Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Spring 1992)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Research emphasis and new services at Osteopathic

Osteopathic Medical Center enhances its research efforts and adds special hospital services as it forges into the future with a commitment to quality medical education and patient care.

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Matches made at PCOM
Read how medicine, marriage and children mesh into a very full, but worthwhile life for six PCOM couples. And they wouldn't have it any other way.

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Alumnus treats Mother Teresa
Changed by his experience as the Roman Catholic nun's pulmonary and critical care specialist, Lawrence E. Kline, '71, now knows what it's like to care for the divinely famous.

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Osteopathic Medical Center forges ahead

President’s Perspective

By virtually every measure, our institution continues to do well. Applications to the college for the class of 1996 exceed 2,000, up over 100 percent from the class of 1995. We matched 78 interns for the 1992-93 academic year and expect to have 130 residents in the various specialty programs, up from 110 in the current year. Through the month of February, admissions to the City Avenue hospital exceeded last year’s figures and our own aggressive business plan for the current year. And although the results are less encouraging at the Parkview campus, we are making progress and remain confident about the future of that facility.

In February, the City Avenue hospital dedicated its first addition since its opening in 1967. This 14,000-square-foot addition gives a dramatic new face to the hospital and an attractively landscaped boulevard entrance to the campus. We continue to add to our patient care and educational capabilities. For example, in January we opened a new angio-interventional suite in the department of radiological sciences at City Avenue, and we now have on-site outpatient dialysis services at the Parkview campus. Although our financial performance is somewhat short of the business plan through the first seven months of the fiscal year, we have an excess of revenue-over-expense.

Despite this progress, we have a long way to go: in strengthening our financial performance; in increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of both our undergraduate and postgraduate curricula; in speeding the development of contemporary facilities and technologies for both education and patient care; and in developing capabilities that will enable us not only to survive but, indeed, prosper in the increasingly competitive marketplace for health care services.

We have initiated a number of actions to broaden our revenue base. The appointment of David Ginsberg, ’73, as director of clinical research has already resulted in the development of a number of research protocols involving our faculty and staff and promises to be a significant source of revenue for the future. Efforts are underway to materially increase the amount of sponsored research conducted by our faculty, and the appointment of Robyn Weyand, PhD, as assistant dean for research administration represents a commitment by the college to be successful in this effort.

By the time you receive Digest, construction on Parkview’s new medical office building will have begun. On April 1, we completed closing for the new four-story, 86,500-square-foot facility. This project is a major step forward in our commitment to revitalize the Parkview campus.

Each of these initiatives requires the cooperation and support of faculty, medical staff, employees, and alumni. I am confident that with that effort and cooperation we will be successful. I hope that each of you feels good about the steps we have taken over the past two years to strengthen your college and that you feel these steps merit your continuing support. I encourage you to recommend strong students to our undergraduate program, to “talk up” our postgraduate training opportunities, and to participate in the Annual Fund. My colleagues at the college will do everything possible to merit this support by our alumni.

New addition at City Avenue opens

Students, physicians, employees, and guests joined in celebration as the 14,000-square-foot addition to the City Avenue hospital was unveiled on February 19. The eagerly-awaited addition, which has been taking shape since the groundbreaking last spring, is the first new construction to the hospital since it opened in 1967.

“The physical proof of our determination to modernize will continue to mount until no one can mistake our intent to make this institution a leading regional health care center,” said Leonard H. Finkelstein, ’59, Osteopathic Medical Center chairman and president, at the opening ceremony. Joining Finkelstein at the ribbon-cutting were Timothy A. Churchill, hospital executive director and chief executive officer, and Philadelphia City Councilman Michael A. Nutter.

Designed for convenience

The addition has been designed to create a more accessible main entrance and provide space for the centralization of outpatient services. It is just part of OMC’s faculty master plan, which includes three phases at both the City Avenue and Parkview campuses.

For interns and residents, the most popular feature of the addition is undoubtedly the house staff sleeping quarters. The spacious accommodations include kitchen facilities, showers, a lounge and locker rooms.

The most noticeable part of the addition is the refurbished reception area and lobby, complete with new furniture and skylights to provide a bright, comfortable setting for patients and visitors.

Patients’ needs considered

Patient convenience and confidentiality were the goals for the design of the new admissions department. Patients no longer have to find their way to the ground floor to register. The six new registration areas are well-marked so patients can walk in and sit right down in the appropriate location. Three of the six new registration areas have been designated for outpatients, one for pre-admission testing and two for inpatients.

