Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fall 2000)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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MEDICAL MISSION TO SUDAN

David Coffey, DO, ’84, rushes to aid war victims in Sudan – after the government bombs a schoolyard. Story on page 14.
This message is my last as president and CEO of PCOM. I have had the honor and privilege of serving in this office since March 1990. There have been many trials and tribulations in the past decade, but the bottom line is the tremendous amount of pride and sense of accomplishment I feel from my work here.

As most of you know, I've been here, counting my student days, since 1955. That's 45 years (minus two years in Michigan for internship and surgical residency). Our College has provided me with the platform to teach, perform clinical research and practice urologic surgery. It has also prepared my children, Larry, Lisa and Robert, for their careers in osteopathic medicine. The past 10 years have allowed me to work with a talented, creative and loyal faculty, administration and staff to help establish PCOM as the nation's premier college of osteopathic medicine. From my conversations with hundreds of you across the country, I know you are indeed proud of your alma mater.

The past decade has been a busy one. Our faculty has expanded, with much emphasis on osteopathic manipulative medicine. There have been many positive curricular changes in all four years. Our PCOM MedNet program includes 27 affiliated hospital partners and provides 625 intern and resident positions. PCOM offers 14 residencies – the largest number of any college of osteopathic medicine. Third- and fourth-year clinical clerkships are available in the 27 affiliated institutions and offer the best clinical experiences ever. We've achieved our goal of accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Our degree offerings have grown to include a doctorate in clinical psychology and master's degrees in biomedical science, clinical health psychology and physician assistant studies. These programs have brought onto campus another group of bright, highly motivated students.

The most visible change to PCOM, of course, is our beautiful campus. The master facility plan put on the drawing board in 1990 has been completed. Those of you who graduated before 1995 can remember our campus consisting of buildings and a lot of asphalt. We now have trees, grass and walkways instead. We also have renovated buildings, an Evans Hall addition and a Student Activity Center.

I've saved the best news for last. In early 1990 PCOM was in dire financial straits. Today our Foundation has approximately $90 million. The $42 million spent on the master facility plan was paid out of operations and donations from you, our loyal alumni, with no increase in borrowing. Our College is financially secure and well prepared for the 21st century.

Soon PCOM will have a new president, Matthew Schure, PhD. I have known Matt for 10 years, and he is extremely well qualified. He knows osteopathic medical education and the osteopathic profession, and I know he will serve our College well.

My time as PCOM's president has been an incredible experience for me. How many people get the opportunity to see their ideas blossom into reality in their lifetime? I want to thank all of the faculty, administration and staff – without them there would have been no success. Most of all I thank the 2,500 students who have graduated during my time as president. They have been the joy that has brought me to work every day. Lastly, my message would not be complete without thanking the more than 8,500 of you, our alumni, for your support of PCOM. You are the reason the College stands tall.

Sincerely,

Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, '59
President and CEO
PCOM SALUTES DR. FINKELSTEIN
With appreciation for his efforts to make PCOM stronger and his loyalty to the College he holds dear, we honor PCOM president and CEO Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO.

COMMENCEMENT 2000
PCOM's DO graduates hear from Donna Shalala, US secretary of health and human services, and the College holds its first graduate programs' commencement.

RETHINKING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Compelling research by PCOM's Brian J. Balin, PhD, and Denah Appelt, PhD, shows that an infectious agent may be a key piece of the Alzheimer's puzzle.

A DO SAVES LIVES - HALF A WORLD AWAY
David Coffey, DO, '84, had never been to Africa. But with only a few days' notice, he jumped on a plane headed for war-torn Sudan to aid children he'd never even met. Here's an account of his harrowing journey by Gabriel Meyer, the journalist who traveled with him.

FOLLIES LEAVES PCOM IN STITCHES
Since the 1950s, PCOM students have parodied the faculty, administration and even themselves. Five decades later, biting satire and goofiness still take center stage at PCOM's Follies. Here's a glimpse of the Follies, both now and then.

ALUMNI WEEKEND BRINGS GRADS TOGETHER
More than 50 years of PCOM graduates came together for fun in the sun at the new and improved version of Alumni Weekend.

PCOM UPDATES
Matthew Schure, PhD, named new PCOM president; College receives $1.4 million grant; anatomy professor appointed to NIH study section.

MY TURN: New essay section!
Medical knowledge wasn't all Alison Leff, DO, '00, gained on a recent clerkship.
Mr. Leonard H. Finkelstein’s advocacy of the osteopathic medical profession and love of students was a combination that served the College well for 10 years. Osteopathic physicians and students would be hard pressed to find a more dedicated supporter.

We salute his decade of leadership – his vision, loyalty and tireless efforts to make PCOM a stronger institution. Early in his presidency, he helped save the College from financial ruin by selling PCOM’s two hospitals. He spearheaded the Master Facilities Plan, which modernized and expanded the campus and its healthcare centers. Under his leadership, our graduate medical education program expanded dramatically and scholarly activity increased to the highest level in the College’s history.

“If it wasn’t for Dr. Finkelstein stepping up and putting together a new administrative team, PCOM wouldn’t be here today,” says Herbert Lotman, PCOM chairman of the board.

“He did so out of his love for the College and the osteopathic profession, and he fought a lot of adversity from the former administration. One of the reasons I joined PCOM’s board of trustees was Dr. Finkelstein’s enthusiasm for the College.”

According to PCOM Dean Kenneth J. Veit, DO, ’76, “For over 100 years, PCOM has been blessed with having the right leaders at the right time. Dr. Finkelstein was this right leader during the 1990s. He provided the energy, enthusiasm and love for the school that propelled the institution through some perilous changes in the health care delivery system and secured for PCOM a firm foundation for continual growth and improvement. He was the physician/CEO who told us how to take our medicine and provided us with the confidence to get well.”

Emily Lichtman, DO, ’99, worked closely with Dr. Finkelstein when she was PCOM’s student council president. “Dr. Finkelstein was a great mentor for me,” she says. “I have a lot of respect for him because he was always very honest with me. He has so much pride in the College. It was obvious to me from attending AACOM meetings that the presidents and deans from the other colleges held Dr. Finkelstein in very high regard.”

Carol A. Fox, associate dean for admissions and enrollment management, notes that “Dr. Finkelstein, during his administration, was relentless in the pursuit of the survival, the stability and the success of PCOM. His accomplishments in these efforts are significant and substantial and have provided the framework as we move into PCOM’s next 100 years and the new millennium.”
One of Dr. Finkelstein's major sources of pride has been the campus renovations made as part of the Master Facilities Plan. In 1995 he helped kick off major renovations along with, left to right, Albert D'Alonzo, DO, '56; Michael Avalone Sr., DO, '59; James H. Black, DO, '62 and Nicholas Pedano, DO, '61.

An exciting moment for Dr. Finkelstein was breaking ground for the Student Activity Center in 1998. Helping him mark the event are, left to right, Billy King, 76ers general manager; Herbert Lotman, PCOM chairman of the board; then-student Kathy Schaeffer; Larry Brown, 76ers head coach and Pat Croce, 76ers president.

Dr. Finkelstein played a key role in planning the College's Centennial celebration in 1999. A highlight was meeting Elizabeth Dole, pictured on stage during Commencement with Dr. Finkelstein and Herbert Lotman, PCOM chairman of the board.

Dr. Finkelstein was on the cover of Digest shortly after taking office as president in 1990.

