STEEPING BOLDLY into the 21st century
STRATEGIC PLAN GIVES PCOM EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Here at PCOM, it was anything but quiet. With our Strategic Plan finalized, the College community has been busy starting to implement 10 goals from the plan that were identified as the highest priority. The goals range from academic items such as instituting competency-based assessment tools to more global items such as creating new partnerships with educational, research and health care institutions to expand and strengthen PCOM.

Although it’s only the beginning, reaching this point with the Strategic Plan took an incredible effort from all areas of the College – students, alumni, faculty, staff, administration and the board of trustees. I can’t emphasize enough how proud I am of the teamwork I’ve witnessed over the past 18 months. Everyone truly worked together for one common purpose: to plan the future of the College and ensure its success, and I extend my deepest appreciation.

Our cover story on the Strategic Plan will give you more details about where PCOM is heading and why. I hope you enjoy reading it, and, as always, I welcome your feedback.

In this issue we also feature the important research of professor Kerin Fresa-Dillon, PhD, who is studying the impact of aging on the immune response. We also profile two extraordinary alumni who should be an inspiration to all of us: George S. Robinson, DO ’32, who, at age 100, shows no signs of slowing down, and anesthesiologist Daniel D. Wert, Jr., DO ’77, who is spending his retirement volunteering his services to poor children in need of surgery in developing countries.

I thank you for your continued interest in and support of your College.

Sincerely,

Matthew Schure, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Alumnus Marks 100th Birthday
George Sutherland Robinson, DO ’32, recounts his fascinating life as a farmer and an osteopathic physician.

Cover Story
College Moves Forward with Strategic Plan
PCOM President Matthew Schure, PhD, discusses implementation of 10 strategic goals that will ensure PCOM’s continued growth and success in a health care world that continues to change dramatically.

Aging and the Immune Response
Researchers in PCOM’s pathology, microbiology and immunology department study how aging affects the body’s ability to fight infection.

DEPARTMENTS

PCOM Updates
College celebrates Alumni Weekend and Commencement; VIPs help mark completion of new PCOM Healthcare Center – Lancaster Avenue Division; PCOM adds new program in school psychology; Ida Schmidt, DO ’35, is featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Class Notes
Daniel D. Wert, Jr., DO ’77, gives children in developing nations a reason to smile.

Essay
A patient recounts how OMM – and a PCOM alumnus – changed her life.
CLASS OF 2002 CELEBRATES COMMENCEMENT

PCOM held its 111th Commencement at the beautiful new Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia on June 2. The College conferred 248 doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees. In addition to the DO degree, 13 graduates earned a Master of Business Administration degree from St. Joseph’s University and two graduates earned a Master of Public Health degree from Temple University in PCOM’s combined degree programs.

Robert J. Niewenhuis, PhD, left, and Thomas F. A. Powell, DO ’56, were each named professor emeritus. Dr. Niewenhuis joined the faculty as professor of anatomy in 1984. He served as vice chairman of the department of anatomy and director of the gross anatomy course. Dr. Powell, a board certified general surgeon, shared his knowledge and skills with PCOM students during his 30-year tenure as a clinical professor of surgery.

William H. Gray, III, president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, delivered the commencement address. Prior to his selection as president of UNCF, Gray served in the U.S. Congress and was a staunch supporter of education. As chairman of the Democratic Caucus and later as Majority Whip, Gray was the highest-ranking African American ever to serve in Congress.
ALUMNI WEEKEND BOASTS LARGE TURNOUT

PCOM’s Alumni Weekend is catching on as a fun “homecoming” for alumni to reacquaint themselves with the College and the city, as evidenced by the turnout this year. At the main event on Saturday night, 370 people dined and danced the night away at the luxurious Ritz-Carlton.

On Friday night, guests enjoyed an Alumni Reception at the beautiful Omni Hotel in Philadelphia’s historic district. Afterwards, alumni were swept up in the American Revolution with the outdoor “Lights of Liberty” show and walking tour, which proved so popular another show had to be added.

Saturday’s campus barbecue was perfect for families, with plenty of traditional summertime food and a carnival atmosphere complete with clowns and games. And for the first time, events were held on Sunday: the day started with an elegant brunch at the Union League, followed by a trolley tour of the city’s historical landmarks.

Also for the first time this year, each reunion class was represented by a “class agent” whose job was two-fold: to generate enthusiasm for reunion weekend and to generate financial support for the College. Special congratulations goes to the Class of 1962 for its top giving of $82,530 this year, and to the Class of 1952 for its 52 percent participation.

You won’t want to miss next year’s Alumni Weekend, so mark your calendar now for May 30 – June 1, 2003!

Sidney Malet, DO ’52, presents to Florence D. Zeller, MPA, CFRE, vice president for alumni relations and development, a gift to PCOM from his class. Dr. Malet serves as the class agent for the Class of ’52.

Alumni families enjoyed the food and fun activities at the campus barbecue. Left to right are Dennis P. McHugh, DO ’96, D. Patrick McHugh, Jr., Alexandra McHugh and Terri (White) McHugh, DO ’96.
Celebrating the ribbon-cutting are (from left) Matthew Schure, PhD, president, PCOM; John Domzalski, city health commissioner; Philadelphia City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell; Izola David, DO ’85, director, PCOM Healthcare Center – Lancaster Avenue Division, and Pennsylvania State Representative Michael Horsey.

The College marked the completion of PCOM Healthcare Center – Lancaster Avenue Division with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 24. The Center underwent a $3 million expansion and renovation during the last year and a half made possible, in part, by an $836,000 federal grant acquired with the help of U.S. Senator Rick Santorum.

During the renovation, 21 blighted buildings were removed from the area and improved street lighting was installed. Helping to make this possible was Philadelphia City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, who has been steadfast in her support of the healthcare center, and Congressman Chaka Fattah.

In addition to Councilwoman Blackwell, City Health Commissioner John Domzalski, Pennsylvania State Representative Michael Horsey and representatives from State Senator Vincent Hughes’s and Congressman Chaka Fattah’s offices attended the ceremony. Also on hand was Gloria Guard, executive director, People’s Emergency Center (PEC). Guard and PEC play an active role in working to revitalize this West Philadelphia community.

The healthcare center now includes 13 exam rooms and two minor procedure rooms. Services include family medicine, dermatology, rheumatology, pediatric care, nephrology, osteopathic manipulative medicine, podiatry, psychology and child health monitoring for WIC participants.

Go online and tell us! Visit the alumni and friends Web page at www.pcom.edu to see the latest news and to tell us yours.
Peter Adler-Michaelson, DO ’81, was selected for inclusion in Who’s Who for Business Professionals and Executives for 2002-2003. In addition, Dr. Adler-Michaelson was chosen by the Class of 2005 as one of the 2001-2002 Teachers of the Year.

Dr. Adler-Michaelson, Alexander Nicholas, DO ’75, chairman, osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) and the OMM department hosted 25 European physicians for a week in May. “The physicians were here to experience osteopathy in a true clinical setting,” explains Dr. Adler-Michaelson. “They had a great time and all felt they had profited from the week.”

Farzaneh Daghigh, PhD, assistant professor, biochemistry and molecular biology, authored the article “Human gingival fibroblasts produce nitric oxide in response to proinflammatory cytokines” published in the Journal of Periodontology, April 2002. Co-authors were Ruth C. Borghei, PhD, associate professor, biochemistry and molecular biology; Ruth D. Thornton, PhD, professor and chair, biochemistry and molecular biology and Joseph H. Bee (DO ’05).

Arthur Freeman, EdD, professor and chairman, psychology, was board certified by the American Board of Family Psychology. Dr. Freeman also holds board certifications from the American Board of Clinical Psychology and the American Board of Behavioral Psychology. He was also recently quoted in the article “Get ready for attack of sexy clones,” published in the Philadelphia Daily News.

Michael Huber, MMS, PA-C, assistant professor/assistant chair, physician assistant studies, received the Student Academy President’s Award from the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in May. This prestigious national award honors a physician assistant who has demonstrated exemplary service to physician assistant students and has furthered the leadership, educational or professional development of PA students.

Alexander I. Kiotis, DO ’82, was named Affiliated Teacher of the Year. A clinical assistant professor, he works with students in his Upper Darby family practice office and during rounds at Delaware County Memorial Hospital, where he is chief of geriatrics.

Ruth D. Thornton, PhD, professor and chair, biochemistry and molecular biology, was named chair of the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Committee.

