Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Winter 1989)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Ruth E. Purdy, DO, 1989 O. Snyder Medalist

A Profile of Courage and Loyalty
I believe it is the duty of osteopathic physicians to show the community that we have knowledge and experience, and, in addition, we have a new breed of medicine — a hands-on type practice. And I believe it is the duty of women osteopathic physicians to assert themselves, to prove that they are fully capable of working side by side with their male colleagues administratively as well as professionally.

Ruth E. Purdy, DO
The Digest of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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President's Perspective 2
Success — It's All in the Family

New Appointments & Promotions 3
Daniel Wisely and Kenneth Veit

A Profile of Courage and Loyalty 4
Ruth Purdy is our 1989 O.J. Snyder Medalist

Recent Improvements Upgrade 12
Hospital Operations

The Family Greer 14
An Osteopathic Adventure

On Campus 18

The Long Distance Diagnosis 19
Alumni Association Fellowships

Class Acts 20

In Memoriam 24

Calendar 25
Success — It’s All in the Family

By J. Peter Tilley, DO

A ’30 alumna who talked to me the other day was reflecting on why she had such a successful family. "It’s working together," she said, “understanding what we can do, knowing what we want to do, then doing what's important.”

The success of our PCOM/OMCP family calls for a similar knowledge and commitment. Those who have graduated from this institution continue to be a vital part of our family, and we want to maintain contact with each of you. Recently, we sent out a questionnaire to gain important information. We want to know what you’re doing, both personally and professionally. Also, quite frankly, we want to know what you can do, and want to do, as a family member. Please take the time to fill out and return the questionnaire.

This is what I see to be important to us now:

1. **Attracting strong applicants to the College.** Our alumni/ae are responsible for motivating about a third of our applicants to apply to PCOM. We appreciate that effort.

2. **Supporting Osteopathic institutions and physicians competing for patients.** Our hospitals especially need the support of osteopathic physicians so they can train our students and provide a place for our graduates to practice.

3. **Practicing osteopathic medicine with its unique capabilities.** Our most generous donors outside the profession can be traced to physicians who provided the special care that is the basis of our success as a profession.

We want to know our alumni/ae better. We think the results of our questionnaire will provide some answers, and that members of the PCOM/OMCP family will want some feedback. Toward that end, we’ll plan to present our findings in a future edition of Osteopathic Digest.
Daniel L. Wisely, DO, FACOS, Named Acting Dean

The board of trustees of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine has appointed Daniel L. Wisely, DO, FACOS, as Acting Dean. He assumes the position held until December, 1988, by Joseph A. Dieterle, DO.

Dr. Wisely most recently has held the positions of Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Medical Director of Osteopathic Hospital, and Director of Medical Education. He came to the college in 1983.

A native of Mexico, Missouri, Dr. Wisely was graduated from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College in 1951 and from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1955. He served residencies at both Kirksville and Flint Osteopathic Hospital in general surgery, becoming certified in 1965.

Dr. Wisely has been chairman of departments of surgery since 1962 in hospitals located in Michigan, Florida and at PCOM. He served as chief of staff and later chairman of the board of trustees at Ormond Beach (Florida) Osteopathic Hospital from 1978 to 1983.

His awards include an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1988, the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching at PCOM in 1987, and the Charles L. Ballenger, DO, Distinguished Surgeon Award in 1982. Also in 1982, he was named Outstanding Osteopathic Physician of the Year in Daytona Beach, Florida. PCOM's Student Council voted him Clinical Teacher of the Year in 1988.

Elected a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons in 1970, he has served with distinction in various leadership positions in that organization, becoming president during 1982-1983. He was named a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia in 1984.

Dr. Wisely has contributed numerous articles on surgical topics, and has lectured extensively during clinical assemblies at national osteopathic medical conventions.

He and his wife, Nan live in Philadelphia's Roxborough section.

Kenneth J. Veit, DO, Promoted to Director of Medical Education

Replacing Daniel L. Wisely, DO, as Director of Medical Education at Osteopathic Hospital is Kenneth J. Veit, DO, who most recently has been Chairman, Division of Community Medicine, and Coordinator of Health Care Centers.

Dr. Veit has been a member of the PCOM family medicine physician faculty since 1981. A graduate of Muhlenberg College in 1972, he attained his D.O. degree from PCOM in 1976. An internship at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital at Staten Island, New York, and residency work in occupational and environmental medicine at Rutgers Medical School followed. In July, he will complete his MBA degree in Temple University's Executive Program.

Board certified in family medicine in 1982, Dr. Veit has instituted a variety of clinical programs in rural and urban health care centers in Pennsylvania. His public health service experience is extensive, beginning with a two-year scholarship while at PCOM, then after practicing at a rural National Health Service Corps facility from 1977 to 1980, he became chief of the clinical consultation branch of the U.S. Public Health Service in Philadelphia. He has organized training and clinical conferences on behalf of the Government's public health efforts, and has presented position papers on rural primary health care topics.

He has been appointed to the Mayor's Commission on Health, and to clinical and faculty positions in several national, state and locally related organizations. At present, he serves on the Medical Advisory Committee of Penn Health Corporation, as a member of the board of directors of Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, and as a member of the editorial board of Modern Medicine magazine.

Dr. Veit, his wife Lucinda and three children reside in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania.
"The difference is in the laying on of hands," says Ruth Purdy. "A lot of communication takes place when I touch and examine my patients. Many have told me, 'In five years of being
The child Abigail Faerber visited her radiologist father at work and was awed by Ruth Purdy, a lone woman physician holding her own in the male world of medicine.

"I've known Ruth Purdy since I was in braids and she's always been my role model," says Abigail Faerber, DO. "When I first encountered her, she was the only woman internist at Doctors Hospital. Ruth has been instrumental in bringing many women into the medical profession. She's terrific! And believe me, she fights like a lady."

