Dig... Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Winter 2000)

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Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO
Recipient of the 2000 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal
We are sad to report that our neighbor, City Avenue Hospital, has closed. PCOM physicians and administrators, some of whom were on the hospital’s board, made every effort to work with Tenet Corporation and keep the hospital open. Unfortunately, after studying a variety of options over the past six months, Tenet could not find a way to keep the hospital viable for the long-term and is looking into alternative uses for the facility. Fortunately, PCOM’s academic programs will continue to thrive, and our clinical capabilities are better than ever. We have affiliations with numerous hospitals in the region and are also exploring an academic partnership with other acute care hospitals in Tenet’s network.

This issue marks the last special Centennial edition of Digest. And what a year it’s been: a variety of special events, high profile figures such as C. Everett Koop, MD and Elizabeth Dole singing our praises and an incredible amount of media coverage – culminating in a spectacular Ball on October 9. Even we were surprised by the huge attendance, with 1200 alumni, students, employees and friends enthusiastically enjoying the festive evening.

The media coverage throughout the year, in addition to the “image” ads placed in major magazines and coverage related to our new 76ers partnership, is making PCOM less of a well-kept secret in Philadelphia. Our Centennial was a perfect opportunity to tell the public about the College and our mission, and we made the most of it. We were thrilled when The Philadelphia Inquirer featured an article about the College on the front page of its business section. The article highlighted PCOM’s “success story.”

The Centennial aside, it has also been a time of growth, financially and academically, for the College. We’re on sound financial footing, with our total net assets increasing by almost $8 million from last year. Our expansion in areas such as psychology and physician assistant studies has been very successful and has made PCOM stronger for the future.

Looking forward, the search continues for a new president. Other plans include exploring additional academic programs and relationships with other colleges in the region, while always keeping the DO program the main priority. We are also placing more emphasis on fundraising, hoping to form relationships with philanthropic organizations to help further the College’s mission. To this end, we are hiring a vice president for development and alumni relations to help identify such organizations and nurture these partnerships.

So, although the excitement of our Centennial year is over, PCOM has much to look forward to in the new millennium.

Sincerely,

Herbert Lotman, LLD (hon.) Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59
Chairman of the Board President and CEO
FOUNDERS DAY 2000
PCOM President Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59 has devoted the last 39 years of his life to the College he holds dear. As a student, professor and administrator, Dr. Finkelstein has contributed to PCOM in spades. For this, he receives the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, the College’s highest award.

Also read about the student recipient of the Mason Pressly Memorial Medal and the first-ever post-Founders Day CME in Scottsdale, Arizona.

STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER OPENS
The new Student Activity Center is in full swing, offering a slew of fitness options for students, alumni, employees and their spouses.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: PCOM CENTENNIAL
Last in a series of four
The final installment summarizes PCOM’s history from 1974 to 1999. Also featured are Centennial Ball snapshots and excerpts from the oral history of Eleanor V. Masterson, DO, ’57.

FEATURES

PROFILES
This issue features College board member John P. Simelaro, DO, ’71 and alumni board member John D. Angeloni, DO, ’75.

PCOM UPDATES
Library reading room dedicated in memory of Dr. Papa; fourth-year student devises plan to help PCOM students save on taxes; and Alumni Ambassador program expands. Also catch up on the latest PCOM research and faculty news.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS
Alumni sailed away at the AOA convention in San Francisco.
LEONARD H. FINKELSTEIN, DO, ’59
A PHYSICIAN WITH A PASSION FOR PCOM AND OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
He has always aspired to helping and healing. His medical career path began at age 8 when he dusted shelves in his father’s drugstore for 25 cents a week. Later he went to pharmacy school even though he really wanted to be a doctor. Eventually he decided to follow his heart. He became a doctor... but not just any doctor. Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59, the 2000 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient, is a physician whose passion for osteopathic medicine, teaching and his students has made a dramatic difference in the evolution of PCOM and the osteopathic profession.

Dr. Finkelstein first learned about osteopathic medicine as a high school baseball player when he tore knee cartilage. His family doctor – an MD – gave him crutches and told him to rest. His knee didn’t improve. So he went to see his cousin who was a senior at PCOM (then Philadelphia College of Osteopathy or PCO) working as a booth doctor at the 48th and Spruce Streets facility.

“I went in using crutches and I walked out holding them,” Dr. Finkelstein recalls. “He manipulated my knee and within 10 minutes, I could walk. I was amazed.”

Years later when he decided to apply to medical school, he remembered the experience and applied to PCO as well as Jefferson. He chose PCO because he was convinced that osteopathic medicine offered more than any other discipline – both philosophically and technically – for complete patient care.
ADVOCATE FOR THE PROFESSION

His conviction was strengthened during his freshman year at PCO when he experienced pain in his back and stomach simultaneously. “I had a peptic ulcer and whenever I had stomach discomfort, I also had back discomfort, but I never associated them,” he relates. “I asked our anatomy professor, Angus Cathie, DO, ’31, to treat my back with osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM). After the treatment, both my back and stomach stopped hurting. As a result, I gained great appreciation for the fact that there is much more to osteopathic medicine than treating musculoskeletal problems.”

His passion for osteopathy grew during a difficult time for the profession. “People referred to us as quacks and cultists,” he recalls. “I decided that I was going to tell the world how good osteopathic medicine was instead of hiding it. I did everything as well as I could and made sure people knew I was in osteopathic medicine.”

After graduating from PCO, Dr. Finkelstein went to Zieger Osteopathic Hospital in Detroit for his internship. “I was so eager to get started that I volunteered to cover for some outgoing interns who were going to their graduation party,” he relates. “They assigned me to obstetrics. I started at 5:30 pm and by 7 am the next day, I had delivered 10 babies! What an initiation!”

After his surgical rotation, Dr. Finkelstein knew he wanted a career in surgery. “I picked urology because it was a surgical specialty where I could practice both surgery and medicine,” he says. “And it involves some of the most difficult surgical procedures.”

As always, he was up for the challenge. But the operating room wasn’t enough for Dr. Finkelstein. He also wanted to help bring along the next generation of doctors and so joined PCOM’s faculty, serving as chairman, division of urology for 23 years.

GROUNDBREAKING CHANGES AT PCOM

A past recipient of the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, he has a love of the classroom that is abundantly clear. During his teaching tenure at PCOM, he established a urology residency program that became the model for all other residency programs at the College. “When I was a resident in the early ’60s, most residencies were preceptorships,” he recalls. “Residents were trained by one or two attending physicians. You went with them to the OR and made rounds, but you were on your own academically. There were no scholarly activities or structure.”

Dr. Finkelstein changed that. He was the driving force behind the development of off-campus rotations. “Our students need exposure to a variety of quality health care institutions to learn everything they need to know,” he reflects.

He has emphasized the importance of scholarly activity throughout the College. “I knew that scholarly activity and research were absolutely critical to attaining credibility for PCOM and the osteopathic profession,” he says.