Herbert Lotman, chairman, PCOM board of trustees, was awarded the Robert P. Casey Medal for Commitment to Independent Higher Education by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). This award is given to individuals who work in areas outside the academic field, yet have contributed their time and talent to strengthen independent institutions in an especially meaningful way. Lotman is chairman and CEO of Keystone Foods, L.L.C.

PCOM has been a major beneficiary of Lotman’s extraordinary expertise in business management and fiscal oversight. Since his election as PCOM’s board chairman 10 years ago, Lotman has led the College from economic challenge to unprecedented growth.

Dr. Schure, right, presents Herbert Lotman with the Robert P. Casey Medal at the annual AICUP meeting. (photo courtesy of Rev. Nicholas S. Rashford, SJ, President of St. Joseph’s University)

The Lotmans’ son-in-law is also a PCOM alumnus.

The Lotmans’ philanthropy allowed for the renovation of the College’s Levin Administration Building, named in honor of Karen Lotman’s family, and for the creation of the Gertrude and Samuel Lotman Lobby in memory of Herbert Lotman’s parents.
NEWSWORTHY

Ida Schmidt, DO ’35, was featured in an article published in The Philadelphia Inquirer. The article defines the qualities that make Dr. Schmidt remarkable, including: that at 90, she’s practiced medicine for 67 years and has no intention of retiring; that despite her own physical limitations (and a recently fractured rib), she still heals others; and that a 45-minute appointment costing only $74 causes patients to declare “she’s just an angel that we all lean on.” The facts that she still teaches, works five days a week, can name every muscle and bone in your body and can adjust all 26 bones in your foot with six manipulations were not overlooked. Dr. Schmidt was featured in Digest No. 2, 2002.

MEET THE PRESIDENT

Matthew Schure, PhD, president and CEO, and Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, dean and vice president of academic affairs, traveled to Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Altoona to meet with alumni to exchange information and ideas about PCOM. Drs. Schure and Veit discussed the Strategic Plan and the general state of the College, while alumni shared their hopes for the school’s future. Florence D. Zeller, MPA, CRFE, vice president, alumni relations and development, was also on hand to talk with alumni. This was the first in what will be a continuing series of “Meet the President” receptions.

OPEN MIKE NIGHT

Now an end-of-academic year tradition at PCOM, Open Mike Night was held at the Grape Street Pub in Manayunk in April. Students and staff alike took to the stage to raise funds for the J.D. Kearney Memorial Scholarship, established by the Kearney family in memory of John D. Kearney, a Class of 2001 DO student who died in a hiking accident during his first year at PCOM.
HEALTHCARE CENTERS HOLD NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH FAIRS

Each of PCOM’s four Philadelphia-based healthcare centers co-sponsored health fairs with the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile this spring. Students from local elementary schools visited the healthcare centers for dental and health screenings, games, giveaways and refreshments. Even the 76ers’ mascot, Hip-Hop, joined in the fun at PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division and PCOM Healthcare Center – City Avenue Division.

“I am extremely proud of the work each of the managers put into making the health fairs a success,” says Mary Marker-Kraus, director, healthcare center administration. “We had over 360 children come to our sites for basic physicals that were given either in the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile or at the health care center. We’ve already begun to plan our second annual community health fairs, which we hope we can open to the whole family. My thanks also go out to the many pharmaceutical companies, health care partners and vendors who contributed so generously to our fairs.”

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GET A MEDICAL EDUCATION

In keeping with tradition, first- and second-year DO students coordinated a health fair at West Philadelphia High School in April. The tradition originated with West Philly High School alumnus and former PCOM president Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO ’59. “I thought this would be a good way to give back to the school that gave me so much,” says Dr. Finkelstein.

This year’s fair was coordinated by Thomas L. Zickgraf, (DO ’04), president of the Public Health Club, and Stacey Franz, (DO ’04), president of the Sports Medicine Club. “The health fair is a great educational opportunity for both the high school and the PCOM students,” explains Zickgraf. “It gives first-year students the opportunity to get involved with community service, and it also gives us practice with some basic skills like taking a pulse and blood pressure.”

PCOM students also held informational sessions about nutrition, substance abuse, domestic and gang violence, and the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases. Representatives from PCOM’s Admissions Office were also on hand to talk with students considering a career in health care.
PCOM's Department of Psychology has added a PsyD program in school psychology to its roster of offerings. The PsyD in school psychology is an innovative, applied professional psychology program designed for working school psychologists. It builds on the advanced training and experience of the certified school psychologist. The mission of the program is to prepare professionals who will be leaders in psycho-educational and mental health services to children, youth and families. The curriculum provides students with the knowledge and skills to further their career as a school psychologist, practice in a variety of settings and be prepared for eligibility for national certification and Pennsylvania licensure.

The overall design of the graduate program is guided by the standards for training in school psychology set forth by the National Association of School Psychologists. The training will provide a comprehensive, integrated, state-of-the-art program of study involving a minimum of 48 credits of coursework. This will include well-supervised field experiences and a research dissertation/project. The program includes a specialty track in cognitive-behavioral therapy with children and adolescents.

The first class will enter the program in fall 2002 under the program directorship of Rosemary B. Mennuti, EdD, NCSP.

Michael F. Avallone, Sr., DO '59, left, talks with Scott Righter, major gifts officer, alumni relations and development, at the annual POMA convention. The event was held May 1-3 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia. PCOM welcomed a record number of alumni at its booth and was honored as Ernest R. Gelb, DO '78, was elected POMA president.
TORT REFORM LEGISLATION SIGNED

David Kuo, DO ’96, medical director, PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Division (standing, second from right), was on hand as Governor Mark S. Schweiker (seated, center) signed House Bill 1802 at the College of Physicians in Philadelphia on March 20. The bill, designed to reform medical professional liability, may reduce medical malpractice premiums by up to 40 percent while providing for patient safety and reporting.

Dr. Kuo is vice chairman of the Young Physicians Section of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. With Governor Schweiker are M. Diane Koken (seated, left), insurance commissioner, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Surgeon General Robert S. Muscalus, DO ’83 (seated, right) and members of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

DIGEST SURVEY RESULTS

PCOM contracted with the Melior Group, a Philadelphia-based market research firm, to study alumni reactions to Digest. Senior researchers conducted in-depth interviews with PCOM alumni to learn the strengths, weaknesses and value of the publication. Following are some key findings from the research.

• Digest is appreciated primarily as a way for alumni to keep up with PCOM and to stay connected to the school. Those interviewed were less interested in general articles related to medicine. “I get enough medical articles from other sources….I read it for information about the school itself,” were typical sentiments expressed.
• Digest has been successful at conveying recent developments at PCOM.
• Readers assess the magazine overall as “excellent, professional looking, well written and attractive.”
• Readers typically turn to Class Notes first and then either read or skim the entire magazine from cover to cover.
• The only criticism concerning Digest was the question, “Why am I not in it/asked to be in it?” Well, we’re asking. Send us your news, personal and professional accomplishments, and we’ll add you to Class Notes, the most well-read section of the magazine. Just fill out the Class Notes card in this issue and send it in or e-mail your news to Madeline Law at madelinela@pcom.edu.

97% of those interviewed rated Digest as “excellent” or “good.”
Imagine you graduated from PCOM some 70 years ago, when the College, then known as PCO, was located at 48th and Spruce Streets.

Imagine you graduated from high school in 1920 and prior to that, during World War I, when you were too young to fight, you were assigned by the government to live in a tent in an open field, work on a farm, six days a week, 10 hours a day, in a program known as the Federal Farm Boys Working Reserve. For this, you were paid $25 a month.

“Good things will come to you if you work hard. But don’t grab at the good things, that’s not the way.”

—George Sutherland Robinson, DO ’32
Imagine you later started a farming life, and when the only veterinarian within many miles died, you were forced to read books to learn the finer points about animal medicine – and to treat farmers’ livestock and pets over quite a distance.

There’s a lot more to imagine, but try just one more: imagine you did all of this, and much more, and you wouldn’t have to imagine much longer – because you’d be George Sutherland Robinson, DO ‘32, farmer, self-taught veterinarian, world-traveler, local government official, town health officer, state board of health officer, mechanic, fisherman, hunter, active member of the Masons, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, family physician – and as of July 13, 2002, a 100-year-old graduate of PCOM.

Dr. Robinson practiced osteopathic medicine from 1932 until 1978, the great majority of that time in Lynnfield, Mass. and Lynn, Mass., where for many years he charged $2 for an office visit and $3 for a house call, often not charging anything at all.

“In my practice, I handled everything that came down the pike,” he says in a matter-of-fact tone. “You’ve got to have character; you’ve got to be interested in patients, first,” he advises. “The money will take care of itself.

