

DAYTON MEDICINE

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*2019 MCMS President Jeffrey B. Studebaker, M.D.,
Hands The Leadership Gavel To
2020 MCMS President Rajeev Mehta, M.D..*

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2020 President's Inaugural Address

by *Rajeev Mehta, M.D.*



Dr. Studebaker, members of the Board, medical society members, and guests: I am humbled and privileged to serve as the 171st President of the Montgomery County Medical Society for this upcoming year. I consider this a great honor, and look forward to the opportunity.

I would like to thank everyone here today who have graced this special occasion. First and foremost, I would like to thank my amazing wife of 33 years, Balbir, who has been my strongest supporter, advisor, and partner. Without your help, I would not be the man or physician I am today to be here to accept this honor. I would also like to thank my children for being here. My eldest, Natasha, is here with her husband Ronnie - they currently live in Rochester, New York. Natasha is a physiatrist serving as the medical director of an inpatient rehabilitation unit and Ronnie is finishing up his residency in plastic surgery. My son, Neil, who currently lives in the Jersey City/NYC area is the CEO and co-founder of The Royal Brand, COO of Revyv Life Sciences and a consultant for Doctors ACO. My youngest daughter Sonia, who was formerly a financial analyst is now a singer and songwriter based in Southern California. She will be singing for us tonight. I would like to thank my daughter's in-laws, Ronald and Darlene Brown, for joining us from Youngstown, OH and all of our friends and family

who have taken time out of their busy schedule to be here tonight. These relationships that we have built over the last 30 years in Dayton have been more than just friendships. Each one of you has played a significant role in my life and I'm happy to call you my family: Mandeep and Kamal who have traveled from Michigan, Sajid, Shalini and Rhea who have come from Mason, and all of the friends from the Dayton area. Also, I'd like to thank my partners and my administrative team from Dayton Gastro for being here this evening. I am greatly thankful to Connie Mahle and Gerri Creel for their hardwork in putting this event together. I look forward to working with you both in the upcoming year.

So, how did I end up in Dayton, OH? I was born in New Delhi, India but spent most of my school age years in DehraDun, a valley at the foothills of the Himalayas known for its high-quality education. In 1975 I graduated from King Georges Medical College in Lucknow with an MBBS degree and in 1978 I received my degree of MD in Medicine. I elected to stay at King Georges for an additional year as Chief Resident before moving to the United Kingdom for four and a half years. After continued training, I became a member of the Royal College of Physicians (IRE). Thereafter, I moved to the United States to redo a residency in Internal Medi-

cine in order to qualify to practice as a physician in this country. I completed training at Wayne State University before moving on to Northwestern University for a fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology. I moved to Dayton, OH in July 1990 for my first private practice position.

Throughout my medical career, I have seen and been part of significant changes in health-care provision. I have witnessed the adoption of electronic health records, consolidation of practices, development of a hospital employed physician model, fierce competition in the marketplace, declining reimbursement, and transition from fee-for-service to value-based payments with implementation of MACRA (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorisation Act of 2015), MIPPS (Merit-Based Incentive Payment System), and APM (Alternative Payment Method). Many of these have led to an increase in workload and rising rates of burnout among physicians.

Then, of course, there has been a rise in disease-related issues that drastically alter morbidity and mortality for our patients, including higher rates of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and obesity. In addition, issues related to addiction and behavior, such as opioid use, tobacco use, and vaping, have become a serious public health issue nationally and in our Dayton communities. Between 2016 and

2017, the drug overdose death rate rose by 39% in Ohio, which is significantly higher than the 14.4% increase noted nationally over the same period. I would like to put a task force together to see how we as physicians can help our community to combat this epidemic.

