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Featured Professional School: Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine



If you haven't heard the great news yet, Michigan has recently added another medical school to its list: Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. What sets OUWB apart from the other medical schools, you ask? First, they have a completely new curriculum layout. Instead of having the traditional two years of science courses followed by two years of hospital rotations, they have a system that provides clinical experience and

science courses throughout the four years. They also have a special program, "The Capstone," in the curriculum designed to teach you about scholarly research and help you design your own research or community outreach program. *(Continued on page two.)*

2011 Statistics:

- * Applicants: 3,237
- * Interviewed: 321
- * First Class Size: 50
- * Median GPA: 3.67
- * Median Science GPA: 3.56
- * Median MCAT: 31
- * Average Age: 23.4
- * Age Range: 21-37

How to Volunteer: Getting Started and Getting Involved

As pre-professional students, we know that volunteering is becoming an essential part of building a valuable college experience. Here are a few tips to help get you started!

I. Be selective.

Get involved in something that interests you! Think about what matters to you, and be selective about where you spend your time. Focusing less on what you think will 'look good' on a resume and more on what you enjoy will be the most rewarding for you personally. Picking an area that you are interested in will help make sure that your experience doesn't feel like an obligation or just another item to check off on your to-do list. *(Continued on page four.)*

At your fingertips:

- ⇒ www.servicelearning.msu.edu
- ⇒ www.asb.msu.edu

Upcoming Events in the College of Natural Science

Tuesday, October 12
Graduate & Professional
School Fair
Union 2nd Floor, 4-7pm

October 16-22
Homecoming Week Events

Wednesday, October 26
Medical and Dental School
Application Preparation Seminar
116 Nat Sci Bldg, 5:30-7pm

Thursday, October 27
U of M Pharmacy Visit
203C Nat Sci Bldg, 1-3pm



Meet the Faculty! Q&A with Dr. Scott Mulrooney

Q: What is the best part about teaching? I really enjoy working directly with students.

Q: What was your favorite college class? I [had] a chemistry class - it was called something like "radioisotope methods". It was a lab where we got to use a small room-temperature nuclear reactor that was located in the basement of the Chemistry building at the time (this was 1979, I guess nuclear reactors were easier to get in those days).

Q: If you could go back to college for one day, what would you do? If I was given the opportunity, I would pass - what has happened is over. I have no great desire to relive any days from then.

Q: If you could be in another profession, what would it be? My father worked for the Federal Aviation Administration, and I spent a lot of time hanging around airports when I was younger. I might have wound up in some aspect of aviation, maybe even a pilot. *(Continued on page two.)*

CNS Pre-Professional Newsletter

Meet the Faculty! Q&A with Dr. Scott Mulrooney

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Dr. Scott Mulrooney

Professor of MMG 301
Academic Advisor in the
Department of Microbiology

"I worked on isolating DNA recombination intermediates that were involved in genetic exchange reactions."

Q: Do you have a funny or memorable college story? My friend and co-worker was a grad student who just passed his prelim exams. [To celebrate] we conducted a scientific experiment to see how many times one could drop a biochemistry textbook off of the 5th floor onto the concrete walkway below before it was destroyed - he dropped and I stood lookout down below. I think it took 5 drops before it blew up. We then made a giant slingshot out of latex tubing and proceeded to shoot various food items off the top of the building - I recall a cake and a large section of a watermelon, but there were probably others as well.

Q: When you first started college, what did you want to do as a career? I gravitated towards the life sciences from the beginning. I considered biomedical engineering but soon realized that any type of engineering was not for me.

Q: What was your first research project? [Immediately after graduation] I worked on isolating DNA recombination intermediates that were involved in genetic exchange reactions. Basically, I purified DNA molecules that had Holliday junctions (go back to microbial genetics if you don't remember what those are).

Q: How has college changed since you were in school?

- 1) Computers - I hate to admit it, but the only computer I used in college was about twice the size of a large file cabinet and programs were stored on punch cards.
- 2) Cost: I think it was about \$3,000 per year - its now about 10 times as much.
- 3) We have much more information overload today.

