

Parent News

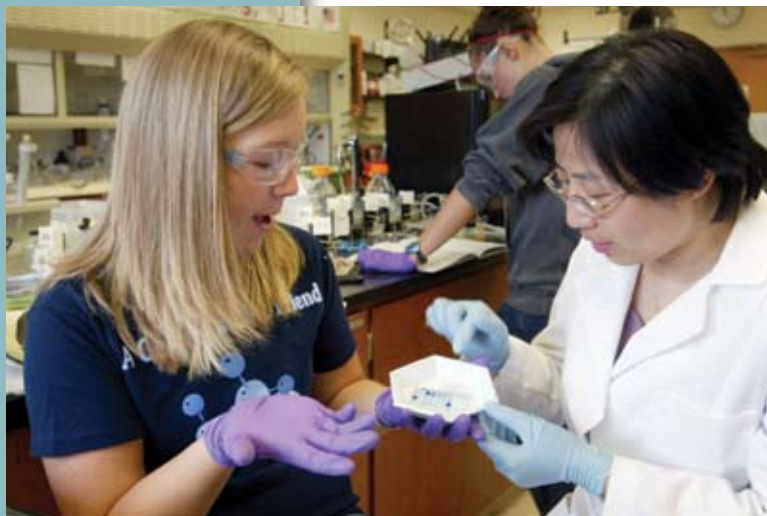
Spring 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CMU PARENT ASSOCIATION

Commitment to research recognized

CMU nationally ranked in research productivity

Central Michigan University was recently ranked the tenth most productive research university in the nation among those with 14 or fewer Ph.D. programs.



During a summer undergraduate research project, Plymouth junior Michelle Jurcak, left, works closely with CMU Chemistry Professor Minghui Chai on a dendrimer aggregation study.

The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, compiled jointly by the State University of New York at Stony Brook and for-profit research firm Academic Analytics, measures the scholarly productivity of faculty based on published works, citations, and financial and honorary awards. From the information gathered, programs are then rated to produce university rankings.

"CMU prides itself on caring and qualified faculty members who provide engaging, hands-on research and learning experiences for both graduate and undergraduate students," CMU President Michael Rao said. "CMU is making significant research contributions in a variety of niche areas including health, data mining, nanotechnology, business incubation, and national defense."

Faculty productivity evaluated by this index was based on data from 2005. A total of 7,294 programs and 177,816 faculty members at 354 institutions were rated. The institutions were separated into three categories: large research universities that offer 15 or more Ph.D. programs, small research universities that offer between one and 14 Ph.D. programs, and specialized research institutions.

CMU joins DePaul University, San Diego State University, Bryn Mawr College, and the College of William and Mary in the top 10 rankings of small research universities. A total of 61 institutions are ranked in this category.

"Being highly ranked in terms of faculty productivity provides potential students some very important information and will hopefully encourage highly qualified students to apply to and enroll in CMU's doctoral programs," CMU College of Graduate Studies Interim Dean Gail Scukanec said.

CMU offers Ph.D. programs in history, mathematics, industrial/organizational psychology, school psychology, clinical psychology, and applied experimental psychology, along with doctoral programs in audiology, educational leadership, physical therapy, and health administration.

For a complete list of ranked institutions and further information on the FSP Index, visit Academic Analytics' Web site at www.academicanalytics.com. ■

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– Gail Scukanec, interim dean
College of Graduate Studies

Parent News

Parent News is the CMU Parent Association Newsletter, published for parents of current CMU students. The newsletter is a joint project of the university's Dean of Students and Public Relations and Marketing offices.

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Communication between CMU staff and our students' families is important to us. Feel free to contact us with your questions.

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Career Services
(989) 774-3068

Counseling Center
(989) 774-3381

Dean of Students
(989) 774-3346

Leadership Institute
(989) 774-1909

Minority Student Services
(989) 774-3945

Receivable Accounting
(989) 774-3618

Residence Life
(989) 774-3111

Registrar
(989) 774-3261

Scholarships and Financial Aid
(989) 774-3674

Student Life
(989) 774-3016

Volunteer Center
(989) 774-7685

CMU, an AA/EQ institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see www.cmich.edu/aaeo).