In 1993, Dr. Finkelstein and Harry Ginsburg, DO, '42, enjoy PCOM's first Golf Classic, an annual fundraising event started by Dr. Finkelstein.
Matthew Schure, PhD, named as new PCOM president

Matthew Schure, PhD, will be installed as PCOM’s new president and chief executive officer on November 1, replacing Leonard H. Finkelsstein, DO, ’59, who is retiring. Since 1991, Dr. Schure has served as president and chief executive officer of New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) in Old Westbury, NY.

NYIT is an eight-school institution that includes New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. With his leadership, the school has increased student enrollment, implemented technology-enhanced learning environments, increased the breadth of curriculum and initiated its first major development campaign. Under his tenure, the school has gone from the brink of fiscal disaster to a financially sound, thriving institution with multiple accreditations, including accreditation by the Middle States Association.

During his tenure as CEO of NYIT, the accomplishment that Dr. Schure is most proud of is strengthening the college’s technology-enhanced learning environment. “Students who don’t have access to information will be left behind,” notes Dr. Schure.

Dr. Schure is excited to join the PCOM family. “The institution is in wonderful shape,” he says. “The target is continued growth.”

Dr. Schure holds a PhD in educational psychology and a master’s degree in philosophy from Columbia University. He also holds a master’s degree in educational psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University.

GRANT UPDATE

PCOM receives $1.4 million federal grant

A $1.4 million grant has been received to establish the Center for Medical Informatics, Education and Outreach at PCOM. The Center, using blackboard.com as its platform, is the gateway to Internet-based course materials that support each of the programs and projects at PCOM.

The project seeks to develop a base of academic medical content material in electronic form. It also aims to enhance PCOM’s ability to transmit information to other institutions while assisting them with their ability to access that information.

The program affects more than 1,000 on-campus students throughout 14 affiliated institutions, 200 postgraduate interns and residents, and approximately 500 campus-based and affiliated faculty.

Clinical Learning and Assessment Center receives funds

PCOM’s Clinical Learning and Assessment Center, under the direction of Tony Errichetti, PhD, professor, department of medical humanities and education/department of psychology, has received a $50,000 contract from the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners to complete the first study into the feasibility of conducting a COMLEX Level 2 Performance Exam. This examination would use simulated standard patients, or SPs, and trained DO raters during the exam process. SPs are individuals trained to portray a patient and rate the performance of the clinician to a very high degree of accuracy. Currently, over 80% of medical schools throughout the US and Canada use SPs to teach and assess the clinical skills of their students.

Class of ‘98 commissions portrait

As its special class gift, the PCOM Class of 1998 designated funds to commission an oil portrait of the late Emanuel Fliegelman, DO, ’42. The painting was unveiled May 22 in the Lotman Lobby of Evans Hall.

Artist Ted Xaras painstakingly drew from photographs, video, and memories from colleagues for his master composition of “Uncle Manny.”

The portrait is on display with other distinguished faculty oils on the third floor of the Evans Hall addition. It will serve as a permanent memorial to one of the most beloved, compassionate and caring members of the PCOM family.
NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I would like to add, as a former student, to the memorial of Ed Cressman, who was such a positive force for decades at PCOM.

Ed Cressman was a legend in his time. Aside from looking and acting as the prototypical physician, often wearing a Homberg hat and a fitted chesterfield coat, he was a superb speaker. No professor in my academic career could match the syntax, delivery, grammar and clarity of Cressman’s lectures. He had every member of my class sitting on the edge of his seat awaiting his next pearl. He inculcated the love of dermatology for me and many of my colleagues. As students he made a big difference in our attitude toward ourselves and the profession we were entering. I can still hear him at our first dermatological lecture, his booming clear voice asking, “What is the largest organ of our body with a tremendous potential for regeneration?”

Sincerely,

Norman H. Ilowite, DO, ’55
Chairman, American Board of Specialists in Dermatology

A sign of growth

PCOM president Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, ’59, lobbied hard to have a sign for the College placed on the 76 off-ramp to City Avenue.

Two-way videoconference seminars help bridge gap

PCOM began implementing innovative two-way seminars via videoconference in spring semester 2000. The project’s goal is to unite PCOM students with undergraduate students at Moravian College by providing live clinically oriented guest lectures through a two-way video bridge. The program successfully bridges geographical and organizational gaps between the two institutions and raises the possibility of a more seamless premed/medical curriculum in the future.

PCOM teams up at Race for the Cure

PCOM once again sponsored the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation’s “Race for the Cure” on Mother’s Day, May 14. Two-hundred twenty-seven students and employees participated as “Team PCOM” in an effort that raised over $4,000 to fight breast cancer.

Kudos to

Mindy George-Weinstein, PhD, professor, anatomy, was appointed a member of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) study section. She is part of a panel that reviews grant proposals submitted to the NIH and rates their quality and fundability.

Dr. George-Weinstein’s study section, called CDF-6, reviews cell and developmental function grants.

Dr. George-Weinstein shares duties on the study section with 19 other scientists from institutions such as University of Pennsylvania, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins, Salk Institute and Princeton.

“It is a great privilege to serve on this study section because it will enable me to learn very valuable information about how grants are reviewed and how they should be written,” she says. “I also realize the tremendous responsibility inherent in deciding whether a grant is fundable or not, due to the effect on the lives and futures of those who submit the grant proposals.”

Dr. George-Weinstein has been the recipient of three NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award grants and has published extensively in the field of cell biology.
Oliver C. Bullock, DO, '78, was the keynote speaker at Villanova University's Alpha Epsilon Delta National Honor Society for Premedical Students' invitation dinner. His address concerned the needs of inner-city medical centers. Dr. Bullock also presented a colorectal cancer education program to the residents of Germantown House. The presentation taught the attendees a great deal about the prevention and early detection of the devastating disease.

Lt. Gen. Ronald Blanck, DO, '67, was inducted as a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia on May 24. He was sponsored by Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, '59, PCOM president.

In addition, Gen. Blanck was honored with a retirement dinner and regimental ball at Ft. Belvoir Officer's Club in Virginia upon his retirement as surgeon general of the US Army. He was recognized with the prestigious "Distinguished Service Medal" from the Department of Defense and the "Nathan Davis Award" from the American Medical Association.

Denah Appelt, PhD, assistant professor, biomedical sciences, and Brian Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology, received a $25,000 grant from the Hamot Second Century Foundation, as well as necessary pharmaceuticals donated by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, to further their work on Alzheimer's disease. They had presented their work at the Annual Hamot Research Day in Erie, Pa., May 2. Later that day, Dr. Balin was interviewed by both television and radio stations in Erie.

In addition, Dr. Balin was the keynote speaker at the American Society for Microbiology's regional meeting April 7 and 8 in Lewes, Delaware. There, a best poster prize was awarded to Angela MacIntyre, a doctoral student at MCP/Hahnemann, for her work on Alzheimer's disease with Drs. Balin and Appelt. Dr. Balin also gave a keynote address to the American Association of Bioanalysts in San Antonio, Texas, discussing the "New germ theory of disease."

Michael Campenni, DO, who completed a PCOM urology residency in 1999, was a recipient of the 1999 "Pfizer Scholars in Urology Award." The award is given to physicians who have advanced the science of urology and improved patient care through their hard work and dedication.

Roger Beardsmore, a doctor of psychology student at PCOM's Dixon University site, was awarded the Pennsylvania Psychological Association's (PPA) Student Achievement Award on May 16. The PPA Ethics Committee honored Beardsmore with the award on the basis of his manuscript "Confidentiality and the criminal justice system."