Q: Where did you attend undergraduate/graduate school? I graduated from the University of California, Irvine campus with a BS in Biological Sciences in June 1976, began working there as a lab tech and continued school part-time to receive a second BS in Chemistry in 1979. I worked there until 1985 when I went to the Ph.D. program in Biochemistry at Michigan State.

Q: What is your favorite quote or memory as a student? My friend and I had been working on this one problem on our Physical Chemistry homework for hours. Eventually, one of us realized that the solution was a stupidly simple one and we had been wasting our time for nothing.

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

(Continued from page one.)

The Capstone also spans all four years. Their curriculum is integrated across the subjects. For example, if you are covering the cardiovascular system, in anatomy you would cover the anatomy of the heart, in physiology you would cover the physiological aspects of the heart, in pharmacology you would learn what drugs might be used to affect the heart, etc. At the end of every week, you would meet with your class to work in a Team Based Learning format. Here you will discuss questions based on that week's material in your team of five or so students and would be graded individually, as a team, and as a class. Starting week one, you will begin your clinical experience in the nationally recognized William Beaumont Health System. The two primary hospitals for rotations are at the Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital (1,070 beds) and the Troy Beaumont Hospital (394 beds). To create globally aware physicians, international rotation possibilities are already being created! Two are currently in place, in Korea and Israel.



In terms of accreditation, they have been offered preliminary accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education which basically means the only thing they have left to do is graduate a class! Upon review, OUWB was found to have six strengths, and no areas that needed development. All of this combined creates a new, exciting school that may be perfect for you! To find more information, check out their website at www.oakland.edu/medicine.

Mission:

The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine is a collaborative, diverse, inclusive, and technologically advanced learning community, dedicated to enabling students to become skillful, ethical, and compassionate physicians, inquisitive scientists who are invested in the scholarship of discovery, and dynamic and effective medical educators. Our mission is accomplished through a student-centered approach to biomedical education, a patient-centered approach to the delivery of health care, and a focus on highly original research that includes the biomedical sciences and extends beyond the laboratory to all disciplines that impact the health of patients and their communities.

Volume I, Issue I

Student Spotlight: Sowmya Surapur

Q: What are you involved in at MSU? I am most involved with IVAC (International Volunteer Action Corp) working to increase global competencies through volunteerism. I am the president of Slow Food MSU and work for C.S. Mott for sustainable food systems.

Q: What is Slow Food? A program that emphasizes the importance of slowing down your life for a meal. Food has an incredible amount of culture and tradition yet most of us are too busy to actually enjoy a meal for what it's worth.

Q: What has been your favorite class at MSU? I love my evolution and society class MC 350. It was very interesting and applied science to society.

Q: What do you do in your spare time? I enjoy going for drives and gardening when I am stressed. I also enjoy volunteering with the Food Movers Program and the Food Bank.

Q: What are some of your favorite things to do on campus? I enjoy visiting the 4H

Children's garden on Wilson Road and going to the Dairy Store every Monday for grilled cheese and free tomato soup!

Q: Advice to other CNS students: Find a place to study and make it a routine, but don't go there unless you have to study! I like to study in the "libraries" of Mason Abbot.

Q: Plans after graduation? I have not decided between going to graduate school for nutrition or going to medical school... it changes every day.



Sowmya Surapur

Year: Senior

Major: Nutritional Sciences

Expected Date of Graduation: May 2012

Featured Student Group: Human Biology Club

The Human Biology Club is a student organization designed for like-minded students to get together to discuss and participate in activities dealing with human biology and related sciences.

Although the club is geared towards pre-professional majors, you do not need to be a Human Biology major to join. It is a great way to meet students within your classes that share similar interests and help you get more involved

on campus while building your resume.

The organization brings in guest speakers to discuss their careers and educational backgrounds, as well as answer any questions students have regarding their careers.

The Human Biology Club also provides a variety of volunteer events at places like the MSU Food Bank and the Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in

Lansing.

Meetings are held biweekly on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm in Room 114 Bessey Hall. Attendance at three or more meetings or events, and a yearly due of twenty dollars, are required to be considered an active member.

For more information on the Human Biology Club, feel free to check out their website: www.msu.edu/~hbclub.

Student Poll:

In honor of Cancer Awareness Month

What do you think is the most common cancer in men and women?