“We osteopathic physicians have a complete line of medicine and surgery, and osteopathic manipulation that nobody else has,” notes Dr. Robinson. “I used a lot of manipulation on patients over the years and I had to break my own back to have the opportunity to learn about it all. The younger physicians should mix in manipulation when it’s appropriate for patients,” he emphasizes. “It’s a good thing for us to maintain our identity.”

As a junior at Lynn English High School in Lynn, Mass., he tried to enlist to join the fighting in World War I. “They told me I was too young and they put me out on a farm for six months a year,” recalls Dr. Robinson. “We worked very hard, but morale among the boys was good; we knew we were doing what was needed of us.”

During his childhood, and on the farm, he learned an important lesson about life: “Good things will come to you if you work hard. But don’t grab at the good things, that’s not the way,” Dr. Robinson still advises.

In 1920, he graduated from high school and was accepted at Massachusetts Agricultural Institute, which later became the University of Massachusetts. He graduated in 1922 and traveled to Nova Scotia, where he put his farming background and education to use in apple orchards and strawberry fields.

Later, he moved back to Massachusetts and began farming a 60-acre parcel. “I bought five cows even though I didn’t know cows at all, and I began to learn about them,” notes Dr. Robinson. “I started hatching chickens, too. The farm kept growing; I eventually built it up to 24 cattle.”

When the only veterinarian in the region died, the young man with the flexible mind and strong work ethic did the only thing he could do – he studied animal anatomy and health care and began treating animals. By this time, the cows he didn’t know much about before were producing milk in volume, and the young farmer, along with three helpers, delivered 350 quarts a day to nearby homes.
As his interest grew in animal medicine, Dr. Robinson applied to and was accepted at the Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine. But before he entered his first year of veterinary school, the talented young man had a terrible accident, one that would spell out his future.

“I fractured two dorsal vertebrae and needed a bone graft,” Dr. Robinson explains. “I was told I’d be in a cast for six months and that I wouldn’t be able to work for a year, so school was put off.”

Interested in osteopathic medicine, he drove down to Philadelphia with his father to see PCO. He did some work to meet a few requirements and entered PCO, at age 26, in 1928. He interned at 48th and Spruce Streets and later moved back to Massachusetts, where he set up practice as a family physician.

“The way I was treated in school and in training was fantastic; that really stands out for me,” says a wistful Dr. Robinson. “These men were simply outstanding.”

He practiced osteopathic medicine in Lynn and Lynnfield until he retired in 1978, was the town health officer for 40 years and served on numerous town and state boards.

Dr. Robinson has been an active member of the Masons since joining the organization in January 1924. In 1994, he was elevated to the highest honor the Masons bestow upon members: the honorary title of 33rd degree Mason. While with the Masons, Dr. Robinson was chief surgeon at the Aleppo Shrine in the Boston area, where he was called upon to treat members there and also while traveling as a member of the organization.

Along the way, Dr. Robinson studied auto mechanics at Northeastern University in Boston, remained an extremely avid fisherman and hunter and traveled the world with his wife. “We’ve taken 19 cruises,” he recalls, including two to Alaska.

Through the years he’s bagged deer in various parts of the northeast, a moose in northern Quebec and a caribou in Newfoundland. He’s also hunted bear in New Hampshire and fished in the Great Northern Salmon Derby in Alaska, where in 1954 he won a prize of one cubic yard of poured concrete for his fishing prowess. He never did collect that prize.

“You’ve got to have character; you’ve got to be interested in patients, first. The money will take care of itself.”
— George Sutherland Robinson, DO ’32

An Osteopathic Role Model

It was then that he met an osteopathic physician named J. Harold Evers, DO. Dr. Evers, a professor at PCO, told the young man, “If I can’t help you, I won’t charge you.”

Dr. Evers did help him and was impressed by the bright and industrious nature of his new patient. He started to talk with him about osteopathic medicine and showed the young man that it was a complete form of medicine. “I remember telling him, ‘I didn’t know you did all of this; you really are fine medical men,’” recalls Dr. Robinson, fondly.

“A N O S T E O P A T H I C R O L E M O D E L

Dr. Robinson caught this Quebec red trout in the Canadian wilderness.

I’d be in a cast for six months and that I wouldn’t be able to work for a year, so school was put off.”
"A WONDERFUL GIRL"

At age 39, Dr. Robinson married Dorothy Lambert, 15 years his junior. They just celebrated their 62nd anniversary. “Before we were married I told her, ‘Well, at least you should be married to me for a good 25 years.’ I said this because I was older and who’d know how long I’d last? I was older when I fell in love, but I fell in a heap; no man has ever had such a wonderful girl,” says Dr. Robinson.

These days, Dr. Robinson is having some back pain from an accident in the spring that crushed two vertebrae. “He’s a good patient; he doesn’t complain,” says Dorothy Robinson. “He’s been having back trouble and we’re working on getting him taken care of,” she adds.

Still, Dr. Robinson takes the time to take a close look at the many changes he’s seen in medicine – and some things that haven’t changed. “It’s a different ball game today, a different feeling, but the patients still have the same problems – and they need help,” he says.

“Kids and some adults are still having problems with drugs,” he notes. “I remember one of my babies [patients who he delivered years earlier and still treated] came into my office, bellyaching, and I saw something and asked, ‘How long have you been using drugs?’ The kid admitted it right there and we got it straightened out,” he recalls. “I used to straighten out a lot of people on drugs. I’ll tell you, it’s easier to get them off drugs than off cigarettes,” he laments.

Dr. Robinson has lived a very lengthy and very productive life. He lives, today, by the same basic values that held him in good stead through his life. His advice is simple, but solid: “Behave yourself. Don’t be afraid of work. Work to get along with other people and never abuse them.”

Dr. and Mrs. Robinson have three children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Their second great grandchild, who was born recently, was named George Sutherland Robinson IV. If he grows up to be anything like his great grandfather, that’ll be something.

“He doesn’t complain.”
—Dorothy Lambert Robinson, speaking about her husband of 62 years

Dr. Robinson and his wife, Dorothy, recently celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary.
Over 103 years ago, two men met to plan the opening of an osteopathic medical school in Philadelphia. Their plans were simple, as was the world at the turn of the 20th century. When O.J. Snyder and Mason W. Pressly first opened the doors of the Philadelphia College and Infirmary of Osteopathy in two rooms of a center city Philadelphia office building, they taught four courses: anatomy, physiology, hygiene and osteopathic therapeutics. They could not have imagined how their school and the world of health care would change.
Nearly 101 years later in January 2001, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine held its first Strategic Planning Committee meeting to prepare for another new century. The committee’s mission? To harness the immense energy, innovation and heritage that exists on the PCOM campus and use it to fuel the growth of the College in its second century of operation. This time, the planning was far from simple. Instead of two people, the College’s Strategic Plan involved every member of the PCOM community – administration, employees, alumni, board, faculty, all graduate programs and student government.

Now just 18 months later, the College has begun implementing 10 strategic goals identified and prioritized by the Strategic Planning Committee with feedback from the entire College community provided through surveys and a series of town meetings.

“These strategic goals will ensure PCOM’s continued growth and success in a health care world that continues to change dramatically,” says PCOM President Matthew Schure, PhD. “I’m very proud of the outcome of our efforts but I’m equally proud of the process because this was a true community effort. Our goals flow logically from our SWOT [strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats] analysis, which involved all academic departments, student representatives and key College personnel.”

Now with plan implementation under way, the entire College community will continue to be involved. “The Strategic Plan has been developed from the perspective that all constituents of the campus community are customers,” explains Dr. Schure. “We constantly ask how we can provide services that enhance the quality of life for each of our constituent groups.

The teams appointed to implement each strategic goal have begun their work with continuous input from faculty, students, board members and administrators. The teams also welcome feedback from the Alumni Association, which has been developing its own strategic plan. “We hope the association’s plan maximizes its capacity to assist in the fulfillment of the College’s Strategic Plan,” says Dr. Schure.

**Five-year implementation**

The plan will be implemented over a five-year period rather than the three-year time frame originally planned, largely due to the nation’s recent economic downturn. “While dollar expenditures will increase significantly over the five-year implementation period, we anticipate that the revenue streams created by new programs will go up even more than the expenditures,” explains Dr. Schure. “As a result, we expect the plan to generate a net fiscal gain to the College by the end of the fifth year.”

**Competency-based assessment**

Dr. Schure believes one of the areas of greatest opportunity for PCOM involves student outcomes assessment.