Doctors Purdy and Faerber practice together one day a week at their Bethel Road office and are on staff at the 410-bed hospital in the heart of Columbus, Ohio. Loyalty to colleagues, patients, and PCOM is one salient mark of Ruth Purdy's character. Another is the tenacious if genteel courage she shows in advocating the full equality of women in the profession, the highest standards of practice, and proud recognition for osteopathic medicine in the community.

A mentor can set or change the course of one's life. Early on, Ruth Purdy met that significant person in her paternal grandmother. The Purdy family had never produced a physician, but it did have a prescient elder who kept saying to her, "Now Ruth, you're going to be a doctor when you grow up." The wonder of the child was to become the calling of the mature woman.

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan, Ruth Purdy was employed for several years as an analytical chemist at Goodyear. She also completed the required courses in chemistry and physics during this time, becoming eligible to apply for medical school.

One summer day while golfing, which is still her favorite sport, she was struck on the elbow by a stray golfball. The accident became a strangely fortuitous event that lead Ruth Purdy to PCOM. The friend and PCOM alumnus who treated her, Don Ulrich, DO, '39, discovered her ambitions and used treatment time to explain the virtues of both osteopathic medicine and PCOM.
"I applied to PCOM, Chicago, and Kirksville," Dr. Purdy recalls, "and was accepted at all three since most men were still in the service. PCOM was my choice on the grounds of reputation, recommendation, and location in a large city with many medical institutions. I've never once regretted that decision. I was experienced and mature enough to know what I wanted. I went for it, and enjoyed every minute."

The Midnight OB Squad

"Seventy-three students graduated in the class of 1950, and three of us were women," Dr. Purdy remembers. "Maybe a dozen women students were enrolled at PCOM during my time, none in the class following me. It was a low point for us if you think of AT Still's strong advocacy of equality, and almost half of the Kirksville classes were comprised of women during the early years."

Most vivid in memory and valuable for later practice were her night rotations for delivery of clinic patients and emergencies. "We were the only college in town still doing home deliveries, and ours was the last PCOM class to experience the thrill of that responsibility," she marvels. "You can't believe what we encountered. I've put neonates in dresser drawer cribs under bare light bulbs to keep them warm in cold apartments."

Having a car and sure of wanting an OB specialty, Purdy the student signed on for the flying OB squad as often as possible. Her route to a career in internal medicine was to take a circuitous path through the many attractions of the profession. Again she was influenced both by mentors and by circumstances.

"I liked every service during my internship at Doctors Hospital in Columbus. While on each service I'd say, 'I'm going to do this,'" she laughs. "My last rotation happened to be internal medicine, and having one elective yet to choose, I simply stayed with it. The DO who was the one-man department also convinced me that I had real gifts for the practice of internal medicine, and urged me to do my residency. Thirty-five years later, here I am."

The Sky's the Limit

Dr. Purdy became a skilled and caring internist in the ensuing years and the co-founder of a large group practice. As one of only three women DO internists in the nation, she received her certification in 1963 and was made a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists in 1972. Her two-person department of internal medicine grew and today numbers 18 physicians.

Doctors Hospital developed rapidly in the decade of the 60s, due in part to her dynamic work and far-sighted vision. The administrator, William Konold, assigned her the task of selecting and overseeing the installation of the first telemetry-monitored intensive care unit in Columbus. Next she managed to procure an echocardiograph, and then began to advocate a cardiac catheterization laboratory.

When she even started talking about cardiac surgery, the administrator said, "Ruth, get your eyes out of the sky and down to the horizon." However, he supported her progressive vision fully. Cardiac catheterization was indeed established under the supervision of John C. Auseon, DO, and ultimately cardiac surgery began under Gary L. Saltus, DO. Doctors Hospital thus became one of the premier osteopathic institutions offering these services.

A Career Crushed, Not Ended

She was chief of staff and headed back to Doctors North after making rounds at Doctors West on Labor Day, 1970, detoured by construction work. Ruth Purdy never arrived. The freight train approaching the obscure crossing with no gate was traveling 45 mph. By all odds and the laws of physics, her career and life should have ended on the tracks. She has no memory of the crash, perhaps the only bodily mercy shown her that day.

Two weeks later she awoke with a contused brain, punctured lung, compound arm fracture, bilateral pelvic fractures, and a broken leg. After three months of hospitalization came the nine months of doubts about ever working again, more arm surgery, and a profound sense of defeat. "I couldn't extend my arm fully or walk well, and I was down to 102 lbs, still a scrambled egg," she admits.

Then a physician friend in Florida, Georgia Doyle, DO, took charge of her. "Talk about osteopathy, she treated me daily, made me swim in the ocean twice a day and encouraged me — 'Come on, use that arm, put it out straight, let's see you do it.' One day about a month later, she got out of the car and gave me the keys, saying, 'You're on your own now.' I froze: 'I can't do it.' She countered, 'You drive back home and don't beg me for mercy.' My physician friend brought me back in body and spirit."
"I am where I am because of my hard working staff," says Ruth Purdy. "I'm loyal to them and they're loyal to me." From left to right are staff members Junia Gue, RN, Tamara Westbrook, RN, Ruth Purdy, DO, Dorothea Keller, office manager, Sue Wolfrom, insurance manager. "I take the time. My nurses are amazed that I'm giving an osteopathic treatment in an examining room while ten people are in the waiting room."
"There's a place for every woman entering medical practice today. Female patients are glad to experience women physicians taking care of all their problems. And I don't think the fellows resent it."

"Dr. Purdy has compassion for her patients and also her co-workers," says Dorothea Keller, office manager. "And she has more energy than the rest."
A Sense of Compassion

Dorothea Keller has managed Ruth Purdy's office for many years, and she expresses it this way: "Dr. Purdy has compassion for her patients and co-workers, she shows real concern and generosity. She also has more energy than the rest of them."

