Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Winter 2005)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.pcom.edu/digest

Part of the Medical Education Commons, and the Osteopathic Medicine and Osteopathy Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.pcom.edu/digest/193

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@PCOM. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digest by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@PCOM. For more information, please contact library@pcom.edu.
CONFIDENCE BUILDS COMPETENCE

Growth of the
Robert Berger, DO
Clinical Learning and
Assessment Center
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Each new year builds on the foundation of the preceding one, inspiring optimism and confidence in anticipation of the fresh challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. As you peruse this issue of Digest, I am assured that you will be inspired by the extraordinary ways in which members of the PCOM community have advanced the mission of the institution—their efforts fostering an ever-stronger PCOM.

In particular, I am pleased that you will learn about the growth of The Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center, a once small pilot program born in 1993, which has been propelled dramatically in recent years by the drive toward competency-based assessment in clinical education. Currently, the cutting-edge Center instructs students in nearly every degree program offered at the College.

This issue also marks PCOM’s annual tradition, Founders’ Day. We honor those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, loyalty and service to our beloved institution. Please join us in congratulating O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient Carol A. Fox, who for 37 years has served the College in the areas of admissions and enrollment management. Ms. Fox has implemented recruitment and retention plans for DO and graduate programs, raised awareness of osteopathic medicine and fostered relationships with numerous PCOM students and alumni, inspiring them always to fulfill their potential. Also deserving of recognition is Nicholas Bower (DO ’05), a young man with a profound sense of humanism. Awarded the Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal, he is a true credit to the College, international community and osteopathic profession.

Research continues to be a priority at PCOM, and this issue of Digest depicts a unique facet of the College’s budding research base—evidence-based medical outreach at our Healthcare Centers. With over 44,000 patient visits to the urban and rural centers annually, PCOM faculty and students are naturally pursuing the possibilities of uniting practical clinical investigations with patient care.

Finally, this issue offers an update to an exclusive Digest article from 2000—a story about alumnus, David Coffey, DO ’84, whose medical mission work took him to the Sudan in response to the Kauda bombing. This update relates Dr. Coffey’s observations of the progress of peace in the region as witnessed during his 2004 return. A companion piece to the update tracks the experiences of current PCOM students who have similarly embraced calls to humanitarian missions.

I thank you for your continued interest in and support of the College. I hope that 2005 brings all of us health, wisdom, joy and peace.

With warmest regards,

Matthew Schure, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
BUILDING CONFIDENCE & COMPETENCE

A leader in competency-based learning and assessment, PCOM has expanded The Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center—offering a competitive advantage to DO, psychology and physician assistant studies students through progressive training that includes a multi-faceted standardized patient program.

RECOGNIZING LEadersHIP, LOYALTY, SERVICE

An annual practice, the College bestows its highest accolades during Founders’ Day. Celebrate this year’s awardees: O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient Carol A. Fox, associate vice president for enrollment management, and Mason W. Presly Memorial Medal recipient Nicholas Bower (DO ’05).

COMPASSIONATE CALLINGS

Alumnus David Coffey, DO ’84, makes a second “house call” to the Sudan and observes the progress of peace in the region some four years after the haunting Kauda bombing. And PCOM students embrace their own calls to medical missions and inspirational rotations in developing nations.

HEALTHCARE CENTERS: HUBS FOR RESEARCH & MEDICAL OUTREACH

PCOM’s five Healthcare Centers proffer a unique opportunity for students and faculty to study a diverse range of patients—using innovative medical devices, surveys, OMM and medications to treat chronic medical conditions.

ON THE COVER

STAN (short for “standard man”) is one of the most significant enhancements to The Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center. A full-body, programmable human patient simulator, STAN mimics a wide range of medical situations and conditions—challenging PCOM students to assess clinical cases quickly and accurately.

DEPARTMENTS

PCOM UPDATES & KUDOS

Updates on Georgia Campus, results of the College’s longitudinal study, growth in academic programs, new trustee members, PCOM in the news, Commencement 2004, National Osteopathic Medicine Month, The Barth Scholarship Fund, “Challenging Views of Alzheimer’s Disease,” development activities, and more.

CLASS NOTES

Current professional endeavors and achievements of PCOM alumni; In Memoriam; profiles of Tom Falone, DO ’77; Rori Minissale, PsyD ’03 and Brenda Lehmann, MHS, PA-C ’02.

ESSAY

An introduction to Digest’s new managing editor, Jennifer Schaffer Leone.
GEORGIA CAMPUS ACCEPTS STUDENTS, ACQUIRES BUILDING

This is an exciting time as the creation of Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine moves forward. In December, the College was given approval by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation of the American Osteopathic Association to accept its first class of students in fall 2005. Last August, the College purchased a building on 19 acres in Gwinnett County, GA, which will serve as the campus. Renovations to the building began in October.

Georgia Campus – PCOM will admit its first class of DO students in fall 2005.

The facility is being designed with student learning, cutting-edge instructional technology and social interaction as priorities. In addition to large and small classrooms, conference areas and study spaces, instructional space includes two amphitheaters with a seating capacity of 100 students each, a large anatomy laboratory, a patient simulation laboratory, a multi-use basic science lab and a large OMM/clinical skills teaching lab. The design of the 149,885 square-foot building includes two main focal points that take advantage of natural light through the use of skylights and partitions.
The success of a college is judged by whether or not the institution achieves its mission. To determine how well PCOM accomplishes its mission, 7,800 surveys were mailed to DO alumni. The information gathered from the surveys is not only important to the administration of PCOM, but it provides vital data required by the College’s accrediting agencies. As PCOM prepares for a full review by the American Osteopathic Association in April 2005, the Educational Outcomes Team will continue to gather data on an ongoing basis, enabling the College to obtain a truly representative portrait of the PCOM physician in practice. The long-term goal is to account for all PCOM osteopathic medical graduates.

Graduates from the classes of 1932 through 2002 responded to the survey. From their responses, the College learned that family practice is the most prominently practiced specialty, followed by internal medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics and psychiatry. The remainder of PCOM graduates indicated specialties ranging from aerospace medicine to urologic surgery.

The returns also indicated that PCOM’s emphasis on primary care is indeed reflected in its graduates. Of the total returns, 43% indicated that primary care comprises 75-100% of their practice while outpatient practice accounts for 50% of their practice.

When asked how frequently PCOM graduate physicians apply osteopathic concepts to patient care, 54% answered “always” or “often”—a strong validation of the importance of osteopathic concept in modern practice, regardless of specialty field. Only 7% indicated that osteopathic concepts are never expressed in their clinical practice.

The most prominent application of osteopathic technique was structural diagnosis, with 62% of PCOM graduates indicating that this technique is a component of their diagnostic tools, followed by palpatory diagnosis and myofascial OMT, indirect OMM techniques and high velocity treatment.

One of the College’s educational goals is to prepare physicians who value community involvement, and the data show that nearly all PCOM graduates make valuable contributions to the communities in which they practice. Specifically, 37% perform volunteer services and 35% speak on medical topics in the community.

Others provide free medical care, serve in local government, lead in a church or congregation and/or act as school or team physicians.

Intellectual vitality and professional leadership also characterize the PCOM graduate in clinical practice. Nearly 45% have presented lectures at a professional meeting, 30% have served on a panel of medical experts and 36% have authored or co-authored a professional paper. Some 25% of the respondents have served in a leadership position in a professional organization.

To assess how well PCOM prepares its osteopathic medical graduates for professional life, the College posed a two-part question in numerous survey areas: “How much value does (a specified subject) carry in the success of your clinical practice?” and “How well did PCOM prepare you in this area?” Survey areas covered basic biomedical knowledge, understanding of cultural differences, clinical skills, ethics, medical economics, OMM skills and more. Of the areas that graduates rate as most important to their practice’s success, nearly all had high ratings as to the quality of preparation in these areas. The value of a strong base in biomedical knowledge carried a 90% rating as having strong importance to practice success, paired with an equal rating of the preparation that PCOM provided in this area. Similar matched ratings were reported for clinical skills, patient educator skills, understanding of cultural differences, clinical decision making, diagnostic skills, preventative care skills, professionalism, ethical foundation, competency in applying new medical information, medical terminology and patient communication skills.

The College is paying particular attention to those few areas that graduates rated as important to practice success, but also indicated that PCOM did not provide a strong base. These areas include understanding medical economics, payor systems and accessing community public health resources. This is the kind of data that stimulates discussion about curricular reform and helps PCOM stay on the cutting edge of medical education.

On the basis of the preliminary data, the PCOM physician can be described as one with a strong base of clinical skills and scientific knowledge, one who employs osteopathic concepts and technique in practice, one who contributes to the community and one who often is a leader in the profession, contributing scholarly work to the field of medicine.
HEALTHCARE CENTERS HUBS OF ACTIVITY

In July, Roxborough Division hosted 10 student members of the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. The high school students from California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Florida participated in a variety of activities in the Center. They shadowed lab technician Michelle Turrentine, who reviewed all aspects of lab functions from taking blood to preparing and processing the specimen. They reviewed the types of vaccines and learned about the Vaccination for Children Program.

The students also shadowed fourth-year medical students during patient visits and observed how the students interact with the physicians and patients to address the patients’ health care needs. The visit culminated with refreshments and a Q&A session with fourth-year medical students who discussed why they chose a career in medicine, the process of pre-med preparations and the highlights of their years at PCOM.

Lancaster Avenue and Cambria Divisions both participated in health fairs this summer. Lancaster Avenue teamed up with the Philadelphia Housing Authority and Ramsey Educational Development Institute to provide health screenings and acquaint local public housing residents with the health care resources in the area.

Cambia’s health fair was coordinated by students participating in the Bridging the Gaps program. Bridging the Gaps is a city-wide program in which first-year medical students participate in community-based programs in underserved areas of Philadelphia. Participants at both fairs were offered blood pressure and diabetes screenings, refreshments and entertainment. Eugene Mochan, DO ‘77, PhD, coordinates Bridging the Gaps at PCOM.

CLINICAL LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER EXPANDS

Mrs. Robert Berger was the guest of honor at the ribbon cutting for the newly expanded Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center held on October 11, 2004.

Joining Mrs. Berger at the celebration were (from left) Ken Veit, DO ‘76, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean; Anthony Errichetti, PhD, professor and director; Robert Berger, DO clinical learning and assessment center; and President and CEO Matthew Schure, PhD.

NEW PSYCHOLOGY OFFERINGS FILL FIRST CLASSES

Two new school psychology programs added to the department of psychology, master of science and educational specialist certification, filled their first classes this summer.

Approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, these new programs will enable a student with an appropriate bachelor’s degree and/or work experience to acquire the full complement of degrees and training to become a practicing school psychologist.

The master of science program will prepare graduates for a career with a social service organization or school or to enter PCOM’s educational specialist certification (EdS) program. The EdS is the terminal credential necessary to accredit the individual as a school psychologist in Pennsylvania. These programs join the department’s doctorate of school psychology offering.

“The role of the school psychologist has grown tremendously due, in large part, to federal laws that give public schools responsibility for children with special needs from age three to 21,” says Rosemary B. Mennuti, EdD, NCSP, director, school psychology programs. “We don’t have enough school psychologists to meet the need.” At a time when U.S. News & World Report has named school psychology one of the top ten “hot professions,” PCOM is uniquely poised to train these much-needed professionals.
BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The PCOM Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome five new members to its ranks. PCOM will surely benefit from the diverse skills and expertise brought to the board by these five.