“One of the questions health care practitioners always ask as they begin practice is ‘Am I ready?’ ” he notes. “To ensure that our graduates can answer ‘yes’ to that question, we are expanding the significant work we’ve been doing here on assessment of student learning outcomes. We’re moving to a competency-based assessment that includes all of the knowledge sets and behaviors that our faculty believes are critical to success in a particular field. It’s a significant shift from our current practice of normative assessment, but one that we believe is timely and compelling. We want every student to graduate with competency in every critical variable.”

**Strategic partnerships**

Another of PCOM’s greatest opportunities lies in strategic partnerships. “Because PCOM students have performed so outstandingly, there are a host of extraordinary institutions, both clinical and academic, that have reached out to us seeking affiliations,” explains Dr. Schure. “Knowledge is exploding today and, as a result, no institution can lay sole claim to expertise. So our capacity to partner with other institutions and create a whole bigger than the sum of its parts is enormously exciting.”

The College is looking first at hospital affiliations that will enhance the breadth and depth of clinical clerkship
opportunities and facilitate ever-greater quality graduate medical education choices for PCOM alumni.

PCOM is also seeking opportunities to collaborate with other osteopathic medical colleges. Work is already under way on a joint grant with the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in which video conferencing is used to reinforce osteopathic manipulative medicine skills among interns, residents and students located at various hospitals. The College may also partner with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine to develop joint curriculum materials and new delivery models.

Recently, PCOM participated in discussions with Peirce College in Philadelphia about the possibility of collaborating on joint degree programs. If approved, this would be added to the College’s existing joint degree programs with St. Joseph’s University, Temple University and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

PCOM is also discussing a potential research partnership with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey’s School of Osteopathic Medicine. “Where researchers there have access to a clinical pool of patients, we tend to work at the cellular level,” says Dr. Schure. “Combining efforts and seeking joint grant opportunities is a very exciting prospect for PCOM.”

Another of the College’s aspirations is to establish a branch campus in the South. “We envision partnering with an anchor undergraduate institution where we would share facilities and faculty,” Dr. Schure explains. “Some faculty members may go there from PCOM but primarily we plan to recruit individuals from the South who are committed to staying there. One of the reasons why we’re contemplating a branch campus in the South is because the areas we’re considering are medically underserved. This will help us to fulfill the community service aspect of our mission and strategic goals.”

Enhancing PCOM’s image

One of the College’s top goals is enhancing the image and awareness of the institution. “We have an enormous and illustrious history and our academic programs and faculty are terrific, but more people need to know about us and all that we offer,” emphasizes Dr. Schure. “To raise public awareness about the breadth of our offerings, we are considering the possibility of converting to a university model at an appropriate time. By doing so, we could generate school designations that would enable the academic program infrastructure to build a more recognizable identity. Using the university model, the Physician Assistant Studies faculty, for example, could identify themselves as members of the School of Physician Assistant Studies at PCOM.”

A media strategic plan to market PCOM’s academic degree and clinical programs and enhance the College’s image among its multiple constituencies is also part of the overall Strategic Plan.

PCOM alumni can expect to reap the benefits of image enhancement. “We will carry out our Strategic Plan with the highest level of excellence, enhancing academic quality and particularly expanding faculty,” states Dr. Schure. “Our PCOM alumni will feel prouder than ever to identify themselves as graduates of this institution.”

First-year expectations

During the first year of the plan, several new academic programs will be introduced. For the fall 2002 semester, a new doctoral program in school psychology will be offered, as well as a master’s program in forensic medicine. PCOM is also planning to launch a major continuing medical education initiative around integrative and holistic medicine. Plans for other new academic programs are still in discussion.

State-of-the-art robotics

During the coming year, the College’s academic programs also will be enhanced by the addition of state-of-the-art robotics technology in the Clinical Learning and Assessment Center. Recently, PCOM received a federal Health Resources and Services Administration grant of nearly $197,000 to purchase a human patient simulator system, the latest technology for training a wide range of clinicians. This advanced system features a (continued on page 18)
A look into the future . . .

While the following vignettes are fictitious, the activities described could become reality for PCOM students, faculty, staff and alumni with the implementation of PCOM’s Strategic Plan.

. . . of a PCOM student

Jane Bright is a fourth-year student in the School of Osteopathic Medicine at PCOM. Currently, she is on a clerkship at one of PCOM’s many new hospital affiliates. While she’s off campus, she keeps up with key lectures she’s missed by accessing videotapes of these lectures through the College’s digital library, available online via the Web. She also reinforces her osteopathic manipulative medicine skills by participating in video conferences made available through a joint grant shared by PCOM and another college of osteopathic medicine. In addition, she’s benefiting from distance learning opportunities with PCOM’s branch campus in the South.

Now she’s beginning to prepare for her pre-graduation competency-based assessment in the spring. She’s confident that she’ll do well, thanks to the individualized instruction program developed to help her meet all critical competencies needed for graduation. She has been offered an internship at a top-notch hospital because of the outstanding education she received at PCOM as well as the College’s strategic partnerships and excellent reputation.

. . . of a PCOM faculty member

Tim Trainer is a new faculty member, attracted to PCOM during the College’s national recruiting campaign. A native of New England with a highly respected career in the practice of medicine as well as teaching and research, he was motivated to move to PCOM when he heard about expanding research opportunities on campus as well as the College’s excellent national reputation.

In addition to teaching in the classroom, he leads students in research projects at PCOM’s new Center for the Study of Chronic Diseases of the Aging. A few days each week he also practices at PCOM healthcare centers, where he conducts part of his clinical research. Soon he’ll be participating in a new joint research study being conducted by PCOM and another school of osteopathic medicine. Lessons learned from these research activities become a vital part of his classroom lectures, which students greatly enjoy.

. . . of a PCOM staff member

As a member of PCOM’s new Student Affairs group, Hannah Helps works to ensure that every student’s needs are met. With all student services now provided by a single organizational unit, students enjoy “one-stop shopping,” getting what they need faster and more easily than ever before.

Hannah and her colleagues in Student Advisement, Student Life and the Activities Center work with PCOM’s many schools and departments to provide services. Yesterday Hannah and the Admissions Office conducted information sessions designed to provide students with a better understanding of scholarships and how to gain access to financial aid.

Today she is available to students in her office throughout the day for consultation on a variety of issues. Hannah finds it much easier to provide information to students in a timely manner, even when they are off campus, with PCOM’s new PRISM information management system. And with less paperwork to do, she has more time to interact with the students.

. . . of a PCOM alumnus

Andrew Alumnus, DO ’72, is on campus for the 2006 Founders’ Day celebration. He is thrilled to see so many new and distinguished faculty members on campus who he knows will enhance his alma mater’s already venerable reputation as a school for health care professionals. He is excited by PCOM’s many new hospital affiliations and strategic partnerships with other highly respected academic institutions.

Lately, an increasing number of his patients and medical colleagues have been commenting about PCOM’s research projects and other significant initiatives that they’ve heard or read about. “They’re really impressed when they find out that I’m an alumnus!” says Andrew.

A fan of the Internet, Andrew appreciates the ease of making his annual donation to the College online with the help of PRISM. He also uses PRISM to find information about his fellow alumni so he can stay in touch.

He first found out about today’s Founders’ Day plans by accessing the College’s database via the Web. Andrew notes, “Web-based information is a great way to keep alumni connected!”
computer-driven, full-sized lifelike mannequin that speaks and breathes, has a heartbeat and a pulse, and accurately mirrors human responses to procedures such as CPR, intravenous medication, intubation, ventilation and catheterization.

“The mannequin can be programmed for various states of consciousness as well as 25 different patient profiles with variables of age, gender, medical history and physiologic parameters,” says Tony Errichetti, PhD, professor, clinical learning and assessment center. “Since the mannequin speaks and makes lifelike sounds in response to procedures, students receive immediate and frequent feedback as they learn.”

“Students thrive on interaction with live patients, but one doesn’t want to practice invasive procedures such as intubations or catheterizations on a person first,” notes Dr. Schure. “The simulator will enhance our students’ training in many vital areas of clinical competencies.”

Beginning this fall, the human patient simulator will be used as a teaching tool primarily in the DO and PA programs. The human patient simulator also may be used as a tool for the College’s new competency-based assessment.

### Assessment center expansion

The College is seeking external support for a major expansion of the Clinical Learning and Assessment Center to support the shift to competency-based assessment.

“Right now, we assess student competencies at the end of an instructional sequence,” explains Dr. Schure. “We want to start cycling students through in the beginning so we can determine their cognitive and interpersonal competencies up front and the areas where they need additional training. Then we will use this information to tailor an individualized instructional program for each student to gain those competencies. Finally, we will ask them to return at the end of the instructional sequence for a follow-up assessment. To do this will require a major expansion of space and staff.”

