligeza**  
**Elizabeth Linden**  
**Wanda Mahoney, Ph.D., OTR/L**  
**Donna Martin**

Glendale Campus 2017:

**Michael Gafford**  
**Laura Lewis**  
**Darlene Nawrocki**  
**Kristine Fink**

Glendale Campus 2018:

**Melva Ayers**  
**Kathleen Billings**  
**Allen Gilley**  
**Sandra O'Connell**  
**Robert Price**

## Research News

# IHI Partnership Provides Clinical Research Opportunity



The IHI, in partnership with the CorVita Science Foundation, provided clinical research opportunities for students. (From left) Justin Henry Figueroa, (CCOM 2020), Dr. Martin Burke, Erik Mersereau, (CCOM 2020) and Brett Breshears, (CCOM 2020).

While some students come to Midwestern with bench research experience, few have had an opportunity to become involved with clinical research. That changed for three CCOM students who participated in an inaugural rotation with CorVita Science Foundation (CSF). CSF's founder and Chief Scientific Officer Martin Burke, D.O., FACOI, FACC, FRCP(I) partnered with Midwestern University's Institute for Healthcare Innovation (IHI) to provide CCOM students with a clinical research fellowship. CSF is a Chicago-based not-for-profit dedicated to the accessibility and advancement of cardiovascular clinical and translational science. Dr. Burke (CCOM 1989) is a national and international authority in cardiac electrophysiology, with emphasis on the basic mechanisms and clinical applications of cardiac defibrillation.

While the "Introduction to Cardiovascular Clinical Research" program did teach the basics of reading EKGs, it also introduced the concepts of clinical trial development and application. Topics included such things as the regulatory review process and creating a sound way to collect study data. These sessions were provided by Al McAuley, Senior VP Research Development, CSF, and Ann Impens, Ph.D., M.P.H., IHI Assistant Director.

The CCOM students gained valuable experience in clinical research and had the opportunity to use a retrospective data set from subcutaneous defibrillator sensing runs to categorize nomenclature to describe the electrocardiograms of real-life patients.

"I know that many healthcare employers expect clinicians to have an understanding on how to conduct clinical research. For this reason, I knew I wanted to conduct clinical research during the summer. At the beginning of this research project, my goal was to get a better understanding on how clinical research was conducted," said Brett Breshears, (CCOM 2020).

"Being able to apply the things I have learned in medical school in trying to solve actual, real-life problems not only solidifies and expands my scientific knowledge, but also brings me to a substantially deeper appreciation of it," said Justin Henry Figueroa, (CCOM 2020).

The students will have the opportunity to continue their research projects and submit abstracts for presentation at conferences and co-author manuscripts for publication. The IHI will also provide clinical research experiences for future students and a continued partnership with CSF.

# Scholarship Initiative Promotes Student Podiatric Research

Jeffrey Jensen, D.P.M., FACFAS, Program Director for the Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine (AZPod) and Associate Dean of the College of Health Sciences, is pleased to announce a new scholarship initiative that will expand podiatric research at Midwestern University.

Dr. Jensen and his wife, Cecelia, will donate \$125,000 over five years to support student-initiated research in five key areas: surgery, diabetic foot care, biomechanics and sports medicine innovation, and wound care.

"Research and publications are central to establishing a leadership role in the medical professions," says Dr. Jensen. "Our faculty, both basic science and clinical, have specialty areas to assist students in research projects of their choice."

The research and publication strategy at AZPod has three areas of emphasis: clinical trials, student-initiated research, and grant research through entities such as the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense. All three areas contribute to enhancing the research experience through opportunities for patients, students, staff, and faculty.

Each year, two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded in each of the five research areas. The first three of the scholarships are named after leaders in podiatric medicine who have contributed significantly to research and education over the past 50 years. The final two scholarships are named after family members: one who had a career as an innovative educator and another who experienced chronic wounds.

### NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

**Earl G. Kaplan, D.P.M.,  
Surgical Research Scholarship**

**Irvin O. Kanat, D.P.M.,  
Diabetic Foot Research Scholarship**

**William F. Todd, D.P.M.,  
Biomechanics/Sports Medicine  
Research Scholarship**

**Carol A. Jensen Innovation  
in Podiatric Medicine  
Research Scholarship**

**Anita J. Moynihan  
Wound Care  
Research Scholarship**

## Administration Update

# Downers Grove Campus Welcomes New Deans

Midwestern University appointed two new Deans for the Downers Grove Campus. Harold J. Haering, D.M.D., was promoted to Dean of the College of Dental Medicine-Illinois. Melissa Suckow, O.D., FAAO, was promoted to Dean of the Chicago College of Optometry (CCO).

Dr. Haering most recently served Midwestern University as the Associate Dean for Clinical Education at the College of Dental Medicine-Arizona. He earned a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry in Lexington, KY. After serving as a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Haering started a family dentistry practice in LaBelle, FL, where he served the community for 27 years. Dr. Haering was elected three times to the LaBelle City Council, retiring to devote more time to pursuing Florida Board of Dentistry activities. He has been active in dentistry, appointed by then Governor Jeb Bush to the Florida Board of Dentistry from 2000 to 2004. Dr. Haering held various roles on the Board of Dentistry, including Chair of the Board, Chair of Examinations, and Chair of Probable Cause. Dr.

Haering also served on two American Dental Association (ADA) Councils: the Council on Access, Prevention and Professional Relations and the Council on Education and Licensure. In addition, he has served as a trustee of the Florida Dental Association, as a delegate to the ADA, and as a consultant to the ADA Council on Dental Benefits. Dr. Haering is currently a clinical site visitor for the Council on Dental Accreditation (CODA); Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee of the American Board of Dental Examiners; and a CDCA / ADEX board examiner.

Dr. Suckow joined Midwestern University in 2015 and has served as CCO's Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Dr. Suckow earned a Doctor of Optometry degree and completed a residency in pediatric optometry/binocular vision at the New England College of Optometry, where she was then appointed as a full-time Assistant Professor. While there, she served as the Clinical Director at Seamount Vision Clinic and the Cotting School, which serves children with special needs in Massachusetts. After relocating to Illinois, Dr. Suckow served for several years as an optometrist for the Chicago public schools' Healthy Kids, Healthy Minds Enhanced Vision Program. In 2011, she joined the clinical faculty of the Illinois College of Optometry and was a preceptor for third- and fourth-year students on rotation at the Illinois Eye Institute at Princeton School.



Harold J. Haering, D.M.D.  
Dean, College of Dental  
Medicine—Illinois



Melissa A. Suckow, O.D., FAAO  
Dean, Chicago College of Optometry

## AZCOPT Partners with Walter Reed Medical Center for Military Residency

The Arizona College of Optometry (AZCOPT) at Midwestern University has entered into an affiliation agreement with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) to create a new military optometric residency program.

The one-year residency program will provide educational opportunities to active-duty optometrists from all branches of the United States Armed Forces, emphasizing ocular disease, vision rehabilitation, and primary care. The residency will be located at the Walter Reed campus, with Midwestern University and AZCOPT providing oversight and assisting with the accreditation process.

Joshua Baker, O.D., M.S. (AZCOPT), Dean, is a United States Army veteran and Bronze Star recipient. The opportunity to partner with the WRNMMC represents a welcome opportunity for him and for AZCOPT.

"The military medical mission is uniquely challenging in its clinical complexity, its need to be deployable to far-forward locations, and the necessity for success under difficult circumstances," says Dr. Baker. "At Midwestern University and AZCOPT, we feel a deep sense of pride to contribute even in a small way to that mission. Every member of our program, faculty, staff, students, and alumni is thrilled for this opportunity to be a part of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center team."