Patients needing pre-admission tests now have only a short distance to travel once they have registered with the admissions department.
Major hospital upgrades and new research program

Angio-Interventional Suite opens at City Avenue

On January 22, close to 100 physicians, employees and invited guests were on hand as the radiology department at City Avenue hosted a reception to celebrate the opening of the Angio-Interventional Suite.

According to Lewis M. Halin, '59, director of the Angio-Interventional Suite and chairman of Osteopathic Medical Center’s department of radiological sciences, the suite’s high-tech equipment greatly enhances the department’s capabilities by allowing the staff to do a wide range of non-surgical procedures on site.

“The opening of this new facility represents our continuing commitment to providing state-of-the-art equipment for our physicians and state-of-the-art care for our patients,” says Osteopathic Medical Center president and chairman Leonard H. Finkelstein, ’59.

Clinical research expands at PCOM

Osteopathic Medical Center has taken yet another step toward expanding its research efforts by appointing a director of clinical research and by establishing a new department, research administration.

David Ginsberg, ’73

David Ginsberg, ’73, has been appointed director of clinical research and assistant professor of family practice at the college.

Ginsberg will be responsible for developing and coordinating an enhanced clinical research program which includes promoting the institution’s research capabilities for clinical trials.

Board certified in internal medicine, he has received postgraduate training in clinical pharmacology, drug development and regulation. In addition, Ginsberg has published several papers on the treatment of hypertension and the use of antibiotics for outpatients.

Research administration

The department of research administration in the college, under the direction of PCOM’s Robyn Weyand, PhD, has been established to develop and manage externally funded research and training projects for many areas, such as basic research, building and facilities grants and educational programs and student financial aid.

In her new position as assistant dean for research administration, Weyand will also provide administrative support and coordination for all grant-related research and training activities and will administer research-related policies.

Weyand formerly served as associate professor and director of educational programs in family medicine.

Outpatient dialysis unit opens at Parkview

An eight-station outpatient dialysis unit has opened at Parkview, offering comprehensive state-of-the-art health care to dialysis patients.

“We have installed the most advanced dialysis technology available in our new unit,” says William Nickey, ’66, unit director and professor and chairman of the division of nephrology and hypertension at Osteopathic Medical Center.

“Using the new technologically-advanced dialysis machines, we are able to reduce dialysis time by an hour or more for some patients.”

In addition to dialysis, patients receive dietary and medication education and transportation from home to the dialysis unit or the hospital for other outpatient procedures. “The unit offers a sort of ‘one stop shopping’ for dialysis patients,” says Michael Broder, DO, director of dialysis services. “Our staff will schedule physician office visits and diagnostic tests along with their appointed dialysis time.”
Philanthropy comes in many forms

As PCOM's most prominent contributors, alumni are quite familiar with the college's Annual Giving program. Many alumni participate in the student phonathon or respond to the annual pledge mailings. But the Annual Fund is just one way alumni, parents, students and other friends support PCOM.

"Donations to the college come in many forms, including bequests and deferred gifts," says Hale T. Peffall, Jr., executive director of alumni relations and development. "We also receive non-monetary contributions such as real estate and office equipment."

Over the past few months, the college has received and has used sizable contributions from these non-Annual Fund sources. They include a gift for library expansion, a low-interest loan providing full tuition for one year and a gift earmarked for the purchase of ophthalmology equipment for the surgical suite at City Avenue.

At Founders Day ... Loyalty to the college and osteopathic medicine has been a lifelong commitment for Frieda, '39, and James Vickers. This year the Alumni Association presented its most prestigious award, the Certificate of Honor, to them for outstanding dedication to the college and the osteopathic profession.

For the Surgery Suite

When Jim Vickers came to Parkview last fall to have a cataract removed, he learned a lot about the surgical procedure and the sophisticated equipment used in ophthalmology from his physician, Carlo J. DiMarco, '78, chairman of PCOM's department of ophthalmology. In fact, Vickers was so impressed with what he'd learned that he went home and talked with his wife, Frieda O. Vickers, '39, about making a "major gift" to PCOM by contributing to the acquisition of a Cavitron 9500 unit for the hospital's ophthalmology department. The unit is now being used to better serve the patients and benefit the teaching program.

Scholarship recipient ... Mary Diamond, '84, seated right, accepts a check for a full year's tuition as a low-interest loan, from Ruth Waddel Cathie, '38, seated left, Angus Cathie's widow and former professor and chairman of PCOM's department of pathology. Joining in the presentation is Robert W. England, '56, former PCOM dean. Diamond was awarded the scholarship based on excellence in anatomy and osteopathic principles and practices.