Thomas V. Chiomento, III is manager of public affairs at Exelon Corporation. A veteran public affairs executive, Chiomento earned his master of arts degree in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

Scot A. Fisher, DO ’82, is clinical associate professor, department of radiation oncology, at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.

Christopher Franklin is vice president of public affairs and customer operations for Aqua America, Inc. Prior to joining Aqua America, Franklin was regional, civic and economic development officer for PECO Energy Company.

Louis P. Meshon, Sr., is president and CEO of Kramont Realty Trust in Plymouth Meeting, PA. With more than 30 years of experience in the retail real estate industry, Meshon is a leading authority on commercial properties.

Paul V. Suhey, DO ’84, is an orthopedic surgeon and partner at University Orthopedics Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

NAME CHANGE

The Department of BioMedical Sciences is now known as the Department of Neuroscience, Physiology, Pharmacology. The change was made to eliminate any confusion with the graduate program in biomedical sciences.

Kudos

Brian Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology & immunology; Denah Appelt, PhD, associate professor, neuroscience, physiology, pharmacology; C. Scott Little, assistant professor, pathology, microbiology & immunology; Christine Hammond, senior research assistant, pathology, microbiology & immunology; and Angela MacIntyre, PhD, post-doctoral fellow, had a paper, "Chlamydia pneumoniae induces Alzheimer-like amyloid plaques in brains of BALB/c mice," published in the April issue of Neurobiology of Aging. Mention of their work was made in publications including The Economist, The Times of India and The Washington Times as well as in the on-line version of Forbes, CBS Marketwatch, Yahoo News and Wall Street City. In addition, news of the research was posted on the Web sites of many newspapers and television news stations across the country.

Zeli Colon-Pennock, director, financial aid, received her MBA from Eastern University.

Jane Dumsha, MS, director, academic research and development, was a panelist for the "Dealing with IRB Issues" session at the second annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

Frederick Goldstein, PhD, professor of clinical pharmacology; neuroscience, physiology, pharmacology, was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Oral and Dental Medicine. In addition, Dr. Goldstein was quoted in the article, "Chilies burn, but also heal," published in the Chicago Tribune.

Charlotte Greene, PhD, professor, neuroscience, physiology, pharmacology, was recently inducted into the American Osteopathic Association's inaugural Mentor Hall of Fame. Also, Dr. Greene has edited the book The Collected Works of David Heilig, DO, FAOA, which will be published by the American Academy of Osteopathy.
The number one goal of PCOM’s Strategic Plan is to increase public awareness of the College. This is accomplished by placing ads in newspapers and magazines, creating and distributing brochures and through public relations. The past few months have seen a variety of public relations initiatives come to fruition. Drs. Morris, Appelt and Balin have appeared on Channel 10 news. The DO Commencement and the White Coat Ceremony also made the evening news as did the ribbon cutting for the Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center. KYW Radio aired a story about the Bridging the Gaps health fair at PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division, and the creation of Georgia Campus – PCOM was covered by newspapers in both Philadelphia and Georgia. Clearly, the College’s message is being heard.

A NEW BEGINNING

Commencement is not only the end of a course of study; it signals new beginnings. PCOM’s 113th DO commencement graduated 238 doctors of osteopathic medicine on June 6, 2004. Commencement speaker Benjamin Solomon Carson, Sr., MD, director of the division of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, co-director of the Johns Hopkins Craniofacial Center and professor of neurosurgery, plastic surgery, oncology and pediatrics, provided a moving and motivational address about his life and his profession.

The fifth annual graduate degree program commencement was held on July 30, 2004. A total of 177 students received degrees including the first graduating class from the master of science program in forensic medicine, which graduated 19 students. Arthur Freeman, EdD, former chairman of the psychology department, presented the commencement address, “Gifts Rediscovered and the Responsibility of Gratitude.”

With all the rain and flooding the area experienced last summer, Channel 10’s Healthwatch featured a segment on the dangers of floodwaters. Harry Morris, DO 78, MPH, professor and chairman, family medicine, was featured discussing precautions people should take to protect their health during and after a flood.
DO WHITE COAT CEREMONY

In a significant rite of passage, first-year DO students began their academic year with a White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony is designed to establish a psychological contract for beginning medical students that stresses the importance of caring for patients as well as curing patients. The first White Coat Ceremony was initiated by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, a public, not-for-profit charity dedicated to fostering humanism in medicine. "To a physician, understanding the emotional needs of a patient should be as important as knowledge of physical anatomy," says Gold.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS ENTERING FIELD WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE

The physician assistant program welcomed 56 new PA students from 15 states and 34 different undergraduate institutions. Ten students have progressed to the graduate level through PCOM's "3&2" partnership with the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Not only will students, once they graduate, enter a field that will provide them with much personal and professional satisfaction, but they will enter a field with great employment potential. The Bureau of Labor Statistics currently lists the PA profession as the third fastest growing profession, projecting that the number of PA jobs will increase by 49% between 2002 and 2012.

Kudos

Saul Jeck, DO, professor and chair, obstetrics/gynecology, was recognized by Kappa Sigma Phi, a women's osteopathic society, for his outstanding commitment to the education of future physicians. In addition, Dr. Jeck lectured at the midyear meeting of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists on abnormal Pap smear and colposcopy.

Bruce Kornberg, DO '78, chairman, cardiology division, was recognized as an outstanding clinical preceptor for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Rick Kriebel, PhD, senior associate dean and professor, academic research and development/neuroscience, physiology, pharmacology, co-presented "Glutamine and glutamate synthetase immunoreactivities in Schwann cells of the rat glabrous skin" at the International Meeting on Neurobiology of the Skin in Germany. Dr. Kriebel also attended the Fifth International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research, which was hosted by Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM).

Alissa Cohen (MS/Biomed) presented the work being done at PCOM's Biomechanics and Human Performance Laboratory on manual medicine and ankle sprain conducted under the directorship of Michael Kuchera, DO at the International Osteopathic Conference at LECOM.

David Kuo, DO '96, director, PCOM Healthcare Center - Roxborough Division, was recognized as an outstanding clinical preceptor for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Leslie Lyness (DO '06) has been inducted into the Field Hockey Olympian Hall of Fame.

Rosemary Mennuti, EdD, NCSP, director, school psychology programs and coordinator of psychoeducational programs, was elected to serve on the National Board of Directors for Trainers of School Psychology for the National Association of School Psychologists. She will serve a three-year term.

John P. Simelaro, DO '71, chairman, inter-med division, was the 2004 honorary inductee into PCOM's chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi-Zeta.
WHEN A WEEK ISN’T ENOUGH

PCOM and the AOA celebrated National Osteopathic Medicine Month for the first time this year. The focus of the month was a letter-writing campaign to encourage four popular television shows, “ER,” “Everwood,” “Strong Medicine” and “The Young and the Restless,” to write DOs and osteopathic medicine into their scripts. The AOA distributed self-mailing postcards addressed to the producers of these shows to all osteopathic medical schools. PCOM made the cards available throughout campus and at all five Healthcare Centers. In addition, PCOM’s support of National Osteopathic Medicine Month was displayed in lights above the city on the PECO building.

PCOM SUPPORTS LIGHTS FOR THE CURE

In support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, PCOM joined the consortium of buildings and landmarks in Philadelphia that turned their exteriors pink during the month of October in a salute to the region’s thousands of breast cancer survivors and in memory of those who lost their battle with the disease. The lighting also served as a reminder of the need to remain vigilant in the fight for a cure.

CENTER FOR BRIEF THERAPY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Center for Brief Therapy has been designated as a member psychology internship center by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral Internship Centers. This designation gives national recognition to the training the Center provides and allows the Center to take part in the nationwide match program for doctoral interns in psychology.

GOLF CLASSIC

The 12th annual PCOM Golf Classic was held on October 4, 2004, at the Waynesborough Country Club in Malvern, PA. The 112 golfers enjoyed a spectacular day of golf and camaraderie. PCOM’s Healthcare Centers are the beneficiary of the event, which this year raised $120,000 from PCOM’s alumni, trustees and friends. Mark your calendars for the 13th Golf Classic which is scheduled for September 13, 2005 at the new ACE course in Lafayette Hill.
SCHOLARSHIP FUND CREATED IN MEMORY OF DR. BARTH

Mrs. Frederic H. Barth has bequeathed $750,000 to PCOM to fund a scholarship in memory of her husband. Dr. Frederic H. Barth was president of the College from 1957 until 1973, when he was appointed the first chancellor of PCOM. He held this position until 1976. The scholarship will be awarded to a member of the sophomore class who has shown excellence in his or her studies and who has demonstrated financial need.

Mrs. Barth (left) and Dr. Barth in an undated photograph (shown with an unknown nurse). A portrait of Angus Cathie, DO ’31, hangs in the background.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD DOCS

Kappa Sigma Phi Women’s Osteopathic Society provides support and friendship to the female medical students at PCOM. The society helps students form relationships with the community and helps create a network with alumni, professors and other osteopathic physicians. Kappa Sigma Phi is currently looking for a few good docs to add to its alumni networking list. If you are interested in supporting this organization by becoming a mentor or member, please contact Kristen Kuratnick, (DO ’07), executive Kappa Sigma Phi networking chair, at kristenku@pcom.edu.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALS

Stephanie Felgoise, PhD, associate professor and vice chairperson, department of psychology, recently received a grant from the Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation for her continuing work assessing and creating tools to improve the quality of life of those living with ALS. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also referred to as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is a progressive and ultimately fatal neuromuscular disease. Dr. Felgoise has been conducting this research in collaboration with Zachary Simmons, MD, of Penn State Hershey Medical Center. “This grant not only allows us to work to improve the quality of life for those living with ALS, but also has allowed our students to learn about this population and to gain valuable experience working with multidisciplinary teams,” says Dr. Felgoise.

Todd Vladyka, DO, instructor, family medicine, was selected by the DO Class of 2004 to receive the Exemplar of Humanism in Medicine Award from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Perla del Pino-White (DO ’05) was featured in Mom MD, an on-line magazine for women in medicine. The article, “Faces of Change, Voices of Inspiration: Celebrating Latina Women in Medicine,” focused on her dream of becoming a doctor and her work founding PCOM’s National Boricua Latino Health Organization.

James Wood, director of the animal facility, was elected vice-chairperson of PCOM’s Institutional Environmental Health and Safety Committee.

Dr. Vladyka accepts his award from Ashley Draughon, Esq., assistant director, worldwide medical and science relations, Pfizer, Inc., sponsor of the award.
CHALLENGING VIEWS

Last summer, PCOM hosted “Challenging Views of Alzheimer’s Disease,” a conference sponsored by the World Events Forum. An ancillary meeting to the Ninth International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, the one-day conference provided top researchers in the fields of neurobiology and Alzheimer’s disease a forum in which to present controversial hypotheses concerning causes and treatments of the disease, Denah Appelt, PhD, associate professor, neuroscience, physiology, pharmacology, and organizer of the event, states, “The importance of this conference is that it offers scientists the opportunity to debate topics that are controversial. The forum is a wonderful opportunity to look at different ways of thinking about Alzheimer’s disease that may very well lead us in a new direction in prevention and treatment.”