### Enhanced communication and development

During the first year of the plan, the College also will focus on enhancing communication with off-campus students through PCOM’s digital library and digital video capability as well as teleconferencing capabilities with the College’s affiliated hospitals.

Other first-year initiatives include the development of a focused capital campaign to raise endowment funds for faculty support and student scholarships and the pursuit of new sources of funding. The College also has started initiatives to improve financial aid services and student understanding of scholarship availability and access to funds.

### Expanding healthcare center services

In subsequent years of the plan, PCOM plans to seek additional support for activities at its healthcare centers, which play an enormous role in the educational process.

“We plan to enhance our use of these centers as bases for educational outreach and community service,” notes Dr. Schure. “Currently, we’re in the process of expanding our patient services. This year, we added mental health services

### Strategic Goals

- **Enhance** PCOM’s image through marketing and recruitment
- **Enhance** academic quality, faculty development, scholarly activity
- **Expand** depth of clinical and basic science faculty
- **Create** multiple new revenue streams
- **Build** strategic partnerships that enhance PCOM
- **Introduce** performance management and merit-based approaches into the compensation and advancement system for PCOM employees
- **Change** organizational structure to achieve plan
- **Expand** facilities, enhance infrastructure
- **Enhance** student services
- **Increase** community service and outreach

(continued from page 16)
and we’re contemplating introducing other specialties. We’ll also be exploring the possibility of clinical research at the centers as appropriate, and more of our clinical faculty will practice at the centers.”

Evolving plan

One of the strategic goals outlined in the plan is changing the College’s organizational structure to maximize achievement of plan goals. Administrative changes already have been made to ensure effectiveness and efficiency throughout PCOM’s operation.

“PCOM’s Strategic Plan is an evolving document,” says Dr. Schure. “Each year, the plan goals and strategies will be reviewed and amended as we respond to internal and external changes and challenges. While the current Strategic Plan is only the beginning, it’s a major step in ensuring the continued vitality of our extraordinary institution.”

PRISM facilitates Strategic Plan implementation

Implementation of PCOM’s Strategic Plan will be greatly facilitated by PRISM, which stands for PCOM Resource for Integrated Systems Management. When fully implemented in December 2003, this new system will enhance the quality of life for PCOM students, faculty, staff and alumni by offering improved information services and convenient Web-based access to PCOM systems from on-campus or home computers, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

PRISM operates using the SCT Banner database system designed exclusively for educational institutions. The system integrates student and alumni records and services, finance and financial aid data, and human resources/payroll records into one unified repository of information, eliminating duplicate efforts and enhancing service to the entire campus community.

PCOM students will benefit from secure Internet access to information in an easy-to-use format. When PRISM is fully implemented, students will use it to apply for admissions, register for classes, retrieve financial aid data, pay tuition bills and complete online forms whenever they want, right on their own computers. In addition, they will find information about classes, grades and other student services offered by the College.

PCOM faculty will enjoy secure access, whether on campus or at home, to whatever information they need for course management and academic advising. They will be able to view schedules and class rosters as well as enter grades online.

PCOM staff members will be able to get up-to-date answers to routine human resources questions anytime, anywhere via the Web. They also will be able to view their career and/or pay histories, enroll in benefits and update their personal information in PCOM’s centralized database.

For PCOM alumni, PRISM will continue to provide an online alumni directory, as well as regular announcements, special events listings, news about opportunities to make donations and the ability to make secure online gift payments.

PRISM will be rolled out in five stages, beginning with the finance module, which went live in July 2002.

“While the entire PCOM community will benefit from PRISM, students will reap the greatest rewards, which is as it should be,” says Matthew Schure, PhD, PCOM president.

“Students will get answers to their questions more easily without making multiple contacts since all College departments will have access to the same information. Students also will have access to information they need through the Internet.

“As PRISM is implemented, many of our old paperwork processes will fall away,” notes Dr. Schure. “This will free up time for all of us to do what we love best, which is interacting with the students. That’s why we’re here!”

PCOM plans to expand services in its healthcare centers.
In the complex world of immune response, researchers at PCOM have a simple sounding hypothesis: that the cellular immune response against *Chlamydia pneumoniae* declines with age.

Of course, the hypothesis merely sounds simple. Immunity is a multi-factoral wonder that continues to perplex physicians and researchers from a range of disciplines. Understand the immune response and you’ll develop far better treatment modalities for an array of far too common degenerative diseases that become more prevalent with aging, such as cancers, autoimmune disorders and a lengthy list of others.

Even infection seems to be worse in the aged. And that’s exactly where the research of Kerin Fresa-Dillon, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology, is headed.

“We’re looking directly at whether and how the course and severity of chlamydial infection changes with age and how a declining immune system may facilitate infection,” emphasizes Dr. Fresa-Dillon, who has a major two-year area grant for her work from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Using a mouse model, Dr. Fresa-Dillon and Scott Little, PhD, instructor, pathology, microbiology and immunology, are testing the immune response in the young and aged by infecting both groups with *C. pneumoniae*. Young mice are about six to seven months old and aged mice are about 20 to 22 months old.

The researchers are examining the lungs, brain, liver and spleen to determine where and how much of the organism is present and to learn about the degree and nature of inflammatory cellular infiltration, says Dr. Fresa-Dillon.

“The questions are scientifically interesting all by themselves, but there are implications; there are things we can learn about the immune response, things that might teach us something about the reaction to acute and chronic infection as we age and possibly about more,” explains Dr. Fresa-Dillon.

“*Chlamydia pneumoniae* is particularly interesting because it lives inside the cells, allowing us more control in what we’re looking for,” explains Dr. Little. “It’s very preliminary, at this point, but so far we’re seeing everything we expected we might see.”
“That part of the immune system we call the cell-mediated immune response declines with age; that’s been demonstrated repeatedly in lab animals and in humans. It appears that the infection may be more severe in old animals, and we’re beginning to study which aspects of cell-mediated immunity may be impaired in animals that have a more severe infection.”

Dr. Fresa-Dillon adds that the results obtained with C. pneumoniae may have implications for other atypical bacteria. “Let’s just look at the immune response and see if it changes, and you can use that as a model for all bacterial intracellular pathogens,” she notes.

“The questions are scientifically interesting all by themselves, but there are implications; there are things we can learn about the immune response, things that might teach us something about the reaction to acute and chronic infection as we age and possibly about more.” — Kerin Fresa-Dillon, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology

envelope of the germ theory of degenerative diseases and received media attention for their work in looking at whether C. pneumoniae plays a role in Alzheimer’s disease.

“There’s a developing focus at PCOM on the processes affecting aging,” notes Richard Kriebel, PhD, chairman, biomedical sciences and senior associate dean, preclinical education and research. “This research is another arm, so to speak, of looking at this, and specifically looking at infectious disease and aging.

“There’s a lot of collaboration in this type of work, these days, and frankly it’s the only way things can get done; there’s so much to know and to accomplish. I’m excited about the direction of the work and the way our people work together, utilizing each researcher’s particular strength. The days of the isolated scientist working alone in the lab are over.”

In keeping with Dr. Kriebel’s thoughts, Dr. Fresa-Dillon began taking a close look at Dr. Balin’s work after he arrived at PCOM. She explains: “I became interested in this when Denah and Brian came on board and were talking about Chlamydia and Alzheimer’s disease, and also there’s a lot of data that suggests that Chlamydia pneumoniae is an implicated pathogen in the etiology of atherosclerosis. With me being an immunology of aging person, I thought, ‘these are diseases of aging and if there’s an infectious entity here maybe the reason why it shows up in elderly individuals is that they might have had this chronic infection which they kept in check with a good, strong immune system, and as that immune system starts to decline as a function of age, it allows the infection to flourish.’”

For more information, contact Drs. Fresa-Dillon and Little at: PCOM, 4170 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131-1693 Phone: 215.871.6862 (Dr. Fresa-Dillon) 215.871.6882 (Dr. Little) Fax: 215.871.6458 E-mail: kerinf@pcom.edu; chrid@pcom.edu
Hymen Kanoff, DO, Wyncote, Pa., was named speaker of the house of delegates of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. He also received the “Distinguished Service Award” presented by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Kanoff and his wife, Diana, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 25, 2001. They marked the occasion with a trip to Cancun, Mexico, with their children and grandchildren.

William J. King, DO, Deptford, NJ, was highlighted in an article titled “Retired physician serves community spiritually,” which was published in the Courier-Post. Since he retired from medicine in 1998, he has been ministering full time at Living Word Bible Fellowship Church in Blackwood, NJ.