Asked about the source of that compassion, Ruth Purdy reflects, "The accident, hospitalization, and year of recovery taught me important things about practicing medicine. I learned compassion the hard way, not having really known what it was like to be a patient until I became one myself. It also renewed my personal sense of purpose, a feeling that the good Lord has something for me to do here yet."

Renewing her career as physical strength returned, she began to rebuild her practice and assume leadership positions once again. Elected to the Doctors Hospital Board of Trustees in 1975, she chaired the Education Committee and for many years moderated annual seminars on arthritis, diabetes, and female diseases. She also served on the Foundation Committee, Planning and Policy Committee, and the hospital Development Foundation.

Into the Public Eye

"I've always felt that osteopathic physicians must come out of the closet and become known in the society of physicians and the communities where they work," she affirms. "That's why I accepted many of these positions. I was also determined to get osteopathic physicians and women DOs on boards that had never included us."

This pioneering courage merited her membership on the Central Ohio American Heart Association board where she served on the Education Committee, then became Physician's Advisor to ICU-CCU Heart Association Nurses. The Central Ohio American Diabetic Association board also tapped her expertise. Generous to the local community as well, her talents as a broadcast personality blossomed with numerous appearances on Columbus television and radio series offering health care education.

The osteopathic profession discovered her vitality, also her advocacy of women DOs on grounds of merit and fairness, both of which she admirably represents. Dr. Purdy was elected to the PCOM Board of Trustees in 1975, and she joined the clinical faculties of Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1980 and Ohio College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1982. Annually serving as an AOA intern certification inspec-
Lawyer Jack Zeller, Mt. Vernon's Citizen of the Year, and Ruth Purdy enjoy an evening when their two-career, commuter marriage comes together in Columbus. It's now 31 years since friends predicted, "It will never last."

"People say it must have been hard for women physicians in the early fifties. But it wasn't, really. I never felt that I was out of place, so I enjoyed everything I did."
Ruth Purdy designed their home in Columbus, incorporating features she liked in other houses, then gave the plan to the architect and said, "Here, turn it into blueprints for the builder."

"You treat the patient. You don't just treat the disease, you treat the whole patient. I think that's one of the big differences in osteopathic medicine."

An Osteopathic Physician

"There's no question in my patients' minds about my being an osteopathic physician," asserts Dr. Purdy. "I believe in it from proven experience, and know I'm different from the MDs. Either I do treatments or make sure that my patients in the hospital get them when they need them. Osteopathic medicine is obviously here to stay, and I believe it will merit a progressively larger role in the future of American health care."

Dr. Purdy went solo three years ago after decades of partnership in a group practice. She chafes under governmental restrictions of medical practice because of the adverse effects on quality of care. "We treat patients, they treat paper," she chides. "When my patients are refused hospitalization, I call the government or insurance office and insist on speaking with a physician about the case. Hospitals are becoming ICUs for the critically ill only. Even then they say, 'You've got five days, doctor.'"

Nevertheless, she advises women entering medicine to accept and meet the challenges brought by an era of regulation. "Use your ingenuity! Working a patient up is much harder in your office than it is in the hospital. But you'll also be more resourceful and rely much more on your own skills, becoming better physicians when forced to think for yourselves."

PCOM is proud of Dr. Purdy and her 35-year career as a skilled internist. In recognition of her compassion for patients, her courage to speak and act on medical and professional issues, especially the role of women in medicine, and her enduring loyalty to the profession and PCOM, the college has bestowed the 1989 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal upon her with gratitude and admiration.
Recent Improvements
Upgrade Hospital Operations

By Bruce Graeber

In the past few months, several capital projects have allowed Osteopathic Hospital to upgrade its facilities to compete more actively. The completed projects will improve the quality of patient services and enhance the hospital’s image.

A $22.9 million capital bond issue approved in July, 1989 enabled OMCP to consolidate its existing financial obligations and begin several new projects across campus, many of which focused on the hospital complex.

Just before this year’s Founders Days activities began, workmen put the finishing touches on major renovations in the hospital lobby. A semi-circular front desk acts as the focal point of the lobby, which is now furnished with matching chairs and carpeting. Elevators and some wall surfaces are finished in colors and fabrics that complement the white marble walls. Also, a reconfigured admissions area extends into the present lobby space.

“The lobby is symbolically the first area to go under construction,” said Jay Blackman, Executive Director, “because it’s the portal to everyone who visits the hospital. However, it’s just the first of many hospital improvements.”

By year’s end, the hospital will house a state-of-the-art obstetrics unit, offering both traditional and midwife-assisted delivery options. On January 19th, the Pennsylvania Department of Health approved a Certificate of Need for $1.4 million, allowing the hospital to renovate its obstetrics unit on the second floor. The new OB area will contain nine private postpartum beds, two rooms for Caesarean births, and three LDR (Labor-Delivery-Recovery) rooms.

New exterior signage now gives Osteopathic Hospital greater prominence on City Avenue. Large tree limbs obscuring the hospital were removed last summer, offering greater exposure to the brick facade of the six story structure. Then in January a signage company installed the lettering for “Osteopathic Hospital” in 22 inch letters onto the building’s exterior. The new outdoor signage makes our hospital complex more visible to travelers on City Avenue and to residents of the Delaware Valley.

Some hospital improvements, while not noticeable to the eye, have made OMCP more cost-efficient. A considerable cost savings was begun in 1988 by modifying our fuel system, used for both the college and hospital buildings.

Until recently, gas was the prime source of heat, energy, and cooking fuel for OMCP. Since the campus used more than 38 million cubic feet of gas per year in a continuous supply, its annual contract with the Philadelphia Gas Works required it to pay premium prices. Now a 10,000-gallon fuel storage tank installed in February will supplement its sizable energy needs.