But my 30 years of experience in the field hasn't only been observing these particular health issues. On the contrary, I would say that I'm largely impressed and honored to be a part of a community of people consistently striving to improve the health and safety for our patients. There are countless examples of how research developments and innovation have helped to save the lives of the people we serve. But tonight I will speak on a topic I specialize in - hepatitis. I distinctly remember the discovery of Hepatitis C when I was a fellow in 1989, an RNA virus which was previously known as Non A Non B hepatitis. Early in my practice I was prescribing daily injectable interferon to these patients, which was marginally effective with a low response rate of about 15-20%. Unfortunately, the side effects of this medication were awful. Many were unable to work while they were undergoing treatment. At some point we added ribavirin to the combination with slight improvement in the response rate. Discovery of PEGylated interferon allowed injections to be given weekly with less side effects and further improvement in response rate. Eventually, more strains of hepatitis C were discovered - 6 distinct genotypes and more than 50 subtypes. This development led to more targeted treatment. Finally, in 2014 the first all-oral ribavirin and interferon-free treatment, with one pill a day was approved which worked best with genotype 1 patients and re-

sponse rate was over 90%. Since then several combination oral medications have been approved. Some of them work against all six major genotypes with a cure rate of 98%. So, in the span of my career, we have not only discovered, but nearly completely cured hepatitis C.

I share this story to highlight the fact that, in medicine, we are always striving to be better -- to improve the lives of our patients, to improve the delivery of care, and to promote our own professional development. This is where our Society can be very helpful.

The Montgomery County Medical Society's mission includes advocating for physicians, recognizing community healthcare needs, providing services that meet the needs of the community, and leading the charge of community healthcare education. MCMS also is in a position to influence the state legislature to help pass laws which enable us to be better physicians and providers to our patients. In the past we have liaised with GDAHA (The Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association), Bar Association, Insurance companies and the Chamber of Commerce to represent our interests. The society also works hand in hand with the Medical Society Alliance which is run primarily by our spouses.

In a political climate where the physician's voice has been largely muted, it is important that we, as a physician community, find common ground and speak up with one voice. The Medical Society can be that voice in a local, state, and national political arena to affect positive change.

Several of you who are in private practice are wondering how large our group should be? Should we seek local, regional or national consolidation? Should we sell

to the hospital or to a private equity group? I believe that with our medical society, we can create a forum of discussion to share our thoughts and experiences to help one another make the best decisions for us and our patient needs.

I would also like to use the medical society platform to shed light on a major healthcare issue that affects many of our colleagues - physician burnout. Nationally, the physician burn out rate has reached a staggering 40%. An estimated 300 to 400 doctors kill themselves each year, more than double the suicide rate of the general population. We need to ask ourselves "How do we make our colleagues and our peer's lives better". A major advocate for physician burnout is our very own Dr. Andarsio. I want to continue to work with her to prevent our community physicians from being another national statistic. Please join me in thanking her for her relentless effort to prevent physician burnout.

Our patient's and our community need us now, more than ever before. It is important to be mindful of the growing health care costs. Healthcare for all is not possible without all paying into healthcare, which many healthy people are unwilling to do. A mere 5% of patients with chronic illnesses are taking up 50% of healthcare costs. Much of this number is due to end of life costs. Compare that number to the 0.1% spent on preventative medicine. If I was to redesign our healthcare delivery system I would spend much more in promoting healthy living and preventative medicine.

Patient's are calling for more transparency in healthcare. If it's possible to list the exact number of calories in a Big Mac on the

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Guests and Highlights of 2020 MCMS Annual Inaugural Meeting Saturday, January 11, 2020



OSMA FIFTY YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS



OSMA President Susan Hubbell, MD, with Award recipients George Brown, MD; Walter Keyes, MD; H. Bradford Hawley, MD; Ramaswamy Bathini, MD; Deepak Kumar, MD; Sudhakar Maraboyina, MD; and Sharat Kalvakota, MD





McDonald's menu, why should they not be able to easily access the cost of their colonoscopy? Well, as we all know, there is nothing straightforward about the business of medicine. The convoluted world of industry and insurance has made it nearly impossible to predict reimbursement for the various services we offer. These are complex issues that require the brilliant minds of this room to join together to first listen to our community and then consider what action items are possible. The MCMS is perfectly situated to lead the charge in community healthcare education. Community healthcare education should come from doctors, not from television or social media. I believe we have an opportunity to spread awareness of health and, in doing so, inspire the future doctors and leaders of our community. Perhaps we can consider a mentorship program, developing a foundation to be able to fund scholarships for medical students, or a health fair to educate about health, wellness, and disease prevention. It is important to look past our contractual alliances to the local healthcare networks, and join together to promote health in our county.

