Reaching Out
PCOM Community Service...Making a Difference
Community service has become fashionable as an innovative approach to medical education and health care delivery. PCOM has been ahead of this curve, prioritizing health care delivery as an integral part of its mission from the beginning of our 103-year existence.

As you read this issue of Digest, you will get a glimpse inside our healthcare centers, which provide PCOM students with hands-on clinical experience as they care for underserved individuals who confront complex health and social challenges. Our work at the healthcare centers also enables us to fulfill the community service aspect of our mission – making PCOM a good neighbor and an institution that leads by example.

Through this issue, you will spend time with students who participate in community service through Bridging the Gaps, a city-wide, model program that includes an interdisciplinary approach to health care delivery. You will also meet students who participated in the Huntington’s Camp, and the student who traveled to South Africa last summer to learn from, and assist, those in conditions we can only begin to imagine.

Rounding out our cover story is a mention of alumnus, Steve Kamajian, DO ’78, who has turned an extraordinary idea into a remarkable reality with his one-of-a-kind clinic in a poverty-ridden Los Angeles neighborhood.

In the midst of our outreach, PCOM continues to keep its collective eye on academic excellence. Research is a fundamental component of intellectual inquiry. We thought you would enjoy a sampling of student research taking place at PCOM. This work is raising our institutional profile and is helping to prepare physicians who will add vital information to the rapidly expanding medical knowledge base.

Finally, I extend an invitation to all alumni to embrace the good works described in this issue as a basis for strengthening connections to PCOM. You are a vital part of the College’s future. We need your input and support to thrive. To make connecting easier for you, the Alumni Association has revamped its districts, eliminated dues and made sweeping changes. You will read all about this in the feature story on page 16. The restructuring is an important step. Next, we need your additional participation to make these changes effective. Call us, use e-mail or send a fax. Be sure to reach out to your newly structured Alumni Association!

I extend best wishes for a happy and healthy spring to you and your families!

With warm regards,

Matthew Schure, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
STUDENT RESEARCH PROMINENT ON PCOM CAMPUS
Across campus and programs, PCOM students are enhancing their studies with research that will sharpen their skills and contribute to scientific knowledge.

THE MAN WHO LAUNCHED A THOUSAND CAREERS
College bestows its highest honor, the “O.J. Snyder Memorial Award,” on Leonard W. Johnson, DO ’64.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF PCOM LEADERSHIP EMERGES
College’s prestigious “Mason Pressly Award” is bestowed upon Joshua Baron (DO ’03) for his commitment to service and leadership.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REVITALIZATION
Changes in the Alumni Association have been designed to better serve you. Learn about the improvements including the elimination of dues. Map, contact names and officers are included.

COVER STORY
Reaching out
Inspired by a commitment to community service, PCOM students and programs reach out to those in need. From our healthcare centers to mentoring to independent experiences, the PCOM community demonstrates what it is to serve and lead.

PCOM UPDATES
College focuses on strengthening enrollment strategies; OMM department expands; End of an era for hospital building; Primary care dinner honors outstanding doctors; White Coat Ceremony a proud tradition; Board Chairman honored; Alumnus establishes Ginsburg Five Brothers Memorial Scholarship; Golfers, take note - date set for next PCOM outing.

CLASS NOTES
The Spirit of ’78…Four Alumni have certainly left their mark.

ESSAY
Rediscovering her life’s mission…A doctor cures her own doubt with help from some unlikely teachers.
GINSBURG GIFT HONORS BROTHERS’ LEGACY; BENEFITS DO PROGRAM

The Five Brothers Memorial Scholarship was established by Harry Ginsburg, DO ’42, DPH, MD, LLD to perpetuate the memory of the Ginsburg brothers: Herman, Morris, Louis, Joseph, DO ’53, and Abraham, DO ’53. Dr. Harry Ginsburg made a gift of $100,000 to PCOM to establish the scholarship fund that benefits students in the D.O. program. A plaque honoring the brothers was unveiled and the scholarship formally announced at a luncheon held October 23, 2002 on campus.

Susan Apollon, daughter of Harry Ginsburg; Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, dean; Harry Ginsburg, DO ’42; Mark Ginsburg (’03), his great-nephew; Matthew Schure, PhD, PCOM president & CEO; and Florence Zeller, MPA, VP for Alumni Relations & Development, pose with the unveiled Five Brothers plaque.

NOM WEEK ON CAMPUS

PCOM DO students celebrated National Osteopathic Medicine Week October 6-12 with a variety of educational and community outreach activities. The Sports Medicine Club and Student Osteopathic Medical Association collected canned goods for the Philadelphia Food Bank, books for Philadelphia Reads and donations for AIDS Walk Philly as entrance fees for a student barbecue. Students sent letters to their state representatives urging action on medical liability insurance legislation, and speakers discussed using OMM in family practice and AIDS awareness. First- and second-year students set up blood pressure screening stations at two local grocery stores where, in addition to taking blood pressure, they distributed information about osteopathic medicine and PCOM’s healthcare centers to create awareness of osteopathic medicine and PCOM. To help promote NOM Week, PCOM’s marketing and communications department placed ads and articles in local newspapers and Dr. Schure, PCOM president, appeared in a NOM Week video that was shown on campus and was available on PCOM’s Web site.
OMM DEPARTMENT EXPANDS

Three physicians have joined PCOM’s OMM Department, bringing the total number of OMM faculty to six. “The new additions expand the department’s diversity,” says Department Chairman Alexander S. Nicholas, DO ’75. “Each one of our three new members brings a slightly different clinical and philosophical perspective to the department, and that’s especially good for our students; they’ll get a complete education from leaders in the field.”

New to the staff are Matthew Dubrow, DO ’98, instructor; John Jones III, DO, professor and Michael Kuchera, DO, FAAO, professor and director of osteopathic manipulative research.

Dr. Dubrow graduated from PCOM in 1998 where he was an OMM Fellow and received the Angus Gordon Cathie Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in anatomy and osteopathic manipulative medicine. In addition to his responsibilities as an instructor and clinician, Dr. Dubrow will establish an Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Service within PCOM’s undergraduate and graduate hospital systems.

Board certified in OMM, Dr. Jones graduated from Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1987. Prior to coming on board at PCOM, he was a member of the OMM Department at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, MO, where he served as professor, assistant dean for international osteopathic education and assistant dean for strategic initiatives.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Kuchera was a professor in the OMM Department at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. During his 21 years there, his previously held positions include OMM department chairperson, division chief of neuromusculoskeletal medicine, associate dean for international osteopathic education and research and vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college. Immediate past president of the AAO, Dr. Kuchera received the AOA Bureau of Research’s highest recognition for osteopathic education and research, the Gutensohn-Denslow Award. Dr. Kuchera graduated in 1980 from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

WHITE COAT CEREMONY USHERS STUDENTS INTO PROFESSION

In a significant rite of passage, first-year DO and PA students began their academic year with a White Coat Ceremony. The PA students received their white coats courtesy of Sara Somers Rupert, RN ’35 and her daughter Kimberly. The DO White Coat Ceremony was sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, and the white coats were donated by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. The event emphasizes the importance of both scientific excellence and compassionate care for the patient. Faculty cloak students and students cloak one another to highlight a sense of teamwork and camaraderie.
Ryan Bearer (DO ’05) co-authored the research article “Complications from treatment for prostate carcinoma among men in the Detroit area,” which appeared in the journal Cancer, vol. 95, issue 1, 2002.

As part of his work with the American Cancer Society, Oliver Bullock, DO ’78, director, PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division, spoke about cancer in a number of venues including WDAS’s Community Meeting, WYSP and the Ardmore Community Center. In addition, Dr. Bullock had his article “A patient and a friend” published in Family Practice News.

Richard Commaille, PA-C, clinical preceptor for general surgery at New Britain General Hospital in New Britain, CT, received the “2001-2002 Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Service Award” from PCOM’s physician assistant studies department.

Frederick J. Goldstein, PhD, professor, clinical pharmacology, biomedical sciences, edited a supplement for the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA) entitled Pain Management: The New Treatment Imperative. His editorial is entitled “Pain management in the new millennium.” Included in the supplement are articles written by Dr. Goldstein; Alexander S. Nicholas, DO ’75, professor and chair, OMM and Sheryl Lynn Oleski, DO ’02; and Barbara Golden, PsyD, assistant professor, psychology. The accompanying September issue of the JAOA also contains an article on pain management by Richard Pascucci, DO ’75, associate dean, graduate medical education.

Michael Huber, MMS, PA-C, assistant professor/assistant chair, physician assistant studies, was selected by the Class of 2002 PA students to receive the “Outstanding Faculty Service Award.”

Daniel H. Ingram (PsyD/School Psychology), was named School Psychologist of the Year by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania. Mr. Ingram works at Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 where he was instrumental in developing the Pervasive Development Disorder Program.

Richard M. Kriebel, PhD, senior associate dean, preclinical education and research, co-authored the research report “Glutamine-, glutamine synthetase-, glutamate dehydrogenase- and pyruvate carboxylase-immunoreactivities in the rat dorsal root ganglion and peripheral nerve,” which was published in Brain Research 945 (2002). Co-authors are Kenneth E. Miller, PhD and Brent Richards, PhD.

Michael L. Kuchera, DO, professor and director of OMM research, was elected vice-president of the International Federation of Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine (FIMM). FIMM is a federation of associations seeking to advance the practice, standards, evidence-base and integration of manual medicine in patient care. In addition, Dr. Kuchera has been appointed to chair an international glossary committee for the Education Committee of FIMM.

Benjamin Kuhn (DO ’05) co-authored the paper “Effects of modulators of protein phosphorylation on heme metabolism in human hepatic cells: induction of delta-aminolevulinic synthase mRNA and protein by okadaic acid,” which was published in DNA and Cell Biology, vol. 21, issue 4.

Christopher Scott Little, PhD, research associate/instructor, received a travel fellowship to the 8th International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, which was held in Sweden this past July. Accompanying him were Denah Appelt, PhD, associate professor, biomedical sciences and Brian Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology. The three presented their paper, “Induction of Alzheimer’s disease-like pathology in the brains of young, non-transgenic, balb/mice following infection with Chlamydia pneumoniae: A model for late onset/sporadic Alzheimer’s disease.” In addition to Drs. Little, Appelt and Balin, the paper was co-authored by Chris Hammond, senior research assistant, pathology, microbiology and immunology and Angela MacIntyre, PhD, post-doctoral fellow, biomedical sciences. Dr. MacIntyre was the first author on an additionally presented poster titled, “Effects of Chlamydia pneumoniae infection on the junctional complexes of the blood-brain barrier: implications for the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease.”

Eugene Mochan, DO ’77, PhD, associate dean, primary care and continuing education, received an award from New Directions for Women, a nonprofit organization that helps women who have been incarcerated return to productive lives, in recognition of his work with the organization.

Melanie Oppenheim, PA-C ’02, received the “Sara Somers Rupert Senior Student Humanitarian Award” for demonstrating an ongoing commitment to those in need and exemplifying the philosophy of health care service and compassion above self.

Frederick Rotgers, PsyD, associate professor, psychology, is co-author of the book Responsible Drinking: A Moderation Management Approach for Problem Drinkers published by New Harbinger. His co-authors were Marc Kern, PhD and Rudy Hoeltzel. He took part in a book signing session at the American Psychological Association Convention in Chicago.

Samuel H. Steinberg, PhD, executive vice president, and Etheldra Templeton,
chair, executive director, library, were quoted in the article “Distance education comes home,” published in the magazine University Business. The article focused on how technology and e-learning software is being used for distance learning and in traditional learning settings.

The Class of 2002 selected the following physicians as recipients of the “Outstanding Clinical Educator Award.” These clinicians went above and beyond their duties training fourth-year students in clinical education in hospitals and clinics.