“As a result of maintaining an alternate fuel reserve, OMCP was able to negotiate a new contract for interruptable gas service,” said Purchasing Director Joseph Cassidy. “This new agreement allowed us to save more than $10,000 per month in gas service for an annual fuel savings of about $125,000.”

In the area of technological advances, OMCP has installed the first of a multi-phased, sophisticated computerized information system, the INDEPENDENCE, a product offered by Shared Medical Systems. The new information system links over 200 computer terminals and printers throughout the hospital, financial areas and Clinical Associates in Rowland Hall, to a central computer network leased to OMCP.

Soon, as patient data is entered into terminals at the hospital’s inpatient, emergency room, and short procedures unit registration areas, a master patient file will be automatically created, detailing the person’s demographic information and insurance coverage. The master file can be easily accessed by nurses and clinicians throughout the hospital, and physicians and administrators in Rowland Hall. Each time new patient data, such as clinical lab results, is fed into the system, the master file is updated. The INDEPENDENCE information system provides timely and accurate patient data, plus it streamlines the hospital’s billing process.

The next phases of the INDEPENDENCE system will link together all the hospital’s outpatient registration areas, consolidating both inpatient and outpatient billing functions, and will incorporate data from all hospital clinical services into the computer network.

The institution is considering a proposal to allow whole time and private physicians to access the hospital’s new computer system from their offices. In the near future, it may be possible for physicians to link into the INDEPENDENCE system and receive up-to-date patient data, and to enable them to preregister patients from their office computers.
Several campus improvement projects include (top to bottom) the hospital's newly renovated lobby, exterior hospital signage facing City Avenue and a fuel storage tank allowing OMCP to reduce its energy costs.
Accustomed to being at the center of things, Bob and Nancy Greer find themselves surrounded by (left to right) daughter Becky and Joe Gunselman, Dan and Sallie Greer, and Robert Greer and his wife Kelli. Grandsons crowd into foreground laps, awaiting their chance to join their family heritage of osteopathic trekking.
The irony of their gift to refurbish the college's first-year classroom might escape anyone who doesn't know much about Bob Greer's clan. Comfort and convenience haven't exactly been what they've struggled to attain.

For the students of Bob's alma mater, however, the Greers' generous donation provided more comfortable seating and wall decor, carpeting to soak up the rustle of papers, ceiling fans to move air past drowsy eyes, and wireless microphones for greater speaker mobility and more clearly delivered lectures — all designed to create an improved classroom environment and longer attention spans.

Associating learning with the coefficient of buttocks on plastic might have reminded Robert C. Greer III, '57, of the experiment the Navy did back in the Fifties, anesthetizing the backsides of pilots and learning that they became disoriented in flight. It lent more than passing credence to the term, "flying by the seat of their pants." Bob Greer knew something about that.

"We were enroute from Bimini to Ft. Lauderdale in a twin-engine Aztec... lost half a prop... plane was making an awful noise and the starboard engine was going crazy... I feathered it and Nancy got on the radio... she gave three fixes to the Ft. Lauderdale tower until they located us... they tried to talk us into the Ft. Lauderdale airport, but I said 'Negative, I don't know what this thing has done to my landing gear, and I want a longer runway'... ended up flying into Lantana, an ex-military base up the coast..."

Bob and Nancy Greer laugh remembering their adventures. They have tackled life head-on, taking Bob's PCO diploma in 1957 with its ink still wet into an internship at Ft. Worth Osteopathic Hospital, and then heading into West Texas.

There was a 10-bed hospital in Bryson, and the Greers ran it with Nancy, who's a registered nurse and X-ray technologist, and another R.N., working alongside Bob and the cook. The county was two square miles larger than the state of Connecticut; they were 14 miles off the hard road, halfway between Carlsbad, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. Bob became part pharmacist, part physician and part veterinarian, but the practice had its upside, too — malpractice insurance was $200 a year.

Another highlight to the West Texas experience was the birth of a daughter, Rebecca, early in 1960 in El Paso.

In 1961 an office visit in Bryson cost $3, and Bob swore to Nancy that if he ever got $50 together in one place he'd put everything into a trailer and move. One day a rancher paid off a broken leg with three $20 bills. "There's your money," Nancy said. "What are we waiting for?"

Bob and Nancy had been on a whirlwind ever since they'd been married. From origins in West Virginia's Davis & Elkins College they'd set out for Alaska in 1951 and by the time they hit Indiana Nancy knew she was pregnant. They turned around, headed for Lake Worth, Florida, where Bob's parents lived, and he continued to use his G.I. Bill education credits to attend Florida Southern at Lakeland. It was a productive time. Robert IV was born there and Bob earned his undergraduate degree in 1952.

More education was to come. Bob had known he wanted to become a doctor ever since he emerged still sane from a Navy submarine following a 90-day cruise as a medical corpsman in the Pacific. He'd been the only medically trained member of a 66-man crew. So after Florida Southern, the young family came to Philadelphia where Bob had been accepted by PCO. Midway during their second year at the college, a second son, Jordan, was born at Osteopathic Hospital, 48th and Spruce Streets.

Back in Florida after the long haul from West Texas, Nancy and Bob surveyed their practice opportunities. They talked to friends and fellow physicians. One finally said, "Look, here's a map of Palm Beach County. There aren't any bad communities. Just throw a dart at it."
The dart stuck at Lake Park, near U.S. 1, and when their search for an office took them to 711 Park Avenue, Nancy, who also answers to the nickname "The Boss," liked the sound of the address. "We gotta have it," she announced. It was to be the general practice base of operations that launched the family on medical, political and geographical expeditions from Southern Florida north to Alaska and south to the headwaters of the Amazon.