For Student Tuition

Considered the finest anatomist in the United States by many osteopathic physicians, Angus Gordon Cathie, '31, professor emeritus and chairman of anatomy, left behind a legacy of education and dedication to PCOM when he died on June 5, 1970. A trust was established in his name so that he could continue to contribute to the education of PCOM's students through scholarships and loans.

For a Library Conference Room

James Rasinsky, '91, class treasurer, called Hale T. Peffall, Jr., in September to say that his class wanted to donate the balance of their account, $3,500, to current student needs — perhaps for purchasing textbooks. Through working with the Dean's Office, Rasinsky learned that plans were already underway for textbook purchases, but that the money could best be applied toward a conference room for the library. The class of '91's contribution plus a $1,300 gift from the class of '90 is being used to help pay for this conference room. Construction is expected to begin late spring/early summer of this year.
Doctors marrying doctors
When timing is everything

IMAGINE both you and your spouse are physicians, and you go on a week-long camping trip with three other couples — seven days in the green hills of Vermont with four husband-wife physician teams.

“We all thought it was going to be terrible,” confides Marc F. Domsky, '86, who, along with his wife, Lisa Finkelstein, '87, went anyway. “The surprising thing about it was we had a great time. It was the first time in a long time that we didn’t talk medicine at all.”

In fact, all four couples liked the 1989 trip so much they vowed to do it again on a biennial basis — and they created a vacation fund to finance it by buying stock in a fiber optic medical firm.

Well, the stock did much better than their vacation plans, saying something about the scheduling difficulties inherent in such marriages. All they could manage last year was a dinner one night. The stock they cashed in, however, more than quadrupled in price.
Some think it won't work

When Michael Maggioncalda, '90, and Lori Smith, '88, announced that they planned to marry in 1989, some doubts were voiced by a few of the older attending physicians. "The spouses of some of the more established doctors wondered where in the world we could get the time to support each other in such a time-consuming profession as medicine," recalls Maggioncalda, who is doing a family practice residency at Medical Center of Delaware. His wife is completing an emergency medicine residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia.

And when Thomas Powell, Jr., '80, told his father, Thomas Powell, '56, that he was going to marry a medical student, Roberta Lee, '84, his father smiled and said there would never be a dull moment. "He's been right on that," says Lee.

But while the divorce rate among physician couples is even higher than the above-average rate for doctors married to non-medical professionals; while residencies and fellowships might scatter them into different time zones for a year or more; while they might not see each other more than 90 minutes a day; while they might never know when the other is coming home or when an on-call message in the middle of the night will roust them from bed; while they might know the Domino's Pizza phone number by heart. PCOM alums married to each other say the rewards of having another doctor for a spouse far outweigh the obvious drawbacks.

"THE spouses of some of the more established doctors wondered where in the world we could get the time to support each other in such a time consuming profession as medicine."

- Michael Maggioncalda, '90, pictured above with his wife Lori Smith, '88, and Allie.
"I can't imagine it any other way for me," says Thomas Dagney, '87, who practices emergency medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Ind., while his wife and classmate, Holly Conard Dagney, '87, maintains a family practice that brings her frequently to the hospital. He has wakened her at 2 a.m. to inform her he is admitting one of her patients. "Initially," he says, "I never really wanted to marry a doctor because of the time demands."

Pluses outweigh the minuses, they say

The benefits, say the married DO couples, include having someone who understands the time demands and someone with whom you can discuss your day — both from a technical standpoint and with a sympathetic ear towards the joys and frustrations of modern medicine.

That support can begin, and be tested, during medical school itself. "Sometimes when one spouse is in medical school, the other one can't understand why you are snapping so much and always complaining about how much stress you're under," says Ken Williams, '93, who married Barbara Williams, '92, five years ago. "But in our case it's easy to understand," he says. "We can study together and learn from each other because we are studying the same thing. We speak the same language." Ken is studying an additional year to earn the dual DO-MBA degree offered by PCOM and St. Joseph's University.

That mutual support continues after medical school as well.

John C. Querci, '77, an internist who maintains his practice in the same Exeter, Pa., office as his second wife, family practitioner Monica Cozzone, '86, agrees. "When you get home you don't hear 'Why don't you leave business at work? I don't want to hear about your patients.' When the phone rings at 3 a.m., you don't hear 'Why don't you tell them to go away? What are they bothering you for?' The tensions just aren't there. It's a good feeling."