Jan Anthony Olenginski, DO, Adjunct Professor, General Surgery
David Kuo, DO ’96, Director, PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Div.
Deanna Ligenza, DO ’96, Instructor, Family Medicine
Robert Meals, DO ’56, Professor/Academic Chair, Radiology
Kenneth Hoellein, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
Thomas Brabson, DO ’89, Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine
Bruce Kornberg, DO ’78, Chair, Cardiology
Paul Misischia, DO, Professor and Course Director, Ophthalmology
Art Olahan, MD, Clinical Professor, Family Medicine
Phillip Ginsberg, DO ’80, Professor and Director of Residency Program, Urology
Joseph Guagliardo, DO, Clinical Assistant Professor, Anatomy
Anne Egan, DO ’91, Assistant Professor, Family Medicine
Michael Venditto, DO ’77, Professor, Internal Medicine/Chair, Pulmonary Medicine
Mark Jacobson, DO ’85, Pediatrics
William Gilhool, DO, Professor and Chairman, Gastroenterology
James Donvansky, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
Richard Turner, DO ’79, Clinical Associate Professor, OB/GYN
Paul Caracappa, DO ’88, Adjunct Professor, Family Medicine
Peter Arcuri, DO ’76, Family Medicine

PCOM TO FILL HOSPITAL INTERNSHIP, RESIDENCY SPOTS

Last semester, 23 of PCOM’s 26 OPTI (MEDNet) hospitals were on campus hoping to recruit for internship and residency slots. This was the second PCOM hospital day for MEDNet hospitals. MEDNet is PCOM’s OPTI (Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution), a consortium created by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to link osteopathic medical colleges with every AOA-approved training program. OPTIs are recognized for providing a comprehensive, seamless model of education for physician training from a college of osteopathic medicine through graduate medical education and beyond. OPTIs add value to medical training by ensuring that the osteopathic concepts of holistic care, wellness and prevention are perpetuated in post-graduate training while also ensuring the educational quality of the programs.

STUDENT DO DAY ON THE HILL

PCOM DO students traveled to Washington, D.C. on April 11, 2002 for the fifth annual AACOM-sponsored DO Day on the Hill. The students met with their congressional delegations and/or staffs to lobby for reauthorization of the Health Professions Education Programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act and appropriations for these same programs in the fiscal year 2003 appropriations bill.

PCOM SOCCER CHAMPIONS

The PCOM soccer team, led by captains Dan Pascucci (DO ’05) and Pat Bull (DO ’05), shut out Wharton with a score of 3 to 0 on November 17, to become the 2002 Philadelphia Professional Schools Soccer League Champions.
END OF AN ERA ON PCOM CAMPUS

The PCOM community said farewell to City Avenue Hospital with a tribute on Tuesday, July 30, 2002. Originally dedicated in 1967 as the Frederic H. Barth Pavilion in honor of the former PCOM president, the hospital officially opened its doors to patients in 1968. During the following 35 years, the hospital played a key role in the lives of PCOM students and faculty and provided essential health care services to area residents.

In 1996, PCOM sold the hospital to Graduate Health System, which then sold the facility to Allegheny Health System. When Allegheny went bankrupt in 1998, all of its hospitals, including City Avenue, were taken over by Tenet Health System. Tenet closed City Avenue Hospital in 2000, and PCOM bought the vacant property in March 2001.

The hospital was demolished over the winter. The four-acre site will remain a grassy area while plans for its future use are considered.

G R A D U A T E C O M M E N C E M E N T P R O U D D A Y F O R P C O M

In 2002, PCOM graduated 83 students who earned graduate degrees in one of four programs: Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology, Master of Science in Health Sciences – Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Science in Clinical Health Psychology and Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences. David A. Baron, MS, Ed, DO ’78, professor and chair of the department of psychiatry and behavioral science at Temple University School of Medicine, served as commencement speaker.

P H I S I G M A G A M M A A N D D O N O R S R E C O G N I Z E D

The Phi Sigma Gamma fraternity and its generous benefactors were recently recognized with a plaque that commemorates the organization’s long history. The plaque is now displayed proudly in PCOM’s dining room. The Brothers of Phi Sigma Gamma wish to thank the many donors who helped to continue the ideals of PCOM’s only surviving fraternity and osteopathic medical society. For more information on Phi Sigma Gamma, please contact the 2002-2003 president, Todd Feathers (DO ’05) at toddfe@pcom.edu.

D I N N E R H O N O R S P R I M A R Y C A R E G I V E R S

The Primary Care Dinner, organized under the leadership of Nicholas Bower (DO ’05), president of PCOM’s student chapter of American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, was a great success. The dinner, held last fall, attracted over 150 guests. Dr. Carol Henwood, PCOM Class of 1983, gave the keynote speech on the characteristics necessary for a successful and rewarding primary care career. Based on student voting, awards were presented to Saul Jeck, DO, chair, obstetrics and gynecology, as Primary Care Physician of the Year, and David Kuo, DO ’96, medical director, PCOM Healthcare Center - Roxborough Division, as Ambulatory Care Physician of the Year.
NEW ENROLLMENT STRATEGIES INCREASE APPLICATIONS

PCOM’s Office of Admissions hit the recruiting trail armed with ambitious enrollment goals for the DO and graduate programs as well as new strategies for attaining the goals. The admissions staff has been on the road, making personal visits to colleges and universities, participating in college fairs, exhibiting at professional conferences and increasing community outreach. Supporting their efforts is a concerted marketing campaign featuring advertising, direct mail and new coordinated collateral materials that include a cutting-edge CD-ROM mailer for prospective students.

This rigorous enrollment management plan was developed by a newly created committee, headed by associate vice president of enrollment management, Carol Fox, with representatives from each program.

DO Program

“The number of DO applications for 2003 is up for the first time in five years, running six percent ahead of 2002,” says Fox. “This year, we will interview close to 700 applicants.”

In Pennsylvania, however, malpractice insurance concerns and the need for tort reform have discouraged students from pursuing a medical career.

“One of PCOM’s continuing admissions goals is to prepare osteopathic physicians for practice in Pennsylvania,” says Deborah Erdner, director of admissions. “Since the pool of applicants from Pennsylvania is down, our efforts are particularly focused on recruiting statewide to increase the number of applications.”

PCOM also actively pursues Delaware applicants because of its official designation as the osteopathic medical school for that state. The admissions staff has taken advantage of other out-of-state opportunities this year, including an invitation to participate in the first health professions fair to be held by Yale University.

Graduate Programs

PCOM’s recruiting activities have included an open house for all graduate programs. Promoted to pre-med advisors and psychology departments at undergraduate schools, the open house drew prospective students.

Physician Assistant Studies

After PCOM joined the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) last year, the number of applications doubled, enabling the College to increase and strengthen the applicant pool and reach its target enrollment of 50 students. Admissions associates also have promoted PCOM’s PA program at professional conferences and college fairs, according to Diana Carrero, assistant director of Admissions for graduate programs.

Psychology Programs

This year, Admissions has targeted approximately 30 colleges in southeastern Pennsylvania for private visits and information sessions about PCOM’s psychology programs.

Other new recruiting activities include:

• Information sessions held at four locations in Pennsylvania and Delaware, including Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Scranton and Wilmington
• An on-campus information session for the new Organizational Development and Leadership program
• Exhibits at professional conferences
• Poster promotions at undergraduate schools
• New brochures

Biomedical Sciences

The very successful one-year certificate program continues to prepare students for professional school studies. Prospective students who are interested in a research career can now apply directly to the two-year master’s degree program in biomedical sciences. Poster promotions about this new option have been sent to microbiology and neuroscience departments at local undergraduate schools, and the response has been promising.

Minority Recruitment

PCOM has taken numerous steps to counteract the continuing downward trend in applications from underrepresented minority students nationwide. “Our goal is to increase our enrollment in this area with each new class,” says Tammi Wrice, assistant director of admissions for minority recruitment. PCOM’s current underrepresented minority enrollment is ten percent.

New minority recruiting activities include:

• Development of affiliation agreements with historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in Pennsylvania, Delaware. “We hope to identify students who want to attend PCOM,” explains Wrice. “We will maintain contact with these students throughout their college years with the understanding that we will interview a designated number of qualified students from each of these schools each year.”
• Nationwide HBCU visits. PCOM underrepresented minority students accompany Wrice as their schedules permit.
• Increased community outreach. PCOM works with White Williams Scholars and other similar programs to identify high-achieving students at Philadelphia area high schools. “By developing a relationship with these students early and maintaining contact with them throughout college, we are more likely to receive applications from them,” explains Wrice.
You’ll find them working with cell cultures in a laboratory, poring over study data on a computer screen, examining patients enrolled in a clinical trial and working out the kinks on an abstract or research paper, in myriad places, a trusty laptop computer in tow.

Almost anywhere on campus and beyond, some of PCOM’s best and brightest students are applying a particular trait that should live deep within any bench scientist or clinician – simple curiosity about some rather complex things.

In each of PCOM’s programs, many students are conducting research. For some, it’s a course requirement. For others, it’s more than that—much more.

Chuck Moore (MS/Biomed ’03, DO ’04) knows exactly why he has immersed himself in research: “So much of medicine is increasingly technical and complicated, it’s moving fast, like a train; I’d like to have the background that will place me in position to hop on the train as it pulls out of the station.”

Moore has given this more than a little bit of thought. He likens the pace of change in modern medicine to that which the computer industry continues to undergo. There is clarity in his vision. It is the reason he continues tackling the research work necessary for his master’s in biomedical sciences at PCOM while he’s buried in study as a student in the DO program.

He sees a future in medicine that will include a paramount need to understand the medical technology of the day, even if it is far more advanced than what he is learning about now. Gaining the necessary tools today, he says, will help him manage change more easily in his future. “I’ll know how to think a certain way,” he adds with emphasis. “It will give me far greater flexibility, increasing my options.”

As Richard M. Kriebel, PhD, senior associate dean for pre-clinical education and research, explains, “It’s vital not to rely solely on the ability to memorize an answer, but to know, specifically, which questions need to be asked and then to have the ability to search for the answer, to think through a problem.”
You have a problem to solve using the best information available,” says Dr. Kriebel. “You have a problem to solve using the best information available.”

This is important whether a student pursues a career in research solely or one in clinical practice. “You know, Fred Goldstein [Frederick J. Goldstein, PhD, professor, clinical pharmacology], says it all the time and it’s so true – the thinking is the same whether you’re in the lab or treating patients,” says Dr. Kriebel. “You have a problem to solve using the best information available.”

One student who hears that message loud and clear is Courtney K. Corsaro (DO ’03), who confidently researches skin cancer with Brian J. Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology and Angela MacIntyre, PhD, post-doctoral fellow, biomedical sciences, but remains somewhat shy about her stature as the top student in her class. “Dermatology is so fascinating; it includes all kinds of medicine,” says Corsaro. “This research is so interesting; it’s perfect for me,” she says, adding that she’d like a career in dermatology with the opportunity to continue in research, perhaps in clinical trials.

Fifth-year senior and OMM fellow Thomas R. Haley (DO ’03) is already involved in a clinical trial at PCOM’s healthcare centers as the “responsible investigator” in a study to determine if Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment techniques provide relief and reduce needed medications in adult asthmatics. “The goal would be to publish results in a year or so,” says Haley. “If our hypothesis is correct, hopefully it will lead to changes in treatment,” he adds.

Haley noted that principal investigator Alexander S. Nicholas, DO ’75, chairman, OMM, first suggested the clinical trial. “More and more MDs and MD students are wanting to know about OMT,” says Haley with the smile of a man who knows he’s on to something. “A lot of DOs don’t realize what they’ve got.”

“Research does so many things for students — it improves their writing skills and academically, it teaches them to narrow their focus from the general to the specific and it teaches them to test a hypothesis.”

— Bruno J. Bromke, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology

PCOM RESEARCHERS MAKE NEWS

Brian Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology and Denah Appelt, PhD, associate professor, biomedical sciences, were interviewed on ABC’s Philadelphia affiliate television station WPVI-TV. The segment, featuring their research on Alzheimer’s disease, aired on the station’s HealthCheck report.

Drs. Balin and Appelt led a research team whose members included Christopher Scott Little, PhD, instructor, pathology, microbiology and immunology, Chris Hammond, senior research assistant, pathology, microbiology and immunology and Angela MacIntyre, PhD, post-doctoral fellow, biomedical sciences. Their work shows a link between the bacteria Chlamydia pneumoniae and the amyloid plaques found in the brains of people who have sporadic, non-hereditary Alzheimer’s disease. Presented in July at The 8th International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders in Sweden, their new research builds on their groundbreaking work published in Medical Microbiology and Immunology in 1998 that discovered Chlamydia pneumoniae in 90 percent of brains taken from individuals who had suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. Their new work shows that the bacteria, when sprayed into the noses of mice, can cause progressive deposition of amyloid plaques, in essence creating a partial model of Alzheimer’s disease.