Dr. Finkelstein has fond memories of a day nine years ago, when three of his residents presented papers at the Philadelphia Urological Society on Residents’ Day. Residents attended from Penn, Jefferson, Temple, Hahnemann, MCP and, for the first time, PCOM. “Our residents won first and second place, which was definitely a highlight for me!” he exclaims.

As PCOM’s president and chief executive officer since 1990, Dr. Finkelstein has continued his efforts to enhance the curriculum and increase campus scholarly activities. Under his leadership, the graduate medical education (GME) program expanded dramatically. “We are affiliated with 23 hospitals where we have over 600 slots for internships and residencies,” he says. “We’ve also expanded our third- and fourth-year clinical clerkships. Our students can gain knowledge and experience at a wide variety of quality institutions.”

In addition to his academic contributions to PCOM, Dr. Finkelstein was instrumental in orchestrating a dramatic financial turnaround for the College when he took the helm in 1990. “We went from a $6 million deficit to a $4 million surplus in the first year,” he relates. “I’m proud of the fact that I fought to make the changes that were needed and that the College flourished because of those changes.”

INFLUENCING THE PROFESSION

At the same time, Dr. Finkelstein was influencing the profession through his involvement with many organizations. As president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) for 1983-84, he worked to build credibility, in part, by enhancing the journal with more scientific articles. When he recently resigned as journal editor after 16 years, POMA named him editor emeritus.

As chairman of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) from 1997-1999, Dr. Finkelstein urged collaboration
among the schools to build credibility for all. He seized a key opportunity recently when AACOM received a request for proposal from the National Institutes of Health for studies on OMM for back pain. “Seven colleges are involved in a collaborative effort to develop a large, scientifically credible study that will benefit us all. Recently, we received a federally funded grant to conduct an ‘Osteopathic collaborative clinical trials initiative conference’ in Washington, DC, further building on our credibility as academic institutions and as a profession.

In 1999, Dr. Finkelstein received a Presidential Citation from the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) for his commitment to unity within the osteopathic profession. He is equally proud of the Mentor Award he received from PCOM’s Student National Medical Association for serving as a positive role model for student doctors.

Three PCOM alumni, in particular, view him as a role model. His children, Larry (class of ’87), Lisa (class of ’87) and Robert (class of ’90), all followed in his footsteps with successful careers in family medicine, urology and dermatology, respectively. “I have three spectacular kids and I’m extremely proud of them,” he says. “And my wife, Marylyn, provided the love and support to help all of us achieve our goals.”

EXCITING FUTURE

In June 2000, Dr. Finkelstein will retire as PCOM’s president and CEO, but plans to stay active at the College and remains excited about its future. “This is the flagship osteopathic medical school,” he states. “Our students take pride in that, and we have to continue to stay on the cutting edge to maintain that position of strength.

“We must continue to make curriculum improvements,” he continues. “We need to continue the GME expansion. We need to increase PCOM participation at all affiliated hospitals . . . to integrate College resources into these hospitals, such as distance learning programs and programs to maintain OMM skills. We need to do faculty development at our affiliates so we have the best consortium for GME in the country. We definitely have that potential.”

One lesson that will never change is the one dearest to Dr. Finkelstein’s heart. “Students must learn that patients are people,” he says. “You can’t teach it like 1+1 = 2. How do you convey to a student that there’s more than feeling a patient’s belly, taking blood pressure, listening to the heart? You have to talk to them about the patient as a person. You have to tell them this: Before you touch your patients, you must think about how they will feel when you examine them and talk to them in a way that they’ll understand what you’re doing and why. You must feel what they’re going to feel. If you do that, your patients will relate to you, bond to you, listen to you and trust you.”

Both on and off the PCOM campus, he will continue his lifelong efforts to build credibility for the College and the osteopathic profession. “I want PCOM graduates to feel good about themselves and what they represent,” he says. “PCOM is special because we care about each other. We talk to each other. We share our miseries and our victories. Even when we disagree, we stick together because we’re like family. And if we continue to stick together and stay rooted in our principles, PCOM will grow and flourish for a long time to come.”

Looking ahead, Dr. Finkelstein plans to combine his love of photography with his passion for medicine to develop new teaching approaches. “For 30 years, I carried a camera with me during rounds and in the OR,” he explains. “I have a collection of well over 3,000 teaching slides. I plan to combine them with computer graphics to develop some creative teaching tools . . . maybe even write a book.”

Dr. Finkelstein, center, is joined by his family at the Centennial Ball. Left to right are son-in-law Mark Domsky (PCOM class of ’86); daughter Lisa (PCOM class of ’87); wife, Marylyn; son Larry (PCOM class of ’87); daughter-in-law, Lisa; and son Robert (PCOM class of ’90).
TAKING TOUGH ISSUES

ALISON LEFF, PCOM ‘00

Currently, she is developing a sexual education program for teenage girls to be offered at high schools. She hopes to incorporate this into her future practice as a women’s health specialist.

“I want to be more than a physician to these girls,” she emphasizes. “I want to be a mentor, someone they can talk to and trust with their health concerns.”

It’s important for physicians to be socially and politically active, adds Leff. “Physicians hold a unique position in society,” she says. “People look to us to help them. Sometimes that means going beyond individual patients, working to change global situations that aren’t in our patients’ best interests. We have a lot of resources in the medical community, such as national organizations that are connected to a lobbying network. We should use that network to be advocates for our patients.”

Leff believes her approach is well-supported by the osteopathic philosophy. “Osteopathic principles say that you must understand the patient’s whole environment in order to help that person,” she explains. “To understand the environment, you must get involved in the patient’s issues. I learned to recognize when a patient may be a victim of domestic violence, for example, by volunteering for Women Against Abuse a few years ago. Through that experience, I discovered resources and learned ways I can best help patients in that situation.”

Among her many accomplishments, Leff is most proud of the women’s health newsletter and Aesculpius, a literary magazine she produced to provide a creative outlet for PCOM students to illustrate the art of medicine. “Both these projects enabled me to integrate medicine with my other love – writing,” she explains.

Leff hopes that, through her accomplishments, she can inspire others to take action and change things they don’t like. “You don’t have to sit around frustrated by the things you see,” she says. “On the other hand, you don’t have to feel as though you have to do and fix everything. You can make a difference by taking one small step and volunteering at an organization supporting issues that are important to you. Any time you can give is valuable toward changing the things that affect your ability to care for your patients.”
un, seminars, trips to Sedona and Scottsdale’s shops and restaurants – it was the perfect recipe for the winter getaway: PCOM’s 2000 Winter CME. More than 50 physicians and guests came from all over the country for a week of education and relaxation. The desert’s warm days and brisk evenings were a welcome escape from the snow and ice that covered the midwest and northeast during the first week of February. The Marriott Mountain Shadows resort, in the shadow of majestic Camelback Mountain, was the perfect setting for our program.