I would like to briefly touch on healthcare delivery - as it is at the forefront of the national conversation this election year. We are looking at a staggering 3.2 trillion dollars spent in healthcare per year, that amounts to nearly 17-18% of our GDP. Even with this large amount of money, we are unable to cover the healthcare

needs of our entire population. The American life expectancy is 4% less than other developed countries, with an infant mortality rate that is higher than similarly advanced countries. Introduction of co-pays and deductibles has somewhat dampened the rate of rise in healthcare dollars, but a lot needs to be done to improve our quality and performance scores.

I find the breakdown of healthcare dollars particularly fascinating. Administrative costs are around 30%, combined malpractice and defensive medicine accounts for around 10%, and physicians salaries only 10%. Most healthcare dollars are actually spent in end-of-life management. The topics of mortality, meaningful life, and death are very culturally specific but we need to be taking these ethical dilemmas into consideration as we care for the aging generations. Certainly on the minds of many is how much of healthcare costs are taken up by pharmaceutical and insurance companies who seem to make an unlimited profit. There have been other countries of the world who have faced similar challenges. Taiwan, for example, in 1995 had poor health outcomes and 45% of the country was uninsured. They chose a new healthcare delivery system which astonishingly improved outcomes while only spending 7% of GDP on healthcare.

We cannot rely on old, outdated medical practices and personnel to keep up with the ever-changing US healthcare system. The future of medicine lies in our ability to showcase the medical community as an outstanding

and honorable group of leaders. We have a shortage of physicians, and it is up to us to share the rewards of this profession with our impressionable youth. Young, brilliant minds choosing medicine as a profession is our hope, for discovery and cure of the next seemingly incurable disease. We should strive to empower our next generation of young people by providing resources and tools to prepare them for the continuously changing healthcare system. In order to keep this field attractive to our young professionals, we must continue to strive for excellence in healthcare.

Unfortunately, membership in our honorable society has decreased. This is of utmost concern, and it is important to investigate the reasoning behind the departure of our valued members. Membership should be desirable, and renewal sustainable. This will be my first order of business as your president - a new years resolution, so to speak. To this end I will need your help. Encourage your colleagues to join the society. Perhaps discuss the benefits of joining the society at your respective MEC's and at your group meetings and share that we are open to growth and change to make this society greater than ever before.

I am so incredibly thankful to all of you for entrusting me as your President to lead MCMS in this new decade of collaboration, evolution, and growth.

Thank you for coming, Happy New Year, and I'm excited to work closely with many of you this year.

2019 - A Challenging Year For All

by Jeffrey B. Studebaker, M.D.



Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for coming out and joining us tonight for the passing of the gavel to Dr. Mehta.

As I conclude my year as president, I must again express my gratitude to Connie Mahle and Gerri Creel for all their efforts that have made my job as president relatively easy. I also thank our board of directors, as well as all of you for all of your support during my term as president.

About a year ago, I stood here before you, asserting that I believe we are living in wild times. I was right about that, but I didn't know even half of it.

Shortly after 2019 began, the campaign to impeach the president of the United States started to intensify. It continues today, with no end in sight and without resolution. Recent events in Iraq involving the US and Iran have inflamed the rhetoric even further.

Nationally, we have made no progress in the debates over abortion and immigration.

On Memorial Day, the weather got wild. Tornadoes whipped through the Miami Valley, leaving few communities unaffected. My wife and I were fortunate—we lost only a trash can and half a dozen trees. Our neighbor to our south lost her home. My office manager and nurse practitioner sustained

major structural damage to their homes. Many neighborhoods are still struggling to recover.

In the summer, a disturbed young man with a firearm opened fire on Fifth Street in the Oregon District, causing mass mortality and morbidity. As has often occurred following such an atrocity, renewed calls for tighter control of firearm acquisition have surfaced. Second amendment considerations, as well as laws designed to protect juveniles, continue to create road blocks to effective legislation.