Oliver C. Bullock, DO, '78

PCOM participates in health fair

On May 6, PCOM students participated in a health fair held by MCP/Hahnemann at a nearby Pathmark. A large tent at the Monument Road supermarket played host to health and blood pressure screenings by PCOM students and Larry Finkelstein, DO, '87, director, PCOM Family Medicine, and assistant professor, family medicine.

In the Media

On April 29, Fox News Philadelphia, WTXF-TV, aired a feature on osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) that was filmed at PCOM. The piece, reported by Fox's Brian McDonough, MD, studied the case of Alicia Heuser, a 25-year-old PCOM employee who turned to OMM after traditional medicine did not help her back and leg pain. The spot discussed how Heuser made great progress after receiving OMM treatments.

Alexandcr S. Nicholas, DO, '75, chairman, OMM, was also featured.

PCOM research was covered on WPVI-TV - ABC Channel 6 in a medical feature story. The spot included Saul Jeff, DO, chairman, obstetrics/gynecology; Frederick Goldstein, PhD, professor of clinical pharmacology, and Alexander S. Nicholas, DO, '75, chairman and professor, OMM, and the
success of their combined effort to use OMM to reduce postsurgical pain. The effort, funded by the American Osteopathic Association, has shown that hysterectomy patients who were given an extra dose of morphine before surgery and OMM postoperatively needed less morphine to control their pain than patients who received standard analgesic treatment.

PCOM's Bruce S. Zahn, EdD, assistant professor of psychology, was interviewed by talk radio station WWDB 96.5 concerning National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day, May 3, which PCOM took part in as a participating screening site.

PCOM third-year student Maureen Gavin was included in a Philadelphia Inquirer article about a school-based program designed to reduce violence by teaching children how to avoid dangerous conflicts and guns. She helped teach a clinic at Stoddart-Fleisher Middle School in Philadelphia.

Psychology chairman and professor Arthur Freeman, EdD, was quoted in The Christian Science Monitor on February 14. The article, reminiscing over both good and bad memories of Valentine’s Days, included a quote from Dr. Freeman’s book, “Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda.”

Area residents receive CCC brochure

PCOM’s new Comprehensive Care Center brochure highlights the practices of family medicine, geriatrics, gynecology, internal medicine, osteopathic manipulative medicine and psychology. It was sent to 28,000 area residents.

Radio spots advertise psychology

Beginning May 30, PCOM ran radio spots promoting the graduate psychology programs. The two-week campaign, which aired on Philadelphia’s WDAS-FM, WCLE-FM and WMKG-FM, is part of PCOM’s continuing effort to raise awareness and recruit students for its psychology programs.

A great hospital just got better

For over two years, Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital (MCPH) has been a symbol of strength and excellence when it comes to physicians, teaching excellence, service and commitment to the community. Now, with the addition of many affiliated physicians who previously practiced at nearby City Avenue Hospital, plus the establishment of a new academic residency program in partnership with prestigious Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), MCPH just got even stronger!

By combining the rich resources of both leading medical schools and their facilities, MCPH now offers an enhanced academic environment providing an even greater depth of patient service and community benefit.

Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital gives PCOM the nod

In a local newspaper ad (above), MCPH recognized the addition of PCOM physicians to its staff. PCOM physicians are now seeing patients at nearby MCPH in East Falls following the closing of City Avenue Hospital.
On June 4, PCOM's 244-strong graduating class took the stage at Philadelphia's Academy of Music to receive their diplomas at the school's 109th DO commencement.

The keynote speaker, Donna Shalala, US secretary of health and human services, delivered a relevant and timely address to the graduates. Shalala stressed the importance of the new osteopathic physicians remembering that "modern medicine isn't just about curing – but about caring." She also encouraged graduates to put the patient first by mastering technology while mustering the human touch, interacting well with all members of the healthcare team, meeting patients' demand for quality and embracing the fact that patients today are more vocal, informed and demanding than ever before.

The Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching was presented to Oliver C. Bullock, DO, '78, for his outstanding teaching. Since 1987, Dr. Bullock has been both an associate professor of...
family medicine at PCOM and the
clinical director of the Cambria Street
Healthcare Center.

PCOM also named Richard A.
Notzold, PhD, professor emeritus at
commencement. Dr. Notzold, who
began teaching at PCOM in 1974 and
continued to teach histology and anato-
my for 25 years, himself received the
Lindback Award for Distinguished
Teaching during his tenure.

PCOM’s Class of 2000 had 27 students
under military scholarship: 12 Army, 8
Navy and 7 Air Force.

Also honored this year was PCOM’s
first-ever class of graduate students.
Arthur C. Caplan, PhD, director of the
center for bioethics and a trustee
professor of bioethics at the University
of Pennsylvania, addressed the new
graduates June 25 on campus. The 28
graduates received degrees in one of
three areas: doctor of psychology in
clinical psychology,
master of science in
health sciences –
physician assistant
studies and master of
science in biomedical
sciences. Also, three
doctors received a
certificate of
respecialization in
clinical psychology.
It's the letters that get you. Written by caregivers and family members from across the country, they offer encouragement to PCOM's Brian J. Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology.

The letter-writers tell their individual sad tales of loved ones who have suffered the merciless fate of an Alzheimer's patient.

They implore Dr. Balin to continue his research into whether infection plays a role in late-onset Alzheimer's disease.

They've read about his work in the Washington Post and countless other media outlets and were driven by hope and desperation to find him.

The truth is that the medical and scientific community is split over whether germs might cause or contribute to many of the major degenerative diseases of our time.

But there's no mistake about which side of the fence Dr. Balin sits on. He and colleague Denah M. Appelt, PhD, assistant professor, biomedical sciences, continue to move forward, pushing the envelope of the germ theory of degenerative diseases.

"Most in science are looking at genetics and environment only," says Dr. Balin. "It's important to consider genetics, environment and infection. Whether initiating or exacerbating disease, infection could be playing an important role — and it needs intensive study."

Dr. Appelt agrees: "Autism, cerebral palsy, OCD, Parkinson's, schizophrenia — there's a host of nervous system..."
Their findings suggest that infection of certain human cells with *C. pneumoniae* enhances the processing of the beta amyloid precursor protein, which has been found to accumulate in the brains of people who have died from Alzheimer's disease. "This tells us that amyloid and *C. pneumoniae* may interact directly in the brains of Alzheimer's patients," explains Dr. Balin. The finding may provide an understanding of why amyloid accumulates in the majority of Alzheimer's patients who do not have any mutations in their genes, such as those for the amyloid precursor protein, presenilins, etc.

**AN IMPORTANT MECHANISM**

This scenario could be setting up an important mechanism in the body's autoimmune response, in which chronic infection may be causing inflammation, which then may lead to a cascade of events that results in Alzheimer's disease as we know it.

Drs. Balin and Appelt and their research team and colleagues at PCOM, and in Detroit and Baltimore, have been working for years on the theory connecting *C. pneumoniae* and Alzheimer's disease. In 1998, though, a mountain of media attention was focused on Dr. Balin's work when the researchers announced that *C. pneumoniae* had been found in the brains of 17 of 19 people who had died after long bouts with Alzheimer's. In contrast, only one of 19 examined brains, in geriatric patients who died of other causes, harbored the bacterium.