UAAO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND

PCOM’s chapter of the Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy (UAAO) sponsored the third annual “Shake Hands with Osteopathy” during which physicians teach students their favorite techniques. “It’s a great opportunity for students to learn additional skills from some very talented professionals,” points out Alexander Nicholas, DO ’75, chairman, professor and director, osteopathic manipulative medicine. PCOM’s UAAO had additional reason to celebrate; the group was awarded Chapter of the Year at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Osteopathy.

PCOM MEDNET FIRST

In a PCOM and POMA first, a PCOM MEDNet poster session was held during the 2004 Annual POMA Convention. Here, Greg T. Wilson, DO ’02, department of medicine, Reading Hospital and Medical Center, discusses his presentation with Richard Pacucci, DO ’75, senior associate dean for clinical education.

ANNUAL REPORT CLARIFICATION

On page 19 of the 2004 Annual Report, the Parkview Hospital Physicians’ gift that established a new scholarship at PCOM was listed. The names of two alumni, Paul M. Miller, DO ’81, and David M. Masiak, DO ’77, both of whom provided leadership for the gift were also listed. However, the College did not mean to imply that they were the only contributors; the gift came from all of the Parkview physicians who contributed their remaining hospital dues. PCOM is grateful to all of these generous donors.

CLASS NOTES SUPPLEMENT CORRECTION

Noel M. Kramer, DO ’99, North Wales, PA, completed her residency in radiation oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center in June 2004 and has taken a position as staff physician at St. Mary Regional Cancer Center in Langhorne, PA. Her article, “Matched-cohort analysis of patients with prostate cancer followed with observation or treated with three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy,” was published in BJU International (July 2004).
DEVELOPMENT NEWS

FACULTY/STAFF CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

While it may have been the ice cream—with chocolate sauce, whipped cream and cherries—that initially enticed PCOM employees to assemble for the formal kick-off of the Unrestricted Annual Fund Faculty/Staff Campaign, it was their love for the institution that truly brought them together.

During the September gathering, members of the Office of Alumni Relations and Development announced this year's employee goal of $50,000. Doris Williams-Powell, distribution manager, reminded the community of the importance of giving: “As an employee of 26 years, I feel that it is important to give back to the place where you work. Each of us is here at PCOM for a reason; we believe in the institution and want to see it continue to grow.”

Faculty member Katherine Galluzzi, DO, chairman, geriatrics, echoed: “What makes more sense than making a contribution that represents an investment in our futures? We are invited to share in the PCOM mission—to enable the College to meet the ever-changing world of education, medicine and the basic sciences.” Robert Fogel, DO '58, chairman, pathology, microbiology, immunology, likewise affirmed the challenge: “The Annual Fund ensures the funding required to promote an environment conducive to academic excellence. Employee donations are indicative of the solidarity of the PCOM community; they portray the interpersonal connection we all have with the students of today and of the future.”

With 30% participation, the Faculty/Staff campaign surpassed its goal as of January 1, 2005, raising more than $60,000.

TRUSTEE GIVING

PCOM is fortunate to have a Board of Trustees that is resolute in its support of the College, consistently broadening the base of philanthropic support and providing leadership to the Unrestricted Annual Fund beyond restricted gift-giving. In fact, as of January 1, 2005, $65,000 has been contributed to the Annual Fund by trustees—81% of this year’s goal of $90,000. An additional $71,500 has been donated under restricted giving for scholarship and research support.

New trustee Thomas Gravina is pleased to be a part of PCOM’s distinguished Board: “PCOM is a vibrant institution that is steadfast in its pursuit of growth, security and excellence. The College’s bold initiatives keep PCOM on the cutting edge of education for health professionals. My gift to the Annual Fund reflects my belief in PCOM’s successes; I want to provide continued support for the College’s academic, research and clinical programs; student financial aid; faculty and facilities.”

Lita I. Cohen, Esq., head of the Board’s development committee, acknowledges her dedication and philanthropy to PCOM are driven, in part, by the influence of the osteopathic tradition: “Our DO students are devoted not only to patient care, but to the good of the whole; for these future physicians, medicine is practiced with a profound sensitivity. Furthermore, the entire PCOM community is one which fosters camaraderie. It is a place where innovative academic programs and research prepare our graduates for the future.”

2004 PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION RECEPTION

As an orange harvest moon rose over Philadelphia, PCOM alumni, faculty and trustees celebrated the first President’s Recognition Reception atop the Mellon Bank building at the elegant Pyramid Club. The reception, which will become an annual event, was held to thank leadership donors of $1,000 or more as well as to honor an individual who has made significant contributions, financial and otherwise, to PCOM. This year’s distinguished honoree was Robert L. Meals, DO '56, chairman of radiology (see back cover photo). Dr. Meals is one of the College’s most beloved and influential teachers and a major donor to his alma mater. His classroom, filled with everything from puppets to karaoke, is the site of joyous learning. In keeping with his teaching style, the reception featured a lively guest appearance by the Phillie Phanatic.

Donors Seymour Schlossberg, DO ‘62, and Elaine Schlossberg celebrate the special PCOM evening with the Phillie Phanatic.
CONFIDENCE BUILDING

PCOM Students Gain Confidence and Competence at the Newly Expanded Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center

Below: In rooms designed and equipped like those in any ambulatory care facility, students practice history-taking and physical examinations.

Right: Through state-of-the-art digital video recording systems, Penny Patton, assistant director, and Anthony Errichetti, PhD, professor and director, The Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center, oversee standardized patient encounters and ensure that each PCOM student achieves his or her program's clinical assessment objectives.
I

It’s 10:00 a.m. and the 12 examining rooms in the newly expanded Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center are buzzing with activity. In one room, a physician assistant (PA) student assesses a patient complaining of weakness and shortness of breath. Down the hall, a clinical health psychology student talks with a patient about why his stomach pain may be related to stress. Meanwhile, a group of DO students are trying to save the life of “STAN,” the robotic human patient simulator, who has gone into cardiac arrest during their Advanced Cardiac Life Support training session. This is just a small sampling of the ways that PCOM students in various degree programs build confidence and competence in clinical skills through practical, hands-on experience at the spacious new Center.

The Center has come a long way since 1993 when Tony Errichetti, PhD, director, first started the standardized patient program with a video camera and one large room divided into five examining cubicles. What began as a small pilot program offered only to second-year DO students has grown to include every student in every year of nearly every degree program now offered at PCOM.

Competency-Based Assessment Drives Growth

“The Center’s growth has been propelled by the drive toward competency-based assessment in medical education,” says Dr. Errichetti. “PCOM was one of the first osteopathic medical schools to begin using this type of assessment in which students must meet very clear, standardized learning objectives in order to graduate. The Center is crucial in helping our students to become competent so they can meet these objectives and, most importantly, become good clinicians.”

Today, DO students in all four years of the program come to the Center for standardized patient encounters nine times each year, triple the number offered when the Center first opened.

Students in the College’s psychology program also reap the benefits of the Center. PsyD students participate in the Standardized Training and Evaluation for Psychologists and Psychotherapists program. Students in the school psychology program learn from encounters with

Above: Chris Cline, the Center’s standardized patient trainer, vigilantly monitors standardized patients for consistency of presentation of medical and/or mental health conditions.

mother and child standardized patient teams who simulate a school problem or disciplinary issue. Master’s-level students also use the Center several times a year. “Very few schools offer a standardized patient program for psychology,” notes Dr. Errichetti.
Another source of growth is the College’s physician assistant studies program, which began in 1998. Now the most frequent users of the Center, the PA students visit almost weekly because their studies are so clinically focused.

“The new Center is great because it has space for more standardized patients and, as a result, we can go more often,” says Philip Mathew (PA ’06). “The more experience you get now, the better clinician you will be later.”

“Our overall activity has increased by 50 percent during each of the past two years,” says Dr. Errichetti. “The Center operates ten hours each day just to meet student demand.”

Dr. Errichetti expects demand to continue to grow with the addition of a 12-station standardized patient evaluation to the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Level 2 exam. As of July 1, 2004, fourth-year students must pass the COMLEX USA Level 2 Performance Evaluation in order to take the Level 3 exam required for licensing. Beginning in 2008, the American Osteopathic Association has mandated that students must pass this exam before they can graduate from medical school as well as take the Level 3 exam.

“The new exam is designed to ensure competency in clinical skills. We’re proud that PCOM provided key input in its development,” says Dr. Errichetti, who served as a consultant to the NBOME in developing the exam.

Dr. Errichetti emphasizes that the Board exam is not the sole reason for the growth of competency-based assessment programs at the Clinical Learning and Assessment Center. “The late Dr. Robert Berger foresaw the relevance of patient simulations as a method to train PCOM students when he started the standardized patient program 11 years ago,” he says. “We continue to enhance these programs, first and foremost, because we want our students to become competent physicians. We believe that if we train them for competency, success in passing the Board exams will naturally follow.”

“Our motto at the Center is ‘Confidence Builds Competence,’” he continues. “We know that confidence comes from exposure to clinical situations, repetition and feedback...that’s how you develop competent physicians.”

Andrew Bowe (DO ’07) says, “The most important skill I’ve learned is to be confident in what I’m doing and convey that confidence to the patient while being empathetic.”

Rebecca Horner (MS), a clinical health psychology student, agrees. “Before my first practicum, I was nervous about seeing patients,” she said. “Seeing a standardized patient really helped boost my confidence. The exposure and feedback are great.”

The Center has greatly enhanced its ability to provide feedback with a new digital video system for recording SP encounters. “With this new technology, students and faculty can view encounters on the web anytime they want,” notes Dr. Errichetti.

Enhancing the Program

One of the Center’s most innovative standardized patient programs involves fourth-year DO students simulating home health care visits to geriatric patients in the community. Seniors are matched with a standardized patient who plays the role of their family member. Students evaluate the senior and inspect the home for safety and dietary concerns. Then they assess the family member’s ability and willingness to manage the needs of the patient.

“Rather than doing this in the abstract, we provide a real experience, which makes a memorable impact on the students and helps them learn what they need to consider when discharging a patient from the hospital,” says Dr. Errichetti. “This is increasingly important in today’s health care environment.”

One of the Center’s most significant enhancements is the addition of a full-body, programmable human patient simulator (HPS) called STAN—short for “standard man,” purchased with a federal Health Resources and Services Administration grant of nearly $197,000. PCOM was
emergency medicine, surgery and anesthesia. "If we’re teaching pharmacology concepts, it's easier to talk about the effect on the patient if you can demonstrate it," notes Dr. Errichetti.

Last spring, in collaboration with Ruth Thornton, PhD, professor and chair, biochemistry/molecular biology, and Katherine Galluzzi, DO, professor and chair, geriatrics division, department of medicine, the Center used the simulator to run a clinical correlation in which second-year students had to diagnose a case of diabetic ketoacidosis.

"STAN was unconscious and the students had to work together to determine the problem and treatment options," explains Dr. Errichetti. "Previously, students worked through a case like this on paper. Working on STAN provides a real advantage because they learn to think as a team, to understand the individual roles that each of them play and to respond to the patient’s condition quickly and accurately."