As summer was giving way to autumn, our medical society began to face some hard realities. Market competition compelled us to outsource our physician answering service. As Fidelity Health Care assumed responsibility for the remaining physicians on the service, they retained all of the employees whose voices we continue to recognize in our interactions with that service.

As we go forward into 2020 we will be re-examining the mission of our historic organization and re-focusing our efforts to secure appropriate membership support to allow us to continue to meet our goals and purpose. We have plans in place to address all of these topics.

Although 2019 has indeed been wild, it hasn't been all nega-

tive. In the aftermath of the tornadoes, our communities have pulled together. Prompt action on the part of law enforcement prevented the Oregon District incident from becoming much worse, and again the outpouring of support, both from within and from outside the area has been heartening. Channels of communication have been established that may hopefully lead to meaningful change toward preventing future incidents.

Dr. Andarsio continues to spearhead efforts on both the local and state levels to address physician well-being.

Dr. Lisa Egbert has been elected AMA vice speaker. Dr. Deepak Kumar has been elected chair-elect of the AMA International Medical Graduates governing council. We congratulate both of you, and know that you will bring all of your personal and professional resources to bear as you serve in those positions.

In September, we hosted Ohio Supreme Court Justice Judi French in a well-attended membership dinner event. She explained her conservative judicial philosophy, and how it informs her judicial decisions. Her position should be in tune with the concerns of our health care community. Hopefully, there will be more such events in the future.

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OSMA Focusing on Physician Well-Being and Patient Health

by Lisa B. Egbert, M.D.



The pervasiveness of physician burnout is startling. More than half of all physicians in the United States have experienced symptoms of burnout. As we all know, the demands of meeting patient needs, long hours, and increased regulatory mandates all while balancing personal lives has created intense stress points for physicians.

The OSMA is working hard to help Ohio's physicians combat the overwhelming feeling of burnout by promoting new strategies and ideas that focus on a doctor's well-being.

In 2018, the OSMA launched a Physician Well-Being Committee led by our own Evangeline Andarsio, MD. The committee's work has led to a host of resources that can be found on the OSMA's website at www.OSMA.org. The Well-Being webpage contains a toolkit of information that physicians can use to identify whether they are potentially suffering symptoms of burnout and how they seek assistance.

And this year, the OSMA will take part in a nationwide project that aims to develop best practices for medical practices and health systems who are re-evaluating their operations which could impact physician well-being. Funded by a grant from the American Medical Association and Physicians Foundation, the OSMA will work with at least four medical groups or health systems in Ohio in 2020 and 2021 helping them to develop internal strategies that can improve workplace operations and focus on the physicians overall happiness and satisfaction.

In other developments, the OSMA has launched a Healthier Ohio Committee focused on improving the state's track record in addressing public health concerns. By some measures, Ohio ranks near the bottom in the country for the rate of public health illnesses related to diabetes, smoking, obesity, infant mortality, and overall general health.

The Healthier Ohio Committee has focused on three areas: smoking cessation, diabetes treatment, and access to care. The Committee will work through this year identifying ideas for how Ohio could address each of those topics, whether it be through advocacy and legislation or general awareness and public education.

These issues are likely to be addressed at the OSMA's upcoming 2020 Educational Symposium and Annual Meeting in Columbus, March 20-22 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. The Symposium on Friday, March 20 will feature breakout sessions on topics including physician burnout, overcoming billing and coding issues, medical marijuana in Ohio, and cultivating efficient medical practice work environments. There will also be an advocacy and legislative discussion with updates on surprise billing, mental health parity, and scope of practice measures pending at the Ohio Statehouse.

The OSMA's annual business meeting will follow on March 21 and 22. The following physicians are dedicating their time and efforts to serve as Delegates from District Two at this year's Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates:

Montgomery County:

Herman Abromowitz, MD
James Bryant, MD
Kenneth Christman, MD
Margaret Dunn, MD
John Haluschak, MD
Deepak Kumar, MD
Walter A. Reiling III, MD
Jeffrey Studebaker, MD

Champaign County:

John Crankshaw, MD

Darke County:

Alisha Reiss, MD

Greene County:

A. Patrick Jonas, MD

Miami County:

David Griffith, MD

John Corker, MD, (Montgomery County) is a Councilor at Large.