Jerome Miller, DO, Narberth, Pa., was appointed to the board of directors of the American Business Financial Services, Inc. He is medical director of GE Financial Assurance Company.


Marshall H. Sager, DO, Bryn Mawr, Pa., was elected president of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture. Founding president of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the AAMA, Dr. Sager has practices in Bala Cynwyd and Philadelphia.

William Vilensky, DO, Margate, NJ, was featured in an article titled “Easing pain and suffering,” which was published in The D.O. He specializes in addictive diseases.

James N. Stengel, DO, York, Pa., joined Upper Providence Pediatrics and Family Medicine. He is board certified in family practice and pain management.

Charles P. Fasano, DO, Mifflinburg, Pa., was appointed to the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine. He maintains a private practice in Mifflinburg.

Ronald S. Woodworth, DO, N. Bennington, Vt., was elected to the board of trustees of the American College of Osteopathic Pain Management and Sclerotherapy.

David J. Fontaine, DO, Clarion, Pa., was appointed program director of the child and adolescent programs at Clarion Psychiatric Center. He moved to Clarion with his wife and two children from Cheyenne, Wyo.

R. Michael Gallagher, DO, Haddonfield, NJ, co-authored an article titled “Divalproex sodium in the treatment of migraine and cluster headaches,” which was published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. He is director of the University Headache Center, Moorestown, NJ, for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine.
Robert K. Hippert, DO, Kutztown, Pa., received the “Frederick J. Solomon Award of Merit” presented by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society.

CLASS OF 1977
CLASS AGENT: H. SPRAGUE TAVEAU, IV, DO
PHONE: 806-212-5750
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Gilbert E. D’Alonzo, Jr., DO, Villanova, Pa., co-authored the article “Proposed tenets of osteopathic medicine and principles for patient care,” which was published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. He was also featured in an article published in The Philadelphia Inquirer titled “Achoo! Blame pollen and mold.” His specialties are critical care medicine and pulmonary medicine.

David M. Masiak, DO, Gwynedd, Pa., was elected president of the medical staff at Parkview Hospital. He is a fellow of the American Osteopathic College of Cardiology.

CLASS OF 1978
CLASS AGENT: LORRAINE M. DISIPIO, DO
PHONE: 610-623-7230
E-MAIL: LMDISIPIO@RCN.COM
Margaret M. Knox-Lee, DO, Lancaster, Pa., was elected to the board of directors of the Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation. She practices at Eden Park Pediatric Associates in Lancaster, Pa. Domenick N. Ronco, DO, Mifflinburg, Pa., was elected president-elect of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. He is board certified in family practice.

CLASS OF 1979
Keith F. Henderson, DO, Fayetteville, NC, was appointed medical director of Scotland Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Center and Scotland County Emergency Medical Services. He is board certified in emergency medicine.

Daniel D. Wert, Jr., DO, is a man on a mission. Currently, his mission takes him to developing countries where he provides his services as an anesthesiologist to nonprofit medical teams that donate much-needed surgery to impoverished children who suffer from burns or congenital defects such as a cleft lip and/or a cleft palate. Traveling as part of one of several organizations – Operation Smile International, Interplast, Inc. and Rotaplast Inc. – Dr. Wert averages four or five trips a year, each lasting a week or two.

Dr. Wert had always taken time for volunteer activities, but since his retirement five-and-a-half years ago, he’s taken his volunteerism to the next level. “I’m in the ‘giving back’ phase of my life right now,” Dr. Wert says. “I retired early for several reasons, and one was to be able to contribute my professional skills...for less privileged people in a way one is unable to when involved in an active, full-time medical practice.”

Dr. Wert’s retirement may be slightly unconventional, but it follows his slightly unconventional career path. He started his medical career with a bachelor's degree in nursing. After assignments in Honduras and Somalia where he was doing medical work he felt was similar to that of a physician, he decided to go to medical school. He entered PCOM when he was 35. He finished his residency at 42 and retired from his position as chairman of the anesthesia department of Community Hospital of Lancaster when he was 57.

While Dr. Wert’s volunteer missions have taken him to Africa, Asia and Central and South America, he most often travels to Honduras, a country in which he has many friends and with which he feels a strong connection.

The work day on a medical mission is long and grueling. With so many children in need, the teams often work 12-hour days to help as many as possible. When the team arrives in a country, they first hold a screening clinic to determine which children are a priority to receive surgery. Often as many as 500 children will be seen at the clinic before the numbers are narrowed down for a surgical list. Children who cannot be scheduled because of time constraints are put on a priority list for the team’s next visit.

“The need is so great, it’s almost overwhelming,” laments Dr. Wert. He speaks not only of the country’s medical needs, but of the tremendous poverty in which people live. “We work with the poorest of the poor; some people can’t even afford to get to the city where the clinic is located.” Being around that much poverty makes it difficult to readjust to the typical American lifestyle.

“The disparity is disturbing,” says Dr. Wert.

Not only does Dr. Wert provide anesthesia care on his trips, but he also teaches and provides clinical and educational resources for the anesthesiaology residents in Honduras. “We currently have 15 residents,” Dr. Wert explains. “Training more anesthesiologists provides us with potentially more participation on our teams in the future. And they’ve become like sons and daughters to me.”
CLASS OF 1980
Robert A. Ball, DO, Cheltenham, Pa., was elected to the board of directors of the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists. She is a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychiatry.
Jeffrey A. Keyser, DO, Lititz, Pa., joined Surgical Specialists of Lancaster.

CLASS OF 1981
Martin E. Kanoff, DO, Cherry Hill, NJ, was named director of women’s services for Kennedy Health System’s family health centers in Somerdale and Washington Township. He is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology.
Carol S. Ramsey, DO, San Antonio, Texas, was promoted to Colonel in the United States Air Force. Her specialty is aerospace medicine.
Frank M. Tursi, DO, Erie, Pa., was elected a trustee of Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association’s District 7. Board certified in family practice and geriatrics, Dr. Tursi is director of medical education and chief of staff at Millcreek Community Hospital.

CLASS OF 1982
CLASS AGENT: ANTHONY J. SILVAGNI, DO
PHONE: 954-262-1407
E-MAIL: SILVAGNI@NOVA.EDU
Bruce A. Feinberg, DO, Decatur, Ga., had his practice, Georgia Cancer Specialists P.C., cited in the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of “Atlanta’s Top 25 Physician Group Practices.” He specializes in hematology and oncology.

CLASS OF 1983
CLASS AGENT: MARY ANN DIBAGIO, DO
PHONE: 724-758-7559
E-MAIL: MDIBAGIO@HVHS.ORG
Richard J. Snow, DO, Worthington, Ohio, co-authored the article “Potential barriers to control of blood pressure,” published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. He is a clinic faculty supervisor in the department of family practice residency at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

CLASS OF 1984
Michael J. Sarik, DO, Wintersville, Ohio, joined Riverside Medical of Ohio. He is an electrophysiologist specializing in heart rhythm management.

CLASS OF 1985
Susan Dallas-Feeney, DO, West Chester, Pa., joined Main Line Personal Physicians. Her specialty is family medicine.

CLASS OF 1986
Richard A. Goldberg, DO, Dresher, Pa., was named president-elect of the American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
Jerome M. Guanciale, DO, Murrells Inlet, SC, was elected president of the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society. He is a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.
Joseph F. Radzwilka, DO, and wife, Maureen, Wyoming, Pa., celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary on October 19. The Radzwilkas have two children, Sara, 8 and Sean, 6. He is a family practice physician with an office in West Pittston.
Daniel B. Sullivan, DO, Fruitland Park, Fla., was elected vice-chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery at Leesburg Regional Medical Center.

CLASS OF 1987
CLASS AGENT: THOMAS J. DAGNEY, III, DO
PHONE: 812-885-3344
E-MAIL: TJD3@CHARTER.NET
Joseph E. Calhoun, Jr., DO, Wexford, Pa., joined the staff at the Wexford office of Healthquest Medical Associates, a division of Pinnacle Medical Group, Inc. He specializes in internal medicine.

CLASS OF 1988
CLASS AGENT: ERIC LIPNACK, DO
PHONE: 856-784-0444
E-MAIL: DVMPA@EROLS.COM
Carman A. Ciervo, Jr., DO, Marlton, NJ, was featured in the article “Resisting antibiotic resistance,” which was published in The D.O. His specialty is family practice.
Scott M. Dorfner, DO, Burlington Township, NJ, was selected as the “Best Physician in Burlington County 2002” by the Burlington County Times. Derek I. Grossman, DO, Mount Pleasant, Mich., was appointed chief of staff at Central Michigan Community Hospital. His specialty is internal medicine.