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PRESIDENT REACHES OUT TO PARENTS

Periodic e-mails highlight CMU news and initiatives

Central Michigan University President Michael Rao has launched a new communication initiative in an effort to connect with parents in between issues of *Parent News*.

President Rao is corresponding with CMU parents through periodic *News from the President* e-mails detailing current university news and initiatives. Recipients can click through active links to learn more about the people and programs highlighted in each message.

"This will be a good opportunity to stay connected with these important members of the Central Michigan University family," President Rao said. "Parents play a significant role in their children's education, and outreach efforts like this can help keep them involved during this challenging time for students."

Parents can sign up to receive *News from the President* e-mails at www.cmich.edu/for-parents.htm.

"Now is a critical time to keep in touch with the university community," President Rao said. "Many new developments are taking place related to higher education funding, student/faculty collaborative research, valuable learning opportunities like study abroad and volunteer events, and diversity. Students should not be the only ones who are up-to-date on these important issues."

Staying involved with CMU

By e-mailing periodic university updates to interested parents, President Rao hopes to better engage them in the life of the university and in their children's education.

"It is my hope that information about the many opportunities at CMU will help encourage parents to sit down with their sons and daughters for informed discussions about their academic learning plans," he said. "By becoming familiar with the exceptional programs that CMU offers – like study abroad, community service, and undergraduate and graduate research – parents can encourage students to get the most out of their time at CMU and the best chances of succeeding after graduation."

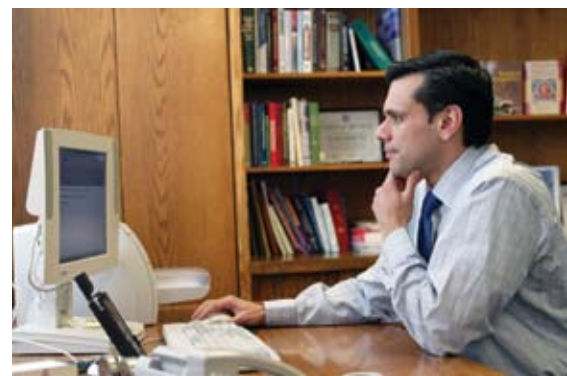
Understanding that some people are nervous about disclosing their e-mail addresses

online, President Rao said: "CMU assures parents that the information received through *News from the President* registration will not be used for any purpose other than to

receive my periodic university updates. The CMU community respects their privacy and appreciates their interest in receiving *News from the President*. Their information is safe with the university." ■

"Parents play a significant role in their children's education, and outreach efforts like this can help keep them involved during this challenging time for students."

– Michael Rao, CMU president



President Michael Rao is engaging CMU parents in their children's education through *News from the President*, a series of periodic e-mail updates.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH CMU

By Michael Rao, Ph.D.
University president

Welcome to the Spring 2007 issue of *Parent News*. I value this opportunity to keep in touch with important members of the university community – you, the parents of CMU’s students. As a parent myself, I am reminded as I write to you how much I truly enjoy being a part of an organization that transforms the lives of young people.



Michael Rao

The university has undertaken several new initiatives recently, many of which are highlighted in this publication:

- Read about CMU’s award-winning student-managed physical therapy clinic.
- Hear how CMU is making advances in campus safety and security through efforts such as the NightRides program.
- Learn more about CMU programs in place to help your daughter or son decide on a field of study and choose an academic major.
- Learn about CMU’s recent ranking as one of the top 10 research universities of its size in the nation.
- Discover in CMU “Points of Pride” some of the outstanding efforts of CMU students, professors, and staff members.

Student involvement

The students highlighted in the “Points of Pride” section represent just a few of the thousands of CMU students who are shaping and giving hope to many Michigan communities every day. CMU offers countless opportunities for all students to get involved on campus and in the community.

Please encourage your young adult to seriously explore the possibility of joining a student organization, musical ensemble,

club sport, or other activity. Students also can take advantage of the many events on campus, including guest lectures, concerts, art exhibitions, NCAA Division IA athletic contests, musicals, plays, and shows. Far-reaching activities like research, volunteering, leadership activities, and study abroad benefit not only students, but communities around the world and future generations.