And Evangeline Andarsio, MD – will serve as a Delegate because she is the Immediate Past President of the Association

District Two has two candidates for election to serve as Councilor at Large; Shannon Trotter, DO, a Dermatologist from Springfield; and Tarek Sabagh, MD, an Oncologist from Dayton, practicing with Dayton Physicians, LLC.

Also at this year's meeting, John Corker, MD, and Deepak Kumar, MD, are candidates for election to serve as Delegates to the American Medical Association.

And, there are two candidates for President-Elect of the OSMA: Lisa Egbert, MD (Dayton OH) and Brian Santin, MD (Wilmington OH)

There are twenty-six resolutions to be debated and voted on to develop policy for the OSMA going forward. For more information about the Annual Meeting, and to review the proposed resolutions, visit the OSMA website.

The OSMA works hard for Ohio's physicians but the organization is only as strong as the support it receives from its members. If you are a member, thank you! If you are not, then please consider joining us today by visiting, www.OSMA.org/join.

Editorial Note: MCMS is proud to support Dr. Lisa Egbert as a candidate for President-Elect of the OSMA. Additionally, MCMS supports all of our MCMS member physicians who are candidates for election this year. And MCMS thanks all of its member physicians who have volunteered to serve at the 2020 OSMA Annual Meeting.

**Dr. Studebaker's Remarks.....
Continued from page 9**

In October, many of us availed ourselves of the opportunity to interact with OSMA legislative personnel and several local legislators regarding statewide issues important to the House of Medicine. Among the important issues discussed were scope of practice of mid-level providers, price transparency, mental health parity, creating a healthier Ohio, physician well-being, and medical marijuana. Going forward, discussion of all these issues will continue.

Also, our District Two delegation is gearing up for the OSMA House of Delegates meeting in late March, and has already been busily developing and discussing numerous resolutions to submit for deliberation at the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Mehta, I pass the gavel and helm control to you. Rest assured that the previous presidents and I have your back, and you can depend on Connie and Gerri to help make your year as president proceed as smoothly as possible.

Life As A Flyer Premed

by Annette Chavez, M.D.



One of the pleasures of my life is engaging with premedical students at the University of Dayton. It is fun to get to know them as well as to hear how their education compares to my own several decades ago. I occasionally ask the students if any of them have received the Michaelis Scholarship or if they know who Chudd Auditorium was named after. They of course have no familiarity with the men behind those names. I then tell them of these professors of my era who silently still make an impact in their lives.

I was fortunate to receive a nearly free (and excellent) education from UD because my father was a professor of Elementary Education there. Unlike my four siblings, I did not take a single Education class. I learned primarily from professors in the college of Arts and Sciences and they were almost all men. I would like to highlight a few of them.

Cletus Chudd, SM

Brother Chudd was a small, neat man with a full head of silver hair carefully parted and combed to the side. He started his Organic Chemistry classes with a list of topics written on the chalkboard. After he finished teaching each topic, he put a checkmark by it on the board and moved down to the next one. He made Organic

Chemistry very understandable and his tests were difficult but fair. We all greatly respected him. I took his class in 1979. In 1986, I was a resident at St. Elizabeth Medical Center. One day I was on one of the med-surg floors when I ran into Dr. James Leary, a fellow UD alum. He said “Annette! Did you have Bro. Chudd for Chemistry at UD?” I said yes and he said “He is in a room down the hall. Why don’t you go visit him?” I walked into the hospital room to find a disheveled, frail, elderly man with hair askew sitting in a chair. His gown was falling off his shoulders. I introduced myself and told him I had been in his class. I told him thanks for being such a great teacher to so many of us. I think maybe he remembered me. But he was so distraught because he was nearly blind and was ill and felt terrible. My heart broke for him. He died shortly afterward and UD named the main Chemistry auditorium in his honor.