Dr. Balin and Dr. Appelt present their latest findings at last year's annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Miami. Even more recent findings were presented at the Neuroinflammation meeting on Alzheimer's disease, in addition to the World Alzheimer Congress 2000 in Washington, D.C.
Infectious agents are involved in a host of neurologic diseases, listed below along with the offending organism:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Disease</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treponema pallidum</td>
<td>Tertiary syphilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrelia burgdorferi</td>
<td>Lyme disease complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prions</td>
<td>Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease variants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human herpesvirus 6</td>
<td>Multiple sclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human T-lymphotrophic virus 1</td>
<td>Myelopathy, tropical spastic paraplegia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia pneumoniae</td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borna virus</td>
<td>Autism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JC virus</td>
<td>Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpesvirus, cytomegalovirus</td>
<td>Mental impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
<td>Mental impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxoplasmosis</td>
<td>Mental impairment, retinal lesions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. jejuni</td>
<td>Guillain-Barre syndrome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

“Since then, there’s been more study and we’ve found Chlamydia pneumoniae in more cases,” says Dr. Balin. “We’ve found it in a total of 27 of 29 brains of people who suffered from Alzheimer’s.”

Dr. Appelt notes, “It’s accepted now that neuroinflammation is a key to the whole process. Clinical trials looking at inflammation in Alzheimer’s disease have been started by major pharmaceutical companies.”

Still, Drs. Balin and Appelt have met with some resistance from physicians and bench scientists who believe the presence of the bacterium is possibly the result of a weakened host, or who have some similar explanation.

The researchers also are studying whether C. pneumoniae plays a role in cutaneous t-cell lymphoma. “It may be that infectious agents play a role in many of our chronic diseases and it may be that the best way to handle this will be through prevention, with vaccines,” says Dr. Balin, flatly.

IDEAS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Dr. Balin has learned to fight for his ideas. “We’re in an osteopathic institution and I can’t help but think that we’re going through something similar to what DOs have gone through in their careers, having to fight for the recognition that is now well-regarded.

“Dr. Marshall encountered major resistance, too,” adds a smiling Dr. Balin, referring to Australian physician Barry Marshall, MD, who discovered that Helicobacter pylori is responsible for most gastric ulcers. “No one could believe that infection could do this, and 40 to 50 percent of doctors still do not look for Helicobacter pylori in their patients,” emphasizes Dr. Balin. “It takes a long time for some to accept a relatively new idea, no matter the circumstances.

“We know that strep infection in rheumatic fever can lead to heart valve damage. We know that human papilloma virus leads to cervical cancer. We know that Chlamydia pneumoniae has been linked to cardiovascular disease, and we know all about Helicobacter,” Dr. Balin continues. “We’re repeating history, and we just ask that the medical community keep an open mind; don’t dismiss us out of hand.”

How, exactly, did Dr. Balin become involved in all of this? It was serendipity, really.

He had been considering the possibility of an infectious agent in Alzheimer’s disease for some time. Early on, he was working in a laboratory at the now-defunct Allegheny University of the Health Sciences when he was asked to sit on a committee that was charged with reviewing whether a student there had violated ethical standards in research.

Also on the committee was Alan Hudson, PhD, whom Dr. Balin had heard of but had not met. Dr. Hudson was studying whether Chlamydia trachomatis was linked to Reiter’s syndrome, a form of reactive arthritis. “While
he was studying this, he mentioned that *Chlamydia pneumoniae* might be involved in atherosclerosis, which is very prevalent in Alzheimer's patients," recalls Dr. Balin. The two scientists began to talk about their research interests, found common ground – and a research team was born.

Today, Dr. Hudson is at Wayne State University in Detroit, working on a study – funded with a four-year, $1.2 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) – to investigate the role of *C. pneumoniae* in Alzheimer's. He shares the grant with Dr. Balin, principal investigator, and Dr. Appelt, co-principal investigator.

**Experts Weigh In**

"In the broader sense, there is a lot of interest over the last five or 10 years in the infectious nature of overall chronic disease," says Chris Taylor, ScD, bacterial respiratory diseases program officer at NIAID. "The NIH has been holding workshops in this area, and we need to give this type of research some time to see what it will show. Even an indirect relationship will teach us quite a bit about the nature of chronic disease. We have a lot to learn."

Drs. Balin and Appelt also have been awarded grants from the Foundation for Research into Diseases of Aging (FRIDA), the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and the Hamot Foundation. The FRIDA grant is helping to fund clinical trials using a lengthy course of antibiotics to treat Alzheimer's patients. (See sidebar on page 11.)

"Right now, we're trying to determine how the organism gets into the brain, either through the bloodstream or via the nose, through olfactory receptors," explains Dr. Balin. "We already know that if you infect in the nose of a mouse with the organism, it can infect the brain, within the olfactory bulbs. This area is close to the hippocampus, where our short-term memory resides."

Dr. Balin and his collaborators also would like to know how *C. pneumoniae* works to destroy the memory function of Alzheimer's patients. He believes that chronic infection might lead to chronic inflammation – and that the inflammation is the real culprit. "It could be that in the future, Alzheimer's patients are treated with a combination of drugs: antibiotics and NSAIDs, for example."

"It makes a lot of sense to pursue this avenue," remarks Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, chairman, department of internal medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine, where he is also a noted geriatrician. Clinical information that anti-inflammatory drugs help Alzheimer's patients only "heightens the plausibility of the germ theory," says Dr. Cavalieri.

"We have a much better understanding now than we did a decade ago of the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease and of the role of neurotransmitters," Dr. Cavalieri continues. "We've made very significant strides in genetic linkage; however, we have not been able to identify the etiologic trigger of pathogenesis. There are several infectious diseases that cause dementia: herpes encephalitis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and syphilis. The germ theory, even in the new millennium, is still plausible. It is very reasonable to take this approach and to follow up on it."

While Drs. Balin and Appelt work to communicate their research findings to physicians and scientists, they also concentrate on PCOM’s students. "We're getting quite a few students coming to our door, wanting to learn more about this," says Dr. Appelt. "It's a different way of looking at a neurodegenerative disease process."

"For the students, it's not far removed from the setting they're going to be working in," she continues. "They'll be in a clinical setting and they'll have to look at these patients and ask, 'what's causing this?' So, they can put the basic research science together with the clinical end and lend it a functional aspect. This work has some real direct applications to it."

Dr. Balin is optimistic as he looks toward the future. His conclusion: "In this century, a new frontier in chronic disease will emerge that demonstrates a much more complex link between infection, genetic risk and environmental insults as the triumvirate of human disease."
KAUDA, Sudan — "It came without warning at 9 o’clock in the morning," headmaster Baruch Kume told the reporter. Shells were already raining down on the yard of a Catholic school when the headmaster shouted to students to fall to the ground. Shrapnel whizzed in every direction. Within seconds, the yard was a scene of carnage.

Five anti-personnel “barrel” bombs had been unleashed from the belly of a low-flying Russian-made Antonov MU2, the Sudanese air force’s weapon of choice in its decade-long war of terror against “insurgent” populations like the Nuba that resist Khartoum’s campaign to impose its will, along with an extremist brand of Islamic ideology, on Sudan’s 300 tribes, and especially on its growing Christian minority.

By 9:15 it was all over. The headmaster, who had taken cover himself, rose to find children dead or dying all around him...