As the two boys grew up there was no question that they would make every effort to become physicians; but it was the outdoors that attracted the most interest. Robert became an expert sailor and like other family members, an experienced pilot of small aircraft. During his early college years, first in the Virgin Islands and later at Texas Christian, Robert sought adventure in
Central America. For a time he skippered a fishing boat in Honduras, and then in 1971 saw action in the Honduras-El Salvador conflicts that preceded the present unrest. By the time he matriculated at PCOM in 1973 this energy was released in the sports of rugby and fencing.

Jordan, or Dan, as the family abbreviates it, inherited his father's love of rugged, primitive natural surroundings. He accompanied his parents in 1970 on a trip to Nome, and the wild Alaskan mountain scenery imprinted his senses. In 1977, the year Robert was graduated from PCOM, Dan was finishing up a B.S. at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, and planning a hunting trip into the interior. He waited until Robert could join him, and they set out that summer, driving to the northern-most terminus of the Pan American Highway in the heart of the Yukon. A local thief stole their clothing and gear at the airport, but undeterred, they found replacement items at the Salvation Army outlet, outfitted canoes and floated 300 miles to the Alaska pipeline, living off the land with a gourmet fare of fish and ducks. Then they hitchhiked back to Fairbanks.

Dan and his father took a medical journey in 1985 to the innermost parts of Peru, rafting from the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu to the headwaters of the Amazon. "That trip we dropped 8,000 feet through a canyon at Cuzco. We had no radio, no communications for weeks with the outside world," Bob remembers. "Took along 2,000 shots of penicillin and 2,000 shots of terramycin to treat the Indians. The kids loved our lollipops. We even delivered a baby using the old remedy for pain — homemade whisky. Dan is a pretty fair linguist when it comes to dialects, so we were able to communicate with the tribes."

"A black jaguar entered our camp twice," Bob said. "They're a protected species and the first time we ran him off. The second time we figured he meant business, and he had overstepped his legal rights. We shot him."

The Greer family has certain expectations of their sons, as borne out by consecutive acceptance to and graduation from PCOM. What about daughters? Certain expectations apply there as well. Rebecca studied at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana, then transferred to the University of Ireland in County Cork. Back in the U.S.A., she became certified as a laboratory technologist, thus joining her sisters-in-law, Kelli, an R.N. who practices with Robert in Florida, and Sallie, also a laboratory and X-ray technician who's married to Dan and manages his office in Alaska, and mother Nancy, "The Boss," who has a pretty good feel for medical partnerships herself.

Of these accomplishments Bob Greer has much admiration. "All these women have started and raised families as well as worked full time with their husbands," he said. "It takes a lot of work, and luck has had very little to do with it."

Rebecca and Joseph G. Gunselman, DO, '82, who met while Joe and Dan were roommates at PCOM, were married just after graduation, and now live in San Diego, where Joe is a Navy lieutenant commander attached to the Naval Regional Medical Center in the Balboa district of the city. Come June, they'll move to Roanoke, Virginia, where Joe's sub-specialties of neuroanesthesia and cardiac anesthesia will get a workout at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. His certification in anesthesiology put Joe a breed apart from his family medicine in-laws, but they have accepted him enthusiastically for his intellect, good humor and love of sailing, hunting and sports.

"When we all get together at Christmas," Bob jokes about the family's medical expertise, "we could give CME credit."

The clan is building its credentials. Robert is a member of the AOA House of Delegates, and is president of
the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. He is a fellow and past president of the Florida ACGP, as is his father. Dan is board eligible in general practice, as well. Both Bob and Robert are associate professors at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Lake Park practice usually employs two interns for family practice rotations.

Founders Day, 1987, the Greers celebrated Bob's 30th, Robert's 10th and Dan and Joe's 5th class reunions. But indications persist that the family's strength is in its future, not just in its past. Joe and Rebecca Gunselman became parents again this February, of nine-pound Samuel Robert, and they have already announced that their first son, Joe Jr., PCOM class of 2013, is pulling his application materials together for the practice of osteopathic medicine in the 21st Century.

With the lure of Alaska beckoning, Bob Greer has found himself in bear country on many occasions. This grizzly became a family heirloom in Florida, with intermediate stops at Dan's log cabin medical office in Alaska and on the floor of Dan and Sallie's AOA Convention hotel room last December.
President J. Peter Tilley, DO, has announced the appointment of John Simelaro, DO, '71, as chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at OMCP.

Elliot L. Ames, DO, clinical assistant professor of hand and microsurgery, was inducted into the AOAO, and presented two papers to the annual clinical assembly of osteopathic specialists in New York: "Management of Severe Trauma to the Upper Body Extremity," and "Small Joint Arthrodesis."

Philip Ginsberg, DO, '80, clinical assistant professor of urologic surgery, was inducted into the ACOS, lectured on "Flow Cytometry and its Predictive Applications in Prostatic Carcinoma," and published an article in the JAOA on "Emphysematous Pyelonephritis."

Michael Kirschbaum, DO, '75, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, published an article in the JAOA on "Dobutamine in Congestive Heart Failure."

Michael L. Mansi, DO, '75, chairman of OB/GYN, and Joseph Kaczmarczyk, DO, '82, of Gallup, NM, published an article in the JAOA based on research done at OMCP: "Transvaginal Needle Insertion for Peritoneal Insufflation." Insufflation via this route during laparoscopy, rather than an infraumbilical puncture, was performed on 100 women with no intra-operative or post-operative complications.

Michael W. Rochowiak, DO, associate professor of OB/GYN, lectured on "Update Management of OB/GYN Infections" at the mid-year meeting of the ACOOG in Tulsa.

Michael H. Zal, DO, '66, clinical professor of psychiatry, received an award from the American Medical Writers Association for his JAOA article: "Panic Disorder--Is it Emotional or Physical?"