Physician participants earned 40 credits of AOA or AMA category I CME credit in a program that featured a mix of clinical updates, law lectures, hands-on OMT and sessions on practice management, ethics, managed care and computers in medicine.

Internal medicine was a centerpiece of the seminars. Our visiting program faculty was joined by Murray Cohen, DO, ’58 of Scottsdale who presented comprehensive sessions in gastroenterology. Thomas Salvucci, DO, ’80 of UMDNJ-SOM provided the cardiologist’s perspective, and Robert Fogel, DO, ’58, PCOM chairman of pathology, coordinated his lecture with Drs. Cohen and Salvucci to offer a full view of digestive and cardiovascular disease.

Evan Nicholas, DO, ’81 provided hands-on instruction in osteopathic manipulative medicine, and Susan Peck, DO, ’79 offered perspectives on the latest in women’s medicine and OB/GYN, including a revealing and imaginative presentation on alternative approaches in women’s care. Joseph Kuchinski, DO, ’86 presented outstanding seminars on community-acquired pneumonia, chest pain and the risks of patient transfers. PCOM president Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59 clarified the myths and realities of erectile dysfunction.

The intense clinical instruction was punctuated by discussions of critical issues in practice management and risk management led by Robert Maurer, DO, ’62. Other seminars covered medical law and economics, medical ethics and Internet sites for physicians.

Program chairman was Robert Cuzzolino, EdD, PCOM associate dean for academic administration.

Many guests enjoyed the links at Mountain Shadows, which provided a challenging executive course. The climate was almost as warm as the reception we received from alumni living and practicing in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area, including Sheldon Wagnman, DO, ’67, who welcomed our group.

It was hard to leave Arizona, but reviewing the comments of our attendees brought back a ray of sun to our grey Pennsylvania winter:

“Excellent program – well organized with high-quality, well-prepared lectures.”

“Great seminar – lectures were very pertinent and resort facilities were superb!”

“Best organized and executed CME course I’ve ever attended!”

“I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge through this CME course.”

“The environment you created is very warm and friendly and conducive to learning.”

“Fantastic location for a winter CME!”

“Please come back next year!”

Come back next year? You can count on it!
Student Activity Center Keeps PCOM Students - and the Philadelphia 76ers - *in shape*

The Student Activity Center adds a lot to students' campus life.
After 13 months of construction, the dust finally settled and PCOM’s state-of-the-art Student Activity Center opened in early September. This unique center, which doubles as a practice facility for the Philadelphia 76ers, is keeping PCOM students and employees in top shape.

The lower level of the Center includes cardiovascular equipment, strength-training equipment and free weights. There is also an open-air studio with a suspended floor for aerobics, kick-boxing, yoga and martial arts classes. The first floor houses an NBA regulation-size basketball court, which can be converted into two half-size courts or a volleyball court.

On the second floor, students can take a study break and play ping-pong, pool, foosball or air hockey, or just relax in the student lounge. Two racquetball courts occupy the third floor. A multi-purpose deck, which can be used for deck hockey, basketball, volleyball and shuffleboard, is located on the roof. This enclosed deck has a breathtaking view of the Philadelphia skyline.

The Sixers’ tailor-made amenities include height-adjusted weight machines, a training room, a customized locker and shower area, a small kitchen and a laundry room. Administrative offices for the Sixers’ staff and a media room are also included in the Center as a part of this innovative relationship between the College and the basketball team.

“The Sixers have a facility that works for them and we have a facility that’s great for our students,” said PCOM Chairman of the Board Herbert Lotman. “It’s a great marriage.”

The Student Activity Center has received extensive newspaper and television coverage since the 76ers had their first practice on October 11. Comcast, a Philadelphia sports network, featured a lengthy piece about the Center in which PCOM President Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59 was interviewed.

The Center was also the site of a live broadcast of the local Fox-TV morning program “Good Day Philadelphia” on November 8. The show kicked off the 76ers’ first home game of the season and featured the Sixers’ house band, mascot and dance team. A group of PCOM students watched the two-hour broadcast and got some air time with weather reporter Sue Serio, who was broadcasting from the roof. PCOM’s name was highly visible in the many banners hung throughout the center. The show’s anchors also sported PCOM shirts and hats during the broadcast.
John P. Simelaro, DO

New faculty representative breathes enthusiasm

“I love taking kids and making doctors out of them.”

John P. Simelaro, DO, ’71, knows what it’s like to have acute asthma – so acute that you turn blue and end up in the emergency room. “I missed half my childhood because of asthma,” he says.

One day in the ’60s, he recalls, his grandfather gave him a new inhaler product that claimed to relieve asthma attacks. “He was always coming home with new products and most didn’t work. But he told me to always keep it with me, so I threw it in my school bag,” says Dr. Simelaro.

Months later, he was conducting a high school chemistry experiment that triggered an asthma attack. He pulled out the inhaler. “It opened my lungs immediately,” he relates. “Right then, I knew I wanted to be a doctor and help other people get relief from asthma and other respiratory problems.”

So Dr. Simelaro went to his family physician, a DO, and told him he wanted to be a doctor. “He told me about the osteopathic philosophy, and I liked the idea of treating the whole person,” he remembers.

As a PCOM student, Dr. Simelaro learned firsthand that osteopathic physicians are doctors who cure people, not diseases. It’s a lesson he still teaches today as professor and chairman of internal medicine, program director for internal medicine residency and chairman, division of pulmonary medicine. “I chose an academic medical career because I love taking kids and making doctors out of them,” he says. “It thrills me.”

His unbridled enthusiasm has led to many awards for teaching, including the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching. He is also a seven-time recipient of the Student Council Teaching Award.

“The Student Council awards really empower me because they come from the kids,” says Dr. Simelaro. “I try to give students a real taste of medicine by bringing patients into the classroom and doing bronchoscopies while my students observe. I do things that make medicine come alive for them.”

Dr. Simelaro also conveys the importance of osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM). “Just call me ‘Thoracic Man,’” he says. “I use thoracic OMM to treat obstructive pulmonary disease in combination with a bronchodilator. Everything I do is aimed at keeping the lungs clear. And we teach the patient’s family how to perform OMM techniques at home to help keep the patient stabilized.”

He also takes great pride in the internal medicine residency program he has directed since 1986. “We built the program from 4 residents to 50, and we turn out very fine doctors,” he relates.

As the newly appointed faculty representative to the College board, Dr. Simelaro will make sure the faculty voice is heard, especially during times of transition. He also is committed to enhancing the high caliber of the PCOM faculty by encouraging new faculty development.

He approaches his hobbies with the same exuberance he shows on PCOM’s campus. He is a serious cabinetmaker and a ham radio operator whose most famous contacts include the late King Hussein and the Russian space station Muir.