BY GABRIEL MEYER

A PHYSICIAN WITH A MISSION
DR. COFFEY MAKES A LIFE-SAVING HOUSECALL TO SUDAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES NICHOLLS

Media pundits call it “compassion fatigue” – the notion that today’s Americans, heir to the failed foreign humanitarian interventions of the 1990s – can’t be bothered with human needs much beyond their doorstep, let alone half a world away.

And that’s especially true, so the conventional wisdom goes, when it comes to Africa, with its tragic and seemingly intractable cycles of political violence, famine and misery.

Just last year, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright gave voice to that sentiment when speaking to a group of visiting activists. Sadly, she said, Sudan was just “not marketable to the American people right now.”
Don't tell that to David Coffey, DO, '84. Last February, on a few days' notice, he carved a week out of his busy medical practice to fly to the aid of children he'd never met in a remote mountain village of central Sudan without roads and electricity.

Did I mention that he'd never been to Africa before? Earlier that month, Sudanese government planes had bombed a Catholic primary school there, killing 19 first-graders and their teacher in what press reports aptly called "a slaughter of innocents." Without modern communications, no one knew what the medical condition of survivors might be. But with each passing day, what news could be gleaned from one of the world's most isolated regions was increasingly grim.

What prepares a successful American doctor for a summons to the African bush?

Dr. Coffey has had nothing if not a multi-faceted medical career - on the faculty at PCOM for seven years and current president of the Cranial Academy. He has had an even wider set of life experiences, from Catholic seminarian to high school physics teacher and wrestling coach. He has been in a general family practice with a specialty in osteopathic manipulation at Baptist Medical Center in Montgomery, Ala. for the past five years.

And his nine-year association with the Bethlehem, Pa.-based Catholic Medical Foundation (CMF), on whose
board of directors he serves, certainly came in handy.
CMF, a trail-blazing Catholic medical relief organization specializing in “mission impossible” assignments to war-torn countries, had taken him to Bosnia and Croatia, and more recently to Moscow and Siberia.
Typically, says Christopher Chapman, MD, a founder of CMF, Dr. Coffey solicits medical equipment for under-equipped foreign hospitals. Even more important, he locates specialists and facilities in the US that may be willing to provide compassionate care for patients with life-threatening conditions from places where CMF has outreaches.
In one such instance, Dr. Coffey helped secure a donor liver transplant for Ivana Vrdoljac, a nine-year-old Bosnian girl who had end-stage liver disease. The CMF, with Dr. Coffey’s help, secured a gift of $150,000 and persuaded St. Christopher’s Hospital in Philadelphia to provide services. Otherwise, the girl would have died. Today, three years later, she and her brother attend public school in Philadelphia.
“One thing I’ve always loved about David,” says Judy Chapman, a founder of CMF and wife of Dr. Chapman, “is that he’ll take on these impossible challenges.”
But, it’s safe to say, even the hardiest Westerner is unprepared for the remote Nuba Mountains of Sudan, with its equatorial temperatures, militia raids, snakes and
Dr. Coffey carved a week out of his busy medical practice to fly to the aid of children in a remote village of Central Sudan without roads and electricity.

Land mines, and still less for the remarkable drama of suffering and courage that goes on there.

For more than 10 years, the 1.5 million Nuba of central Sudan, an indigenous people whose origins can be traced back to the eighth century BC, have waged a heroic and largely invisible struggle for survival against a large-scale, government-sponsored campaign to drive them off their ancestral lands and destroy their culture. With 50 tribes, 38 languages and three religions living amicably together for more than 1,000 years, the Nuba have been called the most peace-loving people in Africa.

In the past decade, more than 300,000 Nuba Christians, Muslims and African "traditionalists" have perished as a result of the policies of the Islamic fundamentalist regime in Khartoum. These policies include military incursions, destruction of Nuba agriculture, slavery, forcible conversion to Islam, incarceration in concentration camps, aerial bombardment, and deliberately caused famine.

So, what would bring a talented doctor with a thriving practice to pack his toothbrush and malaria medication and head off to a place like this? Three things, according to colleagues: a big heart, a small world — and a bishop.

For more than five years, the people of the Nuba Mountains, declared off-limits to international relief and humanitarian agencies by the Khartoum government, have had one sure source of help: Bishop Macram Max Gassis of El Obeid diocese in central Sudan. The Roman Catholic Bishop Gassis has been exiled by the government since the early 1990s for his outspoken stance against human rights abuses. From his base in Nairobi, Kenya, he ferries food, agricultural supplies, clothing, educational materials, and, most importantly, personnel into those parts of the Nuba Mountains held by forces fighting the regime.

It is a difficult, perilous and very expensive venture involving high-risk "illegal" charter flights to Nuba bases in the bush. But, for tens of thousands of Nuba, the bishop's efforts mean the difference between life and death, and constitute virtually their only link with the outside world.

Dr. Coffey met the legendary churchman through the auspices of CMF when Bishop Gassis made one of his public awareness and fundraising tours. The occasion was the New York premiere of a feature-length documentary about Gassis's high-risk apostolate among the Nuba, "The Hidden Gift: War & Faith in Sudan."

And then came the Feb. 8 bombing of Kauda — the tragic piece in a chain of events that would send an American
In the clinic.

Dr. Coffey

Dr. Coffey, South African journalist Mary Meyer-Hohladl and Gabe Meyer surveyed a wounded man.
Young amputee, following bombing.

Dr. Coffey and Gabe Meyer pay respects to the young children killed at this site.

Father Abraham greets the congregation at a service for the bomb victims.
"We're losing them," the bishop grieved to his American friends. "I feel the children's lives slipping through our fingers!"

medical and investigative team speeding to Africa.

News of the massacre had come to Bishop Gasssi's attention during his American tour. As early wire service reports filtered in, the bishop realized, with growing horror, that the unnamed Nuba school in press accounts was his: Holy Cross Catholic school in Kauda, the most well-established school in the area. "The struggle of these Nuba for education in the midst of war," as the bishop would later eulogize them, "was itself a sign of extraordinary courage and hope."

Providentially, the bishop had already secured meetings with US Secretary of State Albright and other officials, who condemned the bombing and called on the government of Sudan to stop its aerial attacks on civilians.

But something had to be done for the victims of the attack – and fast. Daily briefings from the bishop's staff in Nairobi only added names to the list of the dead.

"We're losing them," the bishop grieved to his American friends. "I feel the children's lives slipping through our fingers!"

The plane skidded to a stop at the end of the landing strip, a clearing in the scrub brush terrain of the Nuba Mountains. Relief supplies and six sweating Westerners – several journalists (one of them me), a photographer, one of the bishop's relief coordinators and Dr. Coffey – rolled out of the aging troop carrier.

Speed was essential. The Nubas' landing strips might be basic affairs, but they were precious assets, serving simultaneously as lifelines and targets – vital links to the outside world and the frequent subject of government bombing raids.

Speed was also essential for the people of Kauda. It had taken several weeks to pull together a US-led medical and fact-finding mission to travel to the area on behalf of the bishop. We arrived three weeks to the day after the regime's bombers screamed through these valleys toward Kauda's schoolyard and its 230 Muslim and Christian students. We did not know for sure what we were going to find. We only knew that we had to hurry.

Survivors might have to be airlifted out to hospitals in Kenya. Medical assessments and arrangements with "rebel" military authorities would have to be made in a matter of hours.

The team hiked directly to the local medical clinic, where some of the surviving children were convalescing. Established by the bishop more than four years ago, the facility is staffed by the German Emergency Doctors, a European non-governmental organization with a lot of experience in "bush" medicine.