Kris M. Belland, '89, was elected chairman of the Council of Student Council Presidents. This is the first time ever that a PCOM student has held the post. The organization is comprised of the presiding student council officers of the 15 osteopathic medical schools and represents 6,600 students.

Colarusso Memorial Scholarship
Thanks to the efforts of Lauren P. Argenio, DO, '80, a new source of financial aid has become available to third and fourth year students from Luzerne County, PA. Dr. Argenio organized a successful campaign in which classmates, colleagues, and patients of the late Richard E. Colarusso, DO, '66, endowed a scholarship in his memory. Joseph J. Ridilla, '90, is the first recipient of the scholarship.

In February and March, PCOM mailed a two-part questionnaire to all alumni and alumnae. If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to complete this important survey. It requests that updated bibliographical information be sent to the Alumni Office in order to make your personal file accurate and current. A confidential poll also solicits your opinions on programs and plans for the future of the college. The results will be published in a future issue of Digest.

Two PCOM students from the other side of the Delaware River have been granted scholarships by the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. Andrea Barbier, '92, won the Robert P. Chapman Osteopathic Scholarship; and Paul McNally, '92, won the Violet E. Sutula Osteopathic Scholarship.

The PCOM Alumni Directory project is nearing completion and shipment of the directories will begin this spring. Look for your copy. This comprehensive new volume is a compilation of the most current data available on over 5,343 PCOM alumni. The information has been researched through questionnaire mailings, telephone calls, and alumni records. Since the editing and proofreading are completed and the printing is in process, distribution of this new edition will commence soon.

All alumni/ae who reserved a copy of the directory during the verification phase should be receiving their copies around the third week of April. If you have a question about your order, or you wish to place an order, please contact our publisher directly at the following: Customer Service Department, Bernard C. Harris Publishing Co., Inc., 3 Barker Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601. Telephone (914) 428-8921.

The new PCOM Alumni Directory is a personal way to recall the college years and to catch up on the careers of your classmates. The Alumni Office appreciates the cooperation of those who returned the questionnaire, and hopes those receiving a copy will call a classmate just to say hello!
MBA/D.O. Degree

Saint Joseph’s University and PCOM have joined forces to create the nation’s first joint MBA/D.O. graduate degree. Rev. Nicholas S. Rashford, S.J., President of Saint Joseph’s, and J. Peter Tilley, D.O., President of PCOM, signed the cooperative agreement in ceremonies at PCOM in September.

The five-year joint degree program results in the attainment of a Master of Business Administration degree from Saint Joseph’s and a Doctor of Osteopathy degree from PCOM. The program responds to the increasing need to put more business knowhow into the practice of medicine and it will prepare medical professionals for a wide range of emerging careers in business.

The joint degree concept was initiated by Dean Joseph A. Dieterle, D.O., who foresaw its benefits to doctors in a future filled with more paperwork and less patient time. “We may do an excellent job of preparing a new physician,” he said, “A degree program of this type, combining medical and business education, will provide necessary skills for graduates into the 1990’s and beyond.”

The joint program begins with the current PCOM class. Students currently enrolled in their first-year medical studies will be eligible to matriculate beginning summer 1989 in Saint Joseph’s MBA program, provided they meet entrance qualifications. After the initial MBA summer session, students will combine medical studies at PCOM with evening courses at nearby Saint Joseph’s.

Students completing their MBA course work will receive their MBA degree at Saint Joseph’s spring commencement following two summer sessions and four semesters in the joint program. Clinical rotations comprising the final two years of medical education complete requirements for the medical degree.

The MBA program at Saint Joseph’s will be tailored slightly to credit some pre-medical work and PCOM courses in statistics, business law and ethics toward meeting MBA requirements. Of particular value to medical students will be a range of foundation courses in Economic Analysis, Information Systems and Financial Management.

Advanced courses in Business Decision Making Methods, Accounting for Health Businesses, Promotional Strategy and Hospital Administration will add greatly to the knowledge base the new doctor carries into practice. The 36 hours of MBA course work compare favorably with standards from other MBA degree requirements. The MBA is Saint Joseph’s largest graduate program.

PCOM Ruggers Roar-On

The coach of the PCOM Rugby Club, Walter Prozialeck, PhD, has announced the club’s completion of another highly successful season. The team finished the fall season undefeated, with a record of 8 wins and 0 losses to capture the championship of the Graduate School Division of the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union. The outstanding individual players included Scott Naftalin, DO, Gene Fellin, ’89, John Ward, ’89, John Connely, ’89, and Brian Kahan, ’91. The B-Team, known on campus as the “Killer-B’s,” finished with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss, their only defeat coming from the hands of a very tough PCOM Alumni team.
1925
Walter M. Hamilton, Eastham, MA, recently went fishing with Paul T. Lloyd, '23, a sport they first enjoyed together more than a half century earlier. The big one got away!

1938
Richard S. Koch, Olympia, WA, has received board certification in family medicine.

1942
Classmates Richard P. DeNise, Solon, OH, and Harold W. Nolf, Mt. Desert, ME, have been enrolled as a life members of the Ohio Osteopathic Association.

1953
Leonard S. Papel, Saddle Brook, NJ, was elected chairman of the AAOS Board of Certification in Radiology and received the Honorary Degree of Fellow Award from the AAOR.

John C. Pellosie, Orlando, FL, was elected vice chairman of the AAOS Board of Certification in Orthopedic Surgery.

1954
Emil M. Felski, Loraine, OH, was enrolled as a life member of the Ohio Osteopathic Association.

Thomas P. Woodward, Franklinville, NJ, was elected secretary-treasurer of the AAOS Board of Certification in Neurology and Psychiatry.

1955
Norman H. Illowite, Fort Lee, NJ, received board certification in dermatology. John A. Kline, Lewisburg, WV, was appointed chairman of the Department of Pathology at WVSOM.

James R. Tyler, Fort Worth, TX, was elected vice chairman of the AAOS Board of Certification in Surgery.