There’s no question in my mind that involvement outside of the classroom helps shape students’ academic experiences and makes their college career more enjoyable and fulfilling.

Perhaps even more important, I observe that it is the students who are most engaged in the life of the university who become the most effective and prominent leaders in their fields and in our Michigan communities.

For additional information on campus activities and organizations, please visit the Student Life Web site at www.stulife.cmich.edu.

CMU football team success

One student group enjoying success this year is the Chippewa football team. By winning the Mid-American Conference title, earning the school’s first NCAA Division IA bowl victory at the Motor City Bowl, and leading the conference with seven Academic ALL-MAC selections, these student-athletes helped draw national attention to the university from audiences that have become more familiar with its academic programs, students, and graduates.

CMU anticipates continued success as head football coach Butch Jones returns to the Kelly/Shorts sidelines after a successful tenure at West Virginia University.

Invest in higher education

Higher education benefits all of Michigan, as states with the highest number of college graduates have the lowest unemployment rates and the fastest-growing economies. Greater support for public higher education is

needed to make it accessible and affordable for all qualified students, starting with equitable per-student funding for Michigan’s 15 public universities.

Though CMU is the fourth largest university in the state and has the fourth highest graduation rate, it will receive the fourth lowest appropriation per student for the 2006-07 fiscal year because of current historical inequities in funding. I ask you to kindly invest the time to contact state legislators to voice your support for equitable state funding for the 15 public universities on a per-student basis, keeping all 15 institutions in the same budget. Your support will be necessary to help keep the 15 universities together as there are currently proposals to split three of the institutions from the rest, which would likely only worsen funding inequities and challenges.

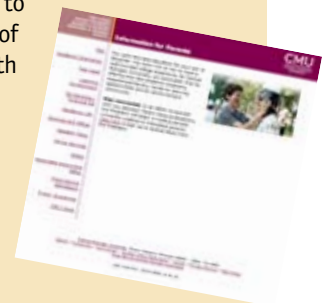
Thank you for reading and for supporting the university that will significantly change the course of your son’s or daughter’s life. ■

E-MAIL UPDATES

For additional information about these and many other CMU initiatives, as well as periodic university updates, please register to receive *News from the President* e-mail messages. Please read the *News from the President* article in this edition of *Parent News* to learn more about this effort to connect parents of CMU students with the life of the university.

You can sign up to receive periodic *News from the President* e-mails at

www.cmich.edu/for-parents.htm.



Parent

MAJOR CHOICES

When should students decide?

Early college experiences may reinforce or change students' ideas about an academic major. Once they feel their choices are narrowing, they may wish to consider the benefits of deciding on a major. If they still are exploring new disciplines, they may wish to wait in making a decision.

Advantages for students deciding on a major sooner

- They can focus on preparing for a chosen career.
- They can obtain a double major, arrange an internship, or work on a minor.
- They will be more likely to graduate in four years.
- They can assume leadership roles in career-related professional organizations.
- They can enroll in an accelerated master's program to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in a total of five years.

Advantages for students deciding on a major later

- They can remain open-minded about career possibilities.
- They can enroll in a wider variety of courses.
- They may discover a serious interest in a subject they've always wanted to learn about.
- They can become involved in more student organizations, clubs, and activities.
- They can spend the early part of their college career on a broad range of skills, such as writing, speaking, reasoning, and problem solving.

Advisors help students with academic planning

Lisa Dunn knew she wanted to attend CMU and knew that she was musically talented when it came to playing the clarinet.

But she wasn't sure how to blend the two together for a career.

Dunn signed to major in music as a freshman but started having doubts midway through her sophomore year. *Maybe I should be an elementary school teacher*, she thought.

That's when Dunn made an appointment to talk with Marybeth Minnis, a School of Music faculty member and academic advisor, for help with deciding on her major.

"She told me to explore my options and that I could always come to her for help," Dunn said. "When I was a sophomore I decided to switch and become a teaching major and minor in music. And not only did Marybeth give me advice, she gave me chocolate."

On top of Minnis's office piano, next to the door, sits a bowl of red- and silver-wrapped chocolate kisses.

"I put it there so anyone can reach in and grab a piece," she said. "I have gotten to meet so many of the music students because they will stop in for a piece of candy."