Medicine talk at home limited

"When we finally come home, we like to leave the office and ER behind us," adds Lee, a family practitioner in Germantown who has been married for nearly 10 years.

"We avoid work talk as much as we can," says her husband, the chairman of emergency medicine for North Philadelphia Health Systems. "We do medicine so much that we like to come home and not talk about it all the time," he adds. "But that's hard to do when the answering service is calling," Lee says.

"We might have a discussion for five or 10 minutes a day but then we try to close the book on it," says Dagney, who has been taking flying lessons with his wife so they can fly to the Chesapeake and the sailboat in which they have a partial share. "It doesn't rule our lives."

Preordained marriages

In the insular world of medical school, such marriages seem almost preordained. Since students are initially arranged alphabetically, the Dagneys — Holly Conard and Thomas Dagney — met during orientation. "There were only two people between us when we lined up for pictures," she says. They were usually matched up in the same work group the entire first two years.

Indeed, half of the six couples interviewed for this story met at PCOM while they were students and/or interns. Then there's Querci and Cozzone. She was a sophomore work-study student when Admissions Director Carol Fox and Robert Goldberg, '77, (then the chairman of rehabilitative medicine) arranged for her to accompany Querci, Goldberg's classmate, to a Founders Day dinner. Querci reluctantly agreed to go. "I knew nothing about her, but it worked out very well and we've been very happy," he says.

No time for household chores

Such romances, however, do have their pitfalls. Given the hours both spouses work, the simple domestic chores most people take for granted become challenges in and of themselves. "There's never a home-cooked dinner waiting," concedes Lisa Finkelstein, '87, the daughter of PCOM president Leonard H. Finkelstein and a urology resident at Detroit Osteopathic/Bi-County Community Hospitals. "We both need another spouse, a cook, another mother, a housekeeper."

"Some months it's easier for me and I take on more of the little duties such as caring for the dog and shopping," says Maggioncalda. "And when both of us
have a bad month we don't see a lot of each other and not much gets done."

"It's difficult for us to normalize meals and laundry," adds Dagney. "Every once in a while we have to take an afternoon to get everything back into shape for the next couple of weeks. It's difficult, but that's really minor."

**Then there are the children**

The arrival of children can make life even more interesting and complex.

The Williams', who decided medical school would not stop them from starting a family, have two daughters: Brittany, 2, and Brianna, born five months ago. "When I first learned I was pregnant towards the end of my first year of medical school, my first thought was, 'I won't be able to finish school,'" says Barbara. But with the help of her husband's mother and a reliable babysitter, they have pulled it off.

"It isn't easy," she admits. "Ken realizes the importance of helping out. I can't say I'm putting more into the family than he is. It's really 50-50."

Giovanna Querci was born Oct. 16, 1991, right on her due date, and — with her having the good grace to sleep through the night since mid-November and with the assistance of an au pair — she has done little to complicate the already hectic lives of her parents.

Jodi Lauren Domsky was born Nov. 29, 1991. Her father Marc, who is an anesthesiologist at Detroit Receiving Hospital, was still in Baltimore on a critical care, trauma and anesthesia fellowship while her mother was in Detroit during her first trimester. But Finkelstein says the pregnancy and birth did not overburden their time demands too greatly. "It’s very hectic, but you learn how to be very efficient with your time," she says. "You just don't have a lot of free time."

"The biggest problem," says Powell, "is having free time at all."

"Or at least coordinating the free time you do have," says his wife. That balancing act has gotten more difficult as their children — Thomas, 8, Justin, 7, and Ashley, 2 — have gotten older and have become involved in school events and sports.

"The kids tell you," says Lee, "that the thing they hate most is a beeper. If mine doesn't go off, his does."

**Practicing together**

One might think that working together would be too much for a doctor-doctor relationship, but Powell and Lee, who live in Wyncote, Pa., disagree. While Powell devotes most of his time to the high-intensity, fast-paced world of emergency medicine, he has begun to spend time helping his wife with her family practice in Germantown.

"When I'm covering for my wife," says Powell, "the patients say, 'Dr. Roberta knows all of my problems.' It's a nice change of pace..."
"WE can study together and learn from each other because we are studying the same thing."

–Ken Williams, '93, about his wife and fellow student Barbara Williams, '92
from the ER and a nice blend."

Querci, an internist, and Cozzzone, a family practitioner, also enjoy working together. Since 1987, a year after she graduated, they have shared the same office space and staff (while technically keeping their practices separate) in the Wilkes-Barre suburb of Exeter. They have a walk-in, no-appointment necessary office open five days a week, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We each have our own patients," says Cozzzone, "but if I'm out doing hospital rounds and one of my patients walks in, he'll see him for me or vice versa. It makes it much easier if your associate knows how you think and can anticipate what you'd do in given situations.