*Dr. Joshua Baker (left) will work with WRNMMC to provide oversight for the residency and assist with the accreditation process.*

## AZCOM Integrating Ultrasound Training into Curriculum

**By Randall Nydam, Ph.D., Professor, Anatomy, and Charles Finch, D.O., Chair, Integrated Medicine (AZCOM)**

The Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2021 has become the first cohort to integrate ultrasound training into its four-year curriculum. The primary goal was to provide our students much-needed training in utilization, optimization, and interpretation of ultrasound in a variety of clinical scenarios. This addresses a growing need in skills training, since ultrasound is rapidly becoming a standard diagnostic and procedural tool with regular utilization in over 20 specialties. Indeed, its use as a bedside, or point-of-care, instrument has become so common that it is often referred to as "the new stethoscope."

It was decided early on that the most logical choice was to integrate ultrasound into all applicable courses within the current four-year curriculum. The anatomy course began a two quarter series of eight, hands-on, clinically-based workshops in which students scanned each other to visualize the anatomy of the region of the body being studied for each exam unit. The themes of these workshops included lumbar puncture, carpal tunnel syndrome, cardiac assessment, and FAST exam, as well as other abdominal and neck exams. Valuable assistance for many of these workshops was provided by AZCOM 2020 student leaders and members of the newly-formed Ultrasound Club, who helped to troubleshoot and then worked as peer instructors in the workshops.

When fully integrated, hands-on exercises and/or ultrasound image interpretation are expected to be part of the curriculum in approximately 10 preclinical courses and eight clinical rotations, as well as our residency programs. This unique experience integrates and reinforces clinical and preclinical knowledge throughout the four-year curriculum. Because this augments their physical exam skills, the students are better prepared to use a technology that is part of the accreditation standards and entrustable professional activities (EPAs) for postgraduate training programs.



*Priya Sharma, (AZCOM 2020), practices ultrasound scanning on Morgan Pinto, (AZCOM 2020), while Noelle Provenzano, (AZCOM 2020), explains the readings.*

# CCP Creates Nalox-Now Training Program

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, 116 people died every day from opioid-related overdoses in 2016. In order to address this crisis, the Chicago College of Pharmacy (CCP) has expanded the pharmacy curriculum to include additional coursework on the understanding of pain management, detecting opioid misuse, and developing treatments for overdose.

In addition, students along with faculty mentors received a grant to prepare and deliver Naloxone training programs to campus personnel, students, and the community. Naloxone is a non-addictive, life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when it's given in time, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Nalox-Now training program focuses on teaching individuals to recognize signs and symptoms of opioid overdose, administer

Naloxone to individuals in immediate crisis, and store the drug properly. The program was developed under the leadership of Jack Chang, (CCP 2019), and faculty mentors Susan Cornell, Pharm.D., Associate Director of Experiential Education, and Tran Tran, Pharm.D., Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice.

Since its inception less than a year ago, Nalox-Now has successfully trained over 50 participants, increased access to Naloxone kits on campus, and is expanding its training across all colleges and to local community organizations. "Nalox-Now provides faculty, students, and soon the general public with an additional tool to prevent deaths and help destigmatize opioid use disorder. This program is a valuable asset to our community. Having students spearhead this effort is a testament to the compassion and entrepreneurship that our students possess," said Dr. Tran.

## Campus Events

# Student Leadership Institute Expands on Downers Grove Campus

Midwestern University's Chicago College of Pharmacy (CCP) offered its Student Leadership Institute in 2017-18 with the generous support of CVS Health. The goal of this extracurricular program is to develop tomorrow's health profession leaders. An integral part of the Leadership Institute is matching students with participating mentors, who are leaders in their respective fields of healthcare practice.

This program was first developed by CCP more than a decade ago. New this year, the program was interprofessional and included students from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM), College of Dental Medicine-Illinois (CDMI) and the College of Health Sciences-Downers Grove (CHS), in addition to CCP students. Thirty-three students successfully completed the program. In order to participate, students must be at least second-year students in their respective programs, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and commit to attending all four meetings. No previous leadership experience is necessary.

Participating students attended four different interactive sessions that covered topics including professional etiquette, presentation skills, navigation of various personality types, as well as emotional intelligence. Sessions took place during evenings and weekends. Students also spent a few hours interacting and/or shadowing their mentors and gained a deeper understanding of leadership issues in today's health professions.