As a result of this successful program, PCOM has been invited to present a workshop on teaching basic science concepts with the human patient simulator at this year’s American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine conference.

Looking Ahead

In 2004, the Center received a $99,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the purchase of additional simulation technology to enhance PCOM’s overall clinical learning and assessment program. Recently, the College acquired a second full-body HPS, which is portable so it can be used in classrooms as well as the Center. PCOM hopes to purchase additional equipment such as a pelvic simulator and a pediatric simulator.

“We're bringing our faculty into the decision-making process to ensure that the technology we buy supports their competency objectives,” says Dr. Errichetti. “Working together, we must be endlessly creative to meet the needs of all our students.”

The Center will continue working with the faculty to develop new programs and cases, including some that integrate the use of standardized patients and simulators.

As a leader in competency-based learning and assessment, PCOM offers to consult with other osteopathic medical schools interested in establishing their own centers, and the College may offer consulting to technology companies seeking cases and new ideas for training technology.

“The Clinical Learning and Assessment Center represents a real competitive advantage for PCOM,” Dr. Errichetti concludes. “Prospective students will place increasing importance on such programs in light of the new Board exam. We take pride in our leadership role in this crucial area of medical education.”

From behind a two-way mirror, Laurie Spraga, DO ’97, instructor, family medicine, employs STAN for a clinical correlation.

one of the first osteopathic medical schools in the country to acquire this advanced robotics technology, which provides students with the opportunity to learn a full range of advanced clinical skills without fear of harming the patient. “This reduces their anxiety and enables them to take more chances, which enhances learning,” notes Dr. Errichetti.

The lifelike mannequin speaks and breathes, has a heartbeat and a pulse, and accurately mirrors human responses to procedures such as CPR, intravenous medication, intubation, ventilation and catheterization. STAN can be programmed to mimic a wide range of medical situations and conditions such as cardiac ischemia, pneumonia, septic shock and many others.

The Center also uses STAN to teach basic science, which is a unique application of STAN. PCOM’s basic science faculty is working with the Center to teach skills involved in

Looking Ahead

In 2004, the Center received a $99,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the purchase of additional simulation technology to enhance PCOM’s overall clinical learning and assessment program. Recently, the College acquired a second full-body HPS, which is portable so it can be used in classrooms as well as the Center. PCOM hopes to purchase additional equipment such as a pelvic simulator and a pediatric simulator.

“We're bringing our faculty into the decision-making process to ensure that the technology we buy supports their competency objectives,” says Dr. Errichetti. “Working together, we must be endlessly creative to meet the needs of all our students.”

The Center will continue working with the faculty to develop new programs and cases, including some that integrate the use of standardized patients and simulators.

As a leader in competency-based learning and assessment, PCOM offers to consult with other osteopathic medical schools interested in establishing their own centers, and the College may offer consulting to technology companies seeking cases and new ideas for training technology.

“The Clinical Learning and Assessment Center represents a real competitive advantage for PCOM,” Dr. Errichetti concludes. “Prospective students will place increasing importance on such programs in light of the new Board exam. We take pride in our leadership role in this crucial area of medical education.”
Carol A. Fox, MM

2005 Recipient of the
The O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal

A Gift for Connecting with Students
Thousands of students have passed through her office over the past 37 years. Many wide-eyed college students on their first visit to PCOM were nervous and awestruck. Some were optimistic and excited about the future; others were discouraged because their chances of acceptance didn’t look good. Later, as PCOM students, some came to her for reassurance about their grades or financial worries... others for advice about their future careers.

She has congratulated them and comforted them, counseled them and cheered them on. It is these relationships with PCOM students that define the full measure of success that Carol A. Fox, MM, the 2005 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient, has achieved throughout her extraordinary career in admissions and student affairs at PCOM.

Ms. Fox was a college student herself when she first joined PCOM, working during the summer in the Registrar’s Office. Soon after she graduated from Pennsylvania State University and while working in New York City, she received a call from Thomas M. Rowland, Jr., director of admissions, who would later become PCOM’s fourth president. The assistant registrar was retiring, he told her. Would she be interested in the job?

“I was thrilled for the opportunity,” recalls Ms. Fox. “I loved PCOM from the first day I walked on campus. I couldn’t imagine a place where I’d rather work.”

Now associate vice president for enrollment management, Ms. Fox holds fond memories of those early days. “At that time, the Admissions Office was known as ‘the College Office,’” she relates. “We handled all non-academic issues starting from the time when a student first inquired about PCOM through and including Commencement.

“When I first started, we had 400 students and I did my best to know them all. I was always in my office and students knew they could come in and talk about anything. I was there after thing—always trying to remember a little tidbit about each patient to show that I care and I’m really interested in their well-being.”

Ms. Fox’s gift for connecting with students has been key to her success in admissions. “I love PCOM and I love going out on college campuses and talking with students. Telling them about PCOM and the futures they can have as osteopathic physicians has been a phenomenal experience,” she relates.

Robert Gober, DO ’78, remembers that Fox was the first person he met from PCOM. “She was so positive and excited about PCOM—you could really feel her enthusiasm,” he says. “She absolutely reinforced my decision to come here.”

“Students feel positive about PCOM, in part, because we have a great admissions process,” notes Ms. Fox. “We go out of our way for most any student who would like to come here. We counsel students about ways they can improve their chances of admission, and we’ve spent untold hours talking with unsuccessful candidates about why they were not accepted. Very few medical schools offer to do this. It’s part of who we are as an institution. At PCOM, we really care about people and we encourage personal contact at every opportunity. The hands-on approach of osteopathic medicine most definitely creates a caring attitude, and that flows through every aspect of our operation, beginning with admissions.”

Over the years, Ms. Fox has recruited at just about every college in Pennsylvania. “I’m proud that I’ve been able to play a large part in helping osteopathic medicine gain so much well-deserved recognition,” she says. “And I’m proud that so many colleges have gained so much respect for PCOM.”
Ms. Fox helped win their respect by developing strong relationships with pre-medical advisors at PCOM’s feeder schools, which include Penn State, Muhlenberg, Franklin & Marshall, Temple, University of Scranton, West Chester State, University of Delaware and Salisbury (MD) State.

“We’ve created an environment of open communication where pre-medical advisors feel comfortable to call and let us know when they are sending a candidate who deserves a good look,” she says. “These relationships are among the reasons why so many more students know about osteopathic medicine than they did years ago. I think we’ve done an incredible job of letting people know who we are and helping to build credibility for the profession.”

Fox acknowledges, however, that the job is far from done. “When I started in 1967, the osteopathic profession had five medical schools,” she notes. “Now we have 21, including our new Georgia Campus. We must continually strive to ensure that PCOM is out in front of college students.”

In her current position, Ms. Fox focuses on strategic planning to ensure PCOM’s continued success in recruiting and enrollment. This includes the biomedical sciences, forensic medicine, psychology and physician assistant programs, which have grown substantially in recent years. “I miss visiting the college campuses and personal contact with the students, but feel gratified that I’m contributing to PCOM’s success in another important way,” she says. “Our applicant pool continues to be strong and our classes are filled every year.”

“Carol’s achievements are reflected in the success of PCOM alumni who are well-respected physicians,” notes Dr. Dutkowsky. “We are living proof of her ability to consistently recognize qualified students who have the potential to become good doctors.”

Ms. Fox emphasizes that PCOM’s admissions efforts have been successful during her tenure because of the exceptional support of many people. “So much of what I have been able to accomplish I owe to Tom Rowland, who was my mentor,” she says. “He looked beneath the surface of each student and saw so much potential, and I think he taught me to do the same.”

“I am grateful also to our admissions staff,” to Nancy McCullen for her invaluable support and friendship, and to others who have gotten their start in the Admissions Office—Robert G. Cuzzolino, EdD, vice president for graduate programs and planning, and Pam Ruoff, director of alumni relations and development.”

Now, Ms. Fox looks forward to the challenges of recruiting for PCOM’s new Georgia Campus, which will open in August 2005. “I’m ecstatic about the opportunity to create an entirely new applicant pool in the South, establish relationships with colleges in that region and increase their awareness about osteopathic medicine,” she says.

Ms. Fox also brings enthusiasm to her leisure activities, especially the time she spends with her 11 nieces and nephews and four great-nephews. “I’m close to each one and they’ve been a major influence in my life,” she relates. “I haven’t swayed any of them toward medicine yet, but one is a successful admission professional!” An avid golfer, she also loves the theater, especially Broadway shows, as well as the ballet, history, European travel and the beach.

Ms. Fox has served as chair of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s Applications Services Advisory Committee and has been actively involved in the American Osteopathic Association’s college accreditation process. She was president of the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admission and also served on the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers’ Task Force 2000, which developed a document to guide the organization into the 21st century.

While acknowledging that today’s admissions process is more business- and marketing-oriented than ever before, Ms. Fox is determined to maintain the personal touch that has been the hallmark of her success at PCOM. Among her many achievements, the most meaningful for her are the enduring relationships she enjoys with students and alumni.

“When all is said and done,” she reflects, “what’s most important is knowing that I was here for the students when they needed someone and that my efforts helped to ensure that, as PCOM alumni, they are firmly rooted in the osteopathic tradition.”
It was his faith that led Nicholas Bower (DO '05) to pursue a life of service in community health and preventative medicine. "I always knew that I wanted to find a profession where service was at the core of my work," says Mr. Bower, a devout Catholic whose parents instilled in him a love for serving others.

While in high school, Mr. Bower began exploring the medical field. "I knew that the health professions lent themselves to directly serving people who were suffering, and it became a clear choice for me," he recalls. When Mr. Bower's guidance counselor suggested that he participate in a church mission trip to Ecuador to help impoverished people with health problems, he jumped at the opportunity. "I saw it as a sign that this was the career direction I should take," he says.

His two weeks in Ecuador steered the course of his life. "I saw directly how medicine and spirituality can work together as the most potent form of healing," he relates. "When people have nothing and all you have to offer them is your compassion and prayers and your company at their bedside, you inspire hope, and I think hope is often where the healing process begins."

When he returned from Ecuador, Mr. Bower knew he had it in his heart to be a healer. Until that time, he hadn't set the world on fire academically, but he was determined to work harder so that he could pursue his goals. "I felt driven to give it my all," he recalls.

As a college freshman, he discovered osteopathic medicine. "I was blown away by the holistic philosophy of this beautiful profession," says Mr. Bower, who would later serve as president of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Undergraduate Chapter at PCOM. "It was a perfect fit with my own personal philosophy."

Four years later, at the end of his first year at PCOM, Mr. Bower decided to return to Ecuador. "I embarked on a one-month volunteer experience working with leprosy patients and pediatric and adult patients with infectious diseases who had no financial resources whatsoever. In some cases, their families financed everything just to buy them HIV medicine. This experience taught me the core of what medicine would be for me... forming a personal bond with my patients by listening to them and working with them to identify and help meet their needs."

Galvanized by this experience, Mr. Bower returned home determined that other PCOM students should have the same opportunity. Putting his faith into action, he founded a non-profit organization to help students make medical service trips and complete clerkships in Ecuador. "Our goal is to inspire young people to find a call to service to help people with the least, and also gain a global perspective of medicine," he relates. "Students learn to focus on those around them instead of themselves."