“We believe this could be a trigger mechanism for the pathology in Alzheimer’s disease,” says lead researcher Dr. Balin. “People have been suspecting infectious agents for decades but, until more recently, could not find infectious correlates with this disease. It is very difficult to pinpoint an infectious cause for a progressive, chronic disease. We also believe that our isolation of Chlamydia pneumoniae from the human Alzheimer’s diseased brain and induction of pathology in normal mice is ‘proof of principle’ that this can be a causative mechanism turning on pathology.”

This research has garnered publicity in other venues as well. An article citing the research appeared in the November issue of Targets, a review journal produced in the U.K. In November Dr. Appelt presented their research at the Society for Neuroscience in Florida and Dr. Balin presented at the 33rd Annual Symposium of the Eastern Pennsylvania Branch of the American Society for Microbiology. Also in November, Drs. Balin and Appelt presented their findings to the PCOM community and a local Rotary Club at a lecture hosted by the College.
RYAN M. SMITH (DO/MBA ’05)

Smith’s research is conducted under the direction of Charlotte H. Greene, PhD, professor, physiology and director of PCOM’s Experimental Cardiovascular Surgery Team. Student coordinator of the team in 2001, Smith expanded his understanding of surgical technique with a new research project, capturing third place at the October 2002 American Osteopathic Association convention in Las Vegas for his latest efforts. His research utilizes small intestine submucosa (SIS) strip grafts in the repair of 10 mm gap injuries in rat sciatic nerve. The study shows promise and Smith is continuing his research to determine how much regeneration occurs and the length of time it takes. According to his abstract, SIS’s inherent growth factors within the collagen matrix and lack of antigenicity make it a unique alternative to current methods of nerve repair.

THOMAS R. HALEY (DO ’03)

Haley, a fifth-year senior and OMM fellow, is the responsible investigator, working under the direction of principal investigator Alexander S. Nicholas, DO ’75, chairman, OMM, in a pilot study of the effects of OMT on medication use, peak expiratory flow rate and symptoms in patients with chronic asthma. He was awarded a grant from the PCOM Alumni Association in support of his research in September 2002. His research will include 40 patients from PCOM’s four urban healthcare centers.

SPECIFIC AIMS:

• Significant short-term results indicated by improvement immediately following OMT of subjective findings (i.e., patient’s symptoms) and objective findings (improvement in Peak Expiratory Flow Rate).
• Significant long-term results indicated by improvement over the course of the study of subjective findings (i.e., patient’s symptoms and need for beta-agonist “rescue” medication) and objective findings (i.e. improvement in PEFR)
• Identifying key somatic dysfunctions that are unique to the asthmatic patient
• Identifying OMT techniques that best treat asthmatic patients

CHUCK MOORE (MS/BIO MED ’03, DO ’04)

Moore, who is committed to finishing his master’s degree in biomedical science while in the DO program, is working under the direction of Susan T. Hingley, PhD, associate professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology, to study mouse hepatitis virus (MHV) infection of the central nervous system as an animal model of multiple sclerosis. His work includes the study of whether or not MHV can also be used as an animal model to examine how neurotropic viruses get to the brain.

Does the virus cross the blood brain barrier? Can it enter via the respiratory route? Does route entry affect neurotropism?

BRIAN SEAMAN (DO ’04)

Seaman is fresh from two first-place prizes for his work. In 2002, he took top honors in student competitions at the Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Specialists and American College of Osteopathic Surgeons. He co-authored an abstract with Christina Wiedl (DO ’04). Both work under the direction of Charlotte H. Greene, PhD, professor, physiology and director of PCOM’s Experimental Cardiovascular Surgery Team.

Using a porcine model, Seaman (surgery) and Wiedl (histology) worked to determine whether swine small intestinal submucosa (SIS) allografts are a feasible alternative to synthetic grafts in the repair of aortic aneurysm. Synthetic grafts can result in infection, rejection and incomplete endothelialization.
Student research, for some, provides a chance to travel to meetings where they can present their research in poster presentations and abstracts. “This school does a lot of poster presentations, which are great opportunities for students to show their work,” says Bruno J. Bromke, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology. “These presentations have immediate rewards; our students are able to meet students from other schools and discuss their research,” adds Dr. Bromke, who was elected president of PCOM’s chapter of Sigma Xi, a national scientific research society with more than 500 chapters at universities and colleges, government laboratories and industrial research centers.

Brian Seaman (DO ’04) has won two first-place awards at national meetings, and Ryan M. Smith (DO/MBA ’05) has garnered a third-place award at a national meeting for his work with PCOM’s Experimental Cardiovascular Surgery Team. Each student is continuing his research.

Such efforts and awards help to raise PCOM’s profile, something Dr. Bromke has been working on with Sigma Xi. “One cannot separate Sigma Xi activities from promotion of PCOM’s image. And we cannot separate Sigma Xi activities from the recruitment of new students,” emphasizes Dr. Bromke. “We can compete for top students when they know PCOM offers the opportunity for research,” he notes. “We’d like to continue to grow our research efforts among students and among faculty, and Sigma Xi can be a great catalyst for this effort. It’s good for everyone.”

Jeremy White (MS/Biomed ’03)

White’s research, conducted under the direction of Bruno J. Bromke, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology, involves the study of a particular bacterium.

White’s Thesis:
Effects of Serratial 58kDa Protease on Attachment, Permeability and Intracellular Signaling of McCoy 5A Fibroblasts.

Study Goals:
• To optimize the immunofluorescent labeling by incorporating a cytopsin step.
• To identify other cellular targets of protease by the immunofluorescent labeling method.
• To verify the phenomenon of increased permeability when detecting laminin.
• To reveal intracellular signal transduction activity upon administration of the protease.

Courtney K. Corsaro (DO ’03)

Corsaro, the top-ranked student in her class, was awarded a research grant in September 2002 by the PCOM Alumni Association to further her research into cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) under the direction of Brian J. Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology and immunology and Angela MacIntyre, PhD, post-doctoral fellow, biomedical sciences.

Her Research Has Two Aims:
• To determine if keratinocytes infected with Chlamydia pneumoniae differentially express sezary activating factor (SAF), a protein associated with malignant T-cells associated with CTCL as compared to uninfected control keratinocytes. Sezary activating factor is responsible for proliferation of malignant T-cells in vitro. SAF has been shown to be expressed in keratinocytes from CTCL patients.

• To determine if SAF is expressed intracellularly or on the surface of infected keratinocytes. This will aid in our knowledge of how SAF is influencing T-cells in CTCL, its effects on the epidermotropism and proliferation of malignant cells in the skin, and its association with C. pneumoniae.
Leonard W. Johnson, DO ’64

Recipient of the 2003 “O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal”

The Man Who Launched a Thousand Careers

He recites the achievements of the students he’s helped like a proud father. . . the PCOM student who just completed his internship. . . the three young women who graduated from college with honors and went on to medical and law schools. . . the student who is on track to graduate summa cum laude from medical school this year.

These students and countless others like them are the legacy of Leonard W. Johnson, DO ’64, the 2003 “O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal” recipient. He has dedicated his life to helping people, not only through the practice of medicine, but by mentoring hundreds of students and helping hundreds more to obtain the financial resources to attend college and medical school.

During the past year alone, Dr. Johnson arranged for numerous scholarships for minority students attending PCOM, mentored about 30 medical students in his bustling practice at Spruce Medical Center in West Philadelphia and helped 43 Philadelphia-area students obtain scholarships to his undergraduate alma mater, Florida A&M University.

“I try to help make life better for people, especially those who are less fortunate,” says Dr. Johnson, who, along with his associates, cares for over 10,000 patients in his medical practice. And he still makes house calls. “I have about 10 people I see at home now,” he says. “I used to see more.”

He worries about patients who can’t get the best prescription medicine to treat their illnesses because they’re on welfare. He also worries about young people who might not realize their full potential in life because they cannot afford to go to college or medical school.

“We need to do more,” he emphasizes. “We need better public health policies, and we need to provide more scholarship money for capable students who are underserved.”

Dr. Johnson has done more than his share as a member of PCOM’s Minority Scholarship Committee and as chairman of the Florida A&M Alumni Association Scholarship Committee nearly every year since 1963.

Dr. Johnson’s inspiration for helping others began at Christmas time when he was a child growing up in Orlando, Florida. “Every Christmas, my mother served dinner at 4 pm and she would invite a lot of the less fortunate people in the neighborhood to join us,” he explained. “That memory will always be with me.”

His decision to become a doctor was inspired at an early age by his family physician, Dr. S.H. Daniels. “I remember vividly that he used to make house calls and he was very active in the community,” he recalls. “I admired him very much. He would come to the house and treat people and the next day they were well! As a six year old, I was especially impressed by that.”

Dedicated to the Community

Dr. Johnson has emulated Dr. Daniels’ community involvement as well as his practice of medicine by regularly sponsoring community health fairs and school programs, among many other activities. After arranging for his medical practice to adopt the Alain Locke Elementary School in West Philadelphia, Dr. Johnson instituted a Health Academy at the school to encourage young African-American students to consider careers in health care. In 1992, he expanded the Health Academy
to his church, Bright Hope Baptist, where he is a member of the board of trustees.

“There is a severe shortage of African-Americans in health care,” explains Dr. Johnson. “Through the Health Academy, we are increasing the number of young people who are entering this field. Currently, we have 10 students in college and one in medical school.”

In addition, Dr. Johnson personally gives an annual scholarship in memory of his mother to the top graduating high school senior at Bright Hope.

Dr. Johnson has also helped many young people in his neighborhood through his Spruce Adolescent Counseling and Education Center. “Our mission is to reduce and possibly eradicate adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases,” he explains. “I think we’ve done a pretty good job.

“I feel good about fulfilling needs in the community,” Dr. Johnson reflects. “Many years ago, just before I was accepted at PCOM, I met the former dean, Dr. Otterbein Dressler. He said, ‘Johnson, when you get into PCOM, do me a favor. Black people need you badly. They need you as their physician to help young people, just as he has.’”

Another PCOM alumnus, J. Steven Blake, DO ’89, remembers, “Dr. Johnson taught me that I was capable of doing a lot more than I thought. He encouraged me to push my limits . . . to suture a wound instead of sending the patient to the ER, for example, or to counsel patients struggling with family problems or adolescent issues. He also encouraged me to use my position and status as a physician to help young people, just as he has.”

PASSING ALONG PCOM LESSONS

Dr. Johnson says he’s merely passing along the lessons he learned as a student at PCOM. “The professors taught us discipline and they taught us to do things well.”

As a member of the PCOM board of trustees, Dr. Johnson is vitally interested in the continued success of the College. “We need to continue to prepare good primary care physicians,” he says. “They are the basis of medicine.” He takes pride in the fact that, as a primary care doctor, he’s made a lot of good diagnoses and a lot of referrals that made the difference between life and death.

A firm believer in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), he also emphasizes the importance of OMM research at PCOM. “People should know what OMM is and how it makes a difference,” says Dr. Johnson, who calls himself “a 13-finger physician – 10 fingers for osteopathic therapy and three fingers for writing prescriptions.”

Despite his busy practice and community involvement, Dr. Johnson still finds time for his favorite pastime, sports. “The Philadelphia Eagles are my life. When they lose, I almost cry,” he says. Also a world traveler, he and his wife, Annie, have enjoyed trips to Southeast Asia, South America and Europe.

He speaks with pride of his son, Ronald, a property management professional, and granddaughter, Ashley, who is a second-year student in electrical engineering and a National Merit Scholar at Florida A&M University. “She is the fourth generation of the Johnson family to attend Florida A&M,” he notes.

Throughout his three-plus decades in practice, Dr. Johnson has earned abundant awards and honors for his work with youth, education and the community as well as for his professional achievements. For him, the most meaningful accomplishment is the one that launched his own medical practice over three decades ago. “The word got out in the neighborhood that Johnson cares about people,” he says. “That will always be most important to me.”
Josh Baron has always believed that a doctor has an opportunity to be not just a doctor, but also a coach, teacher and friend. "Being a doctor provides an awesome chance to get involved and make a difference in the lives of patients and other people in the community," he says.