Dr. Simelaro is intensely proud of his family. His wife of 31 years, Felice, holds a master’s degree in social work and writes grants to benefit literacy programs. Their two daughters are students – Annette, 24, attends Emory Law School and Christina, 20, is studying bio-psychology and theater at Vassar College.
As John Angeloni, DO, ’75, was nearing graduation from Temple University and thinking about career options, his father introduced him to a friend who was a physician. His name was Nicholas Pedano, DO, ’61. Dr. Pedano took the younger Angeloni under his wing, explained to him what osteopathic medicine was, and gave him a tour of PCOM. “While visiting PCOM, I admired the camaraderie among the osteopathic community and wanted to be a part of it,” recalls Dr. Angeloni. “When Dr. Pedano introduced me to his colleagues, they took a genuine interest in me and talked to me about opportunities for me at PCOM.”

As a PCOM student, Dr. Angeloni was drawn to family practice. “The PCOM curriculum is structured to prepare students to become, first and foremost, primary care physicians,” he says. “This focus on family practice is critical even to students who choose other specialties because it provides them with a strong medical foundation. PCOM faculty infuse this approach into their teaching styles.” For example, Dr. Angeloni recalls how former dean Dan Wisely, DO taught surgery. “Dr. Wisely’s goal when teaching the general surgery course was to train students to approach surgical problems from a family practice perspective. It is this philosophy that makes the family practice specialty so strong at PCOM.”

After completing his postgraduate education, Dr. Angeloni was asked by Thomas Rowland, a past president of PCOM, to join the faculty. This was a turning point in Dr. Angeloni’s career, because his new commitment to teaching others heightened his exposure to osteopathic specialists and made him more accountable to stay on the cutting edge of medicine. “I can’t remember any time during my career when I didn’t enjoy relating to students, and my respect for them made me want to be as proficient in my field as possible.” Apparently, the feeling is mutual: Dr. Angeloni is a recipient of the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Now a clinical professor of family medicine, Dr. Angeloni was formerly chairman of the department and director of the family medicine practice residency program. He also served as chairman of the board of City Avenue Hospital.

Dr. Angeloni notes that PCOM continues to have a well-rounded student body, thanks to strong leadership in its admissions office. “Carol Fox and her admissions committee continually accept students who are academically well-qualified and demonstrate strong, wholesome characters.”

Dr. Angeloni is proud of his accomplishments as past president of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, where he worked to promote a better understanding of osteopathic family medicine curriculum. “I knew that we succeeded when Mark Rivo, MD of the US Health Resources and Services Administration, accepted my invitation to be the keynote speaker at a leadership conference that I chaired on osteopathic family practice education,” he notes. “That was tangible evidence that the broader medical community understood the importance of osteopathic family practice education, and it was a key highlight of my career.”

Dr. Angeloni has been honored as Physician of the Year by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society. He serves on the board of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at the invitation of LECOM president and PCOM alumnus John Ferretti, DO, ’73. “I was proud that John recognized the value of my 20 years of family practice experience and my accomplishments in osteopathic education,” he relates.

As a member of PCOM’s Alumni Board, Dr. Angeloni helps facilitate ongoing efforts to continue close relationships between the College and its alumni. In addition, he plans to work with osteopathic physicians located near PCOM to develop a strong osteopathic community.

Dr. Angeloni enjoys relaxing with his wife, Sheryl, and their three children – John, 20, Laura, 16 and Thomas, 9.
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Student’s idea = savings for students

PCOM fourth-year students can save as much as $1,000 each in taxes, thanks to the persistence of Andrew Weinberg, PCOM ’00 and the support of PCOM administration.

After researching the lifetime learning tax credit, Weinberg came across a little-noticed change in the federal tax code. Since 1998, the lifetime learning tax credit has covered five tax years for four academic years (from fall of the first year through spring of the fourth year).

Unfortunately, many medical students only get four tax years out of the credit. That’s because most spring semesters begin before January 1, and, in order to get the credit, the term must start in the tax year in which it is applied.

The solution: convert to trimester format during the fourth academic year, so that students have billable tuition after January 1, and thus can use the fifth year of the tax credit.

PCOM administrators carefully considered the idea, since it involved logistical changes in the billing cycle, additional paperwork for the bursar’s office as well as students, and increased short-term borrowing for the College.

In the end, the benefit to students won out, and PCOM converted to a trimester format in the fourth academic year in 1999.

“The tax benefit that some graduating students will enjoy as a result of this change will help them as they start their careers,” said Peter Doulis, chief financial officer. “Senior administration felt that this benefit outweighs the additional expenses that PCOM will incur in short-term borrowing.”

In addition to convincing PCOM administration, Weinberg conducted an e-mail survey of all medical schools nationwide and found that nearly a dozen other schools can benefit from his tax savings idea. He published an article detailing his idea along with a list of the schools in American Medical News, a weekly national medical newspaper.

Kudos to...

President Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59 was awarded the 1999 Dale Dodson Award by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). The award honors an outstanding CEO of an osteopathic medical college who “goes above and beyond the call of duty to advance osteopathic medicine.”

Executive vice president Samuel H. Steinberg was named a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The organization is a medical society and educational institution whose goal is to promote a better understanding of medicine and the role of the physician in contemporary society. Steinberg was also recently featured in Alumnus, a magazine for alumni of Penn State’s Philadelphia-area campuses. He was named one of 12 Penn State alumni who are making an impact on the Delaware Valley.

Chief financial officer Peter Doulis was accepted to Leadership, Inc.’s Class of 2000. Leadership, Inc. is a Philadelphia-based non-profit organization that involves private sector business leaders in community causes.

Harry Morris, DO, ’78, professor and chairman, family medicine, was appointed to a newly-chartered advisory committee on training in primary care medicine and dentistry by US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Donna Shalala. Dr. Morris is one of seven physicians representing family medicine on the 23-member committee.

PCOM’s Communications & Design department received a prestigious Pepperpot Award presented by the Philadelphia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. PCOM entered its year-long Centennial celebration in the category “Special Events - 8 days or more.” In addition, the department won two Silver Quill Awards for the Centennial calendar and Digest. The awards were presented by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). Digest also won “most improved magazine” in the APEX ’99 Awards for Publication Excellence.
Students present awards at Primary Care Banquet

Primary Care Physician of the Year Pat Lannutti, DO, ‘71, left, professor and chairman, general internal medicine, and Ambulatory Care Physician of the Year Michael A. Becker, DO, ‘87, right, assistant professor, family medicine and medical director, Roxborough Healthcare Center, join Pennsylvania Physician General Robert Muscalus, DO, ‘83. Students selected the recipients of the annual awards, which were presented at the Primary Care Banquet on October 20 at the Adam’s Mark Hotel. Dr. Muscalus spoke at the event.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Exciting PCOM research breakthroughs in OMT for pain management and in Alzheimer’s disease

At the American Pain Society Meeting October 22 in Fort Lauderdale, Frederick Goldstein, PhD, professor of clinical pharmacology, presented a poster detailing the results of his research on the effects of osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) on pain following surgery.