Thirty-three students from CCP, CCOM, CHS, and CDMI completed the Student Leadership Institute on the Downers Grove Campus.

"We are proud of the students' commitment to future leadership opportunities," said Nancy Fjortoft, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, Chicago College of Pharmacy. "Based on the feedback we received, more than 70% of this year's student participants plan to work towards becoming an officer, board member, or leader in a professional association. The future of our health professions will benefit."

# Inaugural Vet, Speech-Language Graduations Highlight 2018 Commencements

Midwestern University recently held commencement ceremonies on its campuses in Downers Grove, Illinois and Glendale, Arizona to celebrate the more than 1,500 healthcare professions graduates who are preparing to begin their professional lives.

Among those honored were the first graduating classes from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Glendale-based Speech-Language Pathology program from the College of Health Sciences. The College of Veterinary Medicine is the first and only Arizona college to offer the four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree.

## Graduating Programs, Spring 2018

- Osteopathic Medicine: The Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine honored 456 graduates who earned Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degrees. More than half of the graduates from both colleges will enter primary care residencies; Class of 2018 graduates will also pursue

various specialties including emergency medicine, orthopedic surgery, neurological surgery, ophthalmology, radiology, psychiatry, and anesthesiology in local and national residency programs.

- Pharmacy: Between the Chicago College of Pharmacy and the College of Pharmacy-Glendale, nearly 320 new Doctors of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) are preparing to enter the workforce.
- Health Sciences: The College of Health Sciences graduated over 480 students from Physical Therapy, Biomedical Sciences and Speech-Language Pathology programs on both campuses, as well as Cardiovascular Perfusion and Podiatry in Arizona.
- Dental Medicine: The College of Dental Medicine-Illinois and the College of Dental Medicine-Arizona combined to graduate over 260 students earning Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degrees.
- Optometry: The Arizona College of Optometry celebrated 57 Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) graduates from its Class of 2018.



Jamie Payne, M.S., Speech-Language Pathology, shows off her diploma following the College of Health Sciences commencement.

During the ceremonies, Kathleen H. Goeppinger, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Midwestern University, acknowledged the many achievements of the graduates during their years of rigorous study and clinical experiences. "I want you to always remember that you are well-trained, you are well-educated, and you can be successful." Dr. Goeppinger told the graduates. "As you move forward, go with confidence that you are ready to become part of the healthcare team."



Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine graduates recite the Osteopathic Oath.

- Veterinary Medicine: The College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the graduation of 90 members of its inaugural class

The commencement ceremonies were held in the Glendale Campus Auditorium and in the auditorium at Cardinal Hall in Downers Grove. Each commencement featured remarks from members of the graduating class and a special recognition of the 68 students beginning their healthcare careers in the military.

## CCP Students Welcome Speaker from Takeda Corporation



IPhO executive board members pose with Dr. Kim (center).

The Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) Student Chapter at Midwestern University hosted guest speaker Edward Kim, Pharm.D., for a lecture on the Downers Grove Campus. Dr. Kim is an Executive Medical Communications Liaison at Takeda, a global pharmaceutical company located in Deerfield, IL. Takeda's pharmaceutical products are marketed in nearly 100 countries worldwide.

Dr. Kim shared his unusual career path with the students. Upon finishing law school, Dr. Kim decided he wanted to go back to graduate school to pursue a pharmacy degree. In addition, Dr. Kim's presentation included information on how pharmacists' skill sets can translate into the pharmaceutical industry. The meeting helped students understand more about the pharmaceutical industry and how pharmacists can play a pivotal role in impacting patient care on a greater scale.

# Students Host “Rare Disease Day” Event at AZ State Capitol



Members of the CPG Pharmacy Club raised awareness at the Arizona State Capitol for Rare Disease Day.

By Courtney Scott, (CPG 2020)

Efforts of rare disease advocates were recognized when Arizona Governor Doug Ducey proclaimed Wednesday, February 28, 2018 as Rare Disease Day in Arizona. A rare (orphan) disease is a disease, disorder, or condition that affects less than 200,000 individuals in the United States. One in every 10 Americans is diagnosed with a rare disease; that's approximately 30 million Americans. While there are around 7,000 known rare diseases, less than 5% of these diseases have treatment and less than 500 have FDA-approved treatment.