Throughout his four years at PCOM, Baron has put his personal philosophy into practice. During his urban medicine rotation at the Fairmount Clinic in Philadelphia, he volunteered to accompany the clinic’s community outreach coordinator to medically underserved areas where they delivered food to the homeless, offered blood pressure checks and AIDS testing, and talked with local youth about substance abuse and safe sex.

During two stints as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Baron was deeply moved by the experience of "helping to put a roof over someone’s head. It reaffirmed my belief that a doctor can and should make a difference in people’s lives in many meaningful ways," he recalls.

Baron has also made a difference in the PCOM community. As an executive board member of the Student Government Association, he has served as a catalyst for change. "We’ve helped to create more rotation opportunities, addressed the need for curriculum changes and provided equipment for students learning primary care skills.”

While a member of the PCOM Mentoring Program, Baron coached St. Joseph’s University students as they prepared for medical school applications and MCAT exams. On DO Day on Capitol Hill 2002, he and other PCOM students lobbied U.S. Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) for continued government funding of medical education.

As a member of PCOM’s student admissions committee, Baron has taken pleasure in “helping PCOM get the best students and continue its long tradition of excellence.” He knows firsthand about that tradition since he is the sixth member of his family to attend PCOM, following in the footsteps of his father, Paul Baron, DO ’83 and great-uncle Edward Zimmerman, DO ’54, both family physicians, and cousin David Baron, DO ’78, a world-renowned psychiatrist. His grandfather, Lou Baron, also attended PCOM before being called to military duty during World War II; he later became a clinical psychologist. Baron also has several other cousins who are alumni.

“During every decade since the 1940s, a member of our family has attended PCOM,” he notes.

Baron remembers first setting foot on the PCOM campus at age five. “My father was a student, and my mother brought my brother and me along to pick him up after anatomy class,” he recalls. “I remember playing on the lawn while we waited for him and, later, attending his graduation.”

Now Baron looks forward to his own upcoming graduation when his father will hood him. “At the same time, we’ll be celebrating the 20th anniversary of my dad’s graduation,” he notes. “My dad provided me with the career path, skill and desire to become a doctor. Just as important, my mom gave me the love and compassion a good doctor needs.”

Baron also credits his wife, Lauren, a speech pathologist, with providing limitless support throughout the rigors of medical school.

A Sigma Sigma Phi Honor Society member and Board of Trustees academic scholarship recipient, Baron takes pride in his research involving an experimental vascular graft, which has been presented at two national medical conferences and was recently submitted for publication to the Journal of Investigative Surgery.

Now he looks forward to a career in emergency medicine. “I love the pace and the fact that you must be a jack of all trades,” he says. “On any given day, I might have the chance to be a pediatrician, surgeon or obstetrician.

“My osteopathic training will provide a decided advantage in every diagnostic encounter, which is especially critical in emergency medicine,” Baron adds. “I also look forward to helping people in the community who don’t have medical insurance or a primary care doctor. The ER will give me a tremendous opportunity to be a coach, teacher and friend as well as a doctor.”
PCOM’s Alumni Association approved sweeping changes with you in mind.

In its first meeting of 2002, PCOM’s Alumni Association Board of Directors took a close look at the years ahead and approved substantive changes that have resulted in a rebirth of your association. Changes were approved with the major goals being to serve you better, involve you to a higher degree in alumni affairs and reach out to more new members. It really is your association, your representative on campus. The most significant changes are in the areas of the association’s bylaws, its membership dues and its methods of involving members in activities. Here’s what members of the Alumni Association of PCOM can look forward to, effective January 2003.

**BYLAWS REVISED**

The Alumni Association Board has restructured the association’s districts, to better represent those regions in which more of you reside. While our Pennsylvania alumni continue to represent more than 42% of us, there has been a good deal of movement since the last time we redistricted 20-plus years ago. (See map.) The re-districting is an up-to-date reflection of the membership.

Thinking forward, the Alumni Association Board also decided to broaden membership in the association by including special association membership designations for students, interns and residents. This move increases membership while adding fresh voices to the association. The association is interested in hearing your voice, whether you’re a fresh-faced, laptop-toting first-year student or a graduate from the hallowed days of 48th Street.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP POLICY - NO DUES**

In the past, members had to pay dues to belong to PCOM’s Alumni Association. The new bylaws usher in an era of automatic Alumni Association membership. If you’re a graduate, you belong. It’s that simple.

Though you are all members, your association very much needs your financial support. All members who make a contribution to the association will be recognized, either as “contributing mem-

**2003 OFFICERS**

President: William J. King, DO ’63
President-elect: John G. Costino, DO ’71
Vice president: John D. Angeloni, DO ’75
Secretary: Robert S. Maurer, DO ’62
Treasurer: Pat C. DiTommaso, DO ’80
Assistant treasurer: Joseph J. Kuchinski, DO ’86
Treasurer emeritus: Galen S. Young, Sr., DO ’35
Immediate past president: Robert C. Greer, IV, DO ’77

**2003 DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES**

*(Terms are for three years)*

**North Atlantic District**
George K. Kamajian, DO ’76
Timothy P. Lowney, DO ’77
Suzanne M. Picinich, DO ’86

**Pennsylvania District**
Michael F. Avallone, DO ’59
John W. Becher, DO ’70
Hal S. Bendit, DO ’84
J. Steven Blake, DO ’89
Darlene Dunay, DO ’83
Richard Pascucci, DO ’75
Melissa Neumann Schwartz, DO ’91

**New Jersey District**
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Harry E. Manser, DO ’69
Nicholas C. Pedano, DO ’61

**Mid-Atlantic District**
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**Southeast District**
David Coffey, DO ’84

**Florida District**
Ricky Lockett, DO ’84
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**Mid-America District**
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**Great Lakes District**
Luke G. Nelligan, DO ’91
Elsira M. Pina, DO ’89

**Far West District**
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**Military District**
Col. Daniel F. Battafarano, DO ’83
Capt. Cynthia Williams, DO ’83

**Resident Representative**
Scott McGlynn, DO ’00

**Intern Representative**
Maureen Sestito, DO ’02

**Student Representative**
Joshua Baron (DO ’03)

**President**
Matthew Schure, PhD

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Alumni Association Representative to PCOM Board of Trustees
Vincent J. Lobo, DO ’65

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PCOM DIGEST
“contributing life members” in accordance with the level of support. A handsome new plaque honoring “contributing life members” now hangs in Evans Hall. The College will continue to update the plaque as more alumni offer support. All contributions to the Alumni Association are tax deductible (in accordance with appropriate laws), providing another reason to support your Association.

What happened to the old membership plaque? We have dismantled the old plaque and will send you your namplate if you like. Watch your mail for a special offer regarding life membership namplates.

VOICE YOUR OPINION

Your Alumni Association would like to hear your ideas and opinions on matters, from the general to the specific. You can call, send a fax, write a letter, send an e-mail or respond online through the Alumni Relations section of PCOM’s Web site, www.pcom.edu.

HERE’S LOOKING AT YOU

When the Alumni Association takes a close look at its membership, it sees a vast, talented pool of untapped energy, ideas and involvement. In an effort to learn what you think and gain your ideas about how your association might best serve its members, the association commissioned an independent, professional survey that was completed in April 2002. Based on the results of this survey, multiple opportunities will be explored to introduce the Alumni Association into the professional lives of its members. Our alumni also expressed their desire to become involved in program planning and participation. Education seminars combined with social events, which include families, is a frequent request. The Association is dedicated to better communication with members. Your board members are always open to new ideas and recommendations and welcome your comments and suggestions.

HERE’S HOW TO REACH US:

PHONE: (215) 871-6120 OR (800) 739-3939    FAX: (215) 871-6151    E-MAIL: ALUMNI@PCOM.EDU

We need your contributions to continue to grow our programs for alumni.
Classes, clerkships, labs, research and treks to the library occupy much of the time of PCOM students and faculty. With those busy schedules, you would think they would have little time to spend helping others. But the PCOM community takes its mission of leadership and service seriously, rendering community service an important part of life at PCOM. Today, you'll meet some of the many who work diligently to fulfill that mission, leaving the mark of PCOM on our community and touching countless lives.
Leadership and service

The four urban centers, Cambria Street, Lancaster Avenue, City Line Avenue and Roxborough, as well as the rural center, Sullivan County, offer a variety of health services ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics and just about anything in between. Every month, an average of 400 patients pass through the doors of each one of the five healthcare centers. Of these patients, approximately 75 to 80 percent receive Medicaid. Along with the colds and other ailments, many patients face a variety of complex social issues.

PCOM physicians and psychologists know that social problems accompanying such socio-economic factors influence the health and well-being of their patients, so they take the time to talk with them and refer them to other professionals when appropriate. The doctors and students offer medical care and other support not often available at a private doctor’s office. They treat the entire patient, not just the health problem the patient presents with at one appointment. The focus is on delivering care to the entire family and encouraging preventive care and wellness in the osteopathic tradition.

A major part of that effort includes community outreach. For example, the health fair, held last spring, featured health and dental screenings, exercise education, home safety tips, gun awareness and safety, and bicycle and helmet give-aways. According to Lisa Bechtel, Roxborough Healthcare Center manager, over 140 PCOM students were on hand to assist and meet the community, as was PCOM’s psychology department for referrals, Child-Link (an early intervention program for children with developmental disabilities) and the American Cancer Society. The healthy lifestyle component was supplemented by face painting, dee jay and dancing, refreshments, Phillies tickets and other give-aways. All of the PCOM healthcare centers have held such functions and plan to make them annual events.

“The PCOM healthcare centers are unique,” says Dr. Kuo. “Here, we make sure to take the time to listen to our patients and to address each problem fully – not just the medical problems. Because we often treat the whole family, we can be more aware of family dynamics and other issues that affect health. We can offer support and

Watching the busy scene, it is easy to see that the children and their parents are comfortable with the PCOM staff. Little ones give hugs to the docs while their moms watch with approving smiles. This is not an ordinary medical office – it is part of PCOM healthcare center network, a system that brings health care to the neighborhoods and people who need it most.

For PCOM, the healthcare centers fulfill two vital parts of our mission: educating students and improving the well-being of the community through leadership and service. Fulfilling both objectives through one venture has proven beneficial to both those providing care and those receiving it.

Leadership and service

On a rainy and cold winter day, David Kuo, DO ’96, infuses warmth at PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Division. He greets patients and student doctors alike, by name, with a welcoming smile and kind words. His friendly approach is mimicked throughout the center.

PCOM Healthcare Centers offer foundation for healthy living

On a rainy and cold winter day, David Kuo, DO ’96, infuses warmth at PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Division. He greets patients and student doctors alike, by name, with a welcoming smile and kind words. His friendly approach is mimicked throughout the center.

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve...You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love and you can be that servant.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Educating doctors

Waiting for Dr. Kuo in the healthcare center office is a small group of fresh, young faces, proudly sporting white coats and stethoscopes, eager to see patients. They are fourth-year PCOM students who will spend eight weeks on a clerkship receiving a healthy dose of reality as well as medical education. During their clerkships, they become the physicians of first contact for patients. Under the direction of the staff physicians, they are expected to coordinate care and establish effective physician-patient relationships by using appropriate interpersonal communication skills.

Some of these skills could be learned in a suburban doctor's office, far from the challenges of the healthcare center neighborhood. But by accepting this clerkship, the PCOM students enhance their ability to effectively deal with a variety of complex social issues as well as patient illness and learn more about the relationship between such factors and patient health.

*compiled by the University of Pennsylvania based on census statistics.
In the beautiful city of Cape Town, South Africa, an ugly killer is stealing lives, orphaning children and devastating entire communities. Yet Sofiya Balta (DO’05) chose to spend her summer there anyway, on a medical and education mission through a private social service agency. Ms. Balta, a New York native and graduate of Barnard College, had a desire to learn more about women’s health issues. Unable to find a trip sponsored by a secular organization at her year level, she surfed the web until she discovered an opportunity that fit her. Her resourcefulness paid off and she soon found herself touring clinics in Cape Town. A stark contrast hit her right away – outside, the majestic scenery was beautiful, while inside the clinics, the sickness, poverty and lack of resources were all too evident.