Dr. Carl Michaelis

Dr. Michaelis loved to tell me that he and my dad arrived at UD the same year back in 1955. Dr. Michaelis was a lifelong bachelor with no children. He had a bit of a Fred McMurray persona – a kind, absentminded professor. He often told me how much money I would make as a doctor. That is not why

I went into medicine, but it seemed to be of great interest to him. He lived simply, wore somewhat dated clothing, and was a great champion of students interested in becoming physicians. Later when I was in early practice, he would greet my mother or father on campus and inquire about me the same way every time: “How is the young physician?” He was a Chemistry professor and advisor for the premed organization Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED). He attended every club meeting and social event, even boozy beer blasts in the basement of Campus South. At that time, students were permitted to imbibe “low beer”, as zero tolerance for alcohol consumption on campuses did not yet exist. It did not seem to bother Dr. Michaelis to sit calmly in a chair at an AED party and watch the future doctors of Dayton (and beyond) dance and drink and carouse. One of the two times in my life that I have been intoxicated was at an AED party when I was a graduating senior celebrating my upcoming med school attendance. The party room was hot, I was thirsty, and the only available beverage was “hairy buffalo.” This was a 70’s concoction of Hawaiian punch, vodka and ice served in a clean trash can. Dr. Michaelis never said a word to me (or anyone else for that matter) about the happenings at AED events.

Dr. Michaelis died some years after I finished residency, after a series of orthopedic mishaps caused him to be operated on by former students of his. The greatest surprise came later. Doc had bequeathed 4.5 million dollars to UD for scholarships for premed students. The man was made of money and no one ever knew it! He invested carefully and spent relatively little on himself. And he did this on a Catholic university professor's salary. My father was a full professor with tenure and at the end of his career earned \$36,000 per year. Students now benefit from Dr. Michaelis' frugality and supreme generosity.

Dr. Ken McDougall

There is a Muppet character known as the scientist Dr. Bunsen Honeydew who has a loopysidekick named "Beaker". Despite being a puppet, the scientist was the spitting image of Dr. McDougall. He was balding, with a comb-over, glasses, and was slightly portly but fiercely intelligent. He taught Genetics and his class was considered a "weed-out" class for the premeds. He gave notoriously difficult tests but taught with clarity and precision. He famously labeled each side of the double helix – one strand was "Watson" and the other "Crick". He was a quiet man but imparted important principles of Genetics to generations of doctors. His class was far more comprehensive than the one I had in medical school.

Professor James Ramsey

Prof. Ramsey was my advisor and his Bio 151-152 series was a freshman premed rite of passage.

He was circumspect, and spoke deliberately with a slight Texas drawl. His tests were also difficult. He expected students to know, for example that the partial pressure of O₂ in room air is 21%. He didn't teach that in class, mind you. You were just expected to have a knowledge base that he would build upon. One day our class complained that he had assigned three book chapters for an upcoming test. He addressed the students in his slow cadence. "Many of you students plan to attend medical school. You are upset that you have to study a few chapters for this exam. Well in medical school you might be expected to have nine chapters on the test!" We were all horrified. Years later I visited Prof. Ramsey and let him know that he had greatly underestimated the med school course load. In med school you had to know the whole darn book, and sometimes several for exam day. The material on that freshman Bio test would have been covered in half a day at OSUCOM.

Prof. Ramsey was a great advisor and always welcomed students to talk and discuss their futures. He is still alive and in his mid 90's, and teaches part time at Cedarville University. One day some years ago I visited him and he produced the Dayton Yellow Pages. He noted proudly that he had taught about 50% of the doctors listed in that phone book. His legacy has certainly lasted for generations of physicians.

Dr. Charles Chantell

We all called him "Charlie" behind his back and he was the body

double of Walter Matthau. Gruff but smart and funny, he taught the 300 and 400 level Biology classes. He surprised us all by using minor cusswords in his lectures from time to time. He delighted in describing how birds mate in midair. He taught the Comparative Anatomy lecture and lab class and when I was a senior, I was his lab teaching assistant. I thought that I knew anatomy well, since I could identify structures on a shark and a cat. I was quickly disabused of that crazy notion by my first week of anatomy class in med school. Dr. Chantell later became the much-loved chair of the Biology department and died just last year.

