



The science of slapstick: Medical school meets Vaudeville

Medical school students and faculty proved they can be good sports for a good cause as part of an unusual—and messy—fundraising event this spring. On April 3, students filled Gandhi Auditorium in White Hall for a sloppy spectacle far more entertaining than their typical lectures. They came to watch a teacher and a classmate take a pie to the face.

The willing victims of this premeditated pastry assault were Paul Koles, M.D., associate professor of pathology and surgery and director of pathology education, and T.J. Hufford, president of the class of 2012. The “winners” of a special election organized by first-year student Lorena Rodriguez and the WSU chapter of the Student National Medical

Association, Koles and Hufford received the most votes from students, faculty, and staff, who donated \$1 for every five votes over the course of three months.

Despite some questions about election irregularities—including a large, last-minute donation by Gary LeRoy, M.D., associate dean of student affairs and admissions, that gave Koles a substantial lead and knocked LeRoy back to third place—observers declared the election a rousing success. The event raised hundreds of dollars to support sickle cell anemia research. LeRoy volunteered to take a pie to the face along with Koles, and Hufford was so thoroughly coated with pie that, he said, “I could still taste it two days later.”