South Africa has one of the fastest-growing HIV epidemics in the world. Women, especially pregnant women, have been hard-hit with the disease. The Medical Research Council of South Africa estimates that approximately 40 percent of adult deaths that occurred in the year 2000, for those age 15 to 49, were due to HIV/AIDS. The mortality rate of young women has increased rapidly over the last few years, with the mortality of women in the 25 to 29 year range reaching numbers three times higher in 2000 than in 1985.

She also learned that even with all we know today, in South Africa, there is still a lot of misinformation about HIV, which contributes to the spread of the disease.

Still, she says, it was a learning and service experience she wouldn’t trade and won’t soon forget. “I learned so much,” she says. “I was permitted to go on rounds and observe surgery. I saw a lot of complications due to poverty that I might not see otherwise. I was able to watch some deliveries and able to scrub in on a hernia surgery.”

Most of all, Ms. Balta says, the experience jolted her from what she calls her “comfort zone.” “I learned that I still have so much to learn. It got me excited about continuing my education and traveling to other countries. Being in an underdeveloped nation that does not have the same resources that we have has made me grateful and helps me not to take things for granted. I also learned how powerful it can be just to try to offer comfort and smile and offer a warm touch to people who are being ignored.”

Someday soon, a Dr. Balta, PCOM alumna, will offer that smile to her own patient, making an important difference in someone’s life and using the lessons she learned from serving others.
continued from page 19

“We see everybody here,” Dr. Kuo says. “We get referrals from the Salvation Army, which assists recovering drug addicts, from Interact, which treats dually diagnosed substance abuse and mental illness and the patients who have difficult problems such as broken families or lack of education. These people deserve health care, too. A lot of places don’t want to take care of them, but we do. We support them and try to help them work through the problems, as well as the health issues. They are wonderful patients. They appreciate our help and they want to work through things. It’s uplifting to see them,” he says. “And they increase our ability to provide our medical students with real training.”

As Dr. Kuo and a student treat a five-year-old boy and his mom on the same visit, the lively youngster picks up a blood pressure reader and begins to take a reading. “Do you want to be a doctor some day?” they ask. “Yes!” the little boy exclaims. Perhaps the influence of the PCOM healthcare centers is more far-reaching than we will ever know.

Bridging the Gaps

Like other forms of community service, the Bridging the Gaps program was designed to assist underserved populations and enhance the education of students in the medical professions. But unlike many programs, this program is built on a framework of collaboration. Students from 13 health and social service disciplines, such as physicians, nurses, dentists and social workers, provide service in a cross-disciplinary model.

The program started at one Philadelphia institution in 1991 and has since grown to include several Philadelphia schools, including PCOM, as well as participants across the state. It is administered independently and funded by institutional, public, private and corporate support. Eugene Mochen, PhD, DO ’77 serves as PCOM’s coordinator.

Each summer, teams of students provide service while learning to consider the impact of socio-economic factors and the health care system on a community’s health. Working in direct patient service at community-based programs such as child or elder care, a women’s transitional residence or a men’s HIV support program, the students spend a short but intensive seven weeks at their assigned community organization. While there, they are required to design and implement a program tailored to the needs of their program’s population.

Lucy Tuton, executive director of Bridging the Gaps, says that the program’s cooperative nature makes it unique. “This is a wonderful program because it’s a collaboration among academic health institutions and the communities they serve. It’s unusual because in most models, students from varying institutions and disciplines compete, but here they work together. They learn to understand the value of using all resources in the varying health disciplines. They also discover how to learn from the communities they serve. They realize how extraordinary these underserved communities are and that there is more to practicing medicine than examining patients; they need to care for patients in the context of their community.”

Last summer, 34 PCOM students participated in Bridging the Gaps. They each took away something unique to their situation and perspective, but all agreed, the experience would help them become better doctors.

Seth Cohen, a second-year DO student from Columbia, Md., spent his days at If We Don’t, Who Will?, a program of St. Mary’s Respite Center that serves HIV-positive children and their families. Mr. Cohen, along with fellow PCOM students, worked with eight to 15 children each day. They taught the youngsters about basic health care and safety issues including dental care, nutrition and fire safety. Mr. Cohen, who admits he initially had reservations about working with children, says that in the end, working with them was rewarding and he learned many skills that will make him a better physician. “I learned to be a better listener,” he says. “I learned that the
interaction between patient and doctor is crucial. The patient must trust you, especially when the patient is a child.”

Instead of heading up the turnpike to his Union, NJ home for summer break, Brian Costello (DO ’05) found himself heading down Ridge Avenue to a geriatric program sponsored by Interact (Inter Action Community Network). The experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for which he is grateful. “Bridging the Gaps represents all that is right in medicine,” he says proudly. “It represents the part of medicine I am drawn to – the part that lets you serve a cause greater than your own self and your own interests.”

His work, in cooperation with other students, entailed designing a fitness and social program for the seniors in a facility that serves as both a social setting for independent seniors and an adult daycare center. By the time the summer ended, Mr. Costello learned to design senior-citizen friendly exercises and even taped the last class so the seniors would have a video to follow after the students left.

“This really opened my eyes to the elderly population and how they can be forgotten,” he says. “They have complicated problems, from social issues to physical problems, that affect them. The support networks are too few. So many of them said they didn't know what they would do every day without Interact. They form a network for each other and they really support each other,” he adds. “I am glad I could be a part of it and learn the importance of teamwork. This showed me how big the medical team really is. It's not just the doctors who take care of people, but the nurses and the social workers, too. It also reinforced my decision to be a primary care provider. Primary care is a responsibility – not just a career choice.”

Jennifer Kreiling (DO ’05) and Allison Wawer (DO ’04) are two hard-working students whom you wouldn't expect to find socializing among former prostitutes and drug addicts. But last summer, the young women taught us all a lesson in rejecting stereotypes and finding the good in all people. At New Directions for Women, Ms. Kreiling and Ms. Wawer spent their days with women who had been sentenced to live in the halfway house to design senior-citizen friendly exercises and even taped the last class so the seniors would have a video to follow after the students left.

“Many of them have had such hard lives,” says Ms. Kreiling. “So often we think of these women as people who have made wrong decisions. But each one of them has a story and people should not judge them. There are lots of factors at play here – things like poverty, mental illness and substance abuse – that affect them. It takes a lot to break the cycle,” she adds.

From children with HIV to isolated seniors, Bridging the Gaps taught PCOM students things that are difficult to learn in textbooks and classrooms. Now, the challenge is for them to take their knowledge and apply it in the real world. If they can do that, Bridging the Gaps will remain successful and our community will benefit from a new generation of doctors who look beyond the obvious to see the whole patient.

Varying opportunities

Not all students are able to participate in a summer-long program like Bridging the Gaps, but most do find time to reach out to the community through ongoing or special service projects.

Several students in the biomed program participated in a weekend camp for adults living with Huntington's disease. Susan Baroody, in her first year at PCOM, considered the experience one of the best she's had to date. “It made a lasting imprint on me,” Ms. Baroody says. “It made me appreciate my own health and it opened my eyes to the devastation that diseases such as Huntington's can bring. But also, it made me see that even though people have a serious disease, their individual personalities are still there. We need to remember that when working with them and have empathy for who they are as a person, not just a patient.”

Another student volunteer, Dustan Burman, a first-year biomed, says the experience brought more meaning to the things he learned in the classroom. “We learned about Huntington's disease in class,” he says. “But we learned much more from the camp because we saw how the disease can affect each person in a different way and we need to learn to treat them and their individual circumstances and symptoms,” he adds.
“It’s a great way to give back,” says another first-year biomed student, Sofia Abraham. “God has blessed me, and this camp gave me a way to share those blessings. Plus, I’ve noticed that you never know who you’ll meet and the impact they will have on you. I ended up learning so much about life and myself from the campers – and learning never hurt anyone.”

Wherever you look in the Philadelphia region, if people are giving of themselves, PCOM students are sure to be represented. According to Jasmine Martinez (DO ’04), former co-president of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), a number of community service and outreach events are noteworthy.

SNMA began the academic year with the annual “sandwich run,” during which students make sandwich meals and distribute them throughout the city. SNMA then hosted their first meeting of the Medical Explorers group in which young adults from the community, in collaboration with the Boy Scouts of America, learn about the vast opportunities in health careers through their interactions with PCOM students and staff. The high school students receive the opportunity to participate in various learning activities such as the anatomy lab, radiology and OMM lab, and they learn the steps to take to achieve their goals.

SNMA is currently involved with our MAPS Chapter (Minority Association of Pre-Health Students) at Cheyney University. The purpose is to provide under-represented pre-health students with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed for professional participation in health care fields. SNMA also participated in the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank and sponsored a coat drive during the winter months in conjunction with the United Way.

The Public Health Club sponsors events and raises funds and awareness for health-related issues. Megan McGavern, (DO ’05) says the group has participated in the AIDS Walk, sponsored lectures and is a major force behind an important community outreach effort, the annual health fair at West Philadelphia High School. “The health fair educates the students about topics such as STDs, violence, higher education and healthy habits,” she notes.

Another group, Physicians for Social Responsibility, enables medical students to take action regarding important social issues such as gun control, domestic violence, nuclear arms and more. Lori Lovitz (DO ’04), past president of the group, adds, “In addition to our events and speakers, we have recruited medical students into the Adopt-A-School Program, where we paired up and visited inner-city Philadelphia classrooms six times over the course of the year and conducted discussions about drugs, alcohol, bullying, gun violence and puberty. The object of our visits was to teach 4th–8th graders that they will be making many decisions in their lives and that they could avoid injury and sickness by considering other options besides drugs and violence.”

The commitment continues with alumni

Even after graduation, many PCOM alumni continue to be involved in community service and still others devote their lives to it. Steve Kamajian, DO ’78, heads a free clinic he designed and founded that treats the working poor and homeless population, just outside Los Angeles. The Westminster Free Medical Clinic offers basic medical care and prescription drugs as well as some tests and x-ray services, all free of charge to those with no insurance or ability to pay. It is unlike any other clinic in that Dr. Kamajian developed a system to utilize high school and college students as volunteers.

The students take an active role in the daily management of the clinic as well as case management for the patients. After training, students perform basic services such as taking patient histories and filling out paperwork. Moreover, they commit to see a person or family through, until their needs, health care and other, are met. This means plenty of bake sales and car washes to help fund security deposits for the homeless person now ready to make the move to an apartment or to provide clothes, furniture or other basic needs to a patient in a transitional situation.

“I feel a social obligation to do this,” says Dr. Kamajian. “This is necessary. People need access to care and we need to come up with solutions to provide it,” he adds.

From Philadelphia to California, members of the PCOM family are improving the world, one helping hand at a time. In the end, they find that they are the ones who really benefit.

“IT is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.”

- RALPH WALDO EMERSON
What is it about the class of ’78, Bruce Kornberg, DO ’78, professor and chair, cardiology division, co-vice chair, department of internal medicine, wondered, that 25 years after graduation so many from that class are either still at PCOM or back at PCOM as professors, directors or chairs of departments. The answer is as individual as four of Dr. Kornberg’s classmates, yet there is one common theme – personal relationships.

Carl DiMarco, DO ’78, professor, director and chairman of the residency program of ophthalmology, recalls that during his years as a student “everyone tried to help each other; it really was like a family. The students were always close; the professors made a point of knowing you. President Rowland instilled a sense of camaraderie and congeniality throughout the campus – he was everyone’s friend.” Throughout his residency and internship, Dr. DiMarco maintained links with PCOM, both by teaching at the College and treating patients at the hospital. When he received a phone call from President Finkelstein asking him if he would start an ophthalmology residency program at PCOM, he readily agreed. In addition to his responsibilities with the College, Dr. DiMarco attends the 76ers’ basketball games with classmate John McPhilemy, DO ’78, professor, chair and course director of osteopathic surgery, to tend player injuries.

This tale of personal and professional ties with College presidents and professors is echoed in Dr. Kornberg’s story. “We were trained and brought up through the ranks by doctors who were also teachers. The attendings taught the residents who taught the interns who taught the students. We knew our attendings, and they led by example. We couldn’t have had better role models. In particular, I think of Bill Dickerson and Albert D’Alonzo. Even today, PCOM has the feeling of a small school – I have direct contact with students every day, and that’s what keeps me going,” Dr. Kornberg feels so strongly about the College he created a scholarship in his parents’ name.