We came upon the small mud-brick compound camouflaged behind a low range of hills amid trees. In addition to schools and churches, medical clinics have found themselves prime targets of Sudan's aerial hunters in their disperse-and-destroy campaigns.

Outside, in the hospital courtyard, among the handmade cots of sick and injured Nuba and their relatives,
had our first glimpse of the survivors of the Kauda bombing. Members of the clinic’s staff brought forward a boy with a bandaged wrist. When shrapnel from the blast nearly severed his hand, amputation had been the only available remedy. More tragic still, an adolescent girl had lost the whole of her right arm.

Even in these children, one could not fail to notice the serenity and quiet self-possession that marks the Nuba’s stance toward the world. Here, in the clinic courtyard, where the human effects of the bombing were most evident, one sensed not terror, but deep determination — “seberi,” perseverance in struggle, the Nuba call it. And nowhere more so than in the eyes of these wounded children.

“It’s the children who put us all back together,” Kauda’s headmaster would later tell us.

On the day after the bombing, headmaster Kume had been astonished to hear that schoolchildren were waiting in the schoolyard for classes to begin.

“I went out to reason with them,” he told us. “Go home, please,” he bade several hundred of his charges. “I can’t tell you when, or even if we’ll be able to resume classes. We’re all destroyed by what happened. I’ll let you know what we decide.”
A 10-year-old boy had come up to him, the headmaster recounted. "Ustaz, professor," the boy said, "Let us continue. If it is God's will, we won't die."

In fact, by the time we'd arrived here in late February, school was already back in session.

Examining the survivors of the bomb attack at the clinic, Dr. Coffey quickly learned, to his relief, that the local medical team—nurses, medics and midwives—had responded admirably to the initial crisis. While nothing would bring back the people killed in the attack, the 19 children with shrapnel wounds had been well cared for. Most had already been released.

Something unexpected, however, awaited us inside the humble one-room dispensary, something that made Dr. Coffey realize at once why he'd flown from Montgomery, Ala. to a mud-brick clinic in central Sudan.

There, in the dimly lit lime-washed room, on a gurney, was a 17-year-old Nuba soldier who had been shot days before in a fire-fight with pro-government militiamen.

"I could see right away," Dr. Coffey related later, "that the boy was in critical condition." With the clinic's physician out of the country, surgery had been performed by a nurse, with a midwife standing in as anesthesiologist. They had done what they could.
The bullet had punctured the bowel and was still lodged in the pelvic bone. Peritonitis had set in. "Frankly," said Dr. Coffey, "I didn't think he'd make it."

Realizing that the staff needed to act fast, Dr. Coffey began giving directions. He administered antibiotics and got the patient on IV fluids.

As Dr. Coffey tried to stabilize the youth's condition, others went to work securing permits for the soldier's admission to Red Cross facilities on the Sudanese-Kenyan border.

No one doubted that it was a critical moment. Moving the boy at this point was out of the question, the doctor said. Would his condition improve sufficiently for him to travel to a proper surgical theater? Would he survive if it didn't?

After a fitful night of jet-lagged sleep in a Nuba tukul (thatched hut), Dr. Coffey sped with one of Bishop Gassis's young priests, Father Abraham, on a much-abused motorcycle over narrow mountain paths to the dispensary to see his newest patient. The doctor later confided that, African wildlife and war jitters notwithstanding, the whizzing bike ride "was the single most terrifying experience I had in the Nuba Mountains."

Better news awaited him in the dispensary: the boy-soldier had responded to treatment and would be able to travel soon. Last reports indicate that he is doing well and back in his village, thanks to the workings of a mysterious and tragic chain of events that - unaccountably - placed a big-hearted American physician in his path.

"You mean you haven't had enough adventures in Bosnia?" Father Daniel Gambet exclaims when he hears about the Sudan mission, the latest chapter in the Dr. David Coffey saga.

Father Gambet, longtime president of Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, has known the good doctor since Dr. Coffey was a student at the Oblates seminary in Childs, Md.

About his friend's humanitarian impulses, the priest says, "Oh, David's adventuresome all right. But there's a lot more to it than that. One of the things David really took to heart from his years in the novitiate was the notion that if God has given you gifts, you give those gifts back to those to whom they've not been given.

"David wants to see situations for himself, to touch people directly, and to be challenged by them," adds Father Gambet.

When confronted with the question of why he does what he does, Dr. Coffey replies with a wry smile.

"I go because I'm asked."

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF SUDAN, CONTACT:**

**SUDAN RELIEF & RESCUE, INC., P.O. BOX 1877, WASHINGTON, DC, 20013-1877; (703) 533-3042; FAX: (703) 532-2940; E-MAIL: SUDAN@PETERSVOICE.COM; WEBSITE: WWW.PETERSVOICE.COM.**

Gabriel Meyer is an award-winning journalist, poet and novelist. He is the script-writer and narrator for a new feature-length documentary on Bishop Gassis, "The Hidden Gift: War & Faith in Sudan." He has been reporting on the plight of the Nuba people since 1998, and traveled to the Nuba Mountains last February with Dr. Coffey.

Sudan photography by James Nichols, a fine arts photographer based in San Francisco.
Viva la Follies

A PCOM tradition still going strong

First "The Christmas Show," then "Flounders Day Follies" and now just plain "Follies" - the name has changed but the concept hasn't been tampered with for five decades: parody the College faculty and administration, policies and practices, no holds barred. No one is safe from the satirical pen of the students, who write, direct and produce the show themselves.

A mix of skits and musical and dance numbers, the show has been a big part of student life since the 1950s. That's when students started an annual Christmas Show in the College's 48th Street auditorium. The show was held in conjunction with a Christmas party in the hospital for patients and the community, complete with Santa Claus and presents. A precursor to the Christmas Show may have been the song and dance performances popular at the College in the '20s and '30s. The Christmas Show evolved into the Flounders Day Follies (eventually "Follies"), which debuted in January 1980. So, on the 20th anniversary of the "Follies," we offer a look at the Follies 2000, on-stage and off, as well as a glimpse of past shows.

1925

At the piano, PCOM student Sydney M. Kanev (Class of '25), conductor of the College orchestra, leads classmates in a sing-along. The performing arts of song and dance flourished at the College in the '20s and '30s.

mid-50s

Drs. Flaherty and Gilligan entertain at the Christmas Show circa 1954.
Happy that the show was a rousing success are the executive producers, left to right, Brian Obst, Ryan Clouser and Heather Wilkinson, all Class of '02. According to Obst, the show is run mostly by second-year students, with a few first-year “apprentices” who will produce the next year’s "Follies." His advice to future producers: “Have thick skin.” Clouser had a different experience: “I had a panic attack the day before the show. I wanted to change some quotes in the ‘PCOM News’ segment — I thought we were going to get kicked out of school.”

Far left: Seeing Robert Fogel, DO, '58, chairman and professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology, rap was alone worth the price of admission.

Performing a number in the "PCOME Music Awards" segment are, left to right, Wendis Santana, PCOME '03; Tochi Okeowula, PCOME '03; Gayle Smith, PCOME '03; Rachel Koch, PCOME '03 and Suzi Temple, PCOME '02.
Viva la Follies

Robert Meals, DO, '56, academic chairman of undergraduate radiology, makes an appearance with his bag of tricks.