The investigation, funded by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), has shown that hysterectomy patients who were given an extra dose of morphine before surgery and OMT post-operatively needed less morphine to control their pain than patients who received the standard analgesic treatment. Saul Jeck, DO, chairman, obstetrics and gynecology and Alexander S. Nicholas, DO, ’76, chairman, osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), are also part of the research team.

A team of PCOM scientists led by Brian Balin, PhD, associate professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology and Denah Appelt, PhD, assistant professor, biomedical sciences, presented new findings from their ongoing Alzheimer’s disease research at the Society for Neuroscience’s annual meeting in Miami in late October. In previous findings by the research team, a link was found between the bacterium Chlamydia pneumoniae and Alzheimer’s disease. The newest findings provide evidence that infection of human monocytes with Chlamydia pneumoniae indirectly results in increased production of the protein b-amyloid 1-40, which accumulates in brains of Alzheimer’s patients. This form of protein appears to be associated directly with the bacterium within the infected cells, and this infection may be an early trigger and key component in the development of sporadic Alzheimer’s disease.

Drs. Balin and Appelt received a $27,500 grant to expand their research into the relationship between the Chlamydia pneumoniae bacterium and Alzheimer’s disease. The grant, awarded by a new Philadelphia-based organization, Foundation for Research into Diseases of Aging (FRIDA), supports novel and creative approaches in researching major age-related health problems.

Mindy George-Weinstein, PhD, professor, anatomy, was a featured lecturer at two conferences. In May, Dr. George-Weinstein gave a presentation on “Myogenic potential within the early chick embryo” to scientists, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students at the Midwest Developmental Biology meeting at the University of Illinois. In July, she spoke at the 15th Lecture Course on Biophysics and Molecular Biology in Cividale del Friuli, Italy. Dr. George-Weinstein lectured scientists, clinicians and students on “The role of cell-cell adhesion in regulating lineage divergence and differentiation.”

Kenneth Harbert, PhD, associate professor and chairman, physician assistant studies, authored two chapters in Physician Assistant: A Guide to Clinical Practice, which was published in June.
Dr. Harbert was also a featured speaker at two conferences. In May, he spoke on “Caring for caregivers” at the National Conference for Physician Assistants in Salt Lake City, Utah. In July in Philadelphia, he gave a presentation called “Best practice approach to a comprehensive traumatic stress curriculum for the health care professional” at the Association of Physician Assistant Programs meeting.

David Castro-Blanco, PhD, assistant professor, psychology, chaired a symposium titled “Innovative strategies for violence reduction at school and the workplace” at the American Psychological Association convention in Boston in late August. Dr. Castro-Blanco and pre-doctoral intern Donna Martin co-authored a symposium presentation titled “Negotiation-based engagement strategies with violence-prone adolescents.”

Oliver Bullock, DO, ’78, director, Cambria Street Healthcare Center, was a featured speaker at the American Cancer Society’s “Dare to Be Aware” kickoff on September 14. The event marked the start of an educational campaign which aims to inform African-American men about prostate cancer. African-American men have significantly higher rates of the cancer than any other racial group, according to the American Cancer Society.

Arthur Freeman, EdD, professor and chairman, psychology, spoke to motivational speaker Tony Robbins. Dr. Freeman was also quoted in a September 2 Philadelphia Daily News article about how people cope with random acts of violence.

The 90-Second Intervention, pioneered by Tana Fishman, DO, ’95, instructor, family medicine, was the subject of a September 14 article in the Philadelphia Tribune. Funded by Wyeth-Ayerst, the program is designed to show that support from a close friend or family member can help women comply with hormone replacement therapy.

PCOM was the subject of a September 23 article in The Philadelphia Inquirer. The article, which appeared on the front page of the business section, follows PCOM’s recovery from financial difficulties in the early ’90s to the College’s present-day economic boom and expansion.

Two prominent PCOM graduates were interviewed for stories about Gulf War Syndrome. Lieutenant General Ronald R. Blanck, DO, ’67, surgeon general of the Army, appeared on CNN on September 28. Lieutenant Commander Sue Bailey, DO, ’77, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, Department of Defense, was a guest on National Public Radio’s “The Connection” on October 20.

PCOM received exceptional media coverage of our Centennial Commencement with guest speaker Elizabeth Dole. Both The Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia Daily News featured lengthy stories with photos. In addition, all local radio and television stations covered the event. Commencement also received nationwide coverage through an Associated Press article that ran as far away as Florida, Texas, Iowa and Arkansas.

Arthur Freeman, EdD, professor and chairman, psychology, was quoted in a June 1 article in the Philadelphia Daily News about motivational speaker Tony Robbins.

In the Media

PCOM received a stellar rating in the newest edition of “Peterson’s - The Insider’s Guide to Medical Schools,” a book written by medical students for medical students. According to the book, “PCOM offers a collegial environment, a diverse student body and an opportunity to learn osteopathic medicine.” PCOM’s listing also states that “this is the place for students interested in primary care” and that “students find comfort in the sense of community that exists at PCOM.”

Alumni Ambassador Program expands

The PCOM Alumni Ambassador Program is expanding. Begun as a pilot project in Florida and Georgia with the Class of 2001, the program will now be offered in Pennsylvania beginning this spring. Because of the program’s success in the pilot states, Ambassador information will also be distributed to the Class of 2002 as they begin their third year.

The Alumni Ambassador Program places alumni in a position to lend emotional support to students completing clinical rotations away from PCOM. The alumni take students out to lunch or dinner and help familiarize them with their new surroundings. If you are interested in participating in the Alumni Ambassador Program, please call the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 800-739-3939.
Library reading room dedicated to Dr. Papa

On November 22, a ceremony was held to dedicate PCOM’s library reading room in memory of Richard M. Papa, DO, ’75. Dr. Papa, who died August 24 at age 51, served as director of corporate health services at PCOM’s former hospital, taught at the College and later served as PCOM’s director of medical education. He also maintained two busy practices in Philadelphia. Dr. Papa is remembered by many as a warm, caring and sincere colleague and friend. His generous support of the College helped establish numerous scholarships to assist PCOM students. The reading room, made possible by PCOM President Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59 and other friends of Dr. Papa, will serve as a tribute to Dr. Papa’s many contributions to PCOM.

Rowland Hall medical practices renovated and renamed

PCOM’s five medical practices and psychology practice in Rowland Hall have collectively been renamed the PCOM Comprehensive Care Center. The Comprehensive Care practices include Family Medicine, Geriatrics, Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Psychology. Their services range from pediatrics, gastroenterology and psychological counseling to OMM treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome and assessment of Alzheimer’s disease.

Suite 315, the home of Family Medicine, Geriatrics and Gynecology, was recently renovated. Patients can now enjoy a larger waiting room with new furnishings, along with two additional exam rooms, more lab space and state-of-the-art equipment.