Oliver Bullock, DO ’78, professor, family medicine and clinical director of PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division, credits strong mentorship, a great respect for OMT and a simpler time in medicine as the glue that held the class together. “I still remember the team that provided memorable lectures and instilled a great respect for OMT - Drs. Nicholas, Blumberg, Heilig and Sulman,” notes Bullock. “Dr. Dickerson once spent an hour giving me a spontaneous lecture on how truly caring about patients is best represented by learning everything you possibly can about treating their problem. I never forgot that, and I make an effort to practice in that spirit.”

Harry Morris, DO ’78, MPH, professor and chair of family medicine, agrees that those were special times in osteopathic medicine. “We had a strong commitment to the school and a strong allegiance to osteopathic training. We had great mentors and were able to stand on the shoulders of giants. I specifically remember Drs. Dickerson, Jama and Huffnagle. When I was offered the opportunity to chair the family medicine program here at PCOM, I knew it would be a wonderful opportunity to incorporate my clinical, medical, teaching and administrative skills and interests. I’ve found the commitment of the faculty has remained as strong as ever while opportunities for clinical training have expanded and our facilities have grown into a beautiful campus. I know now that PCOM really prepared me for my future, and I believe we still prepare our students for what lies beyond medical school.”

The class of ’78 will celebrate its 25th reunion May 30-June 1, 2003. Class agent Lorraine DiSipio, DO ’78, is collecting memories like these to be shared during the reunion, a weekend-long event that promises to be filled with exciting activities for alumni and their families. If you have not yet done so, please contact Dr. DiSipio today – the event is right around the corner. Please see contact information on page 26.
Class of 1945
Arnold Melnick, DO, Aventura, Fla., received the “Distinguished Service Award” from the American Osteopathic Association for outstanding accomplishments in professional affairs. Dr. Melnick recently retired as executive vice chancellor and provost of the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. In retirement, Dr. Melnick continues his lifelong avocation of writing and editing. He has had four books published and has four others under review. He has published 75 articles and is past president of the American Medical Writers Association and its Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Class of 1946
Abe H. Lucks, DO, Cedarhurst, NY, was featured in an article published in Newday titled “The doctor is in (his 90’s).” He is 91 years young and shows no signs of slowing down. He has been in practice in South Ozone Park, NY for 55 years.

Class of 1952
Class Agent: Sidney Malet, DO
PHONE: 209-474-3071
E-MAIL: malet@attbi.com
Morton H. Rothstein, DO, Massapequa Park, NY, was named medical director of M.D.N.Y. HealthCare Inc. His specialty is general surgery.

Class of 1953
Class Agent: John G. Goulding, DO
PHONE: 781-324-7781
E-MAIL: drjgg@rcn.com

Class of 1954
William G. McDowell, DO, Hermitage, Pa., was elected chairman of the board of directors of Greater Alleghenies Region of the American Red Cross.

Class of 1957
Class Agent: Marvin L. Rosner, DO
PHONE: 610-664-6509

Class of 1958
Class Agent: Murray Cohen, DO
PHONE: 602-249-4750

Class of 1961
Nicholas C. Pedano, DO, Margate, NJ, was granted life membership by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. He was recognized with an award for dedicated service as a board of trustee member and/or president of the association for 1989-1999.

Class of 1962
Class Agent: James H. Black, DO
PHONE: 757-489-5450
E-MAIL: ftsurg@sprynet.com
Lawrence Nessman, DO, Wayne, NJ, has retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Colonel, the highest-ranking medical officer in the U.S. Army Reserves in New Jersey.

Class of 1963
Class Agent: Harvey M. Spector, DO
PHONE: 215-745-4111
E-MAIL: ds63@aol.com
Robert D. Hayes, DO, Pennington Gap, Va., was granted life membership by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons. Robert J. McNulty, DO, Ocean View, NJ, was appointed to the medical staff at Kessler Memorial Hospital. He is board certified in emergency medicine. Harvey M. Spector, DO, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., was inducted as 2002 President of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Class of 1966
Joseph M. DiMinio, DO, Norristown, Pa., was appointed health director of the Montgomery County Health Department. He has been with his medical practice, Norristown Family Practice, since 1973.

Class of 1967
Class Agent: Sherman N. Leis, DO
PHONE: 610-667-1888
E-MAIL: drshermanleis@aol.com
Joseph A. Ackil, DO, Newton, Mass., clinical instructor in family medicine, received the “Excellence in Teaching Award in Family Medicine” from Tufts University Medical School.

Class of 1968
Class Agent: Alfred J. Poggi, DO
PHONE: 814-443-3158
Alfred J. Poggi, DO, Somerset, Pa., was elected to serve on the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. He is a diplomate of the National Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians and the American Board of Family Physicians.

Class of 1970
Steven J. Levy, DO, Bellaire, Texas, is medical director of Houston Internal Medicine and Wellness Center. His specialties are internal medicine, geriatrics and alternative medicine. An article about Dr. Levy and the center appeared in the Pasadena Citizen.

Class of 1972
Class Agent: Joan M. Watkins, DO
PHONE: 813-615-7755
E-MAIL: jwatkins@mail.uch.org

1961 Yearbooks Available:
Murray Zedeck, DO ‘62, has a few mint condition yearbooks from 1961. He would be glad to send them to any alumni who may have lost their copy for a small contribution to the PCOM Alumni Association. Contact him at: 954-764-1726 or e-mail him at: drmzed@aol.com.

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2003
**Class of 1973**

**CLASS AGENT:** HERBERT J. ROGOVE, DO  
**PHONE:** 949-574-6058  
**E-MAIL:** HROGOVE@HOAGHOSPITAL.ORG

John M. Ferretti, DO, Erie, Pa., was inducted as a member of the Hamot Health Foundation board of trustees. He was recently honored by the Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Association for “29 Years of Community Service.” He is president and chief executive officer at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**John L. Thomas, DO,** Long Beach, Calif., appeared on NBC’s “The Other Half” discussing the effects of Viagra on relationships. His specialty is family medicine.

**Class of 1977**

**CLASS AGENT:** H. SPRAGUE TAVEAU, IV, DO  
**PHONE:** 806-212-5750  
**E-MAIL:** GLORISIX@AOL.COM

Ritamy Hanley, DO, Norristown, Pa., wrote and published a children’s book, *Lucia, the Tugboat Dog.* Her specialty is family medicine.

**Murray H. Rosenthal, DO,** San Diego, Calif., is chief executive officer of BMR HealthQuest. In June 2002 he presented research data on a new antidepressant at the New Clinical Drug Evaluation Unit in Boca Raton and presented an original research paper on schizophrenia at the College of Neuro-Psycho Pharmacology.

**Class of 1978**

**CLASS AGENT:** LORRAINE M. DISIPIO, DO  
**PHONE:** 610-623-7230  
**E-MAIL:** LMDISIPIO@RCN.COM

Steven D. Kamajian, DO, Montrose, Calif., was featured in an article published in *The DO* titled “Serving inner cities - D.O. cares for the poorest of the poor.” He is a fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy.

**Carl W. Sharer, DO,** Norristown, Pa., joined the hematology/oncology staff at The Cancer Center at Phoenixville Hospital.

**Class of 1979**

**WASYL TOLCZENY, JR.,** DO, Centerville, Ohio, was the recipient of the “Outstanding Family Physician 2002 Southwest Core Award” presented by Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is vice-chief of staff at Grandview Medical Center.

**Class of 1980**

**David A. Bitonte, DO,** Paris, Ohio, was elected second vice president of the Ohio Osteopathic Association. He currently serves as medical director for Ohio KePRO, Ohio’s Medicare quality improvement organization.

**Phillip C. Ginsberg, DO,** Philadelphia, Pa., co-authored an article published in *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* titled “The need for voiding diaries in the evaluation of men with nocturia.” His specialty is urologic surgery.

**Alice G. McCormick, DO,** Canadensis, Pa., was named president of The Center for Integrative Medicine at Inner Harmony, PC. She also serves as director of the Women’s Health program.

**Joseph D. Piorkowski, Jr., DO, JD,** Great Falls, Va., was selected by the *Washingtonian* as one of the “75 Best Lawyers in Washington.” He practices aerospace medicine on a part-time basis in the Naval Reserves.

**Michael F. Shank, DO,** Thornton, Pa., was selected by *Main Line Today Magazine* as one of the “Top Doctors on the Main Line” in the field of geriatrics. The selection is based on a poll of area physicians.

**Class of 1981**

**Joseph F. Haluska, DO,** Pine City, NY, joined the department of emergency medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Elmira, NY.

**Nancy A. Mondero, DO,** Rehoboth Beach, Del., joined Bayhealth Medical Center-Milford Memorial Hospital. Her specialty is obstetrics and gynecology.

**Class of 1982**

**CLASS AGENT:** ANTHONY J. SILVAGNI, DO  
**PHONE:** 954-262-1407  
**E-MAIL:** SILVAGNI@NOVA.EDU

**Robert M. Cherrey, DO,** Bensalem, Pa., joined the department of medicine/ internal medicine at Doylestown Hospital.

**Paul F. Dende, DO,** Clarks Summit, Pa., was appointed to the Board of Drug-Free Pennsylvania. His specialties are internal medicine and addictive diseases.

**Janice A. Knebl, DO,** Fort Worth, Texas, co-authored an article published in *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* titled “Improving functional ability in the elderly via the Spencer technique, an osteopathic manipulative treatment: a randomized, controlled trial.” She was also featured in an article published in *Health & Science Quarterly* titled ‘Elder care system faces a new wrinkle.”

**Class of 1983**

**CLASS AGENT:** MARY ANN DIBIAGIO, DO  
**PHONE:** 724-758-7559  
**E-MAIL:** MBDIBIAGIO@HVHS.ORG

**Louis A. DiToppa, DO,** North Huntingdon, Pa., was appointed president of the medical staff at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in McKeesport, PA. His specialty is family practice.

**Darlene Ann Dunay, DO,** Old Forge, Pa., received the “2002 Greater Scranton Penn State Chapter Alumna of the Year Award.” She has a solo practice in family medicine in Old Forge.

**Carol L. Henwood, DO,** Pottstown, Pa., received the “Unsung Heroine of the Year Award” certificate of appreciation presented by the Montgomery County Commissioners and Montgomery County Human Services. She is a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

**William E. Shieh, II, DO,** Dublin, Ohio, was appointed to the Food and Drug Administration’s advisory panel responsible for reviewing and evaluating the safety and effectiveness of radiological devices. He is a fellow of the American College of Radiology.

**Class of 1985**

**Ardenne F. Imber-Fine, DO,** Yardley, Pa., was elected chairman of the department of family practice at St. Mary’s Hospital and Medical Center. She has a private family practice in Yardley, Pa.

**Larry Levinson, DO,** Hollywood, Fla., was re-elected chief of the family medicine department at Memorial Regional Hospital.

**Class of 1986**
Alan Barman, DO, Swarthmore, Pa., was the recipient of the “James E. Clark Physician Teaching Fellowship Award” presented by Crozer-Chester Medical Center. He has volunteered in Botswana, Africa as part of a consortium of physicians helping to establish an HIV treatment program.

Douglas Paul, DO, Dayton, Ohio, was named trauma program medical director at Good Samaritan Hospital's Verified Level II Trauma Program. His specialty is trauma surgery.

Paul Williams, DO, Harrisburg, Pa., was installed as president of the PA Academy of Family Physicians.

Class of 1987
CLASS AGENT: THOMAS J. DAGNEY, III, DO
PHONE: 812-885-3810
E-MAIL: TJD3@CHARTER.NET
Kevin R. Clark, DO, Hickory, NC, was appointed medical staff chairman for the Frye Regional Medical Center – Alexander Campus. He is certified by the American Board of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine.

Anthony E. DiMarco, DO, Kennett Square, Pa., was re-elected to serve on the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. He is board certified in family medicine.

John F. Perri, DO, Chesapeake, Va., has completed his sleep fellowship at the University of Michigan. He is director of the Boice Sleep Laboratory at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, VA. He is a Commander in the U.S. Naval Medical Corps.

Class of 1988
CLASS AGENT: ERIC LIPNACK, DO
PHONE: 856-784-0444
E-MAIL: DVMPA@EROLS.COM
James Gentile, DO, Whitehouse Station, NJ, received an executive MBA in Science and Technology from LaSalle University. He is an anesthesiologist and pain management physician at the Verona Surgery Center.