1956
J. Harris Joseph, Bala Cynwyd, PA, received JAOA coverage for his work on Primary malignant melanoma involving the anorectum.

1957
John J. Heiser, Marlton, NJ, received the Physician Excellence Award at Kennedy Memorial Hospitals, Cherry Hill Division, where he is section head of anesthesiology.

Eleanor V. Masterson, Stratford, NJ, was elected a Distinguished Practitioner in the National Academy of Practice in Osteopathic Medicine.

Lawrence E. Miller, Short Hills, NJ, was elected vice chairman of the AAOS Board of Certification in Neurology and Psychiatry.

1961
Marvin Kanefield, Wyncote, PA, published an article in the NJAOPS Journal on post-MI psychiatric care.

Gerald M. Ketner, Clarion, PA, was elected to the AAOS Board of Certification in Orthopedic Surgery.

Anthony A. Minissale, Gladwyne, PA, was appointed to KePRO's Professional Review Committee.

1962
Donald Eck, Muskegon, MI, was elected president of the Board of Governors, AAOOS.

Lawrence Nessman, Wayne, NJ, did a spring tour of duty with the US Army Reserves in Honduras as officer in charge.

1963
William J. King, Deptford, NJ, has been elected to the PCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors.

1965
Ralph C. Lanciano, Jr., Pennsauken, NJ, was selected "Best of the Best" in the physician category by readers of the Courier Post, and also speaks regularly on eye care on radio WWDB.

Vincent GJ. Lobo, Harrington, DE, has been elected to the PCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors.

1966
Clayton C. Lindemuth, Sr., Fairview, PA, was board certified in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery.

William A. Nickey, Philadelphia, PA, was appointed member of a hypertension and chronic renal failure working group of the National HBPEP of the NHLBI.
1967
**Sherman Leis**, Bala Cynwyd, PA, chairman of the plastic and reconstructive surgery section of ACOS, was featured on the TV-6 show, A.M. Philadelphia.

**Ronald R. Blanck**, Frankfurt, Germany, has been appointed commander of the Frankfurt Army Regional Medical Center, the largest overseas medical complex of the US military.

**Louis D. Ellis**, Cherry Hill, NJ, was elected vice chairman of the AAOS Board of Certification in Radiology.

1968
**Bernard S. Sobel**, Norristown, PA, has been board certified in addictionology by AMSAODD.

1969
**Donald C. Tilton**, Wilmington, DE, is now president-elect of AAOR.

1970
**Joseph C. Gallagher, Jr.**, Norristown, PA, was elected to the AAOS Board of Certification in Orthopedic Surgery.

1971
**Emil F.M. Felski**, Casselberry, FL, was elected secretary-treasurer of the Board of Governors, AAOOG.

**Pat Anthony Lannutti**, Drexel Hill, PA, has been elected chief of staff at Metropolitan Hospital-Central Division.

1976
**Rowland Allard**, York, PA, was appointed to the committee on anesthesiology of POMA, and is chairman of the department at Memorial Hospital.

**Robert I. Boorstein**, West Bloomfield, MI, was recently awarded the title of Fellow by the ACOS.


**Ted S. Eisenberg**, Philadelphia, PA, was reappointed chairman of the subcommittee on plastic and reconstructive surgery for POMA, and lectured at the annual convention of POGPS.

**Stephen N. Finberg**, Phoenix, AZ, received board certification in allergy and immunology.

**Frank H. Guinn**, Philadelphia, PA, received board certification in internal medicine.

**William R. Henwood**, Sharon, PA, was recently awarded the title of Fellow by the ACOS.

**Edward E. Janus**, Fairview, PA, was elected vice president of the Board of Governors, AAOI.

1975
**Charles S. Hoag**, Portland, ME, has been board certified in cardiology.

**Michael J. Lyons**, Fort Payne, AL, was elected public relations officer of AAOOS.
1977

**Robert J. Bell**, Huntingdon Valley, PA, has received board certification in general practice.

**Warren M. Cohen**, Philadelphia, PA, was elected vice president of the Board of Governors, AAOR.

**Richard M. Gladding, Jr.**, Scottsdale, AZ, was elected public relations officer of the Board of Governors, AAOI.

**Rita Mary Hanly**, Norristown, PA, was the September "career pin up" on the 88-89 calendar of Gwynedd-Mercy College.

**Michael C. Saltzburg**, Hollidaysburg, PA, was elected secretary-treasurer of the AAOS Board of Certification in Orthopedic Surgery.

**Daniel D. Wert, Jr.**, Paradise, PA, was elected member at large of the Board of Governors, AAOA.

**John F. Woods**, West Chester, PA, was elected to the AAOS Board of Certification in Anesthesiology.

1978

**John A. Bonchak**, Sharon, PA, was elected chairman of the AAOS Board of Certification in Internal Medicine, and received an Honorary Degree of Fellow Award from the AAOI.

**Daniel C. DuPont**, Springfield, PA, was elected chief of staff at Metropolitan Hospital-Springfield Division.

**W. Stephen Gefvert**, Cumberland, ME, was elected member at large to the AAOS Board of Certification in Internal Medicine.

**James E. Oxley**, Campbell Hall, NY, was elected to the PCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Samuel W. Stever**, Cherry Hill, NJ, received board certification in both internal medicine and cardiology.

**R. Curtis Waligura**, North Huntingdon, PA, received board certification in internal medicine.

1979

**Alfred R. D'Angelo**, Red Lion, PA, was elected secretary-treasurer of the York County Osteopathic Medical Society.

**David M. Callahan**, Avondale, PA, was elected to the Board of Certification in Internal Medicine, AAOS.

**Nelson P. Kopyt**, Allentown, PA, was board certified in critical care medicine.

**William C. Leach**, Wauwatosa, WI, was voted "Outstanding Teacher of 87-88" at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

**Alan R. Maniet**, Lower Merion, PA, was elected president of AAOI.

1980

**Scott A. Boydman**, Beechwood, OH, was board certified in anesthesiology and accepted appointment to the staff of St. Luke's Hospital, Cleveland.