In 2009, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), introduced Rare Disease Day (RDD) in the United States. This year, the global theme of RDD was research; research provides hope, treatment options, and potentially even a cure for those living with a

rare disease. On the last day of February, there were events occurring in over 80 countries and regions across the world to raise awareness about rare diseases and research.

For the inaugural RDD in Arizona, students from the College of Pharmacy-Glendale organized and hosted an event at the Arizona State Capitol. The goal of this Rare Disease Day was to raise awareness with policy makers and the public about rare diseases and the impact that these diseases have on the lives of patients, as well as to reinforce the importance of rare diseases being a public health priority. Arizona Volunteer Rare Disease Ambassador – Rare Action Network (powered by NORD) Mindy Burnworth, Pharm.D., FASHP, FAzPA, BCPS (CPG), Professor, spearheaded a team of 12 student volunteers to connect with and spread awareness of rare diseases to nearly 10 state legislators, lobbyists, and staffers; families affected by a rare disease; and over 60 members of the general public.

## S.E.R.V.E. Launches Event



Midwestern University pharmacy and dental medicine students join forces for a community outreach event.

By Michele Larson, M.Ld., Student Activities Coordinator

Over the past year, the Chicago College of Pharmacy (CCP) Student Council has worked diligently to restructure their sponsored community outreach program. What used to be the Midwestern University Health Fair has evolved into an interprofessional health outreach program called MWU S.E.R.V.E. (Students Enhancing the health of Residents in the community Via Education and screenings). The S.E.R.V.E committee is led by the CCP Executive Council Vice President (Peter Park, CCP 2019) and the Committee Chair (Danielle Jezierski, CCP 2019). Their focus to connect with different patient populations provides Midwestern

University students a unique co-curricular opportunity, while also providing outreach to a variety of populations in need.

The first MWU S.E.R.V.E. event took place in collaboration with the College of Dental Medicine-Illinois (CDMI). The committee organized an oral health education event with the SEASPAR EAGLES, a community-based day program for adults with disabilities. The EAGLES participants had a fun afternoon learning about the importance of oral health in their daily routine.

The SEASPAR staff were very complimentary and thankful to the Midwestern University student volunteers and helped establish a strong partnership between the University and SEASPAR.

# PT Students and Faculty Hold Inaugural Evaluation Olympics

Students, faculty, and staff from the Physical Therapy Program on the Downers Grove Campus began the academic year with a full schedule of events, including several service projects, a new learning opportunity, and the presentation of an inaugural scholarship.

In conjunction with the Student Physical Therapy Organization, the PT Program held the first Evaluation Olympics. This event included 32 second- and third-year students competing in teams of eight. Each

participant was challenged with different skill assessments covering evaluation and intervention skills. Teams competed in a trivia-style event about concepts and skills learned while at Midwestern University. Additional points were given for best team spirit and best team name. The team "It Depends," which included third-year students, barely edged out the competition to win the "Golden Slideboard" and title of Evaluation Olympics Champions this year.



*Team "It Depends" celebrates their victory in the Evaluation Olympics.*

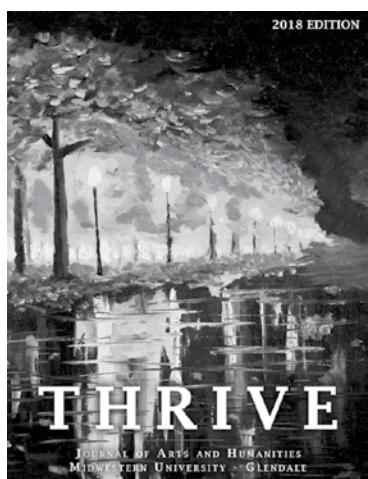
## In addition:

- The Student Physical Therapy Organization sponsored a PT Month luncheon with guest speaker Kevin Hendrix, PT (CHS-Downers Grove, 2007), and announced Megan De Kam, PTS-II, as the first recipient of the PT Legacy Scholarship.
- Students, faculty, and staff donated more than 840 items as part of a school supplies drive to benefit Breakthrough Urban Ministries, serving elementary school students in East Garfield Park, Chicago.
- The Student Physical Therapy Organization hosted Karaoke Night and raised more than \$2,740 for the Marquette Challenge to support research in the PT profession.
- Students and faculty members participated in the PT Day of Service by helping to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL.