"I believe that correcting the majority of society's ills begins with that spirit of caring for your neighbor, whether it's your international neighbor or the person who literally lives next door to you," Mr. Bower emphasizes. "The well-being of that neighbor directly impacts you, and it's the blindness to that truth that keeps us from moving forward in a humanistic way as a society. That's my ethos for establishing our foundation and offering this opportunity to PCOM students."

So far, 14 students have completed clerkships or fulfilled electives in various specialties in Ecuador. "The number participating grows each year," notes Mr. Bower. "PCOM deserves a lot of credit for its flexibility in allowing students to pursue diverse elective experiences such as this. The College offers the perfect balance of academic excellence and freedom of expression."

Eventually, Mr. Bower hopes to fulfill his vision of creating a community health center to provide inpatient and outpatient care within the slums of Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city. "Community and preventative medicine is important for everyone," Mr. Bower emphasizes, "not just for populations with limited resources. I'd like to help establish a model that improves the continuity of care for patients here and around the world."
FINDING Peace IN THE STRANGEST PLACES

DAVID COFFEY, DO ’84 REVISITS SUDAN

Sudan, Africa’s largest country, has aptly been called a million square miles of suffering. Daily headlines from the Sudanese province of Darfur report a mantra of displacement, murder, rape, pillage, malnutrition and disease—a situation labeled by former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell as an utter catastrophe: “the greatest humanitarian disaster in the world today.”
But far off the radar screens of most news outlets, signs of peace and progress are taking place in this war-torn land. Paradoxically, they are found in one of the principal “killing fields” of Sudan in the Nuba Mountains, a region about the size of the state of Maine.

David Coffey, DO ’84, is a witness to the transformation that has begun to turn the Nuba Mountains into a fragile oasis of peace. In fact, the gentle, soft-spoken, Alabama-based osteopathic physician is one of the vehicles for the change.

As reported in the pages of Digest four years ago, Dr. Coffey, on only a few days’ notice, answered a summons from Macram Max Gassis, a Roman Catholic bishop of El Obeid diocese in central and western Sudan, to aid wounded children whose remote school in the village of Kauda had been attacked with shrapnel bombs by the Sudanese air force. The “Kauda bombing,” in which 19 Nuba students and their teacher perished on the morning of February 8, 2000, brought large-scale international attention to bear for the first time on the plight of the besieged Nuba people and their decades-old struggle against government-sponsored religious and ethnic persecution.

In the years since that dramatic medical rescue mission, Dr. Coffey has continued to enjoy a successful practice in family medicine. A fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy, he has recently authored a paper on “C1 Somatic Dysfunction and Unilateral Retroorbital Cephalalgia,” which will be published this year. And he has continued his alma mater’s service to his alma mater, serving as the southeastern representative of the alumni board of directors, while remaining steadfast in his humanitarian work in the war-torn Balkans. His efforts on behalf of St. Vincent’s Hospital, Sarajevo, Bosnia’s first church-run modern medical facility, have reached fruition as the hospital is projected to open in 2005 and its nursing school has already enrolled students this past September.

Yet, Dr. Coffey has not forgotten the brave Nuba children. He presently serves as treasurer on the board of the Bishop Gassis Sudan Relief Fund (www.petersvoice.com), which raises funds in the United States for pioneering humanitarian projects including water sanitation, education and health care in the Nuba Mountains and southern Sudan. In the past, such projects had to be carried out under the most difficult conditions imaginable—in areas off limits to foreigners and relief agencies, under wartime restrictions, without roads and electricity, in terrain subject to militia raids and aerial bombardment and littered with land mines. However, since 2002, U.S. negotiators have successfully brokered a ceasefire in the Nuba Mountains between the forces of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army and military units loyal to the Khartoum regime, relieving the region of active fighting for the first time since the mid 1980s.

In April 2004, Dr. Coffey paid a second “house call” to the brave and resilient villagers of the Nuba Mountains—a return to observe the progress. One of the most salient changes Dr. Coffey relates, is the international presence in the Nuba Mountains: “There are more than 15 non-government organizations operating in the area now—the World Food Program, UNESCO and Save the Children among them.” Gone is the pervasive sense of isolation that once gripped these ancient mountain...
tribes as they struggled to defend themselves in the face of the ignorance and indifference of the international community.

In addition, the changes Dr. Coffey saw in postwar Nuba were beyond political atmospheric. There were real changes on the ground—chief among them, water wells. Water was a major challenge during the war years, as Nuba, driven from their villages, were forced to dig shallow wells wherever they could. The brackish water from these improvised sources was a significant cause of disease.

Now, according to Dr. Coffey, with help from USAID, more than 100 new wells, with an abundant supply of fresh potable water, have been dug all over the Nuba Mountains.

When asked what surprised him the most about the postwar situation, Dr. Coffey didn’t hesitate a moment: “There has been a tremendous amount of progress in such a short amount of time. The Nuba are so industrious; they do so much with the little help you give them.”

Not surprisingly, the physician was particularly attentive to the advancement being made on the region’s first fully equipped hospital facility, Mater Misericordiae (Mother of Mercy), a proposed 85-bed complex on 25 acres of land. Handmade brick structures have already been raised, a major fundraising priority for the bishop and his diocese.

Until now, hundreds of thousands of Nuba, due to government neglect imposed by war, were deprived of even the most rudimentary elements of health care. Dr. Coffey plans to assist in developing medical training centers in these remote areas to help train future Nuba medical personnel including nurses and midwives.

And the school children whose plight brought Dr. Coffey to the Nuba Mountains in the first place? Today, there are four grammar schools in the greater Kauda area with more than 1,500 students enrolled—boys and girls, Catholics, Muslims and the followers of traditional African religions, learning together—side by side. Their lessons are taught in Arabic, tribal languages and English. “The children are so hungry for education,” Dr. Coffey notes.

During his return visit, however, there was one constant for Dr. Coffey. He was again struck by the children—in this case, a wry Nuba student who greeted Bishop Gassis and the accompanying Dr. Coffey with a gift—a wooden model of a machine gun. “Tell your friends that we don’t want any more of these,” the young student related with an independence of mind that is a Nuba hallmark.

Such a remark underscores the fragile transition the Nuba are making amid the chaos in other parts of Sudan. “Obviously, people must care about what’s happening in Darfur and must act,” says Dr. Coffey, “but after 20 years of horrific barbarism and war, there is also an opportunity for peace in the Nuba Mountains and southern Sudan that we cannot afford to lose, that we need to seize.”

Among the Nuba, Dr. Coffey declares, “one can see the things that peace can do when it’s given even half a chance.”
Like Dr. Coffey, PCOM students have embraced calls to international medical missions. Their informed global perspectives, sense of dedication and insistence upon excellence in medicine have improved the quality of life for many.

Through the generosity of the Albert F. D’Alonzo, DO ’56 Memorial Fund, which is sponsored by the Alumni Association of PCOM, 14 DO students received support during 2004-2005, allowing them to provide care, diagnosis and treatment for patients in developing nations such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, South Africa and West Africa.

Both Kristen Semanison (DO ’05) and Laura Czulada (DO ’06) completed medical rotations at a rural clinic in Duran, Ecuador. Daily, they assisted with general surgeries and treated patients with infectious diseases. Semanison, who has chosen to extend her service for a full year, has had opportunities to assist a team of renowned doctors performing ground-breaking peripheral nerve entrapment releases on patients with Hansen’s disease. “The surgical results have been incredible; most patients are now able to move and feel their hands and feet,” she observes.

Semanison and Czulada were inspired by fellow student Nicholas Bower (DO ’05), who in 2002 established Physicians for Humanity (physiciansforhumanity.org), a medical mission in Ecuador. Today, Bower continues to organize student groups to assist native doctors in the Guayaquil area (see page 19).

Jennifer Malsbury (DO ’05) spent two months on a surgery clerkship at Las Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro Hospital in Antigua, Guatemala, working with visiting surgery teams from the international community. “Patients travel for days from all parts of the country in confidence that expert physicians will take care of them,” Malsbury notes. “My experiences in Antigua have been inspirational. They have shaped my career path, challenging me in unimaginable ways.”

Tammy Dietz (DO ’05) was nominated to participate in the 2004 International Mission on Medicine, a one-month charge in South Africa, where she visited medical schools, health facilities and orphanages in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg, observing the nation’s enormous medical challenges: administrative issues left from the Apartheid system and the need for health care reform, hospital decentralization, uniform patient billing systems and hospital partnerships. Her mission also provided minor medical care to youth whose lives have been overshadowed by malaria, tuberculosis and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. About her experience, Dietz affirms a sense of gratitude: “Mine was an opportunity to observe a medical system in transition and to learn from its challenges. The experience has given me a realistic perspective of my own life and the life that lies before me as a physician.”

And in May 2005, Justin A. Snyder (DO ’06) plans to fulfill an elective clerkship in the Central African Republic/Congo. He will travel with three physicians whose specialties range from family practice and OB/GYN to general surgery and infectious disease. For Snyder, the clerkship will be an opportunity to continue his work with the Bayaka, an African pygmy people, who first piqued his interest during a missionary trip in which he participated in 2002. While Snyder’s first African experience inspired him to write and illustrate a children’s book, Jonathan’s Jungle (a portion of each sale is donated to the Bayaka Fund: www.jonathansjungle.com), his return will allow him to personally help provide for the Bayaka’s medical needs, addressing widespread flu, malaria and conjunctivitis.
finding their centers

A Series of Articles on Research at PCOM

STUDENTS ARE ON THE FRONTLINES OF A GROWING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION BASE AT PCOM’S HEALTHCARE CENTERS

Amy Bollenbacher, MA, (PsyD ’06), teamed up with DO students in a research project at PCOM’s four urban Healthcare Centers, and she learned about more than the particular study.

“I discovered that when the medical students and clinical psychology students watch each other work with the same patient we can learn from one another, help one another and together work in a holistic approach to patient health and wellness,” says Bollenbacher.

Above: Nazmina Kathria (DO ’05); William J. Gilhool, DO, physician/co-director, family practice, Lancaster Avenue Healthcare Center; Anthony R. Theile (DO ’05); Amy Bollenbacher, MA, (PsyD ’06); and Barbara A. Golden, PsyD, assistant professor, psychology and director, clinical services for the department of psychology.
She worked at PCOM Healthcare Center - Lancaster Avenue Division in 2003-2004 as part of a study into whether intervention with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) could help reduce physical symptoms in people with chronic medical conditions. Co-lead investigators in the study were Harry Morris, DO ’78, professor and chairman, family medicine, and Barbara A. Golden, PsyD, assistant professor, psychology and director, clinical services for the department of psychology. “There’s a psycho-social component in much of chronic illness,” says Bollenbacher “I believe the DO students and PsyD students tapped into a greater appreciation for each other.”

Bollenbacher also gained an appreciation for the vast research potential at PCOM’s Healthcare Centers. “We’re in the era of evidence-based medicine and here at PCOM we have five Healthcare Centers with large patient bases—urban and rural mixes,” says Richard M. Kriebel, PhD, associate dean, curriculum and research, and chair, neuroscience, physiology and pharmacology. “It seems natural to pursue the possibilities.”

