

Tour enhances mission

A Beatles-inspired **Magical Mystery Tour** enchanted guests at the **McColl Center for Visual Art's Studio Party 13**. Held on April 13 at the McColl Center, this annual fundraising event brought together hundreds of Center supporters as well as current resident artists and alumni.

The evening, with lead sponsorship from Bank of America, was a sold-out event with 325 guests and 36 participating artists, including Felicia van Bork, Ashley Lathe, Issac Payne, JoAnn Sieburg-Baker, Tom Thoune, Anatoly Tsiris and Ginny Boyd. An Abbey-Road-inspired walkway with Mini Coopers lining the Center's entrance on North Tryon Street greeted guests and the 13 studios inside each featured its own riff on a Beatles classic. Guests were encouraged to wear Beatles-inspired apparel and were delighted by photo sessions with John Lennon and Yoko Ono look-alikes.

"Studio Party 13 supports McColl Center for Visual Art's mission of advancing artists, community and the creation of contemporary art," said Suzanne Fetscher, President and Executive Director of the McColl Center. "Each year, the Center starts at zero and is faced with the challenge of raising every dollar it needs to sustain and grow its programming."

More than 400 works of art were available for sale. Studio Party 13 raised more than \$80,000, with \$28,343 in art sales to directly support the working artists in the Charlotte community. ■

get involved

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*Written by Laura Thompson.
Photos by PPT Photography.
More photos at www.societycharlotte.com*



Diedre and Clay Grubb



Cheryl and William Hadley



Lori Mertes and Savannah Laurie



Cara French, Georgi Duwe and Prissy Gravely



Tammy Gibson, Brian Eckle, Jackie Miller and Lori Lewis



Tom Thoune, Pam Stowe and Ginny Boyd



Suzanne Fetscher and Olga Faison

The impact of research



OCRI Golf Classic: Kay Wheeler, Anne Newcomb, Dianne Jackson and Jeff Cayo

Written by Katie Toussaint

Jerry East used to jump out of airplanes. He used to jog and play rugby and football. But his active lifestyle led to a right-knee replacement, and a risk for infection. That risk materialized two-and-a-half years post-op, when an abscessed tooth spread an infection from his mouth to his artificial joint.

Overall, East's ordeal took him through several years of surgeries and doctors' appointments, and waves of wheelchair use and antibiotics. He wobbled instead of walked. He couldn't play freely with his grandchildren. He lost his active lifestyle. During one appointment, Dr. William Griffin, who specializes at OrthoCarolina's Hip & Knee Center, invited East to become active in a different way, through OrthoCarolina Research Institute (OCRI).

OCRI, a nonprofit with 12 employees that originated in 1989, serves educational, charitable and scientific purposes. Its current title was adopted in 2006 when Charlotte Orthopedic Research Institute merged with the O.L. Miller Research Institute to create OCRI. Although OCRI works with the physicians of the for-profit orthopedic practice, OrthoCarolina, OCRI is the philanthropic spinoff that operates autonomously yet collaborates with other local orthopedic centers.

"The philanthropic work it does is research," said Griffin, Chairman of the OCRI Board of Directors. The research is conducted by OCRI's skilled professionals through FDA clinical trials and scientific outcomes. The trials involve studies

of volunteer patient populations, with researchers collecting data to evaluate medications, devices and procedures that are being reviewed by the FDA. To date, OCRI has 28 FDA clinical trials underway. Physicians catalyze outcomes research with clinical questions that stem from day-to-day care, and researchers write, design and collect data to analyze and publish the results. OCRI publishes approximately 30 peer-review articles annually and more than 80 active comparative effectiveness studies and scientific outcomes.

"It attracts the best and brightest," Griffin said of the program, which draws physicians who crave a combination of practicing and researching.

"That was a big factor for me to come here and join OrthoCarolina," said Dr. Glenn Gaston, who specializes in hand and elbow care and got involved with OCRI six years ago. "It's almost unheard of across the country to be in private practice and to do academic research." But OCRI is

well-known nationwide, with affiliated physicians presenting findings and teaching at national and international meetings.

The inspiration behind the academically motivated institution? "Musculoskeletal conditions are the leading cause of disability in the United States," said Christi Cadd, Executive Director of OCRI. The group's research reaches from high-ankle sprains in athletes to improved techniques of cervical disc replacements, to early detection of issues with metal-on-metal implants. "We are performing research that ultimately improves techniques and improves quality of life for our patients," Cadd said.

East, who jumped from patient to board member, announced at one meeting: "I think about you suckers every step of every day. I can't move without thinking what it was before the procedure." Now, he poses the question: "What can we do to prevent others from that experience?"

The physicians are helping. With



Rebekah Smith

developments in techniques and treatments, Gaston said, "Once our research shows that it works well, then we'll incorporate it into our everyday practice."

And the community can help. "Our team is lean but productive," Cadd said. "We also, just like most nonprofits, are constantly needing additional resources. The only funding that we get is through charitable contributions."

To rack up local awareness for and education about orthopedic research, OCRI hosts the annual OCRI Research Classic Charity Golf Tournament, the Injury Prevention Across Sports with Science (I-PASS) Charity Event, and the Oscar Miller Day Symposium. It opens its doors for interns seeking research experience and/or college credit, and for volunteers through Hands On Charlotte to help with various office tasks. OCRI also partners with the OrthoCarolina Physical Therapy department to coordinate an Exploring Post for high school students interested in learning about a career in orthopedics or physical therapy. Students meet once a month during the school year to learn about different orthopedic conditions and to participate in hands-on activities with the therapists.

Donations of dollars, minutes and minds move the programs forward. For the physicians and researchers connected to OCRI, Gaston said, "We donate our time because we believe in the impact that research can have." ■

Photos courtesy of OrthoCarolina Research Institute. See page 29 for information to get involved.



OCRI Research Staff: Victoria Van Cor, Ben Connell and Jyoti Bankapur