"We're also more patient with each other, and there's less paranoia about expenses and staffing. I think it is easier to delineate duties and responsibilities from a business standpoint because we're married and we're both working towards the same goal, our family."

Her husband agrees. "It's been great with Monica," he says. "There's nothing to hide and we're available for one another in times when we're just overwhelmed with problems.

"I just don't see anything negative about being married to and working with a doctor."

"IT'S been great with Monica . . . I just don't see anything negative about being married to and working with a doctor."

--John Querci, '77, shown here with his wife and co-worker Monica Cozzone, '86.
They Remember When
PCOM's more mature grads return for Founders Day

Some of PCOM's earliest graduates reunited at the Founders Day dinner dance in January, bringing with them memories of a dramatically different medical school and osteopathic medical profession than what exists today.

Representing the classes of 1927, 1932, 1937 and 1942, several alumni interviewed had first-hand memories of O.J. Snyder, DO, the school's co-founder and first president. He was their teacher at one of the earlier school sites, a converted home of a former Philadelphia mayor at 19th and Spring Garden streets.

Snyder and Pennock
"Snyder was a great believer in osteopathic medicine. He'd get excited if he heard anyone belittle the profession," recalled 91-year-old Ellis Metford, '27. "To him it was the only medical profession. And, of course, I think he was right," he said with a smile.

Joining Metford was his classmate, Henry Herbst, 88, of Blue Bell, Pa., who closed his general practice last July after 50 years. Herbst remembers the crucial contribution of D.S.B. Pennock, MD, DO, the professor of surgery who, by virtue of his MD degree, enabled the school's hospital to conduct surgery. "He helped us tremendously," Herbst said.

Hard times come and go
The Depression meant tough times for DOs, struggling for recognition. "Because we believed in osteopathic medicine and our institution, we worked willingly for practically nothing to keep the hospital going," recalled Jim Purse, '42, who also taught at the college. His connection to the institution, however, seemed predestined. As a youth Purse had the distinction of mowing the grass and trimming the shrubs at Snyder's home, in addition to having had his appendix removed by Pennock.

Purse, like most of the graduates, praised the $1 million facility at 48th and Spruce streets, where the school and its hospital had moved in 1929.

Angus Cathie, '31, remembered
Harold Nolf, '42, among others, praised the didactic curriculum. Among the professors remembered fondly and mentioned repeatedly by Dale Yocum '42, and others was Angus Cathie, '31, who was considered by many as the finest anatomist in the United States.

"He'd come in with colored chalk and draw a picture on the board better than anything you'd see in any textbook, but he wouldn't let anyone photograph it," he laughed.

"He was a fantastic teacher," agreed his wife, Roberta, '42, a classmate whom Kelch married in 1974 after both of their original spouses had passed away.

Clinical training and service limited
But most alumni said they envied current students for the variety of clinical training available to them and for the services DOs are permitted to deliver today. "We had quite an excellent outpatient clinic in obstetrics for the underprivileged and got a lot of experience doing home deliveries, but that was the extent of our clinical experience," said J. Kenneth Miller, '42, who scaled back his ob/gyn practice in Harrisburg to a general practice this year. "We were seldom allowed to give an injection or draw blood."

And once they graduated, there was a battle for recognition in a world that then was tilted much more towards allopathic medicine. "There's no question that we had to work very hard to prove to people that we were qualified, highly-trained medical professionals — that we could do it all," says Ted Loux, '37.

Osteopathic manipulative therapy a must
All those interviewed lauded the use of osteopathic manipulative therapy. Graduated four years before the introduction of penicillin, Miller used OMT to treat patients with pneumonia; and his classmate, Samuel Brint, '42, used it extensively in his ob/gyn practice especially for his prenatal patients.

"I strictly believe manipulation has a lot to offer general medical care," Brint said.

Alumni Association Presentations

Outgoing president honored . . . Alexander E. Rodi, '58, right, outgoing alumni association president, receives a recognition plaque from alumni director Hale T. Peffall, Jr., during Founders Day weekend as new president Richard M. Couch, '54, left, looks on.