CLASS OF 1989
David W. Barnes, DO, Elkins Park, Pa., joined Ridge Medical. His specialty is internal medicine.
Thomas A. Babson, DO, Media, Pa., was elected treasurer of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians. His specialty is emergency medicine.
Michael A. Chiusano, DO, West Grove, Pa., opened Southeastern Pennsylvania Urologic Surgery. He is board certified in urology.
John F. Conlon, DO, Glen, NH, joined the medical staff at Memorial Hospital where he was named medical director of emergency services.
Margot L. Wainz, DO, Chadds Ford, Pa., was elected to the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine. She was highlighted in the article “Setting boundaries: protective factors cut risk of teen-age drug abuse,” which was published in The D.O.

CLASS OF 1990
Jon R. Henwood, DO, Hermitage, Pa., was elected chairman of the department of surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Horizon. His specialty is general surgery.
Dwight C. Johnson, DO, West Chester, Pa., joined the hospitalist team at Jennersville Hospital. Hospitalists specialize in inpatient medical management and provide care to patients requiring hospital admission. His specialty is internal medicine.

CLASS OF 1991
James D. Bove, III, DO, Athens, Ohio, was named chief of surgery at O’Bleness Memorial Hospital. He also chaired the committee to restructure the clinical faculty practice plan and college governance structure at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Laura Czulewicz-Reese, DO, Ashland, Ky., joined the medical staff at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital. Her specialties are orthopedic surgery and family medicine.

Brian M. Palmer, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., was installed as vice president of the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine. His specialties are preventive medicine and public health.

Joseph J. Stella, DO, Pittston, Pa., joined the cardio-thoracic surgery department at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre. He is board certified in general and cardiovascular-thoracic surgery.

CLASS OF 1992
Class Agent: Daniel Kupas, DO
Phone: 724-478-2999
Jonathan C. Blackmore, DO, Erie, Pa., joined Community Health Net. He is board certified in family practice.

Gregory M. Christiansen, DO, Chesterfield, Va., was elected to the board of directors of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Coyle S. Connolly, DO, Avalon, NJ, co-authored the article “The experts share problem-solving insights about their most challenging acne/roacea cases,” which was published in Skin and Aging. His specialty is dermatology.

Howard M. Stein, DO, Eugene, Ore., joined the medical staff at Sacred Heart Medical Center. He is a family practice physician.

CLASS OF 1993

Class Agent: Clara Higgins, DO
Phone: 301-644-9644
E-mail: cmhdo5@aol.com

Larissa Fernando-Dominy, DO
Phone: 215-361-5882
E-mail: lid.dominy@verizon.net

Vincent D. Abbrescia, DO, San Antonio, Texas, was elected chairman of the department of cardiology and director of the invasive and non-invasive card catheterization laboratory at the Metropolitan Methodist Hospital.

Scott W. Sterling, DO, Wyalusing, Pa., was featured in the article “Former policeman now is physician,” which was published in the Pottsville Republican & Evening Herald. Dr. Sterling is medical director for Wernersville-Conewago Medical Center. He recently joined Dr. Anwar Nakkoul at his Mahanoy City, Pa., practice and joined the medical staff at Ashland Regional Medical Center.

CLASS OF 1994

Camille Dillard, DO, Dolgeville, NY, received the “2002 Salute to Outstanding Women of the Mohawk Valley Award” presented by the Young Women’s Christian Association of Mohawk Valley. She is board certified in family medicine from the American Osteopathic Board of Family Practice and has diplomate status from the National Osteopathic Board of Medical Examiners.

Larry W. Spector, DO, Maple Glen, Pa., and his wife, Wendy, are the proud parents of Matthew Eric Spector, born September 2, 2001.

James J. Wiggins, DO, Selma, Calif., joined the medical staff at Selma Community Hospital.

CLASS OF 1995

Fred W. Lindsay, DO, San Diego, Calif., was elected to service as member-at-large in the residents and fellow section of the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. He is a senior resident at the Naval Medical Center.

CLASS OF 1996

Ann Marie Bonetti-Brady, DO, Glen Rock, Pa., opened Glen Rock Family Care Center. Dr. Bonetti-Brady is a family medicine specialist.

Jason E. Henninger, DO, Tyrone, Pa., joined the medical staff at J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital and Juniata Valley Medical Center. He is board certified in family practice and is also a certified advanced cardiac life support provider.

Joseph Sposato, DO, Jacksonville, NC, was board certified in internal medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the National Naval Medical Center.

CLASS OF 1997

Class Agent: Daniel Matkowsky, DO
Phone: 908-353-7949

Jessica Otto, DO
Phone: 276-628-5246
E-mail: jessicotto@hotmail.com

John B. Hinckley, DO, Plain City, Ohio, co-authored the article “Efficacy of IV ketorolac tromethamine in the emergency department treatment of acute renal colic,” which was published in Ohio Research & Clinical Review. He also was highlighted in an article published in Business First titled “Top exam score helps confirm doctor’s career choice.”


Dung T. Nguyen, DO, King of Prussia, Pa., joined the hospitalist team at Jennersville Regional Hospital. His specialty is internal medicine.

Rebecca Reed, DO, Voorhees, NJ, was board certified in pediatrics.

CLASS OF 1998

Lyn N. Dea, DO, Sparks, Md., joined the medical staff at Maryland Primary Care Physicians. She completed the family practice residency program at Franklin Square Hospital Center in Baltimore.

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2002

Patricia Logan Farley, DO, Milroy, Pa., joined Family Health Associates.

Robert J. Grabowski, DO, Richboro, Pa., joined the family practice department at Doylestown Hospital.

Jonathan M. Gusdorff, DO, Elkins Park, Pa., was named chief resident for Bryn Mawr Hospital’s diagnostic radiology residency program.

Kara Lee Matala, DO, Roanoke, Va., joined the medical staff at Bedford Medical. Her specialty is family medicine.

Heather A. Rabchuk-Collins, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., joined the medical staff at Abington Memorial Hospital. Dr. Rabchuk-Collins practices family medicine at Hartsdale Medical Practice.

Tara Vogdes, DO, Cape May Courthouse, NJ, joined Family Practice Associates of Cape May County in Cape May and Marmora.

CLASS OF 1999

Harry J. Emmerich, DO, Hatboro, Pa., was named chief resident of the internal medicine and the emergency medicine departments at Frankford Healthcare System in Philadelphia.

Laleh Radfar-Baublitz, DO, New Freedom, Pa., was elected chief resident of the physical medicine and rehabilitation residency program at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore/University of Maryland.

CLASS OF 2000

PA ALUMNI

Jonathan Burke, DO, Bethlehem, Pa., was appointed chief resident of the family practice residency program at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Rebecca Herman DeSantos, DO, and her husband Robert, McLean, Va., are the proud parents of Robert Anthony DeSantos, Jr., born on November 14, 2001. Dr. Herman joined the Harrisburg family practice residency program as a second-year resident in July 2002.

Matthew Pinto, DO, Voorhees, NJ, married Laura Kelly on April 6, 2002.

CLASS OF 2000

PA ALUMNI

CO-CLASS AGENTS:

KRISTEN LEHMANN
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CHRISTIANE PETRILLO
PHONE: 610-647-9773
E-MAIL: peterchris@comcast.net

Emily Bear (Farrell), PA-C, and her husband Russell, Upper Darby, Pa., are the proud parents of Cameron Russell Bear, born in January 2002.

Sonia Alford, PA-C, Plymouth Meeting, Pa., completed the fellowship program in abdominal transplant and hepatology at Temple University Health System.

Matthew Hay, PA-C, Landenberg, Pa., and his fiancée, Jessica, were married in November 2001.

Ellen Koslowski, PA-C, Carlisle, Pa., is working in emergency medicine and is actively involved in a community health project STD clinic.

Nicole Kozma, PA-C, Philadelphia, Pa., completed the fellowship program in pediatric critical care at Temple University Health System.

Kristen Lehmann, PA-C, Tabernacle, NJ, is working in orthopedic surgery and is actively involved in PCOM’s Physician Assistant Program, through teaching and the alumni association. Lehmann and her husband, Justin, are expecting their first child in November.

Colleen Newsswanger, PA-C, Tunkhannock, Pa., is working in family medicine and as a therapist in a youth advocacy program in the Scranton area.

Minal Patel, PA-C, Newark, Del., completed the fellowship program in gastrointestinal medicine at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Christiane Petrillo, PA-C, Malvern, Pa., is working in orthopedics and is actively involved in PCOM’s Physician Assistant Program, through teaching and the alumni association.