Explore the options

It is recommended that undecided students meet with their academic advisors as soon as possible. Advisors will help the student pinpoint majors based on interests and personality characteristics.

Changing majors, as Dunn did, happens frequently, said Jamie Brown, academic advisor. This is why CMU doesn't require students to sign a major until they've accrued 56 credit hours.

"That way students can take general education courses and see what classes and subjects really interest them," said Brown, MA '03. "I tell undecided students to make a list, but instead of listing what they like at first, I have them list what they don't like.

"Students also need to remember to pick something they'd enjoy doing, not something that they think sounds good."

Brown said it is important for parents to be supportive but to still ask questions.

"The best thing parents can do is listen and ask their kids if they've explored the options available to them," she said. "Allow your students to explore, but still hold them accountable. Ask them if they've looked into job shadowing. Ask them if they've called a family friend or relative who has a career that they find interesting to ask questions. Ask them if they've met with an advisor.

"But also remember that students have to follow their own path."

Another way students can explore career options is by visiting CMU's Career Services office and taking job assessment tests, which are free.

Finding an answer

During her senior year, Dunn walked into Minnis's office again with a repeated request: she wanted to change her major, again. This time, it was from teaching back to music education.

"I missed the music so much that I had to come back to music education," said Dunn, who has played the clarinet since fifth grade.

And when Dunn was ready to switch back to majoring in music education, Minnis made up a degree map to help guide Dunn toward graduation.

"I knew by the look on her face that she figured it out," Minnis said. "She knew what she wanted to do."

Dunn plans to graduate in May. For the spring 2007 semester, she is student teaching at Smith Middle School in Troy. She is working with band students and assisting in music class.

The first person Dunn e-mailed after her first day of student teaching was Minnis.



"I wrote, 'Marybeth, I think I need to change my major,'" Dunn said. "But I added, 'Just kidding' at the end.

"I am so happy I made this choice," she said. "I feel so comfortable teaching music to kids. It's where I am supposed to be."

Seated in Minnis's office, Dunn turned to her advisor and added, "And you helped me figure it out. You and your chocolate." ■

Helpful services

CMU offers many advising services and career resources to help your student choose a major that complements her or his interests and career aspirations.

Academic Advising

Professional advisors can help your student explore educational and career opportunities, set appropriate goals, and determine strategies for accomplishing these goals.

Student Success Centers

CMU is one of a few universities in the country that has academic advisors in residence halls to give your student a close, convenient way to seek guidance.

Career Services

This office offers many resources to help your student identify career interests, secure a first internship or job, and prepare for the future.

Faculty

CMU faculty members welcome the opportunity to discuss with your student how academics relate to potential majors of interest.

Office of Student Life

This office oversees more than 200 registered student organizations, many of which may help your student hone in on career and academic interests.



Lisa Dunn, a Sterling Heights senior, and Marybeth Minnis, BME '79, a CMU School of Music faculty member and academic advisor, talk about the course work path Dunn has taken to get to her projected May 2007 graduation.

Marybeth Minnis keeps a bowl of chocolates next to her office door so students on the go can reach in and grab a treat. "I have gotten to meet so many of the music students because they will stop in for a piece of candy," she said with a smile.

Parent

NIGHT MOVES

Safety matters

CMU Police officers patrol campus buildings and grounds to help ensure a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. In addition to NightRides, campus safety measures include:

Blue-light phones. These phones, which are located throughout campus and are marked with a blue light, allow for reporting an emergency or a crime in progress.

Crime prevention programs. CMU Police present regular crime prevention programs to students and staff. Programs may focus on general crime prevention or special topics such as money handling and theft protection.

Community policing. CMU Police has established a community policing office in Kessler Hall, which is staffed by a full-time police officer, and office hours are flexible to meet student needs.

Programs for new students. All new students attend a required orientation program that acquaints them with the CMU Police, crime prevention, and procedures for reporting incidents.

For complete campus security information, visit the CMU Police Web site at www.police.cmich.edu.

Using NightRides

What

NightRides – a free service that transports on-campus students from one campus location to another

When

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. daily during fall and spring semesters

Contact

For a ride or more information, all CMU Police at (989) 774-HELP (4357)

Service increases on-campus student safety

Yellow police car lights flash through the dark sky outside of Calkins Hall.