Wayne T. Jones, DO, Erie, Pa., was named “Emergency Physician of the Year” at the 25th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services Awards Banquet. He is the medical command facility medical director for Saint Vincent Health Center and medical director for the Erie Bureau of Police SWAT Medical Support Team. He is also medical director for LifeStar and EmergeCare, Inc.

Richard Knebel, DO, Charleston, W.Va., joined the medical staff at Charleston Area Medical Center. He is an anesthesiologist with General Anesthesia Services.

Ronald M. Lieberman, DO, University Place, Wash., joined South Sound Neurosurgery's new Brain and Spine Center. He is an interventional pain specialist and physiatrist.

Class of 1989
Patrick J. Colarusso, DO, Pottstown, Pa., was featured in the fall 2002 issue of Pottstown Regional Healthcare Network’s publication, The Center Post. He is medical director at Pottstown Memorial Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Charles H. Durnis, DO, Corry, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Corry Memorial Hospital. In addition, he has recently opened a private general surgery practice. He is a diplomate of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.

Beckie Michael, DO, Medford, NJ, co-authored an article published in Kidney International titled “Sodium ferric gluconate complex in hemodialysis patients: adverse reactions compared to placebo and iron dextran.”

Philip H. Scaglione, DO, Ebensburg, Pa., joined the medical staff at Miners Hospital. His specialty is orthopedic surgery.

Alice J. Zal, DO, Narberth, Pa., POMA District 10 chairman, was elected trustee-at-large for the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. She maintains a family practice in Norristown.

Class of 1990
Robert J. Bulgarelli, DO, Glen Mills, Pa., was highlighted in an article in The Philadelphia Inquirer titled “Heart doctor says poets are right.”

Elisa B. Shipon-Blum, DO, Meadowbrook, Pa., was featured in an article published in The Northeast Times titled “When the words won’t come.” She works exclusively helping children with selective mutism. She has a new Web site that has received national attention with more than 3.6 million visits: www.selectivemutism.org.

Class of 1991
James C. Greenfield, DO, Lehighton, Pa., joined Nesquehoning Family Practice, a new satellite office of St. Luke’s Miners Memorial Hospital. He and his wife, Susan, have three children; Tim, 8, Amanda, 6 and Matt, 4.

Patrick A. Kane, DO, Charleston, W.Va., joined the medical staff at Charleston Area Medical Center. His specialty is emergency medicine.

Luke G. Nelligan, DO, Sheraton, Ind., was appointed to the Informatics Committee of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. He is a member of the board of directors of PCOM’s Alumni Association.

Class of 1992
CLASS AGENT: DANIEL KUPAS, DO
PHONE: 724-478-2999
Thomas D. Beck, Jr., DO, Ocean City, Md., joined the medical staff at Atlantic Orthopaedics in Berlin, Md. and Atlantic General Hospital.

Gary J. Della’Zanna, DO, Elijay, Ga., was appointed medical officer for the Food and Drug Administration. His specialty is general surgery.

Joyce Wald, DO, Wynnewood, Pa., and Deborah Sundlof, DO, Bethlehem, Pa., were highlighted in the article “Double duty: twin cardiologists take work to heart,” which was published in the Morning Call.
CLASSNOTES

Class of 1993

CO-CLASS AGENTS:
CLARA HIGGINS, DO
PHONE: 301-644-3300
E-MAIL: cmhdo5@aol.com
LARISA FERNANDO-DOMINY, DO
PHONE: 215-361-5882
E-MAIL: ld.dominy@verizon.net

Stuart A. Bradin, DO, Ann Arbor, Mich., became a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at the University of Michigan. He will work in its pediatric emergency department. He and his wife have two sons, Aaron and Joshua.

Donna M. Eget-Bessoir, DO, Clarks Summit, Pa., received board certification in emergency medicine and has joined the medical staff at Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pa.

Clara M. Higgins, DO, Lewes, Del., opened a solo practice and joined the medical staff at Beebe Medical Center in Lewes as a general surgeon.

Michael J. Reihart, DO, Columbia, Pa., was appointed regional medical director for the Emergency Health Services Federation. He practices at Lancaster Emergency Associates at Lancaster General Hospital.

Class of 1994

Paul D. Hamm, DO, Knox, Pa., joined Brooks Medical Arts. He also joined the medical staff at Clarion Hospital.

Joseph M. Micchia, Jr., DO, Sharon, Pa., was highlighted in an article that appeared in the New Castle News titled "The thinker." His practice, Micchia Family Practice in Hermitage, is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Maria V. Vasiliadis, DO, Upper Darby, Pa., joined the adult practice of Great Valley Health. Her specialty is family medicine.

Class of 1995

Arthur J. DeMarsico, DO, Hollidaysburg, Pa., joined Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery of Altoona. He is board certified in vascular surgery.


Class of 1996

David J. Addley, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., completed his cardiology fellowship at Howard University Hospital and joined Cardiology Medical Associates in West Philadelphia.

Colleen P. Allorto, DO, Dover, Del., joined the medical staff at Bay-Bees Pediatrics and Medical Center.

Damon L. Bass, DO, Glenside, Pa., opened Suburban Rheumatology Associates in King of Prussia. His specialties are rheumatology and internal medicine.

Malorie Budman-Traub, DO, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., opened her practice at the Fox Chase Family Medical Center.

Todd A. Curran, DO, Chesapeake, Va., was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. He is chief resident in orthopedic surgery at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va.

Elizabeth A. Eads, DO, Ormond Beach, Fla., was elected alternate delegate to the American Medical Association for the Florida Medical Association. She is board certified in family practice.

Gregory S. Gaborek, DO, Washington, Mich., joined the medical staff at Mount Clemens General Hospital as a vascular and general surgeon. He practices at Macomb Surgical Associates.

Mark A. Kwartowitz, DO, Westminster, Colo., completed a sports medicine orthopedic surgery fellowship and joined Mountain View Orthopedics in Thornton, Colo.

Robert G. Masci, DO, Kingston, Pa., joined Geisinger Medical Group in Tunkhannock, Pa. His specialty is family medicine.

Daniel T. Mulcahy, DO, Allentown, Pa., joined the hospitalist program at Pocono Medical Center. His specialty is family medicine.

Andrea Silver Palermo, DO, Ocean City, NJ, became a pediatric hospitalist for Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children/Atlantic Care at the Atlantic City Medical Center. Dr. Palermo and her husband, Chuck, have a two-year-old daughter, Sydney Anne.

Glen R. Scott, Jr., DO, Anderson, S.C., received board certification in neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He practices at Anderson Neurological Associates.

Class of 1997

CO-CLASS AGENTS:

JESSICA OTTO, DO
PHONE: 908-353-7949
E-MAIL: jessicotto@hotmail.com

Russell W. Becker, DO and his wife, Phananh Nguyen, DO, Lake Orion, Mich., are proud parents of Andrew Becker, born June 3, 2002. Dr. Becker is currently at Wayne State University completing his vascular surgery fellowship. Dr. Nguyen is in private practice in OB/GYN.

Karen Banks-Linder, DO, and her husband, Richard Linder, Norwich, NY, are proud parents of a baby daughter, Tyler Marie Linder.

Jennie M. Campbell, DO, Willow Grove, Pa., joined the department of internal medicine at Abington Memorial Hospital and will join Springhouse Internal Medicine.

Scot A. Currie, DO, Harrisburg, Pa., joined Central Pennsylvania Surgical Associates, Ltd.

JACQUELINE M. FIGNAR, DO, Conowingo, Md., published a “Medical Update” in The Journal of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association titled “Rhabdomyolysis: a clinical syndrome.” Her specialty is internal medicine.

Edward Fireoztale, DO, Farmingville, NY, joined the department of internal medicine at Southampton Hospital and South Shore Neurologic Associates.
Michael D. Kimzey, DO, Wayne, Pa., joined the department of medicine and infectious disease at Doylestown Hospital. He is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.

Jennifer M. Schmidt, DO, Avenue, Md., joined St. Mary’s Medical Associates in family medicine. She also serves as assistant medical director of Hospice in St. Mary’s County.

Spencer F. Schuenman, DO, Elkins, W.Va., joined Davis Health System. His specialty is orthopedics.

Armando C. Sciullo, DO, West Middlesex, Pa., joined the medical staff at United Community Hospital. He is a board eligible general surgeon and has joined David I. Rothman, MD, in his general and vascular surgical practice in Grove City.

Corey Smith, DO, and his wife, Tammy, Chesapeake, Va., are the proud parents of their second child, Anneliese Marie, born January 21, 2002. She joins her sister, Hannah, 2.

Laurie Ann Spraga, DO, West Chester, Pa., joined PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Division. Her specialty is family medicine.

Sandra Thomas Terefenko, DO, Quakertown, Pa., joined John R. Hratho, MD, in his OB/GYN practice. She and her husband, Eugene, have two children: Emma, 2 and Zachary, 5 months.

Class of 1998

Class Agent: James V. Lieb, DO
Phone: 412-578-4355
E-mail: imjin98@pol.net

Francisco A. Daniels, DO, Sinking Spring, Pa., joined the medical staff at Shillington Internal Medicine and Reading Hospital and Medical Center.

Jonathan Gusdorff, DO, Elkins Park, PA, was named chief resident of the diagnostic radiology residency program at Bryn Mawr Hospital. He presented his research “CT and MR appearance of extraocular muscles in Graves’ Orbitopathy: a new perspective” at the annual meeting of the American Society of Neuroradiology in Vancouver. He begins his neuroradiology fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta in July.

56th Annual Alumni/Survivors Dinner Dance Awards

The Dean’s Appreciation Award:

The Emanuel Fliegelman, DO Award:
Sara A. Abbruzzi, DO ’01, Gulph Mills, Pa.

The Vickers Foundation Award:

Intern of the Year:
Rita C. Carabello, DO ’01, Philadelphia, Pa.
Kelly D. Heiland, DO ’01, Upper Darby, Pa.
Michael L. Levin, DO ’01, Narberth, Pa.
Dominic J. Valentino, DO ’01, Philadelphia, Pa.

Resident of the Year:
Internal Medicine – Jeffrey A. Bubis, DO ’99, Grantham, N.H.
Christopher M. Schulze, DO ’00, Philadelphia, Pa.
Eileen P. Simak, DO ’00, Ardmore, Pa.

Clinical Teacher of the Year:
St. Agnes Medical Center – Michael A. Venditto, DO ’77, Langhorne, Pa.
Tenet-Parkview Hospital – Stephen Levin, DO ’68, Narberth, Pa.

Primary Care Dinner Awards:
Primary Care Physician of the Year – Saul Jeck, DO, Elkins Park, Pa.
Ambulatory Care Physician of the Year – David Kuo, DO ’96

Top Docs 2002 – Philadelphia Magazine:
Ronald J. Librizzi, DO ’73, Cherry Hill, NJ – High-Risk Pregnancy
Robert A. Promisloff, DO ’73, Wynnewood, Pa. – Pulmonary Medicine
Larry S. Seidman, DO ’73, Elkins Park, Pa. – Obstetrics/Gynecology
Gilbert D. D’Alonzo, Jr., DO ’77, Villanova, Pa. – Pulmonary Medicine
Daniel J. McCormick, DO ’77, Moorestown, NJ – Interventional Medicine
David A. Baron, DO ’78, Lower Gwynedd, Pa. – Psychiatry
Sharon M. Currin, DO ’79, Bala Cynwyd, Pa. – Geriatrics
Philip J. Stevens, DO ’80, Oreland, Pa. – Pain Management and Interventional Spine Medicine
Enrico A. Marcelli, DO ’81, Stratford, NJ – Orthopedics
Mitchell K. Freedman, DO ’82, Melrose Park, Pa. – Pain Management and Interventional Spine Medicine
Robert H. Debb, DO ’89, Voorhees, NJ – High-Risk Pregnancy
Beckie Michael, DO ’89, Medford, NJ – Nephrology
Walter Kucaba, DO, Beaufort, SC, is currently a U.S. Naval Flight Surgeon and Diving Medical Officer assigned to the Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 224 stationed in Beaufort. He recently completed a successful six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

Louis J. Papa, DO, Greenville, NC, was elected chief resident by the department of psychiatry at the Brody School of Medicine.

Michael J. Starr, DO, Lewisburg, Pa., joined the medical staff at Evangelical Community Hospital. He specializes in emergency medicine.