Cutting the ribbon of the new PCOM Comprehensive Care Center are, left to right, Herb Vederman, Philadelphia deputy mayor for economic development; Kathy Manderino, state representative; James Ettelson, Esq., Lower Merion Township commissioner; and Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59, PCOM president.

Joining Dr. Finkelstein to dedicate PCOM’s library reading room in memory of Dr. Papa are, left to right, Dr. Papa’s wife, Rosemary and their sons, James, Thomas and Richard Jr., who is a member of PCOM’s class of 2003.
At this year’s fall conventions, PCOM featured a special Centennial exhibit that gave the College a larger presence for its 100th anniversary. More than 80 alumni attended PCOM’s Alumni Reception October 3 at the Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Specialists (ACOS) held October 2-5 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel & Towers. Three alumni won raffle prizes: Amy Starry, DO, '99 won a Centennial clock; Philip Spinnuzza, DO, '82 won a PCOM briefcase and Ken Steel, DO, '73 won Centennial champagne glasses.

At the ACOS Annual Ceremonial Conclave also held October 3, John R. Socey, DO, '67 received the Distinguished Osteopathic Surgeon Award.

AOA Convention

PCOM’s Alumni Reception October 25 at the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) convention in San Francisco October 24-28 was a big hit, with more than 300 attending. Alumni and their guests boarded the “San Francisco Spirit” for a cocktail cruise, where they sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge and were treated to magnificent views of the city’s skyline.

At PCOM’s exhibit, guests received the first in a series of four custom magnets showing PCOM campus scenes. Several alumni won raffle prizes: Larry W. Spector, DO, '94 won a Centennial briefcase; Kenneth A. Morris, DO, '74 won a Centennial clock and Anthony R. Repici, DO, '72 won Centennial champagne glasses.

At the College’s Alumni Luncheon October 25, PCOM President Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ‘59 and Alumni Association President Pat C. DiTommaso, DO, ’80 spoke on developments at PCOM.

PCOM was very proud that two of its students, Jason Vieder, PCOM ’01 and Mike Krafchick, PCOM ’01, both enrolled in the DO/MBA program, received first prize among student presenters in a research competition at the AOA convention. They won for their research project titled, “Patient-physician interaction: What DO elders want?” Katherine Galluzzi, DO, PCOM chairman of geriatric medicine, was a co-author. The students, who received a prize of $250, hope to get the paper published.
PCOM President Dr. Finkelstein enjoys the San Francisco cruise with students, left to right, Kathleen Schaeffer, PCOM ’00; Jason Vieder, PCOM ’01 and Michael Krafchick, PCOM ’01.

AACOM forms Alumni and Development council

During the AOA convention, the first meeting was held of the new “Council of Alumni Relations and Development Professionals” of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). The Council will represent the alumni relations and development professionals at the 19 colleges of osteopathic medicine. Hale T. Peffall Jr., PCOM executive director of alumni relations and development, was elected the Council’s first chairman.

Urology residents present at mid-Atlantic urology meeting

The following PCOM urology residents and students presented their clinical research projects at the 57th Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Section of the American Urological Association October 3-6 in Hilton Head, SC.

Christopher Moyer, DO, ’95, “Multiple primary malignancies associated with prostate cancer” and “Urinary tract infections in the adult spina bifida patient.”

Raji M. Gill, DO, “A new diagnostic algorithm for the evaluation of microscopic hematuria.”

Jennifer A. Hagerty, DO, ’99, “Pretreatment with finasteride can decrease perioperative bleeding associated with transurethral resection of the prostate.”


Jamison S. Jaffee, PCOM ’00, “The need for voiding diaries in the evaluation of men with nocturia.”
**Class Acts**

**30s**

Simon M. Lubin, DO, ’38, Wyncote, Pa., received the “Emanuel Fliegelman, DO, OB/GYN Teaching Award” presented at PCOM’s OB/GYN residents’ graduation.

**40s**

John L. Cionci, ’47, Dresher, Pa., is a founding member of a newly-formed chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

**50s**

Victor M. Bove, DO, ’51, Lancaster, Pa., was honored as a certified physician executive during a recent meeting of the Certifying Commission in Medical Management in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Robert W. Sharkis, DO, ’59, N. Canton, Ohio, a family practitioner in Massillon, recently retired after 35 years.

**60s**

William L. Bollman, DO, ’60, Macungie, Pa., recently retired.

Anthony A. Minissale, DO, ’61, Gladwyne, Pa., was re-elected to the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Association.

P. Denis Kuehner, DO, ’65, Orefield, Pa., opened a new practice, San-Cap Medical Center.

Merrill J. Mirman, DO, ’66, Springfield, Pa., was featured in an article in The Philadelphia Inquirer titled “Easing pain without surgery, the ‘hard’ way.”

**70s**

Fred R. Bailor, DO, ’71, Ephrata, Pa., was promoted to the rank of colonel in the Medical Corps of the US Army Reserve.

Ronald R. Blanck, DO, ’67, Falls Church, Va., surgeon general of the Army, received the “2000 VFW Armed Forces Award” from the Veterans of Foreign Wars which recognizes extraordinary achievement by members of the US armed forces. Lt. Gen. Blanck was honored for his distinguished career as a soldier and doctor. Also, he was named president of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

John F. Callahan, DO, ’67, Pittston, Pa., was recently appointed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Marshall H. Sager, DO, ’67, Bryn Mawr, Pa., was elected vice president of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture.

William Vilensky, DO, ’67, Margate City, NJ, co-authored an article in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association titled “Osteopathic family physicians’ attitudes, knowledge, and self-reported practices regarding obesity.”

Paul E. Wallner, DO, ’68, Philadelphia, Pa., was elected to the board of chancellors of the American College of Radiology.

Daniel N. Larusso, DO, ’69, Massillon, Ohio, was appointed medical director of MCH Occupational Health at Massillon Community Hospital.

**80s**

David J. Davis, II, DO, ’72, Reading, Pa., was appointed medical director of St. Joseph’s Community Care Clinic.

Jeffrey A. Lindenbaum, DO, ’75, Ivyland, Pa., was appointed director of graduate education at Temple Lower Bucks Hospital.

Eugene Mochan, DO, ’77, Media, Pa., co-authored an article in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association titled “Osteopathic family physicians’ attitudes, knowledge, and self-reported practices regarding obesity.”

Ronald I. Weiner, DO, ’77, Jackson, Tenn., joined the Medical Specialty Clinic, P.C.


Samuel J. Garloff, DO, ’78, Orwigsburg, Pa., was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Ernest R. Gelb, DO, ’78, West Pittston, Pa., was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Craig Lenz, DO, ’78, Jamaica, NY, was appointed assistant dean of clinical affairs at Western University of Health Sciences.

Harry J. Morris III, DO, ’78, West Chester, Pa., was appointed to the US Department of Health and Human Services’ new advisory committee on training in primary care medicine and dentistry.