John Ranonis, PA-C, New Castle, Del., and his wife, Patty, are the proud parents of John Patrick III, born in December 2001.

CLASS OF 2001

PA ALUMNI

CO-CLASS AGENTS:

NICOLE MILLER
PHONE: 215-677-1167
E-MAIL: nicklemiller@hotmail.com

Melissa Hoffman
PHONE: 610-547-2976
E-MAIL: mkhpa@aol.com

Ami Sharad Joshi, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., co-authored the article “Treating COPD: go for the gold,” with Robert A. Promisloff, DO ’73, Wynnewood, Pa., which was published in The Journal of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

CLASS OF 2001

DO ALUMNI

Jennie-Corinne Baublitz, DO, York, Pa., placed second in the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association’s essay contest for her article titled “Kypholasy: an emerging technique for the treatment of vertebral compression fractures.”

Lori Ann Chapleskie, DO, Chalfont, Pa., received honorable mention in the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association’s essay contest for her article titled “Intercarotid paragangliomas: clinical diagnostic and therapeutic aspects presented in two case studies.”

CLASS OF 2002

CO-CLASS AGENTS:

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Melissa Hoffman
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Ami Sharad Joshi, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., co-authored the article “Treating COPD: go for the gold,” with Robert A. Promisloff, DO ’73, Wynnewood, Pa., which was published in The Journal of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.
PCOM's Alumni Association board of directors awarded the following alumni certificates of merit for outstanding achievement in osteopathic medicine:

Stanley Schiowitz, DO ’44, Great Neck, NY, who was a 2002 recipient of the A.T. Still Medallion of Honor presented by the American Academy of Osteopathy. He is dean and provost of Medical Affairs at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Frank B. Falbey, DO ’52, Arlington, Texas, for his years of service as a professor at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Paul W. Herr, DO ’52, Lewisburg, W.Va., who was named 2002 Physician of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Wayne R. English, Jr., DO ’58, Burleson, Texas, who was a 2002 recipient of the A.T. Still Medallion of Honor presented by the American Academy of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Harvey M. Spector, DO ’63, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., who was inducted as 2002 president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. He is also a board member of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Ernest R. Gelb, DO ’78, West Pittston, Pa., who was elected president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association for 2002-2003.

Joseph M. Kaczmarczyk, DO ’82, Gaithersburg, Md., who was inducted as the 2002 president of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Alexander I. Kiotis, DO ’82, Upper Darby, Pa., who was the 2002 recipient of PCOM’s Affiliated Teacher of the Year Award.

Izola David, DO ’85, Bala Cynwyd, Pa., who was the 2002 recipient of the Meta L. Christy Award presented by the Student National Medical Association. She is the medical director of PCOM Healthcare Center – Lancaster Avenue Division.

In Memoriam


Robert L. Green, DO ’82, Harrisburg, Pa., January 24, 2002.

Stuart F. Goldberg, DO ’93, Delray Beach, Fl., April 5, 2002.


Mary E. Tipton-Shriver, DO ’55, Bellwood, Pa., May 1, 2002.

Elvin E. Walker, DO ’37, Wynnewood, Pa., April 4, 2002.


Certificates of Merit awarded

Robert S. Ravetz, DO ’57, Former Professor and Chairman of Psychiatry, Dies

Robert S. Ravetz, DO ’57, died May 5, 2002, at age 70. After graduating from PCOM, Dr. Ravetz practiced family medicine in Philadelphia for more than 20 years. In 1976, he completed a three-year residency at Hahnemann University Hospital and began practicing geriatric psychology. In 1992, he was named professor and chairman of psychiatry at PCOM. Dr. Ravetz also served as head of geropsychology services at Friends Hospital until 1998.

Frederick Goldstein, PhD, professor of clinical pharmacology at PCOM, recalls how Dr. Ravetz saved his mother’s life. As Mrs. Goldstein lay in a semi-vegetative state in a nursing home, Dr. Goldstein, who was preparing for his mother’s death, received a call from Dr. Ravetz. “He said he thought he could help my mother,” recalls Dr. Goldstein. I thought, ‘he must have the wrong patient.’ ” Dr. Ravetz had realized that Mrs. Goldstein had been overmedicated, and he made the necessary adjustments to her care. Six months later, Dr. Goldstein’s mother was living in her own apartment again and driving her car. “Dr. Ravetz was an exceptionally caring and insightful physician,” says Dr. Goldstein. “He will be missed.”
My Turn
By Patricia Burgess

This is my story about how osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) and a special DO helped give me a second chance at a whole life. Ten years ago, I began having pain in my hips and knee that started after the birth of my first child. I would toss and turn all night, with four or five pillows placed all around to try to relieve the pain. To say the least I was always tired, and my patience was thinning and my marriage was having ups and downs.

I tried a handful of doctors and lots of tests, which all came back negative. I was grateful for that but still didn't understand why I was having the pain and why my knee would pop out, causing me to fall. I started to feel like I was going crazy. One morning in October 2000 I woke up to make my kids breakfast and I got a really bad chest pain. I thought I was having a heart attack but then the pain decreased enough to know it was not that. I went to the local doctor and told him what happened; he did an EKG and said it showed nothing.

Still having some pain, I decided to make an appointment with a DO whom I had heard of, although I wasn't exactly sure how they were different. Well, I can recall vividly my first and every other appointment that followed with Dr. Foto [Anthony Foto, DO '94]. At the first visit he started to treat the pain and said I was really tight so I should come back in a week. He treated me again and said to come back next week. At that visit he asked if I had other pain and I said yes, so he started to treat other areas. As I was about halfway home from my 45-minute drive I had this feeling like I had lost weight in my hip area. I got home and out of the van, and my hips felt great. I ran in the house to where my family was watching TV and said “Look at this,” as I proceeded to swing and shake my hips. Of course they started to laugh but I was feeling so good, like a kid in a candy store.

I remember thinking what a special gift Dr. Foto had, and soon he was treating my husband and son. He asked if he had ever treated my diaphragm, and since he hadn't he proceeded to push in my front area, which hurt a lot. When I got home I had extreme pain, like I was hit by a truck. When I called the doctor and asked him if it was possible that he pushed something wrong, he chuckled and said to take a couple of antacids. I stayed in bed an entire day.

What happened the next day gives me a chill to think about. I woke up with a breath so deep and my body feeling so good like every part belonged together. There was a calm and such an amazing energy that when I went to do the laundry I took two steps at a time. Pain that I had carried for 10 years went away. I looked in the mirror and saw a pretty person for the first time. I was able to accept my past with no blame to anyone and no more hate. My marriage started to heal and I felt so much energy when I looked at my children's faces, instead of feeling like they were using up mine. The speed of change in my whole life was so fast, at times I got scared wondering what was going on and why I was receiving all these good things. It was a very powerful spiritual experience.

I was also helped by another osteopathic physician, Dr. Donna Dyer, who listened to me no matter how long and educated me with books and tapes on healing. I began telling everyone about these great doctors who care so much for their patients and about the wonderful world of OMM. I can't believe there isn't more awareness about this. There are three nurses on my block and none knew about OMM. At least now there are a handful of people I know going to DOs – including one of the nurses – because I talk about it to anyone who will listen (and I will keep working on the ones who won't!).

Readers: We welcome your ideas for essays that would be of interest to the PCOM community. Please submit ideas in writing to Carol Weisl, fax: 215.871.6307; e-mail: carolwe@pcom.edu; PCOM Marketing & Communications, 4180 City Ave., Phila., PA 19131.
“Though it has been 25 years since my time at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, I am reminded each day of the excellent medical training I received. When I visit PCOM, I am in awe of what the school has achieved – the sophistication and technology are simply wonderful. I am thrilled that much of this has been achieved through alumni support.”

Suzanne Kelley, DO '77
Chair, 2003 Annual Fund

2003 ANNUAL FUND

Giving through the Annual Fund supports our vision for the future by sustaining our most important and pressing needs.

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• Builds strong, competitive research programs to find the causes and cures for disease

For more information on how you can renew your gift or give for the first time, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Development, 4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131, 800.739.3939, alumni@pcom.edu or visit our Web site at www.pcom.edu.
Lazy Afternoon

Scott Olex and Heather Vitelli (both DO ’04) take a reprieve from their studies to enjoy a perfect day on campus.

PCOM EVENTS

September 28
Parent and Family Open House

September 30
10th Annual PCOM Golf Classic

November 13
Board of Trustees Meeting

January 24
Founders’ Day

May 30–June 1
Alumni Weekend 2003

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19131-1695

Address service requested