Ida Schmidt, '35, left, receives PCOM's Alumni Association Certificate of Merit for her many years of service as a PCOM faculty member and physician. The presentation was made by colleague and friend Katherine England, '54, at a birthday party for Schmidt.
PCOM Alumnus Heals the Faithful and Famous

Pulmonologist Lawrence E. Kline, ’71, has treated many famous celebrities since coming to Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, Calif., in 1978. But nothing prepared Kline for the experience that began last December when 81-year-old Mother Teresa entered the Scripps Clinic seriously ill with pneumonia and heart disease.

He was struck by the worldwide press coverage, by the gifts and letters that poured into the hospital at the rate of more than a thousand a day — but even more so by the genuine goodness of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner and the other sisters of the Missionaries of Charity who accompanied her.

“We were all touched by her,” says Kline, who served as the Roman Catholic nun’s pulmonary and critical care specialist on a team with three cardiologists. “Not just physicians, but nurses, housekeeping people. Anyone who came in contact with her and her sisters was clearly moved by their dedication and sense of purpose. I hope that we can continue with the spirit that they have rekindled in us.”

Mother Teresa had been visiting her order’s five homes in Tijuana and was opening another with the spirit that they have created the brain and the heart in such a way that it needs oxygen and in that way you’re able to pray and do your good work. Fortunately God has given us a gift of oxygen and antibiotics to help you get well.”

The other sisters were pleased with this discussion because they knew Mother understood and would accept treatment.

Eager to continue her work, every day she’d ask him, “Dr. Kline, when can I go home?” He’d reply, “Mother, you can go home when God tells us you can go home.” She’d quip, “Dr. Kline, does that mean God speaks directly to you?” Kline replied, “In a way he communicates to us through your tests, symptoms and x-rays. When these improve enough he sends us the message that you’re getting ready to go home.”

As the relationship grew, one of the other sisters asked Kline what his religion was. When he replied, “Jewish,” the sister said, “Like Jesus.” Mother became so comfortable with Kline that occasionally she would inadvertently call him “Father Kline.”

Her Mind Is on Her Work

Whenever well enough to talk, she talked about her work. She spoke about her desire to open houses in China, a cardiac center for the poor in Calcutta and a home for children with AIDS in Baltimore. She also said that in Tijuana, not far from Scripps, she had seen some of the worst suffering that she’s seen anywhere.

“It caused us to rethink our own values and put them in a new perspective,” says Kline. “Look how much suffering there is in the world and how much good one person can do when not diverted by temptations in life.”

A Trip to Tijuana

After Mother Teresa was discharged on January 15, Kline and his sons — Neil, 20, a student at the University of California - San Diego, and David, 17, a senior at La Jolla Country Day High School — visited Mother Teresa at her order’s homes and clinics in Tijuana. From that experience Kline and his sons saw first hand some of the good the Missionaries of Charity does.

Meanwhile, Kline, an assistant clinical professor in medicine at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine, continues to hear regularly from either Mother Teresa or her aides. She is now in Calcutta and doing well.

“It’s like having another extended family,” he says. “I couldn’t have asked for a better reward in life than having the privilege of caring for Mother and also meeting the people in her order. You hear a lot about the financial rewards of medicine, but there is no financial compensation for the experience I’ve had with these people.”
Primary care practice to be subject of government study

Kenneth J. Veit, ‘76, assistant dean for postgraduate education, is a member of a primary care working group which is researching characteristics of medical schools whose graduates tend to enter primary care fields and practice in underserved areas.

The three-year study, funded by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, is being conducted by Thomas Jefferson University and the American Medical Association. It will include surveys of graduates of both allopathic and osteopathic medical schools and on-site visits by the 15-member working group.

Results collected from the project will be used to advise the federal government on how to increase the number of doctors who enter into general practice or who practice in underserved communities.

“We want to identify common characteristics of medical schools that produce a high volume of primary care graduates who serve underserved communities,” said Veit. “Once we do, we hope to offer the information to other schools so that more physicians are encouraged to enter primary care.”

The most recent records indicate the percentage of graduates of PCOM who are in general practice, family practice or pediatrics is in the 60 percent range. “Obviously osteopathic schools will have extremely high percentages compared to allopathic schools,” Veit said. “That’s one of the reasons HHS wanted to include osteopathic schools.”

He said it is likely that graduates of all osteopathic schools, including PCOM, will be receiving a copy of the survey in the near future. “If you receive a survey from Thomas Jefferson University and HHS, please take the time to fill it out,” said Veit. “To make this study valid, it’s important for you to be counted.”