Above: Backstage, Thersea McGullough, PCOM '02, tries to put lipstick on Brett Smith, PCOM '02.

1971
One of the highlights of the 1971 Christmas Show was the “Enema song,” sung to the tune of “There’s nothing like a dame” from South Pacific.

1980
Program from the January 1980 “Flounders Day Follies.” This show replaced the customary student Christmas Show.
Jon Kauz, PCOM '02, left, plays a crazed maniac in a skit poking fun at security at PCOM. Playing the security officers are Bill Leach, PCOM '02, left, and Joe Zienkiewicz, PCOM '02. In the skit, the maniac, a band of terrorists with dynamite and others can get by the officers as long as they have a PCOM ID.

Dan Terpstra, PCOM '02, left, and Bret Smith, PCOM '02, play anchors for the "PCOM News" segment, a skit that got a lot of laughs. PCOM's own "chunk model" is Bill Leach, PCOM '02.

Dan Terpstra, PCOM '02, left, and Steve DeLuca, PCOM '02, prepare backstage for the "PCOM Cheerleaders" skit.

1984
At the 1984 Follies, the usual mixed bag of characters entertained the crowd.

1990
Students perform a musical number at the 1990 Follies.
Sunny weather brings everyone back for Alumni Weekend

The beaming sun of June 9 was the perfect weather to kick off PCOM's Alumni Weekend. The festivities, charged with a new feeling of excitement, were a revamped version of January's Founders Day/Alumni Weekend.

The weekend was jam-packed with events and activities for everyone to enjoy. There was a campus barbecue, fun night at Dave & Buster's on the waterfront, campus tours, CMEs and a sumptuous dinner-dance.

Over 225 PCOM alumni and their families from as recently as the Class of 1998 to as far back as the Class of 1925 (Ellen M. Crosley, DO) came out for the fun-filled weekend. During the celebration of PCOM's past, present and future, a special nod of recognition was given to the Class of 1950 for its 50-year reunion.

Ellen M. Crosley, DO, '25, and PCOM President Leonard H. Finkelson, DO, '59, enjoy the barbecue. (Sadly, Dr. Crosley died Sept. 2. See obituary on page 33.)

76ers mascot Hip Hop and Pearlz Hobson pal around as dad John Hobson, MD, husband of Michelle Hobson, DO, '80, looks on.
The Class of 1950 held its 50-year reunion at Alumni Weekend. Back, left to right, are Clare W. Elliott, DO, Abraham Thaler, DO, Alfred L. Green, DO, Milton Canter, DO, Charles F. Brenninger, DO and Ralph W. Flint Jr., DO. Front, left to right, are Sidney Simon, DO, Aaron Kuptow, DO, Murray Schreiber, DO and Herman Romen, DO.

SAVE THE DATE!

Next year's ALUMNI WEEKEND will be June 1-3, 2001.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

The following alumni were honored at the dinner-dance:

Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, '59, PCOM president:
O.J. SNYDER MEMORIAL MEDAL

Robert S. Maurer, DO, '62, Alumni board member:
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATE OF HONOR

Edward H. “Ned” Ridings, DO, '76, Clinical instructor of general surgery:
AFFILIATED TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Alison Leff, DO, '00:
MASON W. PRESSLY MEMORIAL MEDAL

Members of the class of 1990 get silly at the dinner-dance. Back, left to right, are Seth R. Bernard, DO, Mark R. Harris, DO and Joanne Goshou-Harris, DO. Front, left to right, are Robert P. Finkelstein, DO, Karen P. Malamut, DO, Colette J. Feeney-Bellwoor, DO and Jon R. Henwood, DO.

Shooting for fun at Dave & Buster's are, left to right, Joan Taveau, her husband, H. Sprague Taveau, IV, DO, '77, alumni board member; Diane Taveau and her husband Jon Taveau, PCOM '02.
Class Acts

50s

David A. Patriquin, DO, ’56, West Dummerston, Vt., co-authored an article in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association titled “Increasing osteopathic manipulative treatment skills and confidence through mastery learning.”

James E. Xanthopoulos, DO, ’57, Lewistown, Pa., was certified as a medical review officer by the Medical Officer Certification Council.

Richard A. Kiszonas, DO, ’58, Miami, Fla., was the recipient of the “Dr. Sara E. Howell Award” for outstanding caregiving presented by Ira Clark, President, Jackson Memorial Hospital on behalf of the Women’s Cancer League and Partners.

60s

Harvey M. Spector, DO, ’63, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., was elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society.

Ronald Cowen, DO, ’66, St. Davids, Pa., was appointed to the Credentialing Committee at Keystone Mercy Health Plan.

Joseph Kessler, DO, ’68, New York, NY, participated in a poster presentation during the First TransAtlantic Geriatric Meeting in Paris, France, titled “Model of care: the orthopaedic-geriatric interdisciplinary team approach to the geriatric hip fracture patient.” Additionally, he presented a paper on the same topic at the First World Conference on Jewish Services for the Elderly, held in Jerusalem, Israel.

70s

Alan R. Kunkel, DO, ’72, Virginia Beach, Va., joined Roosevelt Family Practice and Internal Medicine.

James A. McLaughlin, DO, ’74, Arlington, Texas, received a certificate for 10 years of service from the House of Delegates of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association.

Captain Glenn N. Wagner, DO, ’74, Washington, DC, was presented with the “Joint Meritorious Unit Award” for the unit he directs, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP). For more than 138 years, the AFIP has provided the US armed forces and the American public with quality service and expertise in pathology consultation, education and research in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine.

Anthony E. Niescier, DO, ’75, Lower Gwynedd, Pa., was elected to the board of directors of Mercy Suburban Hospital.

Antoinette C. Kruc, DO, ’77, Philadelphia, Pa., recently retired.

William F. Murphy, DO, ’79, Sarasota, Fla., joined Healthcare America in Bradenton, Fla.

Millicent G. Zacher, DO, ’79, Rosemont, Pa., was appointed director of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Albert Einstein Medical Center.

80s

Robert A. Skotnicki, DO, ’80, Harrisburg, Pa., was elected a fellow of the American Society for Coronary Angiography and Intervention. Also, he passed the American Society of Echocardiography’s exam of special competency in adult echocardiography.

Mark T. DiMarcangelo, DO, ’82, Cherry Hill, NJ, co-authored an article in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association titled “Use of magnetic resonance imaging to diagnose common wrist disorders.”

Gustav R. Eles, DO, ’82, Sewickley, Pa., was appointed director of the Peripheral Vascular Center at St. Francis Hospital in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Col. Daniel F. Battafarano, DO, ’83, San Antonio, Texas, was appointed director of medical education at Brooke Army Medical Center with oversight of graduate medical education and allied health training. He most recently served as chief, department of medical science at the Academy of Health Sciences, where he was responsible for 11 US Army allied health science programs.

Louis A. DiToppa, DO, ’83, North Huntingdon, Pa., was elected secretary/treasurer of the medical/dental staff of UPMC McKeesport for the 2000–2001 term.

Kevin B. Gerold, DO, ’83, Baltimore, Md., received his juris doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Dennis L. Gilbert, DO, ’85, Elizabethtown, Pa., was appointed to the medical advisory board of the Association of Boxing Commissions. Dr. Gilbert is also chairman of the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission Medical Advisory Board.

Hal London, DO, ’87, Warner Robins, Ga., was appointed regional medical director for PhyAmerica Physician Services.