**Richard B. Esack**, Largo, FL, was elected secretary-treasurer of the AAOS Board of Certification in Anesthesiology.

**Harold E. Feller**, Bristol, PA, was awarded for his outstanding teaching and dedication to intern training at DVMC.

**Joseph D. Piorowski, Jr.**, Washington, DC, son of Elizabeth C. Bell, '83, received his board certification in general practice and graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center.

**Serge Riley**, Wilmington, DE, received board certification in cardiology.

**Lawrence A. Tepper**, West Palm Beach, FL, is board certified in medical oncology and opened a second office in Jupiter for the practice of hematology and oncology.

1981

**John Fornace**, Norristown, PA, has joined Internal Medicine Associates as a cardiologist at Suburban General Hospital, teamed up with his father, Albert Fornace, 44.

**Thomas G. Majernick**, Lake Winola, PA, was board certified in emergency medicine.
Hugh E. Palmer, York, PA, was appointed chairman of the committee on public relations for POMS.

1982
Robin Innella, Union, NJ, surgically teamed with Clifford Botwin, DO, performed the first percutaneous lumbar discectomy procedure done at Union Hospital.

Joseph M. Kaczmarczyk, Gallup, NM, Public Health Service OB/GYN staff at the Gallup Indian Medical Center and preceptor for Yale medical students, was appointed clinical instructor at the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine.

Mark Vengrove, Allentown, PA, associate in charge of endocrinology and metabolism at Easton Hospital, has opened offices in Wilson and East Stroudsburg.

Denise M. Wilson, Muncy, PA, was elected to fellowship in the American College of Emergency Physicians.

1983
Paul Loeb, Langhorne, PA, is now associated with the OB/GYN practice of Dr. Philip Kauff in Morrisville and Hamilton Township, NJ.

Stephen Milksud, York, PA, was board certified in general practice.

Michael J. Zakrzewski, Lansdale, PA, cardiologist, is affiliated with the Lansdale Medical Group and has joined the medical staff of North Penn Hospital.

Mary Zygmunt, Allentown, PA, has joined the Allentown OB/GYN practice of Frank Weaver, DO.

1984
Michael J. Caruso, Seaville, NJ, has joined the staff of Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital in ophthalmology.

Maria Daly, Carmel Valley, CA, is The Noon Day Doctor on local Channel 8.

Ruth E. Frye, Allentown, PA, has joined in general/family practice with Domenic M. Falco, '59, in Allentown.

Robert W. Linkenheimer, Philadelphia, PA, was named assistant director of emergency services at Lower Bucks Hospital.

Walter W. Setlock, Orwigsburg, PA, is associated in family practice with Carl J. Forster, DO, '75, in Pottsville.

Daniel F. Walton, Tucson, AZ, is now associated with a group practice in Green Valley, AZ.

1985
Greg R. Ehgartner, Harrisburg, PA, published an article on hemodynamic instability following intentional nadolol overdose in the April issue of Archives of Internal Medicine.

Robert W. Hostoffer, Jr., Homewood, AL, has completed his pediatrics residency at Doctor’s Hospital in Columbus, OH, as “Resident of the Year.”

Salvatore Moscatello, Alt Highland, NJ, is chief medical resident at Hackensack Medical Center.

LaVerne VanDeWall, Sayre, PA, is co-chief of medical residents at Robert Packer Hospital/Guthrie Clinic in Sayre.

1986
John Dudzinski, Erie, PA, has established a general practice in North East, PA.

Robert Durkin, Hackensack, NJ, won the “Intern of the Year Award” at Hackensack Medical Center, making it three in a row for PCOM since he follows winners Mike Otruba and Salvatore Moscatello.

Gary Nothstein, Allentown, PA, has joined a general practice at Fogelsville Medical Center, Folgesville, PA.

James H. Sussman, Abington, PA, received the Hershey Memorial Award for Internal Medicine at Metropolitan Hospital in 1987, and was named “Intern of the Year” at Abington Memorial where he is now serving a residency.

Michael J. Zawisza, Orwigsburg, PA, has opened his practice in general family medicine in New Philadelphia, PA.

Jerome B. Cohen, '56, Willingboro, NJ, died July 30. Dr. Cohen had received the 1988 Physician of the Year Award from the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, of which he was a past president. He was president of the Burlington County professional society for 11 years and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Cohen was also a member of the AOA House of Delegates, the AAO, POMA, and was on the faculty of the New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine.

John G. DeGhetto, '56, Paramus, NJ, died on October 12 at age 57. After being located first in Saddle Brook and then Clifton, NJ, Dr. DeGhetto had a private practice in Paramus and was medical director of the Clifton Mental Health Center. He served his internship in Bay Village, OH, and did a residency in psychology at Columbia University Hospital in 1973.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Founders Day Convocation</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Alumni Association Board Meeting</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<td>Founders Day Dinner Dance</td>
<td>Adams Mark</td>
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<td>January 29 - Feb. 5</td>
<td>Post Founders Day CME</td>
<td>St. Thomas, USVI</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>CME Endocrinology</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<td>March 8-12</td>
<td>American College of General Practice</td>
<td>San Antonio, River Center Mariott</td>
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<td>March 16-19</td>
<td>FOMA</td>
<td>Miami Doral</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>CME Infectious Disease</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Depression Update</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>CME General Practice</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<td>April 6-9</td>
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<td>May 3-7</td>
<td>81st Annual Clinical Assembly, POMA</td>
<td>Atlantic City, TropWorld Resort</td>
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