- A. Colon cancer
- B. Prostate/Breast cancer
- C. Lung cancer
- D. Skin cancer

To vote, go to:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/sl/L2M7K3P>

How well do you know MSU Trivia Quiz!

1. How many parking spaces are there on campus?

- A. 23,400
- B. 18,000
- C. Not enough

2. What is the oldest building on campus?

- A. Natural Resources
- B. Olds Hall
- C. Cowles House

3. How many bells are in the Beaumont Tower?

- A. 15
- B. 47
- C. 211

4. In 1929, MSU Police established the first state police _____ system in the world.

- A. Squad Car
- B. Parking Code Enforcement
- C. Radio

5. Fill in the blank to the **original** MSU fight song: "Their specialty is _____ and the Spartans play good ball."

- A. Playing
- B. Winning
- C. Farming

6. What year was the Spartan statue dedicated?

- A. 1945
- B. 1990
- C. 1855

Answers: 1) A, 2) C, 3) B, 4) C, 5) C, and 6) A

Facts found at:

http://startingstate.msu.edu/welcome/spartan_trivia_quiz.html



How to Volunteer: Getting Started and Getting Involved

(Continued from page one.)

A note about career-related volunteer experiences and job-shadowing:

Keep in mind that professional health schools often like to see that you have had some work or volunteer experience related to the profession you are aiming towards.

Otherwise, how can you really know what you want out of a career? Such experiences help you understand what is involved on a day-to-day basis in your career of choice and reaffirm that you are making an informed career decision. The entire bulk of your volunteer experiences *do not* need to be medically-related, but it is important that a portion of your experiences do fall into the clinical realm.

2. Visit the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement

This on-campus service provides a huge variety of volunteer opportunities exclusively for MSU students! Whether you're looking for a long-term commitment or a one-time-deal, they are a great resource and can help you find the volunteer experience that best fits your interests and schedule. Visit their website at www.servicelearning.msu.edu to learn more. Another great resource is www.asb.msu.edu, which can give you more

information about Alternative Spring Break programs. These are great opportunities for students who don't have room in their schedule on a weekly basis for a volunteering commitment.

3. Stay organized

Be sure to keep a log of dates, number of hours, and a contact person as soon as you start. It's much easier than trying to remember specifics from four years ago when you finally apply to professional school! A good way to do this is to create an Excel or Word document on your computer and add volunteering activities as you go along.

Remember to include what you gained from these experiences, as some professional school essays may require you to expand on certain experiences. The more detailed you can be now, the easier it will be to write your responses.

4. Explore your options

Not sure what you'd like to get involved in? Ask around! If you're interested in a certain field, your professors or advisors might have some good ideas for you. Additionally, we PPAs are always here to help, so feel free to stop in and chat about it with us.

Benefits of Volunteering:

1. Enhancing your leadership abilities
2. Learning new skills
3. Gaining career-related experience
4. Networking with professionals in your field of interest
5. Getting involved in your community
6. Meeting new people
7. Having fun!

Where can you volunteer?

Here are some examples of local organizations!

- ◆ American Red Cross
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- ◆ Sparrow/Ingham Hospital
- ◆ Relay for Life
- ◆ Academic Mentor/Tutor



Meet your Pre-professional Peer Advisors!

Kayli is a pre-med junior studying Human Biology with a minor in Spanish. She is involved in volunteering at the Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center and in the ER at Sparrow-Clinton Hospital. Kayli will apply to medical school next summer!

Rachel is a pre-med senior this year studying Human Biology with specializations in BHS and Health Promotion. She is involved in the CNS Student Advisory Council and is also a resident mentor on campus. Rachel was just accepted into medical school!



From left to right: Kayli, Rachel, Taylor, Yanmen

Taylor is a pre-med senior with a double major in Human Biology and Nutritional Sciences. She is involved in Greek life, is on the competitive cheer team, and is involved in multiple clubs on campus. Taylor will apply to medical school next summer!

Yanmen is a pre-pharmacy senior studying Physiology and Human Biology with a Nutritional Sciences minor and a Health Promotion specialization. She is involved in Greek life and volunteers with the MSU Student Food Bank. Yanmen has applied to pharmacy school!