Marianne Santioni, DO, ’88, Old Forge, Pa., was appointed regional medical director for outpatient rehabilitation at Riverside Rehabilitation Center.

George M. Hudson, DO, ’89, Orlando, Fla., was appointed chairman, department of family medicine at Florida Hospital East Orlando.
Carolyn G. Ryan, DO, '89, Jamison, Pa., joined the department of family practice at Doylestown Hospital.

90s

Asit P. Upadhyay, DO, '91, Camden Wyoming, Del., joined the medical staff at Bayhealth-Kent General Hospital.

David T. Williams, DO, '91, Hollywood, Fla., served as a medical operations physician for the Mir - Shuttle Phase 1 Program in Star City, Russia. His duties included developing a medical support plan for NASA personnel in Russia; assisting in medical monitoring of astronaut training in underwater spacewalk training and decompression chamber exercises; and training astronauts and cosmonauts in ACLS and in the use of emergency medical equipment and procedures aboard Mir station. Dr. Williams serves as chief of emergency medicine at Hollywood Medical Center, Hollywood, Fla.

Robert A. DeColli, Jr., DO, '92, Portville, Pa., passed the North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology competency test in pacemakers and ICDs. Dr. DeColli is the only physician in Schuyler County with this designation.

Craig A. Manifold, DO, '93, San Antonio, Texas, received the "Admiral Eske Research Symposium Award" from the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Cecil B. Akiwumi, DO, '94, Jamaica, NY, was board certified in family practice and joined Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. (Our apologies for the incorrect name in a previous issue.)

Paul Tomczykowski, DO, '94, Lawton, Okla., received the U.S. Army's "Outstanding Pediatrician of the Year Award" for the Military Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP Chapter East.

Mark Radziewicz, DO, '95, Conyngham, Pa., was promoted to senior physician at the Geisinger Medical Group, Mountaintop.

David B. Burmeister, DO, '96, Philadelphia, Pa., was honored as the second place resident presenter in the CPC Competition, sponsored by the Research Committee of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Timothy J. Hoffman, DO, '96, Towanda, Pa., was featured in an article in the Daily Review titled "A man adds human face to family medicine."

Kevin F. Rodowicz, DO, '96, Ivyland, Pa., joined North Whitehall Family Practice.

Certificates of Merit awarded

PCOM's Alumni Association board of directors awarded the following alumni "Certificates of Merit" for outstanding achievement in osteopathic medicine:

Suzanne K. Kelley, DO, '77, Harrisburg, Pa., who was installed as president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association for 2000-2001.

Ruth E. Purdy, DO, '50, Columbus, Ohio, who received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Central Ohio Diabetes Association.

Saul E. Schreiber, DO, '80, Las Vegas, Nev., who was installed as president of the Nevada Osteopathic Medical Association.

William M. Silverman, DO, '76, Maitland, Fla., who was installed as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.

The following alumni received "Certificates of Merit" for being inducted as fellows of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons:

Albert S. Heyman, DO, '45, Woodmere, NY
Bruce B. Frantz, DO, '79, York, Pa.
Robert L. Green, DO, '82, Harrisburg, Pa.

In Memoriam

Roderick C. Cannatella, DO, '54, Lindenwold, NJ, June 16.


Joseph J. Conti, DO, former faculty member, Sharpsville, Pa., April 14.


Joseph E. Makant, Jr., DO, '56, Tallahassee, Fla., April 19.

Dwight A. Siles, DO, '38, Phoenix, Ariz., June 10.

Herman Zehringer, DO, '37, Kenmore, NY, Jan. 30. (We apologize for the incorrect name in the last issue.)


Ellen M. Crosley, DO, '25, dies

Ellen M. Crosley, DO, '25, age 98, died of heart failure Sept. 2. She spent her entire career at the Erdman Clinic in Havertown, Pa., which provides therapy for circulatory disorders. She retired in 1982 after practicing there for more than 55 years. Dr. Crosley lived at Presbyterian Village in Rosemont, Pa. and previously resided in Doylestown, Pa.
"Do you know any feminists?"

I was shocked by the question from my family medicine preceptor, and as a third-year medical student with her grade in his hands, I had to consider my response carefully. "Yes," I replied, hoping not to reveal just how many feminists I knew, including myself, or how and why I had come to know them.

I was surprised that even this noncommittal response seemed able to shock him. He explained that he had asked several of his previous female medical students the same question, and all had replied that they did not know any feminists. Those students, I thought, had ignored the paradox of being women in the male-dominated realm of medicine and yet denying that women's rights had allowed them to get this far.

But I withheld my opinion. I had, after all, both enjoyed and done well on this clerkship, and I was hesitant to jeopardize my standing. I already knew that my preceptor was conservative; the scattered comments about Rush Limbaugh and photocopied articles on Dr. Laura's anti-choice position had given that away. So, I had kept my political views and actions a secret, afraid, based on previous experiences, that they would affect the teacher/student relationship.

At this point, I could only hope that the conversation would stop. Instead, fueled by the possibility of debate, my teacher continued.

The questions he asked were pointed and difficult to respond to with a simple "yes" or "no." Finally, that which I feared most was revealed: I was pro-choice and had worked toward reproductive rights through various organizations. He, on the other hand, was a member of the Christian Coalition.

What had I done? Why couldn't I have just kept my mouth shut? Half expected him to tell me that I could no longer examine female patients because my views might unduly influence them as I placed my stethoscope on their hearts. Instead, however, the day continued as usual, and I felt I had somehow avoided this potentially volatile debate.

Several days went by with no more discussion, and I entered the office on the last day of my clerkship with a confident air, certain that I had indeed passed.

"So, how does abortion help women?" was my preceptor's greeting. Not "good morning" or "so this is your last day." I realized then that instead of forgetting about our conversation, he had been fueling up with facts and figures to dare me to convert me to his point of view. Knowing there was no way out, I briefly considered faking a heart attack. Medical school had, after all, taught me the classic signs and symptoms.

Instead, however, I answered him. I even had statistics to back myself up, based on an extensive research paper I had written on the abortion trends in Pennsylvania over the past 25 years. I answered each question he proposed and countered each point. I didn't lose my temper or my patience, even when he suggested that today's current shortage of women in China was the fault of abortion, rather than an inevitable outcome of overpopulation in a society that places greater value on males.

I was surprised with my boldness and refusal to temper my opinions. I guess I figured I had already failed the clerkship and didn't really have anything left to lose.

Our conversation continued as we examined patients, into lunch and throughout the rest of the day. Then came time for my evaluation, and my preceptor was able to surprise me yet again.

My teacher thanked me for my frankness and honesty in discussing my political views. "After all," he said, "it's not as though I would fail you for disagreeing with me politically." He proceeded to provide me with an extremely flattering evaluation of my work over the past month, and he even asked if I would update him with my experiences and career decisions. After ignoring the cynic within me, I realized that he was genuine in his interest and had actually enjoyed our debate. More surprising was my realization that I had enjoyed the debate as well. Well, that, and the fact that I had passed the clerkship with honors.

Readers: We welcome essays that would be of interest to the PCOM community. Please submit ideas or essays to Chris Dorian, Digest Editor, fax: (215) 871-6307; e-mail: chrisdo@pcom.edu; PCOM Communications & Design Dept., 4180 City Ave., Phila., Pa., 19131.
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Thank you,
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**COMING EVENTS**

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<td>American Osteopathic Association Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, Orlando, Fla.</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
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