There are about 44,000 patient visits annually at the five PCOM Healthcare Centers, which include Cambria Division, Lancaster Avenue Division, Roxborough Division, City Avenue division and Sullivan County Medical Center.

Often, the studies are seamless, taking little or no extra time from patients. “We recruited participants in the waiting areas with a questionnaire for a pain study,” explains lead investigator Frederick J. Goldstein, PhD, professor of clinical pharmacology. With Dr. Kriebel’s support, Dr. Goldstein is trying to develop four of the local Healthcare Centers as a base for research. “I had the students administer the questionnaires and stand by for patient questions; it was a good experience for the students.”

One such student is Donna Winter, MS/BioMed ’01, (DO ’05), who worked on the pain study during the summer just before beginning her first year as a medical student. The study focused on about 200 participants. The goal was to determine only how patients felt about the treatment of pain in general, and not to evaluate their current therapy.

“I’ve been involved in research before and it definitely teaches you how to think,” says Winter. “It would be interesting to do clinical studies in office practice. I could see myself being a part of the research process if everything works out in that way.”

The PCOM Healthcare Centers, says Winter, provide a unique opportunity to study large numbers of patients who have chronic conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension and asthma.

In one study at the Healthcare Centers, lead investigator Alexander Nicholas, DO ’75, chairman, osteopathic manipulative medicine, with one of his undergraduate OMM fellows, Thomas Haley, DO ’03, designed a pilot study to treat asthma patients with OMM for eight weeks to see if it would reduce the use of anti-asthmatic medications. “Dr. Nicholas’ study was an opportunity to help patients and to gain valuable information,” says Dr. Goldstein.

In a different clinical investigation, the Pennsylvania Study of Chronic Pulmonary Exacerbations (PASCOPE), Dr. Goldstein was able to target two PCOM Healthcare Centers—Cambria Division (Barbara Williams-Page, DO ’92) and Roxborough Division (David Kuo, DO ’96)—as well as the PCOM InterMed Practice Plan (John P. Simelaro, DO ’71) for a collaboration with Temple University School of Medicine. Dr. Goldstein’s research will follow urban asthma patients very closely to reduce exacerbations and, consequently, patient emergency room visits.

There’s plenty of room for studies involving medical devices, surveys, OMM and some medications, according to Dr. Kuo, medical director at PCOM’s Roxborough Division. In one study, led by Dr. Morris and involving students, Dr. Kuo and his colleagues Deanna Ligenza, DO ’96, and Laurie Spraga, DO ’97, recruited 150 patients to help test a new type of lancet to be used by diabetic patients. “The manufacturer paid the patients $20 for each trial and some patients participated twice,” says Dr. Kuo. “The study worked out great.”

Dr. Kuo says patients at Roxborough Division expect students to be involved in their care. “Students have already helped to manage the patients’ care, so when they participate in a study involving those same patients, everyone is comfortable,” adds Dr. Kuo. “The volume of patients and the knowledge that these are teaching centers makes the Healthcare Centers a great place to do research. Everyone benefits and the educational experience for the students stays with them.”

Liz Myers (DO ’08) is waiting for her turn to be involved. She learned the value of research as an undergraduate neuroscience major at the University of Pittsburgh, where she also received her master’s degree in neuroscience. “Research taught me the importance of improving my communication skills and it taught me how to think critically,” she says.

Myers recalls that she was questioned about whether she would pursue research or patient care—about which route she would take: “I said, why even call them routes; why do they have to be separate paths? Why can’t they be parts of the same path?”

“A number of medical schools are starting to require that their students do research,” she notes. “It’s a good thing; there are not many differences, really, in the thinking when approaching research or a clinical situation. Research and medicine are not far apart.”
1933
Rachel A. Witmyer, DO, Horton, MI, is now living with her son, Gregory.

1939
Charles Lichtenwalner, DO, Pottstown, PA, was honored on his 90th birthday at a party hosted at the Lakeside Inn in Limerick, PA. He and his wife, Muriel, have been married for 58 years. They have four children, 15 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

1943
Wesley C. Luther, DO, North Charleston, SC, retired from family medicine in 1993.

1946
Harold H. Finkel, DO, Farmington Hills, MI, has been honored by The Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation with the naming of a scholarship, "The Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation Finkel Nursing Scholarship," for his years of service to the hospital, community and osteopathic profession.

Jane Morris, DO, Meadville, PA, retired in 1996 after 50 years of medical practice. She is enjoying life in a retirement community and participates in various activities in her community and church.

1947
Andrew D. DeMasi, DO, Cherry Hill, NJ, married Mary Ellen Gaenzle, RN '48, in 1953. She passed away on September 12, 2003. Dr. DeMasi has seven children (one deceased) including Mark A. DeMasi, DO '88 and 10 grandchildren. Dr. DeMasi is professor emeritus of obstetrics/gynecology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Medicine. He retired in 1994.

1950
Herbert M. Rubin, DO, Encino, CA, received media coverage in an article published in The Daily News titled "After 54 years, the doctor is in and outstanding." Dr. Rubin is still practicing medicine and making house calls. He celebrated his 82nd birthday surrounded by 50 of his patients in May 2004.

1954
Class Agents:
William G. McDowell, DO
724-347-4163
William C. Bryers, DO
215-491-4015


1956
Class Agent:
Jay H. Joseph, DO
610-237-5060

Robert L. Meals, DO, Bala Cynwyd, PA, received a service acclamation award for 24 years of consecutive attendance at last summer's AOA House of Delegates meeting.

1959
Class Agent:
Tomuley Moody, DO
937-298-9151

Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, Penn Valley, PA, was the keynote speaker at the Convocation and White Coat Ceremony held at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth on September 17, 2004.

1962
Class Agents:
James H. Black, DO
757-489-5450, fltsurg@sprynet.com
Robert S. Maurer, DO
732-494-6688, bmaurer789@aol.com

George E. Nixon, DO, Estero, FL, recently retired from his post-family practice job in industrial medicine in Ohio and is now enjoying life in Florida.

Murray Zedeck, DO, Fort Lauderdale, FL, is chairman of the board of Transcapital Bank in Florida. Financial Management Consulting Group reported that out of 481 new banks in the southeast, Transcapital Bank was ranked number three overall in the southeast and the highest in the state of Florida as of mid-year 2004.

1963
Class Agent:
Harvey M. Spector, DO
215-637-0556, dop63@aol.com
James J. D’Amore, Jr., DO, Cherry Hill, NJ, was granted life membership in the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. He retired from family practice in July 2003.

1964
Class Agent:
James P. Tierney, DO
fivetease@aol.com

David Gerber, DO, Melville, NY, was highlighted in an article published in Newsday titled "The doctor is...out."

Hugh P. Scott, DO, Annandale, VA, completed his military career as a Naval Medical Officer and retired at the rank of Rear Admiral. Presently, he is serving as the senior medical advisor for Northrop Grumman Information Technology, Health Solutions.

1965
Class Agent:
Roy N. Pasker, DO
334-279-8451; pasker@aol.com

Gordon Josephs, DO, Scottsdale, AZ, is past president of the Arizona Homeopathic and Integrative Medical Association and was installed for a second term as secretary/treasurer.


1966
H. Michael Zal, DO, Norristown, PA, spoke on generalized anxiety disorder at the American College of Neurology and Psychiatry meeting in November 2004 in San Francisco, CA, in conjunction with the American Osteopathic Association Conference.

1967
Class Agent:
Sherman Leis, DO
610-667-1888, drsleis@aol.com

Roy A. Debeer, DO, Long Beach, NY, was the recipient of the "Humanitarian of the Year Award" presented by St. John's Episcopal Hospital.
1970
CLASS AGENT:
JAMES J. NICOLSON, DO
610-828-6990
Jon M. Greif, DO, La Jolla, CA, was appointed president-elect of the American Cancer Society, California Division.

1971
Barry I. Eisenberg, DO, Pocono Pines, PA, became president of the Center for Integrative Medicine at Inner Harmony, Mercy Hospital, Scranton, PA. His family practice continues to expand, and he remains active as an emergency medical services instructor.

1972
CLASS AGENT:
JOAN M. WATKINS, DO
813-615-7755, jwatkins@mail.uc.edu
Joseph H. Stewart, III, DO, Waynesboro, PA, was the recipient of the "Roy S. F. Angle Business Person of the Year Award" presented by the Greater Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce.

1975
CLASS AGENT:
JON J. O'BRIEN, S.J., DO
202-965-6912, job25@georgetown.com
Gary A. Agia, DO, Mulpica Hill, NJ, reports that he is practicing office-based pulmonary medicine. He recently co-authored an article published in The Journal of Respiratory Diseases titled "Bronchoscopy clinic: The case of double trouble."

1976
Cecilia M. Smith, DO, West Reading, PA, was named director of the department of medicine at Reading Hospital.

1978
CLASS AGENT:
LORENE B. DISIPIO, DO
610-623-7230, ldisipio@comcast.com
Carlo DiMarco, DO, Media, PA, was installed as president of the American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology. Paul M. Imber, DO, Chadds Ford, PA, was installed as president of the American Osteopathic College of Otorhinolaryngology.

1979
CLASS AGENT:
EARL H. BRISNER, DO
717-272-7423, ehershey@hotmail.com
Ralph S. Carungi, DO, Phoenix, AZ, was appointed director and clinical professor of surgery at Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine.

1980
Richard T. Lesher, DO, Warrington, PA, was appointed vice-chairman of the Patient Advocacy Council of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

1981
Susan D. Peck, DO, Glenville, PA, is currently in a group practice in Hanover, PA, and has studied advanced techniques in vaginal prolapse surgery.

1982
CLASS AGENT:
ANTHONY J. SILVAGNI, DO
754-362-1407, jsilvagni@aol.com
Kevin J. Corcoran, DO, Greenville, NC, was named medical director for East Care, a critical care transport service. He is a faculty member in the department of emergency medicine at East Carolina University School of Medicine and holds the rank of clinical associate professor and director of air medicine.

1983
Christopher J. Keenan, DO, Linwood, NJ, completed his second residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation. He moved to Linwood, NJ, to work for Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania Pediatric Clinics. He has two daughters, Julianna, age five, and Melissa, age three.

David J. Simons, DO, Lancaster, PA, was re-certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology.

1984
John C. Tanner, DO, Neptune Beach, FL, was appointed honorary chairman to the Physicians Advisory Board of the National Republican Congressional Committee for the state of Florida.

1985
CLASS AGENT:
MICHAEL P. MEYER, DO
717-721-5700, mmeyer8700@aol.com
David Coffey, DO, Drexel Hill, PA, left his law practice in North Carolina to return to Philadelphia with his wife, Sally, and four sons. He is the medical director at Executive Health Resources in Drexel Hill, PA.

Peter J. Isaac, DO, Allentown, PA, opened his new practice, Peter J. Isaac, DO, LLC, in Allentown, PA.

Deborah Popowich, DO, Elkins Park, PA, recently moved back to Philadelphia after being in Milwaukee for a year. She is currently working in a family practice with her father, Leonard Popowich, DO '58, in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia.

1986
Brian T. Bock, Sr., DO, Collegeville, PA, joined the medical staff at St. Luke's Hospital-Bethlehem Campus. He is associated with Harleyville Medical Associates.