Dubin appointed chairman; Kirschner named director

Alvin D. Dubin, ‘56, has been appointed professor and chairman of the department of otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery at PCOM. Dubin succeeds Ronald R. Kirschner, ‘66, who resigned his duties as chairman. Kirschner is now PCOM’s director of emerging technology. In this new position, he will consolidate and strengthen teaching, research and patient care activities in laser and other advanced technologies.

Dubin will assume his duties full time on July 1. At present he serves as clinical professor and chairman of the division of otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/School of Osteopathic Medicine, as well as chairman of the department of otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery at Kennedy Memorial Hospitals in Stratford and Cherry Hill, N.J.

Dubin is board certified in otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery.

Dubin recently was named “Physician of the Year” by the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Professional relations director appointed

Melvyn E. Smith, ‘63, has been appointed director of professional relations and assistant to the president at Osteopathic Medical Center. This appointment is another step in OMC’s continuing commitment to improving relations with the current medical staff and to expanding physician recruitment efforts.

Smith was chairman of the department of general practice and assistant professor at PCOM from 1973 to 1975. He had been in private practice in Florida and Pennsylvania for the past 27 years.

He is a diplomate of the American College of Osteopathic General Practitioners and a member of the American Osteopathic Association, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association and American Pain Society.

Robert Cuzzolino, EdD named associate dean

Robert G. Cuzzolino, EdD, has been promoted to associate dean for academic administration. Cuzzolino formerly served as assistant dean for educational resources. In his new position, he is working more closely with the dean on general college administrative matters, curriculum and scheduling, educational policy, and the development of special courses.

Cuzzolino is also responsible for overseeing academic support services to part-time faculty and the expansion of faculty development, in addition to planning for educational facilities and teaching resources, and directing the college’s program of continuing medical education.

BRIEFS

James T. Arscott, ‘86, anesthesiology, has joined the medical staff at the Osteopathic Medical Center.

Lee M. Blatstein, ‘84, urology, has joined the medical staff at Osteopathic Medical Center.

David Coffey, ‘85, general practice, has been certified in family practice by the American Academy of Osteopathic Family Practitioners.

Howard M. Goldman, ‘85, dermatology, has joined the department of internal medicine at Osteopathic Medical Center, and has been appointed associate professor at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Alan Koff, ‘69, internal medicine, has been named a fellow in the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

Rosa Marino, ‘86, and Stephen A. Pulley, ‘87, instructors, department of emergency medicine, recently became certified in emergency medicine.

Howard H. Nesbitt, DO, internal medicine, has been certified in internal medicine by the American Academy of Osteopathic Internists.

Irwin Rothman, ‘51, clinical professor of psychiatry, spoke about acupuncture and hypnosis at a Temple University seminar for retired professionals.
Just Published

Corneliu Dimitriu, MS, and Charlotte Greene, PhD:


ACOS welcomes PCOM alumni as officers and members

Two PCOM alumni are now the president and the president-elect of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons. Paul Peter Koro, '61, is the current president of ACOS while F. Kenneth Shockley, '64, is president-elect.

Life Members

PCOM Dean Daniel L. Wisely, DO, and the following alumni have been named life members of ACOS: Albert F. Amalfitano, '57; Charles L. Carr, '55; Richard M. Couch, '54; Henry A. D'Alonzo, '51; Robinson G. Fry, '56; J. Harris Joseph, '56; Morton H. Rothstein, '52; Stanford Paul Sadick, '56; Ralph Schwartz, '56; Lloyd G. Smith, '54; Wynne Steinsnyder, '54; T. French Youngman, '55; Joseph Yurkanin, '56.

Inductees

The following alumni have been inducted into the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons: Lee M. Blatstein, '84; Mark S. Boland, '84; Daniel B. Clark, '85; Pragnesh Desai, '85; Robert Fiorelli, '85; Stephen T. Fisher, '85; William J. Johnson, '80; Jeffrey A. Keyser, '80; Harold Kirsh, '46; Jeffrey Lombard, '80; Robert D. McGarrigle, '83; Gary L. Saltus, '73; Edwin J. Sullivan, '70; Keith Zeliger, '85.

Class Acts

1943

Donald I. Phillips, Maybrook, N.Y., has received the Physician of the Year Award from the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society.

1948

Alphonse Salerno, West Orange, N.J., has received the Surgeon of the Year Award from the American Academy of Osteopathic Surgeons.

1952

Sidney Malet, Stockton, Calif., has been reappointed program chairman of the American Osteopathic College of General Practitioners, California Division. In addition, he has become a fellow of the American Osteopathic College of Rheumatology.

1953

Jack J. Brill, Avon Lake, Ohio, has received the General Practitioner of the Year Award from the American College of General Practitioners.