Class of 1999

Jason Aronovitz, DO, Boston, Mass., entered a National Library of Medicine-Medical Informatics fellowship. He is conducting clinical research work at Boston Medical Center, and he is completing a master’s degree program in medical computer sciences at Harvard-MIT.

Kathleen M. Benning, DO, Hillsborough, NJ, joined the practice of Drs. Lisa Jordan-Scalia and Joseph Scalia in Raritan, NJ.

Shannon M. Conrad, DO, Delhi, NY, joined the department of family medicine at Bassett Healthcare – Delhi. She also is on staff at O’Connor Hospital.

Stephen Goss, DO, Strong, Maine, joined the medical staff at Pine Tree Internal Medicine. His professional interests include critical care and preventive medicine.

Dana L. Hamilton, DO, Hilliard, Ohio, joined Child Care Consultants, a private pediatric practice in Columbus, Ohio.

Stacy Hershfeld, DO, Strong, Maine, joined the medical staff at Pine Tree Internal Medicine. Her professional interests include geriatrics and nutrition, pulmonary and critical care medicine, and preventive medicine.

Charles N. Krome, DO, Columbus, Ohio, began a primary care sports medicine fellowship at Grant Medical Center.

Karl O. Luxardo, DO, Catawissa, Pa., joined the medical staff at Geisinger Medical Group in Bloomsburg, Pa. His specialty is family medicine.

David L. Nelson, DO, Benton, NH, joined the medical staff at Ammonoosuc Community Health Services at the Mt. Moose Laukee Health Center in Warren, NH. His specialty is family medicine.

Christopher A. Pomrnik, DO, Bethlehem, Pa., joined the hospitalist program at Pocono Medical Center.

Sally A. Reibson, DO, Weber City, Va., joined Holston Medical Group. Her specialty is family medicine.

Evan R. Restelli, DO, Cleveland, Ohio, recently began a geriatrics fellowship at Case Western Reserve University.

Thomas E. Sabalaske, DO, Bensalem, Pa., married Crystal Lee Woehr on October 11, 2002.

Kenneth D. Shank, DO, Albemarle, NC, joined Norwood Medicine Services and Stanly Memorial Hospital. His specialty is family medicine.

Paul E. Shields, DO, Erie, Pa., was named associate medical director of Priority Care. His is board certified in family practice.

Edmund A. Tori, DO, Silver Spring, Md., opened an internal medicine practice, Tori Adult Medical Associates. He was chief resident of internal medicine at Union Memorial Hospital.

Jason G. Tronetti, DO, Port Allegheny, Pa., joined the medical staff at Charles Cole Memorial Hospital. He will be practicing at the Bowman Health Center in Smethport and at the Port Allegheny Community Health Center.

Class of 2000-DO Alumni

Matthew D. Scripps, DO, Columbus, Ohio, was appointed chief resident of the family practice residency program at Doctors Hospital.

David E. Weinstock, DO, Hopkinton, Mass., was named chief resident of the internal medicine program at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Mass.

Class of 2000-PA Alumni

CO-CLASS AGENTS:

KRISTEN LEHMANN
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CHRISTIANE PETRILLO
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Class of 2001-DO Alumni

Geraldine C. Diaz, DO, Union City, Calif., co-authored an article published in the Annals of Surgery titled “Donor health assessment after living-donor liver transplantation.”

Class of 2001-PA Alumni

CO-CLASS AGENTS:

NICOLE MILLER
PHONE: 215-677-1167
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Tammy Bucari (Baas), PA-C, and husband Greg, Fairless Hills, Pa., are the proud parents of Brianna, born in February 2002. She works as a physician assistant for a cardiology practice in Chester County, Pa.

Kevin Gallen, PA-C, and his wife, Karen, moved to Naples, Fla. after graduation. He works at Florida Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

Keefe Griffin, PA-C, and Lisa, Marlton, NJ, were married in October 2001. He works at Atrium Two Family Practice in Sewell, NJ.

Brian Green, PA-C, and Christie, Philadelphia, Pa., were married in December 2001. He is a second-year DO student at PCOM.

Melissa Hoffman, PA-C, Conshohocken, Pa., co-class agent, works in the department of surgery at Christiana Care Hospital.
Alex Islandar, PA-C, moved to West Palm Beach, Fla. and is working at a physical medicine and rehabilitation practice.
Roxanne Smith (Matkiwsky), PA-C, and Todd, Middlesex, NJ, were married in November 2001. She works at Hillside Family Practice with her father, Walter Matkiwsky, DO ‘69 and brother, Daniel W. Matkiwsky, DO ’97.
Nicole Miller, PA-C, Philadelphia, Pa., co-class agent, works at Reconstructive Orthopedics, PA in Mount Holly, NJ.
Kristin Notz, PA-C, Danville, Pa., was married in October 2002. She works at Geisinger Medical Center.
Erin Richards, PA-C, moved to Chicago to pursue a career in cardiothoracic surgery.

Susan W. Rosen, PA-C, King of Prussia, Pa., is working at Family Practice Associates of King of Prussia.

John Verna, PA-C, Chicago, recipient of the “Sara Somers Rupert Humanitarian Award,” is fulfilling his career goal working in HIV/AIDS medicine.

Laura Wildman, PA-C, Wayne, Pa., is working in the operating room at the Chester County Hospital.

Kelly Zakszeski, PA-C, moved to New York for a cardiothoracic surgery residency program at Montefiore Medical Center.

Class of 2002-DO Alumni

Joshua S. Coren, DO, and wife, Jennifer (DO ’03), Philadelphia, Pa., are the proud parents of Zachary Alexander, born September 9, 2002.


Certificates of Merit awarded

PCOM’s Alumni Association board of directors awarded the following alumni certificates of merit for outstanding achievement in osteopathic medicine:

Thomas F.A. Powell, DO ‘56, Philadelphia, Pa., was honored with the title of professor emeritus by PCOM for his many years of dedicated service to the College and students.

Anthony A. Minissale, DO ‘61, Gladwyne, Pa., was inducted as president of the American Osteopathic Association for 2002-2003.

Sheldon P. Kerner, DO ’68, Cherry Hill, NJ, was inducted as president of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology.

Steven M. Snyder, DO ’75, Fort Washington, Pa., was inducted as president of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians.

R. Michael Gallagher, DO ’76, Haddonfield, NJ, was named interim dean of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Robert J. Niewenhuis, PhD, Grandville, MI, was honored with the title of professor emeritus by PCOM for his noteworthy contributions and assistance to the College and its students.

John J. Bittman, DO ’66, Vermilion, Ohio, June 20, 2002.
Elmer Hewlett, III, DO ’60, Newark, Del., June 23, 2002.
Samuel Rosenbaum, DO ’43, Ventnor City, NJ, June 8, 2002.
Harry Rubenstein, DO ’52, Buffalo, NY, July 12, 2002.
Daniel J. Smith, DO ’73, Hanson, Mass., September 1, 2002.
Lately, wherever I turn, another colleague is leaving the area because of our medical crisis. We are expected to work harder and longer for lower compensation. I became discouraged. Why did I go into medicine, I wondered? Maybe I should have gone to law school. Where has my humanitarian spirit gone?

I thought about shopping to improve my spirits, but I would be spending money not yet earned. I pondered leaving, but where would I go that student loan lenders would not track me down? Maybe I could go into even more debt by quitting my job and entering law school. None of these are viable solutions. The only reasonable option, I realized, was to rediscover the part of my heart that I followed when I entered law school. None of these are viable solutions. The only reasonable option, I realized, was to rediscover the part of my heart that I followed when I chose to become a doctor.

Instead of giving up, I decided to search for motivation. I knew I had to change my mindset to one that does not pull me away from a career in medicine. The challenge was how to make that change.

After some soul-searching, I decided to volunteer. I found St. John’s Hospice near Philadelphia’s Chinatown.

On my first visit, I found myself at the tiny entrance to the old building as the open-lunch line let out. As 80 homeless men came toward me, I was unsure if this was the right place for me to volunteer. But when the crowd parted, I found Sister Virginia. She greeted me warmly, then put me to work.

She needed assistance preparing for the Christmas events the shelter planned for its residents. The shelter volunteers strive to make the residents feel important and empowered. Their motive is to encourage self-respect and to preserve individual dignity. For the holidays, the shelter purchases gifts for each man with children, so the men have something to give their kids, and items for the men themselves.

The shelter’s big party was scheduled for the weekend before Christmas. I sorted gifts and excess donations that could be used during the year. The night before the party a friend of mine joined me and we prepared gifts for the residents. The really great thing about that task was one of the residents, named Bill, joined us.

Bill personalized each gift because he knew the men. Working directly with Bill made what we were doing more meaningful. He told us stories about each man as we arranged their presents. Before then, they were the less fortunate - with faces and names unfamiliar to us. Thanks to Bill, they became real people with significance. Through this one man, we shared in their feelings, tragedies and hopes for better futures.

Before I met the men at the shelter, I was unsure about what the party would be like. I imagined an unkempt, rowdy group of men who behaved inappropriately. When the day arrived, I met a nice group of men - very gracious, grateful and mannerly.

The dinner was designed so volunteers would serve the food and the men would be honored guests. Wonderful food and holiday music set the atmosphere. We tried to make them know that the celebration was solely for them. They thanked us as we poured their drinks and delivered food. They seemed so humble and happy that we were there for them. This was their Christmas. They had no homes.

It was such an awesome experience to look around this huge room, filled with people who get misjudged and mistreated, and compare my life to theirs. Suddenly, I was grateful for everything I had. But I was sad, too...sad for these men whom many of us have stepped over on the street.

The thing that was so wonderful - and that made me regroup within my own heart - was the graciousness of each and every man. They individually took the time and waited in line to personally thank each volunteer and wish us happy holidays with smiles on their faces. No one asked for money or for us to return. They were truly just grateful for our simple presence at their dinner. It was as if we made such a difference. Why were a few hours of time so precious? To them, we gave so much.

I felt that there was something special about giving freely of myself. I can read to sharpen my clinical skills, but the skill of selflessness and genuine empathy needs to be practiced, too. Service motivation is lacking in our profession, and rightfully so. But we cannot allow the unreasonable obstacles placed in front of us to obliterate what comes only from our hearts.

Because these are difficult times for many in our profession, I thought my experience was worth sharing. It was an experience that helped me reconnect with why I chose medicine as a profession – why I chose to serve others.

Hopefully, this experience will encourage physicians who feel under-appreciated and overwhelmed to reconnect with their hearts.

Readers: We welcome your ideas for essays that would be of interest to the PCOM community. Please submit ideas in writing to Mercedes Ott, fax: 215.871.6307; e-mail: mercedesot@pcom.edu; PCOM Marketing & Communications, 4180 City Ave., Phila., PA 19131.
Mark your calendar!

Alumni Weekend • 2003
MAY 30, MAY 31 AND JUNE 1, 2003

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 30, 2003
- Continuing Medical Education Seminars
- Independence Park Alumni Reception at the Omni Hotel
- Lights of Liberty Show

Saturday, May 31, 2003
- Continuing Medical Education Seminars
- Family Fun Barbecue and Campus Open House
- Reception and Dinner Dance at the Crystal Tea Room, Philadelphia

Sunday, June 1, 2003
- Champagne Brunch at the Union League
- Alumni Day at the Franklin Institute
## Save the Dates!

### Alumni Weekend 2003
- **Friday, May 30, 2003**
- **Saturday, May 31, 2003**
- **Sunday, June 1, 2003**

**Reunions for the Classes of**

### PCOM Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Alumni Luncheon at AROC Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>DO Day on the Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>CME/Evidence Based Approach to OMM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Minority Scholarship Reception/Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>OPTI OMM Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>CME “Longevity Now!” - Geriatric Update 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>CME Update in Pulmonary Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>OPTI OMM Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Alumni Reception at the Omni Hotel</td>
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<td>Lights of Liberty Show</td>
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<td>Dinner Dance at the Crystal Tea Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>DO &amp; Graduate Programs Commencements</td>
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<td>Alumni Champagne Brunch at the Union League</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alumni Day at the Franklin Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>OPTI OMM Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Internship Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Interns &amp; Residents Graduation &amp; Dinner</td>
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</tbody>
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*For additional information, please e-mail suen@pcom.edu or call 215.871.6300.*