“Watch this,” 20-year-old premed student Alyssa Anderson says as she moves the black switch in the police car’s console over to the right. The flickering rate increases. “Now the students see us. They should be out any minute.”

Alyssa works for NightRides, which transports students safely across campus from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. daily at no cost to students.

As Alyssa waits in the Calkins Hall service drive for her next passenger, she talks about how busy the night gets after 9 p.m.

“Last Sunday I gave 60 rides,” she says. “But it is fun because you get to talk to so many people, and I have regulars. It’s like I’m picking up friends.”

Except she arrives in a CMU Police car. And her primary concern is to get students from one end of campus to the other safely.

Safety shuttles

NightRides, which began in February 2003, stemmed from an idea Traci King, '99 MA '02, had in the late 1990s.

Physical Education and Sport faculty member Steve Thompson said King, his former graduate assistant, had started a program with SADD that picked up students from downtown Mount Pleasant’s Main Street and took them back to campus.

He said the service operated from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. a few nights a week and was mainly for students who needed a ride after going out with friends. Thompson, who also is an advisor for CMU sexual assault prevention



Alyssa Anderson, Eaton Rapids junior, works five nights each week for the NightRides program. Even before working for NightRides, she thought the program was one of CMU's great benefits.

groups, said he wanted to modify the idea to help prevent on-campus crimes.

So Thompson approached Dean of Students Bruce Roscoe, who suggested working out a program with the CMU Police.

“When I brought it up to them, they really ran with it,” Thompson said.

CMU Police Chief Stan Dinius said the department slightly modified the plan. The police thought it was important to expand the hours to start at 8 p.m. Dinius said NightRides drivers are sophomore and upper-level students with excellent driving records.

“These trained students are extra eyes and ears for the police department,” he said. “They report any suspicious-looking activity to us.”

He said crimes in parking lots, such as vandalism, have significantly decreased since NightRides started.

NightRides originally was funded by parking ticket fines, but the program is so popular that its funding now comes from the CMU Police Department’s budget.

“This program sets us apart,” Dinius said. “It’s a keeper.” ■

Points of Pride

The CMU Promise continues

The CMU Promise, the first and only tuition guarantee in Michigan, will continue in fall 2007.

The CMU Promise to all undergraduate students – including new, returning, and transfer students – is up to five years of guaranteed tuition from the date they first began taking classes at CMU.

This means that most returning CMU students will receive no tuition increase for all their 2007-2008 classes. And there will be no mandatory fees.

Because The CMU Promise tuition rate is different for each cohort of undergraduate students, CMU students planning to re-enroll in classes this fall are encouraged to confirm their tuition status at The CMU Promise Web site.

Parents are encouraged to refer to the interactive online “returning students” link at www.cmich.edu/tuitionguarantee to calculate their students’ credit-hour rate. Students will need to know how many credit hours they had completed by fall 2005 or whenever they first enrolled after that date. (Note: The 2007-2008 new-student rates are expected to be set in July.)

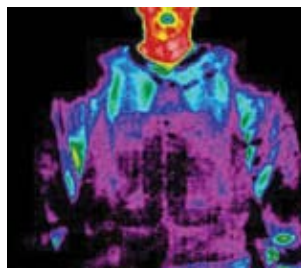
CMU played critical role in testing new NHL uniforms

National Hockey League players will stay cool on the ice thanks to research at Central Michigan University.

Last spring, CMU researchers performed thermal testing of three prototype NHL uniforms – one of which the league unveiled on January 23, 2007, as its new lighter, cooler uniform.

The research was crucial to help Reebok, the uniform’s designer, determine which prototype best limited sweat and heat buildup for players during a game. Researchers used a body scanner and thermal camera to map heat patterns on a test subject wearing the different uniforms.

“This technology is so new that companies aren’t really aware of it and how it can be utilized to improve apparel design,” said Maureen MacGillivray, professor of apparel merchandising and design.



The body scanner at CMU produced this thermal image of an old NHL uniform.

Other participating faculty members included: Tanya Domina, professor of apparel merchandising and design; Terry Lerch, a professor in the engineering and technology department; and Patrick Kinnicutt, a computer science professor. The faculty team is planning to meet with Reebok officials to test prototypes for new uniforms for the National Basketball Association.