1961

Robert A. Leopold, Norristown, Pa., has opened the Hypnosis Treatment Center in conjunction with Suburban General Hospital, East Norriton Township.

Anthony A. Minissale, York, Pa., has been appointed vice president of medical affairs for Memorial Hospital.

1963

Stuart A. Brodsky, Dresher, Pa., has received the U.S. Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service in Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

1964

Michael B. Grossman, Cherry Hill, N.J., has received the 1991 Nurse Midwifery Recognition Award from the American College of Nurse Midwives, New Jersey Chapter.

1965

Robert M. Mandell, Farmington Hills, Mich., has been appointed chairman of the department of orthopedic surgery at Botsford General Hospital.

1966

Jack Goldstein, Cherry Hill, N.J., has been elected president of the Burlington County Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Merrill J. Mirman, Springfield, Pa., has been elected to the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sclerotherapy and has been elected president of the American Board of Sclerotherapy.

1967

Nelson E. Ziets, Wallingford, Pa., has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Blue Shield Medical Affairs Committee.

1969

Capt. Jack R. Briggs, MC, USNR, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, has assumed command of the Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor.

1971

Donald J. Sesso, Gwynedd Valley, Pa., has been appointed to the Critical Care Advisory Board of the American College of Chest Physicians.

1972

Floyce D. McCauley, Hilltown, Pa., has been appointed clinical director of the Children's Center at HCA Rockford Center in Delaware.

1974

Neil J. Berger, Narberth, Pa., has been elected vice president of the medical staff at North Philadelphia Health System, where he is also co-director of the department of radiology.

Garry P. Sussman, Ambler, Pa., has joined the medical staff at North Penn Hospital, Lansdale.
1975  
Francis X. Blais, Fort Worth, Texas, has been appointed assistant dean for postgraduate clinical medicine at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Jeffrey H. Perlson, Laverton, Pa., has joined the family practice medical staff at North Penn Hospital, Lansdale.

Lance E. Radbill, Birmingham, Ala., has joined the medical staff at Shelby Medical Center, Alabaster.

1976  
Robert H. Biggs, Bethlehem, Pa., has become a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Dante J. DiMarzio Jr., Granger, Ind., has been elected secretary of the board of directors at Michiana Community Hospital, South Bend.

1977  
Stephen F. Ficchi, Yardley, Pa., has become a fellow in the American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians.

Nicholas J. Grego Jr., Lafayette Hill, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Springfield Hospital.

1978  
Jerrold M. Snyder, Richboro, Pa., has been appointed chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at St. Mary’s Hospital, Langhorne.

1980  
Edward S. Polashenski, Drums, Pa., has been named to the board of trustees of the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center.

1981  
John D. Conroy Jr., Harrisburg, Pa., has been elected chief of internal medicine at Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill.

Joseph L. Herson III, Hilliard, Ohio, has been certified in general practice by the American Osteopathic Association.

1982  
John H. Bender, Mt. Gretna, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Canonsburg General Hospital.

Susan M. and David N. Geiger, York, Pa., have opened a new office in York.

Anthony J. Silvagni, Kansas City, Mo., has been appointed vice president for academic affairs and dean at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

1983  
Robert D. McGarrigle, Ridley Park, Pa., has been certified in general surgery by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.

1985  
Anthony D. Alfieri, Wilmington, Del., has opened an invasive and consultative cardiology practice in Wilmington.

1986  
Gintare T. Gecys, Oaklyn, N.J., has been appointed assistant professor in the department of family practice of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford.

Mitchell Matez, Barnegat, N.J., has joined the surgical practice of Robert J. Gorrell Jr., MD, in Manahawkin.

1987  
Andrew J. Blank, Burlington Township, N.J., has been elected secretary/treasurer of the Burlington County Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Stephanie Pleva-Chirigos, Pittsburgh, Pa., has opened a new office in Keckscpu.

Paul Saloky, Bloomsburg, Pa., has joined the internal medicine medical staff at Bloomsburg Hospital.

1988  
Lori Ann Musto-Bontempo, Blue Bell, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Grand View Hospital, Sellersville, specializing in family practice.

Anthony J. Palmisano, Allentown, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Maulfair Medical Center, Mertztown.
### Coming Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 30, 1992</td>
<td>Alumni Association Board Meeting</td>
<td>President's Office Evans Hall, PCOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1-5, 1992</td>
<td>American Osteopathic Association</td>
<td>San Diego Marriott Hotel/Marina San Diego, Calif.</td>
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