Dr. Kenneth Schraut

Dr. Schraut was beloved by about half of the students. If you were male and he liked you, he would invite you to his home for dinner, to play handball, and he would write such a stupendous letter of recommendation that you were sure to be admitted to the University of Cincinnati Medical School. He used words in his recommendations such as "perspicacity." He had a hotline to the UC Dean of Admissions, as he felt that was the only med school worth even considering. He did not like most women and especially not me because he had some disagreement with my father in the past. (Dad's Elementary Education students were failing Dr. Schraut's math class so dad moved those classes to the Education department.) I took Dr. Schraut's Calculus class as a freshman and thankfully earned an A. I did not

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Alliance Happenings

by Shirley Nicholson

The Montgomery County Medical Society Alliance enjoyed a beautiful fall day on October 17th at the Hidden Valley Orchards. We enjoyed a hay ride and a tour of the orchards, followed by a delicious lunch and wine tasting.

In November we went to the Dorothy Lane Market Cooking School in Washington Square

Shopping Center. We enjoyed watching the chef prepare and serve some delicious appetizers.

On December 6,th we held our annual Holiday Luncheon at Moraine County Club in Moraine. We had a speaker from the Domestic Violence Center. We held a Silent Auction which raised \$1,500 for

the Shelter. We also brought donations of clothing and household items for the residents. Through our Sharing Card, we raised \$10,000 for Medical Scholarships.

In the new year, we went to the Bellbrook Chocolate Shop at the Cross-Point shopping center on January 21. We were able to dip different can-



Shown Left: Learning a few new skills at Dorothy Lane Cooking School

Shown Right: The 2019 Holiday Luncheon was a huge success with Silent Auction benefit for the Domestic Violence Center.



dies in chocolate and enjoyed decorating them. Then we had lunch at the Rancheros Cocina Mexicana Restaurant.

Please consider joining us this year. For more information please contact Shirley Nicholson at 937-434-8507.



Enjoying a Day at Hidden Valley Farm



Chocolate is everybody's favorite!

Other Voices (Continued from Page 13)

get one of his coveted letters of recommendation to UC but I was accepted there anyway. I chose OSU instead when my family doctor advised me to go there, and after Prof. Ramsey said he wouldn't feel comfortable with his daughter walking in the neighborhood around UC.

Donald Geiger, SM

Brother Geiger is probably one of the most brilliant people I have ever met. He taught the plant physiology portion of our freshman Biology class. Most of the premed students never took another class from him but I was fortunate to be offered a job in his lab. This lab occupied space in the basement of Sherman Hall, just steps from the "nursery school". That preschool just happened to be run by my sister Joan and it was also across the hall from the Comparative Anatomy lab. My sister actually believed me when I told her that we were dissecting "land sharks" in the anatomy lab. (Land sharks were a running gag in a 1970's "Saturday Night Live" skit.)

Bro. Geiger loved to have his lab staff eat lunch in the summers on the preschool play equipment just outside Sherman Hall. We balanced on tiny swings and the teeter-totter while we ate. In Bro. Geiger's lab there was a massive Rube Goldberg invention of pipes

and lights and compartments. Its main purpose was to facilitate research on sucrose translocation in sugar beets. One of my jobs, in addition to washing glassware, was to process radiolabeled sugar beet leaves. It involved boiling a set of leaves in a flask under pressure. The pressure was supplied by a column of mercury in an open-topped glass cylinder. I often stood in a panic as I tried to control the heat in the flask while preventing the mercury from overtopping the cylinder. It would have spilled all over the floor and constituted an environmental disaster. Fortunately, that never happened and I figured out that I had no interest in doing research in my career. I did, however, appreciate learning from the master of plant physiology and a pioneering environmentalist. Bro. Geiger founded the Marianist Environmental Education Center from a gravel pit used to construct I-675. It is a reserve filled with native Ohio plants and wildlife.

So check out the internet (or even the phone book). Many of the physicians in the Dayton area whom you know and love first got their basic science education from these University of Dayton professors. There is a new generation of educators now, fortunately including many more women. They continue to shape physicians who share their talents with our community and the rest of the world.

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