Tops in the nation for service

CMU’s outpouring of support in response to Hurricane Katrina has earned CMU a place in national public service history.

CMU has been named one of nine nationwide recipients of the Katrina Compassion Award for Excellence in Hurricane Relief Service as part of the first-ever President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Awards presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service. No other Michigan college or university earned the distinction.

Also, CMU was one of 74 higher education institutions nationwide to be named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for Hurricane Relief Service; only two other Michigan schools were named to the list.

Members of the CMU community donated nearly \$142,000 worth of goods and services to Hurricane Katrina relief, including nearly \$11,000 in actual donations and close to \$131,000 worth of volunteer service hours.

Pistons honor CMU professor and student

The Detroit Pistons and the American Red Cross recently honored a Central Michigan University professor and his student who are trying for a slam-dunk against malaria in Africa.

During the halftime ceremony of a January home game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Vincent Mumford, associate professor of sport management, and Ryan Lambert, a Montgomery, Illinois, junior, were recognized as “Michigan Heroes” for efforts to raise money to buy mosquito bed nets.



Vincent Mumford, CMU associate professor of sport management, far right, and CMU junior Ryan Lambert, middle, both recently were honored as “Michigan Heroes” at a Detroit Pistons game. Bestowing the honor was American Red Cross official Jan Shimshock, at far left.

Mumford had challenged his students in a class project to find a way to use sports for solving a world health problem. Lambert enlisted the aid of fellow students to organize a free-throw contest in December to raise money for mosquito netting to slow the spread of the disease.

The group, Chip Away Malaria, raised \$5,798 last semester for mosquito netting for impoverished families in Africa. Every 30 seconds, an African child dies of malaria.

Chip Away Malaria was developed to support Nothing But Nets, a grassroots campaign launched by the United Nations Foundation in November. CMU is the first university to become active in aiding Nothing But Nets. ■

News

Students manage COMMUNITY CLINIC



CMU physical therapy student Kristen McKenzie, left, watches as faculty member Elizabeth Mostrom helps student Chris Hausbeck work with Julie Mills on improving her flexibility and range of motion. Mills, who has cerebral palsy, is a physician-referred patient of Hands for Health.

Hands for Health puts CMU a step ahead

When Kristen McKenzie looked into physical therapy graduate programs, she planned on applying to several accredited physical therapy schools.

But after reading about CMU's Hands for Health program, McKenzie made up her mind about where to study.

"I didn't see any other school offer a program like Hands for Health," said McKenzie, who is from Okemos. "It was the deciding factor for me. I knew CMU was where I needed to go."

Hands for Health is a student-managed pro bono clinic that operates Wednesday evenings out of the Carls Center Physical Therapy Clinic in the CMU Health Professions Building.

The clinic, which started in January 1998, serves clients from the greater Mount Pleasant area who are uninsured or underinsured. Second-year physical therapy doctoral students work under the supervision of licensed physical therapists to evaluate and treat physician-referred clients.

"It feels great because we are helping them, and we're getting on-the-job experience," McKenzie said.

Hands for Health recently received the Donald E. Morrison Productive Citizens Award from the Isabella County Disability Advisory Committee.

Award-winning experience

The award was presented during the annual Investing in Abilities Week last fall.

"The students and faculty who volunteer at Hands for Health are very deserving of this award," said Lori Flynn Tyree, a local physical therapist and member of the committee.

Tim Zipple, CMU assistant professor of physical therapy and Hands for Health faculty advisor, said the hardworking students weren't looking for the recognition, but it was welcome.

"Instead of taking time off during summer vacation, these students volunteer to work at the clinic," Zipple said. "We know they do good work, but it was great to be acknowledged."

Michael Moran, a student from Lapeer and Hands for Health president, and Jonathan Roberson, a student from Midland and Hands for Health vice president, said they felt honored to receive the award.

"We feel that this is a great accomplishment and speaks magnitudes for the care and dedication to the community that the students as well as faculty have," they said in a joint statement. "We could not continue on with the clinic if it were not for the hard work and sacrifices of the students and faculty who make it all happen." ■