Domenick N. Ronco, DO, ’78, Millinburg, Pa., was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Jeffrey C. Brand, DO, ’79, Fairview Village, Pa., was elected to serve on the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.
Bernadette V. Meade, DO, ’79, Drexel Hill, Pa., was granted the title of certified medical director in long-term care by the board of directors of the American Medical Directors Certification Program.

David J. Stern, DO, ’79, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., was listed as a “Top Doc in Internal Medicine (South Florida)” in the October 2000 Miami Metro.

**80s**

David A. Bitonte, DO, ’80, Paris, Ohio, was recertified in anesthesiology.

Robert B. Contrucci, DO, ’80, Hollywood, Fla., was listed as a “Top Doc in Otorhinolaryngology (South Florida)” in the October 2000 Miami Metro.

Mark S. Finkelstein, DO, ’80, Wallingford, Pa., was appointed chief of pediatric radiology at Albert Einstein Medical Center.

James Waterman, DO, ’81, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., was listed as a “Top Doc in Nephrology (South Florida)” in the October 2000 Miami Metro.

Paul F. Dende, DO, ’82, Clarks Summit, Pa., was appointed United Nations Chairman for 2000 by the United Nations Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania.


Darlene Snider, DO, ’82, Huron, Ohio, joined the orthopaedic department of Astabula Clinic.

Paul S. Baron, DO, ’83, Dresher, Pa., and Joseph P. Lewcus, DO, ’83, Dresher, Pa., joined practices to form Dresher Family Medicine, PC.

Edward Dempsey, DO, ’83, Danville, Pa., joined Susquehanna Medical Associates and the medical staff at Evangelical Community Hospital.

Charles L. White, DO, ’83, Cleveland, Ohio, was appointed to Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association’s Executive Board as president-elect.

Denise Harnois, DO, ’84, Rochester, Minn., received the “Young Alumni Achievement Award” from Gettysburg College.

Carol L. Holobinko, DO, ’85, Hammondsport, NY, received an MBA from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Robert J. Skalicky, DO, ’86, Wrightstown, Pa., participated in a double mastectomy and breast reconstruction surgery which appeared on the Internet. Dr. Skalicky, a cosmetic surgeon, performed the breast reconstruction.

Bart L. Matson, DO, ’87, Clarion, Pa., became a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Scott Naftulin, DO, ’87, Orefield, Pa., was named clinical associate professor at PCOM.

Kelly Anne Spratt, DO, ’87, Philadelphia, Pa., wrote an article in The DO titled “Women can prevent heart disease.”


Susan Sabol, DO, ’88, Schwenksville, Pa., was featured in an article in the Mercury titled “The doctor’s advice: Don’t check out on regular check-ups.”

Mary Beth Bollinger, DO, ’89, Severna Park, Md., was featured in an article in Baltimore Magazine titled “The kids are all right! We found 25 top pediatricians to care for your pint-sized patient.”

Joseph Oliva, DO, ’89, Wynnewood, Pa., was appointed chairman of the department of anesthesia at Phoenixville Hospital.

Margot Waitz, DO, ’89, Chadds Ford, Pa., was named director of the division of adolescent and young adult medicine at Christiana Care Health Services.

**90s**

Cheryl Gardner, DO, ’90, Franklin, Pa., was board certified in hematology.

Paul A. Kohut, DO, ’90, McKean, Pa., was named “Clinician of the Year” by the second-year students at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Stephen J. Yanoshak, DO, ’90, Bedford, Pa., opened a urology practice in Everett, Pa.


Noi Walkenstein, DO, ’91, Bethlehem, Pa., joined St. Luke’s Hospital and Health Network.

Coyle S. Connolly, DO, ’92, Avalon, NJ, was featured in an article in Skin and Aging titled “Understanding the follicle: The cause of the comedone.”

Jeffrey D’Andrea, DO, ’92, Pittston, Pa., joined Wyoming Valley Heart Group.

Mark J. Sbarro, DO, ’92, Hubbard, Ohio, joined Lawrence County Family Medicine.

Clara M. Higgins, DO, ’93, Philadelphia, Pa., was appointed director of medical education at Parkview Hospital. She also opened a new general surgery practice at Parkview Hospital.
William H. Jones, DO, ’93, Plano, Texas, was certified in anesthesiology.

Cecil B. Akimbo, DO, ’94, Jamaica, NY, was board certified in family practice and joined Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY.

Bethany Hamm, DO, ’94, Fort Polk, La., joined the medical staff at Clarion Hospital.

Filomena M. Scola, DO, ’94, Philadelphia, Pa., was featured in an article in the Mercury titled “Itching for a solution: Eczema treatment.”

Daniel J. Abate, DO, ’95, Cleveland, Ohio, joined Portage Internal Medicine Associates, Inc.

Joseph Bonnet, DO, ’95, Allentown, Pa., was featured in an article in the Standard Speaker titled “Wishing no more.”

Arthur J. DeMarsico, DO, ’95, Cherry Hill, NJ, won first place for his poster titled “Experimental replacement of infrarenal abdominal aorta with a small intestinal submucosa (SIS) allograft in the porcine model” in the cardiothoracic and vascular surgery/general vascular surgery category of the 2000 Scientific Exhibit and Poster Session at ACOS.

Kenneth E. Fox, DO, ’95, Melrose Park, Pa., joined the department of family practice at Doylestown Hospital.

Lisa R. Keiner, DO, ’95, Northfield, NJ, joined the department of medicine at the Atlantic City Medical Center.

Stephen J. Mitrosky, DO, ’95, Clarion, Pa., joined the medical staff at Clarion Hospital.

Paul W. Prosperi, DO, ’95, Manahawkin, NJ, joined the practice of Island Medical Professional Association.

Tricia Ann Zoba, DO, ’95, Lansdowne, Pa., joined Penn State Geisinger Health Systems.

In Memoriam


Louis DiBacco, DO, ’75, FP, Drexel Hill, Pa., May 2, 1999. (Our apologies for the incorrect listing in the last Digest.)


I. Roy Dunkelberger, DO, ’40, FP, Willow Street, Pa., June 11.


James A. Frazer, DO, ’33, FP, Hatboro, Pa., July 5.

Earl Gabriel, DO, ’54, FP, Claremont, Calif., November 28. Dr. Gabriel was a founding member of Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific and a past president of the American Osteopathic Association.


Francis L. Rickards, Jr., DO, ’63, FP, Chalfont, Pa., June 4.


George J. Slotoroff, DO, ’40, FP, Somers Point, NJ, August 3.

Stewart H. Smith, DO, ’34, FP, Delray Beach, Fla., August 28.


James E. Witt, DO, ’69, FP, Burnt Cabin, Pa., October 19.