Mary Curran De Joseph, DO, Palmrya, NJ, joined the board of directors of The Arc of Burlington County.

George E. Stenenelli, DO, La Grange, GA, has been elected chief of staff for the Warm Springs Medical Center in Warm Springs, GA.
1987
CLASS AGENT:
THOMAS J. DагNEY, III, DO
812-885-3810
jjd@charter.net
Jean Golden-Tewald, DO, Pirtstown, NJ, completed a course as natural family planning medical consultant. She works with women's health issues as well as general family practice with OMT.
David Lczinsky, DO, Emmaus, PA, joined the medical staff of OB/GYN Associates in Bloomsburg, PA.

1988
CLASS AGENT:
ERIC M. LIPACK, DO
856-784-0444
elipack@comcast.net
John Hamaty, DO, Medford, NJ, passed his recertification examination in cardiology/critical care. He is chief of cardiology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Osteopathic Medicine.
Ronald A. Lutes, DO, Cherry Hill, PA, was elected president of the medical staff at Monmouth Valley Hospital.
Lori Ann Musto-Skelly, DO, Pacific Palisades, CA, was highlighted in an article published in the Shopper titled "Dr. Musto offers new fat-melting treatment."
Gregory G. Papadeas, DO, Aurora, CO, past president of the Colorado Dermatological Society and the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology, was selected by colleague physicians as Denver's "top dermatologist" as reported by 5280 Magazine.
Lisa A. Rogge, DO, Wrightstown, PA, has been elected to the board of trustees of St. Mary Medical Center Foundation in Langhorne, PA.

1990
Donald J. DeBrakelker, DO, Lansdale, PA, joined the Center for Health of Lansdale.
Steven F. Gitler, DO, Cherry Hill, NJ, was the subject of a recent article published in Medical Economics magazine on the subject of living within your means and saving for the future. He also was quoted in two other Medical Economics articles, one on continuing medical education programs and one on purchasing medication on-line.

Tom Falone, DO '77
MEETS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

Twelve years ago, Tom Falone, DO '77, had a successful rehabilitation/sports medicine practice. He enjoyed his work, his friends and family and he especially enjoyed playing golf. That was also the year he was in a car accident so severe he had an out-of-body experience. Falone survived the crash, but most of the bones in his right hand were fractured. After extensive rehabilitation, Falone headed back out to the golf course. That's when he discovered he couldn't hit a golf ball without experiencing significant pain. "To hit a golf ball," he explains, "you have to use a good deal of force and actually hit the ground under the ball. The vibration from the impact caused pain to shoot up through my hand and up my arm." As a former professional golfer, he did not find giving up golf to be an option.

So began Falone's quest to create a golf grip that would absorb the shock of the golf club's impact. "I tried a lot of things," Falone admits, "I even used the bladder from a blood pressure cuff. It's the nature of doctors to keep exploring. I researched silicone and started mixing my own silicone to find the right density." He discovered that to be thick enough to make a difference, the silicone was too soft. A friend, who happens to be a police officer, suggested Kevlar, the material used in bulletproof vests. Falone discovered the secret to what would be his success—Kevlar sandwiched between thin layers of silicone.

Falone partnered with former classmate and retired plastic surgeon Carmen DiMario, DO '77, to bring Sting-Free to market. They have also teamed up with Robert Vito, an investor who successfully marketed the Unbreakable Autolock, to help market Sting-Free through a Web site and infomercials.

But Sting-Free is not just a golf grip. The Sting-Free technology has been expanded for use in baseball bats and gloves, tennis rackets, hockey sticks and shoe inserts. Falone currently holds 28 patents for Sting-Free. Dr. C. Narataj, a mechanical engineering professor at Villanova University, has performed vibration analysis on the Sting-Free material. His tests prove that Sting-Free substantially reduces vibrations, so much so, in fact, that General Motors is interested in studying the use of the material in engine mounts.

But back to golf. Does Sting-Free affect Falone's golf game? "Absolutely," replies Falone. "I couldn't play without it, and my wife has cut 10 strokes off her game."

The article was a Q & A interview with Dr. Tayoun, who ran for the District 1 seat in the Pennsylvania Senate.
Martin S. Weiss, DO, Fort Worth, TX, was named medical director of the Jonathan P. Smith Hospital Cardiology Center of Excellence in Fort Worth, TX.
1991

James D. Bove, III, DO, Marion, OH, joined the medical staff at Marion General Hospital and the practices of Drs. John McDonough and Joe Vale.

Dina F. Capalongo, DO, Exton, PA, was appointed transitional residency program director for Crozer Chester Medical Center and is an assistant professor of medicine at Temple University School of Medicine. She is married to PCOM alumnus, John Wilson, II, DO ’91. They have a daughter, Alexandra.

Joseph J. Stella, DO, Pittston, PA, opened a new cardiothoracic surgery office in Hazleton, PA.

1993

Class Agents:

Laura Ferrando-Dominy, DO
610-409-8147, l.d.dominy@verizon.net

Claire M. Higgins, DO
302-644-9644, cmhdo5@aol.com

Louis Coyle, DO, Rockland, ME, joined the medical staff at Penobscot Bay Medical Center.

Robert J. Smick, DO, Pilesgrove Township, NJ, is medical director of the occupational health department at South Jersey Hospital System. Dr. Smick and his wife, Linda, have four children, Matthew, Brandon, Zachary and Tori.

1994

Class Agent:

Judith A. Gardner, DO
215-428-9383, judygocats@verizon.net

David T. Gigliotti, DO, Marlton, NJ, joined Dr. Joseph Berger in a family practice.

James L. Hubbard, DO, Rock Hill, SC, is chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Piedmont Medical Center. He is delegate-at-large for the South Carolina Medical Society. Dr. Hubbard and his wife, Rachel, have two children, Sophia, age six, and Helena, age four.

Marcia Whalen, DO, Newport Beach, CA, opened a concierge medical practice in Newport Beach, CA, on September 15, 2004.

On a personal note

Anthony J. Lopresti, DO ’73, Pacific Grove, CA, married Michele Chamoni on Valentine’s Day, 2004. His youngest daughter, Cara Lopresti, is an Olympic hopeful for the 2008 field hockey national team in Peking, China.

Thomas L. Showers, DO ’85, Northfield, NJ, and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of Michelle Lee, born on May 2, 2003.

Suzanne Greb, DO ’92, Lewisburg, PA, and her husband, Eric, are the proud parents of their fourth child, Gabriel Christian Greb, born on June 15, 2004, at Geisinger Medical Center. Little Gabriel joins big brother, Benjamin, and big sisters Emaleigh and Abigail.

Donna M. Eget, DO ’93, Clarks Summit, PA, and husband, Robert Bessoir, are the proud parents of twin boys, Jamison and Maddox Bessoir, born on March 30, 2004.

Emma Cargado-Leynes, DO ’95, Harrisburg, PA, and husband, Lawrence, are the proud parents of their third child, Valor Lawrence Leynes, born on August 10, 2004. His older sisters, Ciara Loren and Lorianne Gabrielle are proud to have a brother to love. Dr. Cargado-Leynes is currently in an obstetrics/gynecology group practice in Harrisburg, PA.

Sarah M. Jones, DO ’96, Grosse Point Farms, MI, and her husband, Vincent Sceglio, DO, have a son, Joseph Robert, age one, and a daughter, Nicole.

Scott A. Lintz, DO ’96, Myrtle Beach, SC, and his wife, Amy, are the proud parents of Kreider Lintz, born on March 30, 2004.

Fran T. Zetterberg, DO ’96, Lewistown, PA, and his wife, Pamela, are the proud parents of Ryan John, born in August 2004. Ryan joins his older sister, Ana Brooke.

Alicia J. Hartung, DO ’97, Glenshaw, PA, and husband, James Krummert, are the proud parents of Olivia Marie, born on June 15, 2004.

Armando C. Ciullo, DO ’97, Grove City, PA, married Beth Anne Christie on May 29, 2004.

Thomas A. Haldus, DO ’98, Fargo ND, and his wife, Laura, are the proud parents of their fourth son, John Patrick, born on September 9, 2004. He joins his three brothers, Luke, Casey and Gavan. Dr. Haldus joined MeritCare Health System as an interventional cardiologist.

Francesco T. Mangano, DO ’98, St. Louis, MO, and his wife, Danielle, are the proud parents of Gabriella Rose, born on September 30, 2004.

Vivek N. Dhruva, DO ’99, Glen Mills, PA, and husband, Hetal Dhruva, are the proud parents of Ashna, born on August 1, 2004. She joins her sister, Alina. Dr. Dhruva began a cardiology fellowship at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Thomas E. Sabalske, DO ’99, Huntington Valley, PA, and wife, Crystal, are the proud parents of Emma Christine, born on September 8, 2004.

John P. Randonis, PA-C ’00, New Castle, DE, and his wife, Patty, are the proud parents of Andrew Allen, born on August 29, 2004.

Mary P. Greiss-Coul, DO ’01, Virginville, PA, and husband, David Coul, are the proud parents of Benjamin David, born on January 28, 2004.

Michael J. Wilwand, DO ’02, Troy, MI, and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of their fifth child, Max, born on July 10, 2004.
Rori Minissale was a certified school psychologist working in the Phoenixville school district when she decided to pursue her doctorate degree in clinical psychology at PCOM. "I had a solid background in counseling psychology and diagnostics, but I wanted to broaden my scope," explains Dr. Minissale. "The program at PCOM offers is very practical and hands-on; the course work and experience in the field enhanced the clinical skills I needed in my daily work with students, parents, faculty and clients. I have also become more adept at writing behavioral goals for children that are both observable and measurable.

"The faculty is really superior," she continues. "If they see something in you, they work with you to develop your potential. Dr. Golden (Barbara Golden, PhD, assistant professor, psychology department and clinical director at the Center for Brief Therapy) gave me some supervisory responsibility as part of my internship, such as reviewing the psychological and psychoeducational assessments and report writing of other students. Rosemary Menutti, PsyD (professor in the school psychology PsyD program) and Robert DiTomaso, PhD (professor and chair, psychology department) gave me the opportunity to participate in the Summer Educators Institute. These experiences helped me grow both professionally and personally."

As Dr. Minissale continues her work as a school psychologist, she conducts student assessments, consults with teachers and families, participates in a team that works with autistic students and helps instruct primary school children with learning disabilities. In addition, she collaborates with outside therapists and social service agencies to help parents access services for their children. But that's not all. She is currently completing her post-doctoral work at the Center for Brief Therapy where she supervises a good deal of the assessment and testing for learning disabilities. "The PsyD in clinical psychology is a great program," declares Minissale. "And for me, as a working professional, it was a perfect fit."

---

1995

**CLASS AGENT:**

**FRANCIS N. OGBOLU, DO**  
606-833-9870

**Barry L. Green, DO,** Dalton, PA, joined Community Medical Center Healthcare System in Clark Summit, PA.

1996

**B. Bradley Albertson, DO,** Benton, KY, was highlighted in an article published in the *Tribune-Courier* titled "Albertson bucks rural doctor trend."