## First Issue of THRIVE is Published

A new student club on the Glendale Campus, the Caring HeARTS Association, is the driving force behind a Midwestern University initiative to highlight the arts and humanities in our campus community.

AZCOM students Caroline Bakhit and Naira Sargsyan founded the club as a student-driven organization that invites faculty, staff, and students from all programs and departments to share their artistic creations, including original art, photography, poetry, and creative writing, in a 50-page full-color journal entitled THRIVE.



"As osteopathic student doctors, we founded this journal in hopes of integrating art and medicine," the organizers state in the journal's preface. "Osteopathic medicine has taught us that each person is a unit of mind, body, and spirit, capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and health maintenance. Through promoting humanism, creativity, self-awareness and personal growth, we hope to help the body function properly, by keeping one's mind and spirit balanced."

The first issue of THRIVE can be accessed online at <http://publizr.com/caringheartsassociation/thrive-2018>

## VITAL SIGNS

The news beat of Midwestern University is published and distributed free to faculty, students, and staff.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Dana Fay, Director of Communications

Karen Mattox, Assistant Director of Communications

WRITING: Jill Blair-Smith, Tony Johns

DESIGN: Joanne Davidauskas, Chad Worth

Submissions of news items, story ideas, letters and corrections can be made via electronic mail or U.S. postal service to:

### DOWNERS GROVE CAMPUS

Jill Blair-Smith, [jblair@midwestern.edu](mailto:jblair@midwestern.edu)

Vital Signs

555 31st Street | Downers Grove, IL 60515

### GLENDALE CAMPUS

Tony Johns, [tjohns1@midwestern.edu](mailto:tjohns1@midwestern.edu)

Vital Signs

19555 North 59th Avenue | Glendale, AZ 85308

Read the Vital Signs online at:

[http://www.midwestern.edu/Community\\_and\\_Media.html](http://www.midwestern.edu/Community_and_Media.html)

## PHOTO GALLERY: Glendale Campus



Glendale Campus staff and students show off their personal interpretations of "Love Birds" on Paint Night.



Rhett Bushman, (AZCOM 2020), took this beautiful aerial shot of the Glendale Campus.

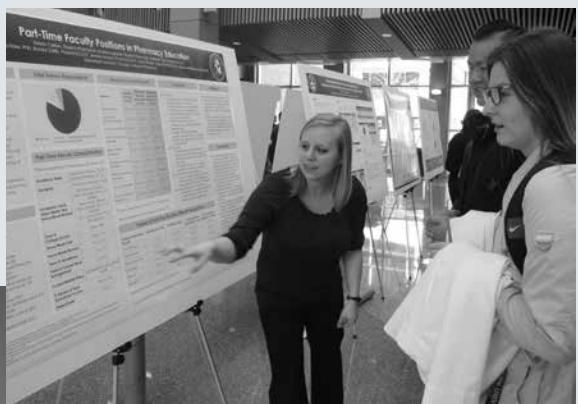


Alicia Wilson, (CVM 2020), and Benjamin Berriman, VMS-I, examine a pet tortoise in the Midwestern University Mobile Clinic at the Health Outreach through Medical Education (H.O.M.E.) event at the Lifebridge Community Resource Center.

## PHOTO GALLERY: Downers Grove Campus



A young doe peers into the University Administration Office on the Downers Grove Campus.



The inaugural Chicago College of Pharmacy (CCP) Research Day included faculty presentations and student posters highlighting the importance of academic research.



The Physician Assistant (CHS-Downers Grove) Class of 2018 and PA Class of 2019 participated in a Feed My Starving Children Event to pack meals for those in need as part of the national PA Week.