Edwin H. Cressman, DO, ’26, former dermatology chairman, dies

Edwin H. Cressman, DO, ’26, professor emeritus and former chairman, department of dermatology, died August 7. Dr. Cressman, of Elkins Park, Pa., was one of PCOM’s most distinguished and well-remembered professors.

He served as chairman, department of dermatology for 35 years, from 1936 to 1971. A dedicated teacher and alumnus, he also was professor of anatomy at the College. In 1968, he received PCOM’s highest honor, the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, for his longtime service to the College and the osteopathic medical profession.

He was a mentor to many alumni, including PCOM president Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59. “Dr. Cressman was an excellent professor who made us feel good about being DOs at a time when we were thought of as cultists,” remembers Dr. Finkelstein. “He was so knowledgeable and professional that I’m sure all those he taught remember him. Dr. Cressman was a man you could point to with pride and say he’s a member of your profession.”

College mourns loss of James E. Witt, ’69, instructor and former director of rural clinics

PCOM is saddened by the loss of James E. Witt, DO, ’69, clinical instructor and former director of rural clinics at PCOM. Dr. Witt, 61, died October 19 at Harrisburg General Hospital of a heart attack. After graduating from PCOM, Dr. Witt served his internship
at Doctors Hospital in Erie, Pa. He went into private practice in 1970 in Spring Run, Pa. From 1973 to 1980, he taught clinical medicine and was director of rural clinics for PCOM. In 1980, he opened a private practice in McConnellsville, Pa. He became a part-time clinical instructor at PCOM in May 1998. Dr. Witt was a staff member at Fulton County Hospital for 29 years and also served as chief of staff.

Like most doctors who serve rural communities, Dr. Witt had a job that was rewarding, but also time-consuming and demanding. He had evening office hours so that working parents could bring in their sick children, and he often ended his day after midnight rounds. Each morning he worked on his livestock farm, and began the day again, sometimes making his rounds in farm clothing.

“In the ’70s, Dr. Witt led the College in the expansion of rural medical education,” said PCOM dean Kenneth J. Veit, DO, ’76. “Many of our students and patients remain grateful for his leadership in small rural communities such as Laporte, Millerstown and Orbisonia. For many students, Jim Witt is synonymous with rural medicine.”

Former professor and chairman of surgery Robert C. Erwin, DO, ’38 dies

Robert C. Erwin, DO, ’38, former PCOM professor and chairman of surgery, died August 15 at age 85. Dr. Erwin completed his internship and surgical residency at the Hospital of PCOM in 1941. He maintained a practice in general medicine and surgery in Allentown, Pa. from 1940 to 1972. Dr. Erwin was a founding member of the board of Allentown Osteopathic Hospital, where he was a staff member from 1958 to 1972. He also served as chief of staff and chief of surgery there. In 1972, Dr. Erwin became professor and chairman of PCOM’s department of surgery. In 1977, he was appointed executive director of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, a position he held until he retired in 1986.

Dr. Erwin held many professional and civic positions and received numerous awards. He served as president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association in 1964 and president of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons in 1970. An active member of the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Cancer Society, Dr. Erwin served as a professional educator and a member of the society’s board of trustees. He was named “Distinguished Osteopathic Surgeon of the Year” by the American College of Osteopathic Physicians in 1976.

PCOM saddened by death of James A. Frazer, DO, ’33, former gastroenterology professor

James A. Frazer, DO, ’33 died July 5 at age 91. Dr. Frazer, of Hatboro, Pa., taught gastroenterology at PCOM, retiring with the rank of assistant professor. He also served as chief of the gastrointestinal section of the general clinic at the College. After graduating from PCOM, Dr. Frazer served an internship at Osteopathic Hospital. In 1933, he started a private practice in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, which continued for 53 years until his retirement in 1986. His interests included gardening, fishing and volunteering at the Morris Arboretum. He was active in his church, serving as head usher at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill for 25 years.

Obstetrics pioneer Lester Eisenberg, DO, ’38, dies

Lester Eisenberg, DO, ’38, PCOM professor emeritus, obstetrics and gynecology, died January 4 of pneumonia at age 88. One of the College’s most respected professors, Dr. Eisenberg is estimated to have delivered or helped deliver 3,000 babies — many of them the children of PCOM alumni. Recognized nationally for his innovation in obstetrics, Dr. Eisenberg pioneered the use of vacuum extractors instead of forceps in deliveries at PCOM. He also introduced epidural analgesics at the College to better manage childbirth pain. In 1970, he was selected by President Nixon to serve on the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Dr. Eisenberg began teaching at PCOM in 1954 as an associate professor of obstetrics-gynecology and was named department chairman in 1969. He also served as medical director and director of medical education at Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital from 1971 until his retirement in 1983.

Long lauded by both students and faculty for his teaching methods, Dr. Eisenberg was a recipient of the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 1995, he was honored with PCOM’s highest award, the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, in recognition of his more than 40 years of service to the College. President Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59 recalled Dr. Eisenberg as “one of PCOM’s unsung heroes who gave the College his blood, sweat and tears.”

A Philadelphia native, Dr. Eisenberg resided in Virginia following his retirement. He enjoyed music, baking bread and spending time with his four children and six grandchildren.
COMING EVENTS

A New Year
A New Century
A New Millennium
A Great Occasion for a New Celebration

PCOM ALUMNI WEEKEND 2000
Mark your calendar for June 9, 10 & 11, 2000
FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 6-8PM
Fun Night at Dave & Buster's for alumni of all ages and their families
SATURDAY, JUNE 10, NOON-2PM
Welcome Back Barbecue & Campus Open House; families welcome.

COCKTAILS, HORS D'OEUVRES, DINNER AND DANCING, 6:30-MIDNIGHT; ALL ALUMNI WELCOME
Join us for a spectacular evening in the historic Crystal Tea Room at the John Wanamaker Building in Center City Philadelphia.
Earn Continuing Medical Education credits on Friday and Saturday morning.

More detailed information will follow shortly.
Write…Call…E-mail…Fax… Contact your classmates to save the date!
Come back to Philadelphia.
Just D.O. it!

QUESTIONS?
Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations & Development at 215-871-6120, 800-739-3939 or alumni@pcom.edu.

May 3-6
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association Annual Clinical Assembly, Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia

May 9-14

May 14
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation “Race for the Cure”, Philadelphia (PCOM is a sponsor)

June 1
DO Commencement Dinner-Dance
Crystal Tea Room, Wanamaker Building, Philadelphia

June 4
DO Commencement, Academy of Music, Philadelphia

June 9-10
PCOM Alumni Weekend 2000

June 25
Graduate Programs’ Commencement, PCOM

July 13-16
PCOM CME Seminar “Family Weekend”
Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, Pa.

August 11-13
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society Annual Convention, Hershey, Pa.

August 21
Opening Convocation, PCOM

September 21-24
Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Specialists
Boston, Mass.

October 29 - November 2
American Osteopathic Association Annual Convention, Orlando, Fla.

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

Address service requested