**Patricia H. Kroth, DO,** Milford, NJ, is currently an assistant director of Warren Hospital's family practice residency program. Dr. Kroth made a presentation titled "The medical marriage: strategies to promote healthy relationships during residency and beyond" in February 2004 at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's 24th Annual Conference.

1997

**CLASS AGENT:**

**DANIEL W. MATKIWSKY, DO**  
908-545-7949

**Susan S. Panah, DO,** Carlsbad, CA, recently joined Cassidy Medical Group in Vista, CA.

**Laura E. Ashman Spahr, DO,** Madison, WI, is on the pediatric staff at the University of Wisconsin Clinics. Dr. Spahr and husband, Jonathan, have a daughter, Caroline, born on November 30, 2003.

**Scott A. Sulman, DO,** State College, PA, joined the internal medicine department at Geisinger Medical Group at Scenery Park.

1999

**CLASS AGENT:**

**JAMES V. LIEB, DO**  
814-946-2708

**Francisco A. Daniels, DO,** Frederick, MD, joined PrimeDoc Hospitalist Services at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

**Anthony S. Leazzo, DO,** Grand Blanc, MI, is currently in a Sports Medicine fellowship at Michigan State University/Genesys Regional Medical Center.

**Bradley J. Miller, DO,** Reeds Spring, PA, was appointed chairman of the Executive Council of Family Health Associates of Lewistown Hospital.

**Mark S. Pfaff, DO,** New Windsor, NY, has completed the adult reconstruction fellowship in orthopedic surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. He has joined Orthopedics & Sports Medicine in New Windsor, NY. Dr. Pfaff and his wife, Adrienne, have three children: Isabella Sophia, Corina Marie and Stefan Edwin.


**Victoria Trapanotto, DO,** Johnstown, PA, joined the medical staff at Eastern Radiologists, Inc.

**Kathleen J. Vedock, DO,** Sierra Vista, AZ, became board certified in pediatrics.

---

**CLASS NOTES**

---

E-MAIL YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS TO MADELINE LAW, AT MADELINE@PCOM.EDU.

---

**PCOM DIGEST**
2000 – DO Alumni
Melissa M. Harrison, DO, Alburnis, PA, joined the medical staff at St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem Campus.
Nicole J. Heisman, DO, Langhorne, PA, finished her first year practicing internal medicine with a multi-specialty group in Pottstown, PA.
Rebecca Herman, DO, Frederick, MD, has joined Frederick Primary Care Associates.
Michele Straka, DO, Colorado Springs, CO, graduated from the obstetrics/gynecology residency program at David Grant Medical Center. She had an article published in Obsteetric and Gynecology titled “A rare drug reaction to methotrexate after treatment for ectopic pregnancy.” A second article was published in Infectious Diseases in Obstetrics and Gynecology titled “Rapid detection of gbs and ecoli in amniotic fluid using rest time pcr.”
EJlida C. Ziemer, DO, Salisbury, MD, was granted active staff membership with clinical and admitting privileges in the department of medicine at Peninsula Regional Medical Center.

2001 – DO Alumni
Michaeleen Bardo, DO, Catawissa, PA, joined Family Practice Center, P.C. as a hospitalist.
Eric D. Smith, DO, Manville, NJ, joined the practice of Dr. Michael J. Tuokko.
Amanda J. Vaglia, DO, Homer City, PA, joined Clymer Family Practice.

2002 – PA Alumni

CLASS AGENTS:
Heather C. Beraducci, PA-C
heatherbpac@aol.com
Erik G. Wolfe, PA-C
emesrick@hotmail.com
Kristin S. Halsell, PA-C, Holt, MI, is enjoying the variety of family practice and new home with husband, Stephen.
Deborah A. Ryan, PA-C, St. Petersburg, FL, is working in a pediatric neurosurgery practice in St. Petersburg, FL.

2004 – DO Alumni
Kimberly E. Murphy, DO, Wyomissing, PA, was highlighted in an article published in the Rocke-Courier titled “Forget Tom Wolfe, she says you can go home again.”

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT
John W. Becher, DO ’70, Newtown Square, PA was the recipient of the “Robert D. Aranofian, DO Excellence in EMS Award” presented by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.
Robert S. Dolansky, Jr., DO ’95, Allentown, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.
Paul Dubiel, DO ’93, Olyphant, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.
Larry N. Finkelstein, DO ’87, Lafayette Hill, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.
Mark A. Hoppe, DO ’93, Lakeland, FL, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.
Joan M. Grzybowski, DO ’87, Conshohocken, PA, was inducted as a distinguished fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.
Samson A. Inwald, DO ’56, Bingham Farms, MI, was inducted as a distinguished fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.
Jeffry A. Lindenbaum, DO ’75, Ivyland, PA, was inducted as a distinguished fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.
Leo Barnes, DO ’68, Brooklyn, NY, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.
William E. Shiels, II, DO ’83, Dublin, OH, was elected president of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology.
Paul E. Wals, DO ’68, Bethesda, MD, was inducted as a fellow of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW...

Since last winter, my life has seemed to be a variation of the Victorian adage. I wed in December 2003, my husband and I worked to establish a home, and in the spirit of “newness,” I determined that it was time for me to assume fresh challenges professionally. The ideal opportunity presented itself when I was hired in May 2004 as communications manager at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Hence, it is with much excitement (and perhaps just a little trepidation) that my initial work at the College is manifested in this issue of Digest and that my introduction as editor falls here on this page. I am pleased to have joined the PCOM community, although it is a place where I have always felt welcome. PCOM is especially dear to me as it is the alma mater of my husband, Timothy Leone, DO ’02, as well as one of my closest friends, Michele Tarraglia, DO ’02. And as my mother reminds me, it was also the training institution of pediatrician Charles E. Darowish, DO ’74, who treated me as a sick child, intervening with osteopathic techniques and specialty regimens when my fragile body was unable to tolerate the standard medications ordered by allopathic physicians.

In many ways, my position at PCOM is analogous to my previous experiences in the arenas of communications, marketing and public relations. In my most recent post as director of college periodical publications at Rosemont College, I was accountable for the comprehensive production—conceptualization, writing, and editing—of the institution’s alumni magazine, honor roll of donors, newsletters and other collateral materials. With such preparation, paired with my undergraduate and graduate degrees in English/English literature, I feel relatively comfortable with my new responsibilities.

What I thought would be the greatest challenge of my new position—shifting towards an inclusion of medicine in my journalistic repertoire—has been surprisingly simple. Already, I have come to recognize that the pairing of medicine and the literary arts is not atypical. At their essence, the medical humanities (and in particular, osteopathic medicine with its philosophy of treating the whole person, not just the symptoms) center on human need and interest. I am repeatedly struck by the manner by which medical clinicians and student practitioners listen to each patient, gaining insights from narratives, pauses and silences, their diagnostics seeking a fluid interface between the patient and his or her environment.

Mine is a belief that medicine and its practice and research is a springboard to expression—vulnerable, intimate, real.”

In many ways, my position at PCOM is analogous to my previous experiences in the areas of communications, marketing and public relations. In my most recent post as director of college periodical publications at Rosemont College, I was accountable for the comprehensive production—conceptualization, writing, and editing—of the institution’s alumni magazine, honor roll of donors, newsletters and other collateral materials. With such preparation, paired with my undergraduate and graduate degrees in English/English literature, I feel relatively comfortable with my new responsibilities.

What I thought would be the greatest challenge of my new position—shifting towards an inclusion of medicine in my journalistic repertoire—has been surprisingly simple. Already, I have come to recognize that the pairing of medicine and the literary arts is not atypical. At their essence, the medical humanities (and in particular, osteopathic medicine with its philosophy of treating the whole person, not just the symptoms) center on human need and interest. I am repeatedly struck by the manner by which medical clinicians and student practitioners listen to each patient, gaining insights from narratives, pauses and silences, their diagnostics seeking a fluid interface between the patient and his or her environment.

Mine is a belief that medicine and its practice and research is a springboard to expression—vulnerable, intimate, real.”

In many ways, my position at PCOM is analogous to my previous experiences in the areas of communications, marketing and public relations. In my most recent post as director of college periodical publications at Rosemont College, I was accountable for the comprehensive production—conceptualization, writing, and editing—of the institution’s alumni magazine, honor roll of donors, newsletters and other collateral materials. With such preparation, paired with my undergraduate and graduate degrees in English/English literature, I feel relatively comfortable with my new responsibilities.

What I thought would be the greatest challenge of my new position—shifting towards an inclusion of medicine in my journalistic repertoire—has been surprisingly simple. Already, I have come to recognize that the pairing of medicine and the literary arts is not atypical. At their essence, the medical humanities (and in particular, osteopathic medicine with its philosophy of treating the whole person, not just the symptoms) center on human need and interest. I am repeatedly struck by the manner by which medical clinicians and student practitioners listen to each patient, gaining insights from narratives, pauses and silences, their diagnostics seeking a fluid interface between the patient and his or her environment.

Mine is a belief that medicine and its practice and research is a springboard to expression—vulnerable, intimate, real.”

In many ways, my position at PCOM is analogous to my previous experiences in the areas of communications, marketing and public relations. In my most recent post as director of college periodical publications at Rosemont College, I was accountable for the comprehensive production—conceptualization, writing, and editing—of the institution’s alumni magazine, honor roll of donors, newsletters and other collateral materials. With such preparation, paired with my undergraduate and graduate degrees in English/English literature, I feel relatively comfortable with my new responsibilities.

What I thought would be the greatest challenge of my new position—shifting towards an inclusion of medicine in my journalistic repertoire—has been surprisingly simple. Already, I have come to recognize that the pairing of medicine and the literary arts is not atypical. At their essence, the medical humanities (and in particular, osteopathic medicine with its philosophy of treating the whole person, not just the symptoms) center on human need and interest. I am repeatedly struck by the manner by which medical clinicians and student practitioners listen to each patient, gaining insights from narratives, pauses and silences, their diagnostics seeking a fluid interface between the patient and his or her environment.

Mine is a belief that medicine and its practice and research is a springboard to expression—vulnerable, intimate, real.”
PCOM Alumni Weekend 2005

Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2005
Welcome Party
Manayunk Brewery and Restaurant
Continuing Medical Education Seminars
PCOM Campus

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2005
Family Fun Barbecue and Campus Open House
PCOM Campus
Reception and Dinner Dance
Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue
Continuing Medical Education Seminars
March 16-20
American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) Convention
The Nugget, Reno, NV

March 16-20
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Convention
Hyatt Regency, Phoenix, AZ

March 30
Atlantic Regional Osteopathic Convention (AROC) Luncheon
Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ

April 9
Continuing Medical Education: Women’s Update in Cardiology
PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA

April 13
PCOM Board Meeting
PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA

April 16
Continuing Medical Education: Current Trends in Cancer of the Prostate
PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA

May 11-14
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) Convention
Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA

May 14
Continuing Medical Education: Dermatology—Concepts and Practice
PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA

May 28-June 2
American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) Convention
Peabody and Rosen Centre, Orlando, FL

June 5
DO Commencement
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia, PA

June 10-11
PCOM Alumni Weekend 2005
PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA

June 11
Alumni Association Board Meeting
PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA

July 7-11
Continuing Medical Education: 12th Annual PCOM Family Weekend CME Seminar
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA

July 29
Graduate School Commencement
Annenberg Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA