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

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
The Courage to Change Lives
PCOM Alumni and Students Demonstrate the Power of Community Outreach
Dear Alumni and Friends,

As spring pervades our campus, the longer days and the long-anticipated warmer weather bring the promise of renewal to all of us. Spring invigorates us with new energy and inspires us to forge ahead with renewed vigor in our ongoing initiatives.

Likewise infused with an energizing outlook, this issue of Digest portrays, through a range of vignettes, a sampling of community outreach efforts by our alumni and students. Their courage changes lives—one life at a time. With enthusiasm, passion and integrity, they put into practice the tenets of our institutional mission. Through leadership and service, they foster the well-being of inner-city youth and adolescents, underprivileged families, the impoverished, the uninsured and those who have fallen victim to natural disasters. Their extraordinary efforts promise a second chance—a new spring for those who have weathered the greatest of winters.

The research work of Stephanie Felgoise, PhD, ABPP, associate professor and vice-chair, department of psychology, and director, clinical psychology, similarly provides a proactive look. Her study of ALS patients serves as a reminder to all of us of the significance of a holistic approach to health care. Presently in the second phase of her project, which is funded in part by the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, Dr. Felgoise and her collaborators are working to determine which quality of life issues affect those patients to the greatest degree.

Finally, I encourage you not to miss this issue’s “My Turn,” a gripping account authored by alumnus Michael Cohen, DO ’98, whose military service placed him in an emergency treatment area in Mosul, Iraq, during and following an insurgent mortar attack. Even within his account of destruction, there is hope.

In closing, I thank you for your continued interest in and support of our wonderful College, and extend best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy spring and summer.

With warmest regards,

Matthew Schure, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
THE COURAGE TO CHANGE LIVES . . .

Members of the PCOM community demonstrate the power of community outreach as they courageously tackle local and global issues with remarkable enthusiasm, energy, passion, integrity and adaptability. Theirs are reflective stories of service as inspiring mentors for inner-city youth [Jay R. Rosan, DO '71]; creative problem-solvers for families in need [Daniel Taylor, DO '97]; master communicators for high-risk teens [Kim Edford (DO '07) and Erin Baker (DO '07)]; savvy advocates for the homeless and the poor [Steven D. Kamajian, DO '78]; motivating fundraisers for disaster victims [Sallee Eckler (DO '08)]; and sometimes, even risk-takers, trusting their hearts to show the way [Katie GolloTo, DO '05].

ALS RESEARCH: SURVEYING THE QUALITY OF DEVASTATED LIVES

Stephanie Felgoise, PhD, ABPP, associate professor and chair, department of psychology, and director, clinical psychology, is working on the second phase of a national, multi-site study to determine which quality of life issues affect ALS patients to the greatest degree. She hopes her findings will underscore the need for holistic treatment as well as collaborative treatment plans.

ON THE COVER
The benevolence of Jay R. Rosan, DO '71, a Philadelphia Futures mentor and financial sponsor, portrays the power of community outreach as it provides opportunities and changes lives. He is pictured with mentee Archelleus Bell, a senior at Hofstra University.

PCOM UPDATES & KUDOS
Updates on Georgia Campus; Glenn G. Miller, DO '79 installed as ACOFP president; Carl Pullen, DO '90, receives the Meta Christy Award; legislators visit campus; CSI Philadelphia: new OMM fellows; DO Day on the Hill: SOMA hosts AOA leaders; development activities; and more.

CLASS NOTES
Current professional endeavors and achievements of PCOM alumni; In Memoriam, with a special remembrance of J. Vincent Huffnagle, DO '54; profiles of Norman Vinn, DO '77, Ray Chrisitner, PsyD '04, NCSP, and Adam Warren, MS/ODL '04.

ESSAY
Army Major Michael Cohen, DO '98, recounts his experiences as chief of emergency medicine in Iraq.
GEORGIA CAMPUS – PCOM ACCEPTING STUDENTS

Georgia Campus – PCOM has received over 1,700 applications from prospective students. More than 225 candidates have been interviewed, and 117 students have been offered spaces and 84 have accepted. In keeping with the campus’ mission, 72 percent of the students enrolled in the class of 2009 are from Georgia and surrounding states.* In addition, the branch campus has received preliminary approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In a resounding confirmation of the importance of GA-PCOM, the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate each passed a resolution recognizing and commending the establishment of GA-PCOM. The resolutions were sponsored by Representative John Heard and Senator Don Balfour and members of the Gwinnett legislative delegation.

Renovations to the facility are ahead of schedule. The goal in designing the interior of the building is to develop an interesting educational environment. Upon entering the lobby, one is greeted by the PCOM icon—the flame of knowledge. Two main pathways link the educational spaces, labs, offices and smaller social spaces. To help make the building more intimate, the 30-foot ceilings in some hallways were fitted with perforated metal sculptures to visually reduce the scale of the space. On some of the larger walls, extended graphic images have been used as backdrops. The color palette is based on the colors of the PCOM logo.

Gary Watson, PhD, has been named director of basic science. Dr. Watson comes from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa, OK. He offers a strong background in endocrinology and biochemistry and experience as an associate dean of research. He holds his doctoral degree from the Medical College of Georgia.

Walter Ehrenfeuchter, DO ’79, has been selected as the director of osteopathic principles and practice. Dr. Ehrenfeuchter has over 20 years of experience teaching students in Philadelphia. He will work with selected part-time DOs from the community to provide lectures and laboratory instruction to integrate osteopathic assessment and manipulation techniques into the curriculum. He will also serve as an expert consultant in manipulative medicine for local and regional physicians.

In addition, several faculty and administrative positions have been filled. The team brings a wealth of teaching experience and student-centered philosophy to the College.

Many physicians have volunteered to accept students for clinical clerkships starting in June 2007 when the new class completes COMLEX Level 1 and starts the third year of the curriculum. Campus executives are conducting negotiations with local hospitals and clinics to set up clinical training experiences. The goal is to complete arrangements for the required hospital clerkships (general internal medicine, OB/GYN, general surgery and emergency medicine) and build a robust clinical clerkship elective network.

For all the latest news about Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, visit Georgia Campus Updates on the PCOM Web site.

* as of 5/3/05
LEGISLATORS VISIT CAMPUS

In what has become an annual event, 16 elected officials representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia visited PCOM for an update on the College’s programs and mission. Legislators asked questions and were visibly impressed by PCOM’s commitment to research, community health care and education. City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell thanked Dr. Schure for establishing and maintaining PCOM Healthcare Center - Lancaster Avenue in her district.

The legislators visited the new Robert Berger, DO Clinical Learning and Assessment Center and watched Arthur Secco, DO ’81, division chair of general surgery, train a class using STAN, the human patient simulator.

ROXBOROUGH DOCS IN THE COMMUNITY

Not only does the community come to the PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Division for care, but the physicians from Roxborough go out into the community to provide education and care. Laurie Spraga, DO ’97, physician, Roxborough Division, spoke to a parenting group at Northern Home for Children about pediatric vaccines. She also accompanied medical students to St. John’s Roman Catholic Church in Manayunk to provide free blood pressure screenings for older adults. David Kuo, DO ’96, medical director, Roxborough Division, discussed immunization with a parenting group at Northern Home for Children and with teachers at Cook-Wissahickon Elementary School.

A student doctor checks the blood pressure of an older adult at St. John’s Church.

CAMBRIA SUPPORTS POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Responding to a request from the Philadelphia Police Department, PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division made a donation of first-aid mini-backpacks to the City’s Safe Corridors Program. The handy little backpacks were spotted at the Center’s health fair by police officer Sherri Bedford, who immediately saw their usefulness. “Parents and volunteers help make sure the school children get to and from school safely. If there’s a little accident, the adult will have access to Band-aids and basic supplies,” she explains. Across Philadelphia, approximately 70 Safe Corridors programs provide students with additional supervision and protection as they travel to and from school. Patrolled by volunteers, Safe Corridor Programs are collaborative efforts among the schools, the Philadelphia police and the community.

Last fall, in addition to distributing free bike helmets to children who seek services at the Healthcare Center, PCOM donated helmets to the Philadelphia police bike patrol officers who ride throughout the community. The Healthcare Center also donated helmets to the Police Department’s D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program for distribution to school-aged children.

Officers from D.A.R.E. also participate in the Healthcare Center’s yearly health fairs. “We look out for one another,” says Officer Bedford. “We take care of our neighbors.”

Officer Bedford accepts mini-backpacks from Suzanne Walker-Garland, manager, PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division.
BUILDING BRIDGES

During their professional training, students at PCOM have the opportunity to expand their horizons through the Bridging the Gaps program. While the agencies in underserved communities benefit from the students’ energy and creativity, the students gain first-hand experience working in challenging environments. They function as patient advocates, working collaboratively with a variety of health disciplines and integrating non-biomedical factors into the assessment and management of patients and clients.

The challenges and rewards of the program were evident in the recent project undertaken by PCOM students Erin Baker (DO ’07) and Deepak Jayant (DO ’07). Their original plan was to work with students enrolled in Allegheny West Foundation’s Workready/ Mural Arts program. When they got to the program, however, they found the paint for the project had not yet arrived. Baker quickly changed gears and created a poetry-writing workshop. She began by reading her own work and that of her favorite poets. One by one, students began writing and reading their own work. “Erin stimulated the kids’ creativity,” says Eugene Mochan, PhD, DO ’07, Bridging the Gaps program director. “Working with few resources, she showed how you can unleash talent when you believe in someone.”

Another group of students found that obstacles became learning experiences. PCOM students Obaydah Alnurd (DO ’07) and Masheika Jackson (DO ’07) with Rashatun Edwards from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia discovered that they had to create their program from the ground up. “We learned how to write proposals, how to get a program funded, how to get donations,” explains Jackson. “We got a glimpse of our future. We’ll be providing more than just medical care; we need to know how to work with the community and integrate health care with social institutions like churches.”

“Sometimes the projects go in unanticipated directions,” explains Dr. Mochan. “But they are always a learning experience.”

CELEBRATING THE MINORITY DO

The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) held its 17th annual recognition reception celebrating the minority DO and presented its highest honor, the Meta Christy Award, to Carl Pullen, DO ’90, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics. Dr. Pullen was recognized for his exemplary practice of osteopathic medicine, service to the community and inspiration to future DOs.

William G. Anderson, DO, past president of the American Osteopathic Association and associate dean of Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, was the keynote speaker. Kristen A. Berry, DO ’00, an instructor in family medicine and a physician at PCOM Healthcare Center - Lancaster Avenue Division, received the Mentor Award in recognition for serving as a positive role model for student doctors.

The Student National Medical Association was established to produce sensitive and excellent physicians to serve minority and indigent communities.

NEW ACOFP PRESIDENT

On March 19, 2005, Glenn G. Miller, DO ’79, was installed as president of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP). The installation was held in Phoenix, Arizona, during the ACOFP’s Annual Convention.

Dr. Miller has consistently promoted excellence in osteopathic family medicine through quality education and advocacy, forging interaction between the ACOFP and osteopathic colleges and post-graduate training programs, and striving to increase the number of medical students selecting family practice residencies programs.
CULTURAL COMPETENCY HELPS CREATE COMPETENT PHYSICIANS

It is said that America is a melting pot. But a stew pot might be a better metaphor. Sometimes differences do meld into similarities, but more often people from diverse cultures maintain their unique values, traditions and institutions. To help students learn to work effectively in cross-cultural situations, the Student Initiative for Cultural Competency was created last year by second- and third-year medical students. According to Stephanie White (DO '07), current president of the organization, “The primary mission of the organization is to help provide students with the background necessary for becoming sensitive and competent health care providers regarding cultural diversity. Understanding patients’ diverse cultural backgrounds is integral to eliminating health care disparities and providing high-quality patient care.”

Eun Struaver (DO '07) demonstrates tang soo do, a Korean martial art, at the multicultural fair.

The organization celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by hosting Multicultural Week on campus. Activities included an alternative medicine conference featuring shanghai healers, a discussion of human rights in Taiwan by Alvin Wang (DO '07), videos and a multicultural fair in which students from diverse cultures shared poems, music, dance and martial arts demonstrations that gave insights into their cultures. Students also prepared and served food from countries and cultures from around the world. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center, the goal of which is “to use the performing arts as a social action strategy that cultivates talent and revitalizes communities.”

Oliver Bullock, DO ’78, director, PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division, was elected chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Gregory Busch, DO ’98, physician, geriatrics division, family medicine, was interviewed by Philadelphia radio talk show host Michael Smerconish. Busch spoke to Smerconish about Terri Schiavo and end-of-life care issues. The interview aired live on WPHT AM radio.

Ray Christner, PsyD ’04, clinical instructor, psychology, was named School Psychologist of the Year for Pennsylvania by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania.

Robert A. DiTomasso, PhD, professor and chair, psychiatry, was the 2005 recipient of the Dondero Award presented by LaSalle University. Named for Brother Jack Dondero, the award honors an alumnus who has distinguished himself in promoting the science and/or practice of psychology according to the humanistic values that were the basis of Brother Dondero’s life and teachings.

Robert A. DiTomasso, PhD, professor and chair, psychiatry, and Elizabeth Gosch, PhD, associate professor, psychology, co-authored a poster with Sharon Elwell, PsyD ’04, and Jonathan Grayson, PhD, for the annual conference of the Anxiety Disorders Association of America. Their poster was titled “Anxiety Sensitivity: Validity of the Anxiety Sensitivity Profile on a Clinical Sample.”

Larry Finkelstein, DO ’87, director and associate professor, family medicine, had his case presentation, “Polyarteritis Nodosa: A Vasculitis Condition with Life-Threatening Complications,” published in the February 2005 issue of Osteopathic Family Physician News. He also participated in a presentation to 11th-grade students at Akibah Hebrew Academy, Lower Merion, PA, on testicular cancer; the event was sponsored by Hadassah of Greater Philadelphia.

Katherine Galluzzi, DO, professor and chair, geriatrics, was selected as the 2005 L. Linton Budd Memorial Lecturer at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.
Kudos

**Barbara Golden, PsyD.** Director of clinical services, psychology, with student interns from the Center for Brief Therapy, presented a four-week in-service at Lutheran Children and Family Services.

**George McCloskey, PhD.** Coordinator of research, psychology, has held a variety of workshops and has given presentations throughout the United States and Canada. He has presented to the Manitoba, Montana and Texas Associations of School Psychologists and has led workshops for Bucks County READS and the New York City Department of Education. The workshops relate to neuropsychologically-oriented assessment and intervention techniques and for executive functions.

**Rosemary Mennuti, EdD.** Professor psychology, was awarded a grant for the purchase of 10 Bananier (individual cognitive assessment kits in Spanish) for training school psychology students in bilingual assessments.

**Fred Rogers, PsyD.** Associate Director of training and internship coordinator, psychology, appeared as a guest on the Internet radio show, Vocameica.com. He also discussed moderation approaches to drinking on the Pat Deening Show. In addition, he has been appointed as a representative for the division on addictive behaviors of the American Psychological Association to the APA committee on advancement of professional practice.

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**GETTING IT WRITE**

Students learn a lot at PCOM—anatomy, psychology, forensic medicine, biomedical sciences—knowledge that will help them become outstanding professionals in their field. But one piece of education has, until now, been missing—knowledge of how to write a resume or CV and how to prepare for an interview. That has changed. Tim Woodruff, EdD, assistant dean of students, has begun facilitating CV/resume writing workshops and career planning counseling sessions for students in all programs.

The workshops, conducted as a three-part series, are customized for each academic program. Much more than a lesson in how to list skills and experiences, the workshops give students an opportunity to look at themselves with a critical eye.

During the first step in the process, students dump all of their academic, professional and personal information onto worksheets that are included in program-specific career planning packets. The next step asks students to examine what they really care about—what they’re passionate about. In the third step, all information is formatted into a high-quality CV or resume. The students then meet in groups to critique each other’s CV or resume for both content and appearance. Personal one-on-one critiquing sessions are also provided by Dr. Woodruff.

In addition, the workshops address how to write a personal statement or cover letter. Students are asked to think about how they are different now from when they first came to PCOM in terms of their values, knowledge and skills. According to Dr. Woodruff, “All of the DO students, for instance, learn anatomy, but what have they learned about themselves that will make them a better physician?”

During the first weeks of the new program, more than 130 students attended workshops and over 40 made individual follow-up appointments to review their CV or resume with Dr. Woodruff. Student response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. “It was immensely helpful in getting ready to apply for clerkships that are competitive,” says Laura Bajor (DO ’07), who is applying to NASA. “NASA is looking for a combination of aviation experience and creativity, which could be challenging to demonstrate on a two-page document.”

Melanie Boyadjis, MS/Biomed ’05, explains, “Dr. Woodruff was amazing. I never received this much assistance from my undergraduate career center.”

In addition to providing workshops and career counseling, Dr. Woodruff is working on developing Web-accessed career planning materials to assist PCOM students who are away from campus. “With the help of students, faculty and staff,” says Dr. Woodruff, “the career planning assistance we are providing will continue to evolve to meet the specific needs of each of our academic programs.”

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**NEW OMM FELLOWS**

Third-year medical students Meredith Hill, Melinda Mueller, Richard Sloan and Eun Strawser have been accepted into PCOM’s OMM Fellowship Program. As OMM fellows, they will attend PCOM for an additional 12 months over a three-year period serving in the College’s OMM department. An annual College provision sustains the fellowship program with assistance from the C. Paul Snyder, DO ’10 and the Frieda O. Vickers, DO ’39 and Major James G. Vickers endowment funds. Additional support comes from special gifts earmarked for OMM.

The new OMM fellows (from left to right): Meredith Hill, Melinda Mueller, Eun Strawser and Richard Sloan.
RUBBING ELBOWS

It’s not what you know—or so they say—it’s who you know. In medicine, what you know is very important. But Leanie Labriola (DO ’06), president of the Student Government Association, believes that even in medicine, who you know is important as well. That’s why SGA joined forces with the Offices of Student Affairs and Alumni Relations & Development to create DO Student-Alumni Networking Nights.

“Networking nights were created to provide PCOM students and graduates with the opportunity to meet one another outside the classroom or hospital,” explains Labriola. “Students have a chance to gain first-hand knowledge of what it’s like for practicing DOs and perhaps find a mentor who has faced the same challenges they are anticipating. On the other hand, these evenings benefit the physicians as well. They have the opportunity to promote their specialty or hospital to graduating seniors and strengthen ties with other members of the osteopathic community.”

Networking evenings are held once a term in the Philadelphia area. Anyone interested in participating can call the Alumni Office at 800-739-3939 or register at alumnilink@pcom.edu.

CSI PHILADELPHIA

It was a grisly scene: two dead bodies. One was slumped in a chair with a bullet wound to the head. The other was sprawled on the ground, covered in maggots. But on closer inspection, one noticed that the maggots on the prone body were nothing more than grains of rice and that both victims were still breathing. The “victims” were volunteers, and the crime scene was created by the forensic medicine program.

Each term, the master’s degree program in forensic medicine conducts a crime scene investigation. Last term, students mapped out a scene on the athletic field littered with bones. This year they investigated a “murder-suicide.” Groups of five or six students entered the crime scene and began taking notes and measurements. “Their goal was not necessarily to solve the crime,” explains Jim McCans, instructor and forensic medicine coordinator, “but to find all the pieces.”

The pieces included obvious clues such as spent gun shells, pill bottles and a note. Less obvious clues were in a trash can and suspended from the ceiling.

After 20 minutes spent investigating the scene, the students debriefed among themselves, adding up the clues to form a picture. They then sat down with Greg McDonald, DO ’89, medical director, forensic medicine, to discuss what they found and what they missed. Most students discovered the obvious evidence but missed some subtleties. Had they looked in the trash (if so, they would have found a poison and a suicide note)? Were the window shades open or closed (a body will decompose more quickly in the sun)?

“This was the first crime scene for these students,” says McCans, “it can be a little overwhelming. But they’ll learn from it and be more thorough next time.”
DOS BRING CONCERNS TO CONGRESS

Over 100 PCOM medical students traveled to Washington, D.C. on April 14, 2005, for DO Day on the Hill, an annual event sponsored by the AOA. Students attended information sessions and met with state representatives and senators to discuss three major issues: professional liability reform, student loan interest deduction and Medicare physician reimbursement. The students' trip was made possible through funding from the Student Osteopathic Medicine Association, the Student Government Association, and the Alumni Association.

DOCS DELIVER THE NEWS

Oliver Bullock, DO ’78, director, PCOM Healthcare Center - Cambria Division, appeared on the April 18th broadcast of NBC10 Live! as part of a national outreach that names the third week of April National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. Dr. Bullock discussed the importance of screening for colorectal cancer. "Most colorectal cancer cases and deaths are preventable," he pointed out. Colon cancer is the second most common cancer among African American women and the third most common cancer among African American men.

Likewise, John Simelaro, DO ’71, chair, Department of Internal Medicine, was recently interviewed by medical reporter Dawn Heefner for a news story about asthma. Dr. Simelaro talked about his personal struggle with asthma and the new medication, Xolair, that has changed his life. The story ran on Philadelphia's ABC affiliate station, WPVI.

SOMA HOSTS AOA EXECS

George Thomas, DO, AOA president, and Philip Shettle, DO, AOA president-elect, visited the College in early April to meet with PCOM students. Impressed by the campus and, more importantly, by PCOM students who participated in a lively exchange during a Q&A luncheon session, they were pleased to communicate the AOA's strategic plan. Drs. Thomas and Shettle were also made privy to the concerns of the DOs-in-training.

"UNKNOWN" NURSE IDENTIFIED

A number of alumni telephoned and e-mailed the College to identify the nurse, cited as "unknown" in the last issue of Digest, as the late Regina Esposito, RN. Beloved by many, Ms. Esposito served in various capacities at PCO (48th and Spruce Streets) and City Avenue Hospital. She was a relative of Nicholas C. Pedano, DO ’61.

BRUNO BROMKE HONORED BY LECTURE

The Philadelphia Chapter of Sigma Xi honored the memory of Bruno Bromke, PhD, former Sigma Xi PCOM chapter president, with a lecture this spring. Richard Rest, PhD, from Drexel University College of Medicine, presented the topic, "Studying pathogens in an era of terrorism: New observations on anthrax pathogenesis."

UAAO WINS AGAIN

The PCOM chapter of the Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy was named chapter of the year for the second year in a row at the AAO convocation dinner held in March. Also at the convocation, Lori Frisard (DO ’06) was elected UAAO national president for the coming year and Brian Acunto (DO ’05) placed fifth in the H. Hollis Wolf competition.
GIFT ANNUITY PROGRAM AT PCOM

If you are like Murry E. Levy, DO ‘46, you find yourself in practice later in life than you expected. Your earnings are being depleted by taxes, but you would like to continue to have a regular income in addition to your pension funds.

Dr. Levy has chosen to take advantage of PCOM’s Gift Annuity Program to help his alma mater, to reduce his tax burden and to ensure an income for the rest of his life. The annuity program works as follows:

• You make a gift (minimum of $10,000) to PCOM.
• A portion of the gift is tax deductible.
• Each quarter, you receive an annuity check; this, too, is partially tax deductible.
• At the end of each year, you receive a completed Form 1099 summarizing the taxable portion of your annuity.
• When you pass away, PCOM receives the initial gift (in this example, $10,000).

If you are a younger alumnus/alumna, you may wish to consider establishing a deferred annuity that provides similar benefits, but puts off the time when you would begin receiving annuity checks.

13TH ANNUAL PCOM GOLF CLASSIC AT NEW ACE CLUB

Golfers will tee off at the fabulous new Gary Player signature design ACE Club in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania, on September 13, 2005. The ACE Club’s par 72 course flows over rolling terrain with dramatic changes in elevation and stunning vistas. Proceeds from the event benefit the five PCOM Healthcare Centers. Please call our event managers at 215-462-7171 or e-mail rsvp@eventures.net if you would like to participate as a player or as a sponsor.

MURRAY ZEDECK, DO ’42, ESTABLISHES NEW AWARD AT PCOM

The Morton E. Terry, DO ’45 Memorial Student Leadership Award was established in memory of Dr. Terry, a leading educator and imaginative community leader who founded Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, now part of Nova Southeastern University. The award, a gift of the Zedeck Family Foundation, is given to a second-year student in recognition of outstanding service to fellow classmates, the College and the community.

2005 STUDENT PHONATHON

At the annual PCOM Phonathon—February 27 through March 6, 2005—students spent more than 20 hours talking with PCOM alumni. At the end of the week, $175,000 was pledged for scholarships and the College’s annual fund. Over the last decade, $1.3 million has been awarded to over 1,000 PCOM medical students through the Phonathon.

Thanks to the alumni who were a part of this terrifically successful and enduring campaign.
Every day the headlines seem to scream bad news.

More than 225,000 people are killed in a tsunami, and hundreds of thousands more are orphaned, homeless or seriously ill.

Thousands of United States soldiers in Iraq risk life and limb daily.

Almost one in ten teens age 16 to 19 drops out of school. Nearly one million children a year are abused or neglected. One in six children lives in poverty, often in a hostile inner-city environment where he or she struggles to keep up in school.

Homeless people live and die on the streets. Millions of people lack health care because they have no health insurance.

With problems of this magnitude, how could one person possibly make a difference?

Fortunately, some members of the PCOM community have the courage to try. Upholding the College’s commitment to the well-being of the community, they have stepped up to address many challenges, both locally and globally, and they are changing as many lives as they can for the better.

THESE ARE THEIR STORIES...
A rudimentary sign bears simple, but poignant words—expressed by a displaced Sri Lankan child. Her gratitude is representative—an emblematic appreciation for all those who have the courage to change lives.
One morning 11 years ago, Jay R. Rosan, DO ’71, was reading Philadelphia Inquirer. He saw an article about Philadelphia Futures, an organization established in 1989 to help promising inner-city students stay in school, excel in their high school studies, prepare for college, earn their degrees and embark on successful careers. Intrigued by the opportunity to make a real difference in a child’s life, he decided to learn more and soon volunteered as a mentor and financial sponsor of a student through the organization’s Sponsor-A-Scholar (SAS) program.

“The kids become part of your family,” he says of his mentoring relationships, which last throughout high school and the first critical year of college. “You talk to them on the phone, take them to the movies and sporting events, and help them choose colleges, just like you would for your own kids.”

For the past nine years, Dr. Rosan has mentored and sponsored Archellus Bell, one of nearly 600 students who have completed the high school portion of the program since 1990. Now a senior at Hofstra University, he is one of 235 SAS students currently enrolled in college. “Archellus and I developed an amazing relationship,” he relates. “We enjoyed sports and many other activities together. When it was time to think about college, I bought a college guidebook and helped him decide which schools to consider. Then I took him on a college tour for a week, and later helped him complete the applications. It hasn’t always been easy for him, but it’s very rewarding to know that he’s about to graduate from a major university with a degree in business management.”

As a financial sponsor, Dr. Rosan has contributed $7,500 for each of seven students. The majority of this money—$6,000—goes directly to the student over the course of his or her college career to help fund college-related expenses. “This spending money allows them to fit into college, to be able to buy a piece of pizza, to buy books or to travel home,” he explains. “It’s essential to helping them stay in school.”

Every year, Dr. Rosan attends graduation celebrations for high school and college students in the Princeton Review SAT prep classes. Students attending the classes raised their scores an average of 100 points, which significantly increased their college options.

“In addition to being a wonderful mentor and an unflaggingly generous sponsor, Jay is one of our best ambassadors in the community, taking every opportunity to leverage his resources for the benefit of our students,” says Joan Mazzotti, executive director, Philadelphia Futures.

Rachel Morgan-King, one of the students sponsored by Dr. Rosan and
his wife, Bobbi, says, “Being part of the Sponsor-A-Scholar program has helped me to stay focused in school and begin to reach some of the many goals I have for my life. I have improved my grades in math and have remained on the honor roll at Furrness High School for two years. Because of Dr. Rosan’s generosity, I have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that my sponsorship is waiting for me when I go to college, as long as I do my part to stay on a strong academic track.”

Dr. Rosan is hopeful that, one day, a Philadelphia Futures student will attend PCOM with the scholarship he gave in that organization’s name. “Currently, we have a number of students who want to be physicians,” he says optimistically.

“The problems that inner-city students face on the road to education are huge,” he concludes. “But you really can make a difference one on one.”

**Daniel Taylor, DO ’97**

When Daniel Taylor, DO ’97, began practicing pediatric medicine at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, he quickly realized that he needed more information about social services to help his inner-city patients and their families with the problems they face.

“During conversations with patient families, I often learned that their house was in serious need of repair or their landlord was about to evict them or they needed after-school care for their children but couldn’t afford it, among many other issues,” relates Dr. Taylor. “I was frustrated because I could empathize with them, but I didn’t have the resources to help. As a physician, I want to be able to care for the social ills that are affecting my patients at the same time that I’m caring for their physical illnesses.”

After discovering that no central resource for local social service agencies existed, Dr. Taylor decided to create a Web site known as The Children’s Advocacy Project of Philadelphia, www.capp4kids.org. Its mission is to bridge the gap between families in need and the social service agencies that can help them.

Last year, Dr. Taylor and third-year pediatric resident Raj Raman began the arduous six-month process of gathering data on well-established social service agencies in Philadelphia. “We conducted extensive Internet searches, gathered published resources from city agencies and asked St. Christopher’s social workers for their resource lists,” Dr. Taylor explains. “Then we called every single organization to verify their information.”

Dr. Taylor then received a $6,000 grant from the St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Foundation to continue developing the Web site with the assistance of Drexel University College of Media Arts and Design.

Since the Web site officially launched in September 2004, over 140,000 people have visited. “We average several hundred hits a day,” says Dr. Taylor. “This includes pediatricians, family physicians and other health care practitioners who are using the Web site to help families in need.” He also notes that St. Christopher’s uses the Web site as a resident teaching tool for patient advocacy.

The site features 20 downloadable parent handouts with social service agency information ranging from after school programs to health insurance to safety and shelters, with direct links to each agency.

Feedback from health care providers has been gratifying. “One doctor said that he found resources for the mother of an autistic child at the site, and she was able to get help right away,” notes Dr. Taylor.

“Recently, I saw a mother whose boyfriend was in jail but their child couldn’t visit him,” Dr. Taylor continues. “Through our Web site, I knew about the Philadelphia Prison Society, an organization that can arrange a virtual visitation with a camera on the child and a camera on the dad in prison so they can talk to each other without the child visiting the jail. They also have psychological resources to help children whose parents are incarcerated. The mother later told me how helpful these services had been.”
At MacLachlan House, PCOM student volunteers interact with homeless teens, educating them about issues of non-compliance, drug-addiction, physical and sexual abuse, anger and anxiety, while simultaneously mentoring and befriending them. Pictured (counterclockwise from the left) are Erin Baker (DO '07); Kim Edford (DO '07); Michelle Hodge, MacLachlan House director; Melissa Sinkiewicz (DO '07); Courtney Stannard (DO '07); Theresa Binardi (DO '07); Major William L. Townsend, inner city ministries chaplain; Patrick O'Donnell (MS/Biomed '06); and Keith Smith, staff volunteer.

for her son. Being able to provide this kind of information helps strengthen the doctor/family/child relationship.

The successful Web site has caught the attention of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which is working with Dr. Taylor to launch similar sites in other communities throughout Pennsylvania. "Eventually, we hope this serves as the impetus for Web sites in other states and communities nationwide," says Dr. Taylor.

"Every day when I come home to my own four children," Dr. Taylor concludes, "I'm reminded how lucky we are and how important it is to help those who aren't as fortunate."

**Kim Edford (DO '07)**

& **Erin Baker (DO '07)**

Every week, homeless teens at the Salvation Army's MacLachlan House, just one block from PCOM, look forward to a visit from the "poetry girl," Erin Baker (DO '07). During sessions that have become known as "Erin's Poetry Jam," Ms. Baker talks with the kids at this emergency drop-in shelter about what's happening in their lives. Ranging in age from 12 to 18, most suffer from a history of physical and sexual abuse. Many are there because their foster home arrangements didn't work out. Others come in off the street because a parent or family member is involved in substance abuse or criminal activity. Some kids are aggressive, others withdrawn. Ms. Baker shows them how to express their feelings.

"These kids have all been through so much," says Kim Edford (DO '07), who has been instrumental in establishing an ongoing relationship between PCOM students and MacLachlan House over the past year. "Erin teaches them how to get out their anger and anxiety on paper in the form of poetry, and
they love it. The director says that the kids ask every week, "When is the poetry girl coming?"

Ms. Edford has been the catalyst for many other initiatives involving PCOM students and MacLachlan House. Volunteers from several student clubs—American Medical Students Association, Student National Medical Association, Public Health Club and Nutrition and Medicine Club—develop and conduct weekly health education classes for the residents. Topics include smoking cessation, nutrition, obesity, HIV and STD prevention, substance abuse and lifestyle choices.

In addition, Ms. Edford worked with Mary Marker-Kraus, director of healthcare center administration, to arrange for the teens to get physical exams and medical tests at the PCOM Healthcare Center – Lancaster Avenue Division. Fourth-year students conduct the exams under the supervision of Izola David, DO 85, medical director, and Kristen Berry, DO 00.

"Teens find it easier to talk to the students because they are closer in age and they converse more on their level," notes Ms. Marker-Kraus.

"Contact with these very high risk individuals will increase our understanding of the problems that exist among the homeless," says Ms. Edford, a former social worker who plans to practice in an urban setting, specializing in HIV medicine or addictions. "These experiences will make us all better physicians."

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**Bridging THE GAPS**

**Eugene Mochan, PhD, DO ‘77**

Since 1990, PCOM students have been participating in Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program (BTG), which assists underserved populations while enhancing the education of students in the medical professions. During a seven-week internship, DO students who have just completed their first year learn how to function in a challenging environment where they must serve as patient advocates, work collaboratively with a variety of health disciplines and understand the impact of socioeconomic factors and the health care system on patient assessment and management. In 2004, PCOM had 20 participating sites, each with two or three students.

One of the internship sites is New Directions for Women, a non-profit organization that provides residential services as an alternative to incarceration for female offenders from Philadelphia prisons who are eligible for release or parole.

"As our students learned about the health problems facing women in the prison system, they were impressed with how eager these women are to learn and move forward with their lives," notes Eugene Mochan, PhD, DO ‘77, who serves as PCOM’s BTG coordinator. "They heard about one woman who participated in the program and finished her high school degree. Now she is working toward a doctoral degree in psychology."

One student intern commented, “I have learned to compassionately value these women as unique individuals who have taken the courageous step towards recovery.”
Helping the Homeless

Steven D. Kamajian, DO '78

It was early in his career, while serving as an on call ER physician, that Steven D. Kamajian, DO '78, first witnessed patients having to choose between buying prescription medicine or paying their rent and buying food for their children. Others he encountered in a homeless shelter had just been released from prison without the medication that stabilized their behavior.

"These were scary situations," Dr. Kamajian recalls, "Every day, we were seeing more homeless and poor patients with no health insurance and no place to turn for health care. I decided that someone had to do something."

Taking matters into his own hands, Dr. Kamajian opened a free clinic in 1994, providing basic primary care for homeless patients every Wednesday in the only space he could find—the janitor’s closet of Westminster Presbyterian Church in East Ventura County, just outside Los Angeles. "I set up shop between the Comet cleanser and paper towels with a portable osteopathic manipulative medicine table, blood pressure cuff and stethoscope."

As word spread about Dr. Kamajian’s Westminster Free Clinic, lines began to form each Wednesday. Soon, he made the first of several moves to larger facilities that could accommodate his growing operation, which he was still running and funding alone.

Over the years, while successfully running his own family practice, Dr. Kamajian recruited a small army of volunteer health care practitioners to assist him in the weekly clinic. Doctors, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dentists and other specialists provide free medical care to over 3,000 uninsured homeless and working poor individuals annually in three locations. Clinic services include primary healthcare, lab tests, X-rays, prescriptions, resource and referral services, advocacy, legal services, bilingual counseling and dental screening services.

During the clinic’s earliest days, a high school student asked Dr. Kamajian if she could tag along and help as he saw patients. As a result, the mission of his clinic broadened dramatically. "I taught her how to take a history and vital signs and how to conduct an exam, just like I would a medical student," he explains. "Once she started telling her friends about the experience, all six high schools in the community started sending students to me. Some serve as translators for patients who speak one of the 63 foreign languages used in Ventura County. Now 50 to 60 high school students graduate from our program each year. Many are able to go to college with scholarships they earn because of their community service work at the clinic."

Dr. Kamajian also challenges each local high school to make a commitment to help four adults transition out of the homeless shelter, into an apartment and back to work each year. "The students hold many fundraisers to help these individuals," he notes. "Through their volunteer work, they learn how to care for others, how to participate in their communities, how to open their eyes and see the needs of their fellow man."

"The reason I went into medicine was to have the opportunity to touch other people’s lives and help them," Dr. Kamajian reflects. "I remember a high school student in our program who was living in a car with her grandmother at the shelter when I first met her. Now she’s a third year medical student. These are the outcomes that make my work worthwhile."

Operation Support Our Troops

Anthony Cooper (DO ’08)

Anthony Cooper (DO ’08) knows how important a phone call is to military troops serving overseas, having just returned from Iraq (with the 3rd Infantry Division) before entering PCOM last fall. "Phone calls home really boost the morale of the troops," says Mr. Cooper. "It’s an important way for them to keep in touch with their families and, just as important, hear that their efforts are being supported back home."

PCOM employees and students are responding to that need through "Operation Support Our Troops," an ongoing fundraising initiative featuring special events to raise money for international phone cards, which are sent to military family members of PCOM students, faculty and employees stationed overseas. The first fundraiser, held last fall, included a pep rally for the Philadelphia Eagles and a raffle, which raised nearly $650.
An overwhelming number of homeless and poor patients come to the Westminster Free Clinic for their health care needs. Student volunteers check medical records and vital signs while gaining valuable experience, and busy physicians like Steven D. Kassamian, DO ’78, still make time for face-to-face interaction.
Katie Gollotto, DO '05, and husband, Michael Gollotto, DO '03, greeted young tsunami victims at their clinic with stuffed animals. The toys, loving tokens from American children, were collected by the Gollotto's seven-year-old son, Andrew. "Andrew is amazing," remarks his proud mother. "We thought he would be upset about us going away, but instead he asked, 'what can I do to help?' On his own, he approached his school principal and asked if the students could help his parents go to Sri Lanka.

Katie Gollotto, DO '05

Katie Gollotto, DO '05, stood horrified last December as she watched television news reports about the tsunami in Southeast Asia. "Something inside me kept saying, 'These people need help and you need to go there,'" she recalls. "At that point, it seemed impossible because I have two kids. I'm in medical school and my husband, Michael Gollotto, DO '03, is a resident in anesthesiology at Hahnemann University Hospital."

Undeterred, Dr. Gollotto quickly arranged a one-month relief mission trip to Sri Lanka with the International Medical Health Organization (IMHO), a non-profit group run by native Sri Lankans who are now practicing physicians in the United States. As a representative of the Mid-Atlantic Pain Association, she also planned to assess short- and long-term pain management needs.

Dr. Gollotto recruited her husband, Michael, fellow PCOM student Julia Helstrom, DO '05, and another friend for the trip. When she left in February, Dr. Gollotto took along a mountain of supplies donated by the PCOM Healthcare Centers, including antibiotics, immunizations, vitamins, first aid supplies, baby formula supplies, and baby food.

"When we arrived at the Center for Health Care headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, they were overwhelmed by our supplies," says Dr. Gollotto. "They said we had enough to open a new clinic and run it for six months."

Dr. Gollotto and her group were sent on a nine-hour journey over precarious dirt roads to a remote area of the tsunami-savaged region where, in
a small primitive abandoned building, they set up a clinic to serve three refugee camps housing over 1,700 people.

“When we arrived, about 150 people from the nearby refugee camp poured in to help us clean out the building, which was filled with junk and debris from the tsunami,” Dr. Golotto explains. “Incredibly, we were able to see our first patient within three hours!”

Their first patient turned out to be the sickest one they saw during their entire stay. “She was an older woman with acute abdominal pain and signs of an impending bowel obstruction,” Dr. Golotto recalls. “Since the nearest hospital was three hours away, we treated her for dehydration and intestinal worms and performed osteopathic manipulative medicine to get her bowels functioning again. After two days, she was feeling better and very grateful.”

During their stay, Dr. Golotto and her team made themselves available for medical care 24/7, sleeping in tents outside the makeshift clinic at night. They saw about 100 patients per day, most with viral illnesses, rashes, infected wounds and musculoskeletal problems from the force of the tsunami waves. They also saw snake bite victims and some cases of malaria and dengue fever.

“We treated many patients with OMM!” Dr. Golotto relates. “We used it so much that our hands were sore by the end of each day. Our osteopathic skills gave us a real edge in this situation where we had very limited resources. The only electricity we had was powered by the battery in our rented van which, in turn, was charged by solar panels provided through the Center for Health Care.”

Dr. Golotto and her team also offered counseling to adults and play therapy for children. “Everyone is afraid of the water since the tsunami,” she says. “Just reaching out to touch and comfort them was therapy in itself. The kids really responded to us. They climbed on our backs, constantly hugged us, and even took naps in our laps.”

Although Dr. Golotto is home now, her work in Sri Lanka is not done. She is working on plans to build a permanent outpatient health care center where the makeshift clinic now stands. “I have a blueprint and approval for the center from the Sri Lankan government and health officials,” she says. “Now I’m recruiting volunteer physicians to staff it on a rotating basis and I’m working to raise $50,000 to fund the project.

“The Sri Lankan people are so gracious, humble and kind,” she concludes. “They deserve to have a long-term source of reliable health care.”

Sallie Eckler (DO ’08)

Sallie Eckler (DO ’08) was vacationing on a beautiful beach in Sanibel Island, Florida, when she first heard about the tsunami. “The same thing could have happened to me standing on this beach,” she recalls thinking.

“I wanted to donate money but I felt that anything I could give would be too minuscule to make a difference. Then I thought, ‘I have a big family back in Philadelphia at PCOM. We can do more if we work together.’

When she returned to the College in January, she proposed an idea to her friends: “Let’s all sacrifice something we enjoy for two weeks and donate the money we would have spent to a tsunami relief fund.” Encouraged by her friends’ enthusiasm, she went to Tina Woodruff, EdD, assistant dean for student affairs, to see if they could make it a campus-wide effort.

“Dr. Woodruff was incredibly supportive and our fundraising effort, officially named the ‘Sacrifice-2-Save Tsunami Campaign,’ really took off,” says Ms. Eckler.

“Students, faculty and employees flocked to Evans Hall to sign up. People sacrificed things like coffee, snacks and choice parking spaces.

An anonymous donor pledged to match up to $5,000 of the money collected. “Our PCOM family more than met the challenge, and we were able to present the American Red Cross with a check for almost $11,000,” she says. “God put it in my heart to do this. I’m glad we found a way to make a difference.”
Surveying the Quality of Devastated Lives

A PCOM researcher and her collaborators are asking specific questions of ALS patients, and they’re getting answers.

Consider someone living with one of the most devastating illnesses facing patients, caregivers and health care providers. Consider someone living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The word “devastating” does not seem powerful enough to describe the changes in the lives of the estimated 30,000 Americans living with this progressive and fatal neuromuscular disorder.
And while physicians, nurses, medical technicians and caregivers work tirelessly to attend to the overwhelming physical needs of ALS patients, there's a facet of their lives that until recently has been receiving far less attention.

The job is to identify quality of life issues for ALS patients and then to address them. It's a difficult task, no doubt, but perhaps that's one of the things that attracted Stephanie Felgoise, PhD, ABPP, associate professor and vice-chair, department of psychology, and director, PsyD program in clinical psychology.

Dr. Felgoise—in collaboration with neurologist Zachary Simmons, MD, of Penn State Hershey Medical Center; Barbara Bremer, PhD, of Penn State Capitol College; and Sue Walsh, RN, of the Greater Philadelphia ALS Association—is working on the second phase of a national, multi-site study to learn which quality of life issues affect ALS patients to the greatest degree. The ALS Association was involved in funding the first phase of the research. The second phase is being funded by the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation and through private donations.

It is important to consider quality of life issues for people who are chronically ill. It's also important to consider that these issues can vary widely according to the particular disease. “ALS patients are people whose illness always progresses and there's no question they've either lost physical function or will lose function,” explains Dr. Felgoise. “Quality of life is not a ‘one size fits all’ proposition.”

Still, Dr. Felgoise and Dr. Simmons learned that it’s not only about physical functioning for people with ALS; there’s more to their lives.

In the first phase of the study, seven PCOM PsyD students, nurses and others trained to administer a questionnaire spent about 40 minutes with each of 342 patients at clinics at Pennsylvania Hospital, Hahnemann University Hospital, Penn State Hershey Medical Center and ALS clinics in places as distant as Texas and Utah.

Participants in the study answered 59 questions about emotions, the need for intimacy (including sexual intimacy), the importance of support from family and friends and more. “We identified six factors that contribute to the overall concept of quality of life,” notes Dr. Felgoise, who along with Dr. Simmons is taking a closer look at these in a revised questionnaire in Phase II of the study, which will include about 260 patients at nine sites across the country. The six factors are:

- negative emotion
- satisfaction with relationships and life
- intimacy
- religiosity
- physical symptoms
- bulbar function (speaking, communicating, production of saliva and mucus).

The hope is to learn which issues are central to people with ALS and for treating physicians to work closely with behavioral health professionals to see that these issues are addressed.

“…I was struck by the level of professionalism and cooperation demonstrated by an interdisciplinary team working with a terminally ill population,” recalls Dave Holden (PsyD ’07), who was on Dr. Felgoise’s team of students administering the survey.

The experience moved another student to frame her thesis around ALS, this time focusing on caregivers. “I learned how much ALS patients value social contact,” says Beatrice H. Chakraborty (PsyD ’06). “When fellow classmate Krista Olex (PsyD ’06) and I conducted the surveys, the patients were so happy to know someone was interested in them.”

Ms. Chakraborty recalls feeling attached to the patients and being moved by their unsufficiency. “I was told, ‘even if this research can’t help me, it’ll be great if it can help someone else who comes behind me.’”

“In the Strategic Plan for PCOM, the research and scholarly direction is a commitment to focus on chronic health-related conditions. The diagnosis of ALS creates such a condition for both patient and family, typically the caregivers. As Dr. Felgoise eloquently argues—for both patient and caregivers finding themselves in chronic conditions of health—the model for quality of life issues is not a ‘one size fits all.’ The emphasis is to study chronic issues of disease in a holistic manner—from molecular to management mechanisms. This type of study is truly a living reflection of the osteopathic philosophy.”

- Richard M. Kriebel, PhD
  professor, associate dean and curriculum and research chair;
  Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology
Norman Vinn, DO '77, MBA

Doctor making house calls? It seems like a quaint concept from the past. Prior to World War II, most health care was provided in patients' homes. By the 1970s, less than one percent of care occurred in the home. Today, home health care is making a comeback.

Norman Vinn, DO '77, MBA, is part of a growing trend toward practitioners in "residentialist practice"—physicians who provide care for homebound patients, including the frail, elderly, disabled and terminally ill. Dr. Vinn is vice president of the American Osteopathic Association, chief medical officer for Housecall Doctors Medical Group Inc. in Orange County, California.

"Modern technology and changes in Medicare reimbursement have made house calls viable once again," explains Dr. Vinn. "With five drops of blood, I can get results for 16 different tests in five minutes; I can coordinate many on-site tests and services. My focus is on not just treating the patient, but on continuity of care. I work closely with home health and social service agencies. I stay in contact with the patients' office-based physicians and hospices."

Dr. Vinn says he spends 30 minutes or more with each patient and sees eight to ten patients a day. His nurse practitioner coordinates case management activities. "This service ties in directly with the tenets of osteopathic medicine," he points out. "We truly get to observe and treat the whole patient. I hope that increasing attention is paid to home care and continuity of care in medical school and residency curricula."

"There are many benefits to making home visits," continues Dr. Vinn. "Obviously, it's critically important to the patient. Many times we're caring for the hidden underserved. Many older adults don't get medical care until it's too late and they show up in the emergency room. It's also helpful for me as a physician to see the environment in which the patient lives. We can check for compliance issues, safety issues. We meet their caregivers. We learn more about the patient than we would if they were to come to the office."

"Most important," Dr. Vinn says, "is how grateful the patients are that somebody cares enough to show up. It's incredibly satisfying work. Any physician who wants more job satisfaction should consider being a residentialist. You'll never feel more appreciated than when you show up at a patient's home."

Class of 1945
Arnold Melnick, DO, Aventura, FL, recently enjoyed the publication of his 100th professional article, a piece about effective medical communication that was published in DO Magazine. Dr. Melnick, who retired a few years ago from his post as executive vice chancellor and provost, health professions division, at Nova Southeastern University, authors regular columns for the American Medical Writers Association as well as the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians.

Class of 1958
A. Alvin Greber, DO, Aventura, FL, was appointed associate vice chancellor of Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Class of 1964
Joel L. Samitt, DO, Lancaster, PA, was appointed to the board of directors of the Hospice of Lancaster County.

Class of 1956
Ralph E. Fishkin, DO, Bala Cynwyd, PA, has a psychiatry and psycho-analysis practice in Philadelphia. He is a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Thomas Jefferson University and executive counselor of the American Psychoanalytic Association, representing the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia.

Merrill J. Mirman, DO, Springfield, PA, was ordained into the rabbinate by the American Board of Rabbis/Vaad Harabanim of America.

Class of 1967
Marshall H. Sager, DO, Bryn Mawr, PA, was appointed to the board of directors of the International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques. His appointment was reported in the December 17-23, 2004, issue of the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Class of 1975
John M. Parschauer, DO, Huron, OH, has completed medical mission trips to Honduras, Ecuador and the Ukraine.

Class of 1977
Eugene Mochan, DO, PhD, Thornton, PA, received a certificate of commendation presented by the Spruce Adolescent Counseling and Education Center at their annual awards banquet.

Class of 1978
Carlo J. DiMarco, DO, Media, PA, was re-appointed to a three-year term to the board of directors of the American Osteopathic Association.

Class of 1979
Glenn G. Miller, DO, Blue Bell, PA, received the "Primary Care Physician of the Year Award" presented by the Student Organization of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Class of 1980
Don A. Koenigsberg, DO, Bryn Mawr, PA, was recertified in anesthesiology. He is the founder and president of Koenigsberg and Associates, Pain Management LLC in Philadelphia.
Class of 1982

Class of 1983
Robert S. Muscalus, DO, Hummelstown, PA, was the recipient of the 2004 Healthcare IT Innovator Award presented by Healthcare Informatics.

Class of 1984
Gary R. Hill, DO, Fort Lauderdale, FL, graduated from the 2003-2004 Osteopathic Heritage Health Policy Fellowship.

Class of 1985
Susan Dallas-Feenej, DO, West Chester, PA, opened a new family practice in West Chester, PA. She has been married to Christopher Dallas-Feenej for 26 years and has two children, Juliette, age 16, and Christopher, Jr., age 13.

Class of 1986

Class of 1987

Class of 1988
Derek I. Grossman, DO, Mount Pleasant, MI, is being deployed to Iraq for a second tour of duty with the United States Army. He will be serving with the Mechanized Infantry Battalion. Upon his return, he will begin a new position with the Veterans Administration in North Carolina.

Class of 1989
Mitchell B. Alden, DO, Lower Gwynedd, PA, was appointed physician coordinator of the Doylestown Hospital Cancer Program.

Class of 1990
Denise Harnois, DO, Ponte Vedra, FL, presently holds a dual appointment in gastroenterology and hepatology and transplant at the Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL. Later this year, she intends to step aside from her administrative duties (she has served as medical director of the liver transplant program for four years) to pursue research in hepatobiliary malignancy and cholestatic liver diseases. Dr. Harnois is a co-investigator in two NIH protocols in the area of cholestatic liver diseases (PBC and PSC). Married to a research scientist, she is also a mother of two sons, ages one and four.

Class of 1991
Robert C. Albright, Jr., DO, Rochester, MN, currently serves as the director of in-patient dialysis program and dialysis services as well as assistant professor of medicine and consultant, division of nephrology and internal medicine, department of internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic.

Class of 1992
Joseph J. Stello, DO, Pittsburgh, PA, opened a new cardiothoracic surgery office in Hazleton, PA.

On a personal note
Vivek N. Dhruva, DO '99, Glen Mills, PA, and wife Hetal Dhruva, MD, are the proud parents of Ashna, born on August 1, 2004. Little Ashna joins sister Alina in the growing Dhruva family. Dr. (Vivek) Dhruva recently began a cardiology fellowship at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Class of 1993
David Kanze, DO '95, Philadelphia, PA, married Kylie Johnston (DO '96) on May 14, 2005, in St. Marys, PA. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii.
Class of 1992
Barbara Williams-Paige, DO, Upper Darby, PA, received the “Ambulatory Care Physician of the Year Award” presented by the Student Organization of the American Osteopathic College of Family Physicians.

Class of 1993
Godwin Oneyike, DO, Valley Stream, NY, was appointed associate chairman/program director of the obstetrics/gynecology program at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Far Rockaway, NY.
Dean A. Reali, DO, Lake George, NY, was appointed to the board of directors of Fort Hudson Health Systems and its affiliate corporations.
Debra Schettini-Prasko, DO, Hastings, PA, opened a new family practice in Northern Cambria, PA.
Kenneth A. Thompson, DO, Watseka, IL, was elected vice president of the staff at Iroquis Memorial Hospital.

Class of 1994
Anita W. Eisenhart, DO, Hopewell Junction, NY, ran the San Francisco Marathon on October 24, 2004. She represented the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.
James L. Hubbard, DO, Rock Hill, SC, is chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Piedmont Medical Center. He is a 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 in September 2004.

Class of 1995
John B. Bulger, DO, Danville, PA, appeared on the cover of the October 2004 issue of Physician's News Digest as well as in an article titled “Preserving Physician Clout in Politics.”
Joanne Calabrese, DO, Jim Thorpe, PA, joined the provisional staff, department of medicine/internal medicine, at St. Luke's Hospital - Bethlehem Campus.

Class of 1996
Alyson Emmons Abbruzzi, DO, Norristown, PA, was inducted into Pemberon Township High School’s Hall of Fame.
Hossein Borghaei, DO, King of Prussia, PA, joined the medical oncology department at Fox Chase Cancer Center.
Mark G. Ronchi, DO, Oil City, PA, is board certified in diagnostic radiology and is currently employed with Venango Diagnostic Imaging working at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Northwest Hospital. He and his wife, Deborah, have two daughters, Jenna, age five, and Lauren, age two.

Class of 1997
Sean D. Burke, DO, State College, PA, opened a new medical practice. Seven Mountains Medical Center, PC, in Lewistown, PA.
Michael E. Suls, DO, New Brunswick, NJ, joined the department of internal medicine, division of occupational/preventive medicine and public health at Virtua Memorial Hospital.

Ray Christner, PsyD ’04, NCSP

Ray Christner, PsyD ’04, NCSP, was a practicing school psychologist when he decided to come to PCOM to earn his master’s and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology. “The work of a school psychologist involves much more mental health counseling and therapy than I was prepared for,” explains Dr. Christner. He chose PCOM because of the focus on cognitive behavior therapy. “I wanted to attain these skills and adapt them to a school situation,” he confirms.

Dr. Christner has joined the staff of PCOM’s psychology department as a clinical instructor. In addition, he works as a school psychologist for Lincoln Intermediate Unit No. 12 in New Oxford, Pennsylvania, which provides specialized services to the school district.

“The work of a school psychologist involves much more mental health counseling and therapy than I was prepared for,” says Dr. Christner. “I wanted to attain these skills and adapt them to a school situation,” he confirms.

Clearly, Dr. Christner knows what he’s talking about; he was recently named School Psychologist of the Year for Pennsylvania by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania. He serves on the board of directors for the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania and on the School Board of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association. He is also president-elect of a newly formed special interest group on cognitive behavior therapy in school settings for the Association for the Advancement of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Dr. Christner has published and presented on a variety of topics including cognitive behavior therapy, crisis intervention, parent satisfaction, school psychological services, and youth anger and aggression. Most recently, he is co-editor (with Rosemary Mennuti, EdD, professor, psychology, and Arthur Freeman, EdD, former psychology chair) of the forthcoming book, Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions for Educational Settings.
Adam Warren, MS/ODL ’04 & Chris Conklin, MS/ODL ’04

When Adam Warren, MS/ODL ’04, associate director of global clinical supply at a major global pharmaceutical company, was looking for a master’s degree program, he wanted “something I could use,” he recalls, “not just a piece of paper. I wanted a program that would take my career in a new direction.” He chose PCOM’s graduate program in organizational development and leadership (ODL).

The timing of Mr. Warren’s decision to earn his advanced degree coincided with changes in his professional life. “Just as I finished my degree, I left my current employer and returned to a company where I had worked previously. I returned in a new leadership capacity where I was responsible for global customer relationship management. I was charged with setting strategies and with developing my staff, and that’s where the ODL program came into play. I had completed my capstone project, which involved creating a scenario showing how a person would enter a new system as a leader. Because of this, I had an established plan that I was able to institute when I moved into my new position.”

“The ODL coursework is applicable to real life,” he continues. “The management skills I acquired were perfectly in line with my new responsibilities. They helped me communicate with my staff and coordinate projects on a global scale. The key is to be able to adapt to continual change, and the exercises and coursework from the program helped me strategize and implement change management. The biggest praise I’ve received so far is from my vice president who complimented me on my leadership. I have a lot of new hires, and I want to teach them some of what I’ve learned.”

One of Mr. Warren’s new hires, Chris Conklin, MS/ODL ’04, company product coordinator, is already on board with the ODL strategy. “Adam and I made a connection in the program,” recalls Mr. Conklin. “We saw things in the same way and worked well together.” So when an appropriate position became available, Mr. Warren hired Mr. Conklin to join his team.

“This is a very large, global company; it’s quite different from my previous employer,” says Mr. Conklin. “My role is very much middle management and relationship based. I’m a liaison between clinical teams and the manufacturing end of the business. The work I did in the ODL program really prepared me for this. The Systems Workshop taught me to work within an organization of this size, and the concepts learned in the Change Management class are directly linked to what we’re doing here. Adam is making changes, the company is making changes and I’m prepared for what to expect, what to look for and what to ask for.”

As the saying goes, the only constant is change. You might as well be ready to meet it head on.

Class of 2000
Steven F. Andrews, DO, Voorhees, NJ, was the lead author of a research study conducted at Fox Chase Cancer Center titled “The Time Between Initial Diagnosis and External Beam Radiation Therapy Can Be Delayed for Various Reasons.” The results of the study were presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, which was held in Atlanta, GA, on October 5, 2004.

Brinda S. Kantha, DO, Philadelphia, PA, is a sports and spine medicine fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.
Michael A. Magro, Jr., DO, Conshohocken, PA, joined the division of internal medicine at Mercy Suburban Hospital.

Class of 2001
Raymond S. Cook, DO, Exton, PA, completed his family medicine residency and is currently a sports medicine fellow in the Philadelphia area.
Michael Kouyoumdjian, DO, Philadelphia, PA, joined the division of family practice at Mercy Suburban Hospital.
Christine M. McGinley, DO, Kenansville, NC, was highlighted in an article published in Sampson Independent titled “New Doctor Joins Gateway in Warsaw,” which announced her new affiliation with Gateway Physicians Group.
William E. Sotack, Jr., DO, Macungie, PA, joined Berks Emergency Physicians at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Reading, PA.
Michael A. Welsh, DO, Norristown, PA, joined the division of family practice at Mercy Suburban Hospital.

Class of 2002
Heather C. Kerlin, DO, York, PA, went on a two-week medical mission to India, arranged by Sovereign Grace Ministries. Dr. Kerlin and a medical team of 22 treated malaria, tuberculosis, pain and infections.
Sheryl L. Oleski, DO, Philadelphia, PA, co-authored a medical update in The Journal of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association titled “Reduction in Pain and Improvement in Forced Expiratory Volume in a Patient with Cystic Fibrosis Treated with Osteopathic Manipulation: Case Report.”
Christie M. Quinneyer, DO, Rockville, MD, is serving in the United States Navy. She is currently at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, in her second year of a general surgery residency.
Carrie B. Samiec, DO, Philadelphia, PA, had her article published in The Journal of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association titled “Obstructive Sleep Apnea: No Longer Simply About Snoring.”

Nicole H. Sirchio, DO, Pennsauken, NJ, received the “Pfizer Outstanding Resident Award” presented by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals at the American Osteopathic Association.

Class of 2003
David J. Girardi, DO, Curwensville, PA, had his article published in The Journal of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association titled “A Case of Chemotherapy Induced Magnesium Wasting Neuropathy.”

Class of 2004
Scott E. Hye, DO, Yonkers, NY, and wife Carol Spagnolo-Hye, DO ’05, went on a one-week healing mission to Guatemala in January 2004. The mission was sponsored by DOCAre International, an organization that provides medical care to underdeveloped areas of the Western hemisphere.

In Memoriam

Ivan F. Caudill, DO ’67, Mesa, AZ, September 17, 2004.
Stephen B. Fuchs, DO ’64, Miami, FL, January 12, 2005.
Albert J. Wozniak, DO ’66, Old Fort, NC, January 10, 2005.

J. Vincent Huffnagle, DO ’54

PCOM Mourns the Loss of the "Ultimate Family Physician"

Dr. Huffnagle had a long-standing relationship with PCOM, serving over the years in various capacities including chairman of the department of family medicine, director of continuing medical education and professor emeritus. He also served his alma mater as class chairman.

Of Dr. Huffnagle, who served as his mentor when he was a young faculty member, Kenneth J. Veir, DO ’76, MBA, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, recalls, “Dr. Huffnagle was the ultimate family physician; his patients and students loved him. He was always available and approachable for advice and encouragement—the consummate professional.”
## Class Agents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CLASS AGENT</th>
<th>CONTACT INFORMATION</th>
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<td>1955</td>
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<td>1957</td>
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## PA Alumni

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this special “My Turn,” Army Major Michael Cohen, DO ’98 provides a gripping account of his experiences as chief of emergency medicine in Mosul, Iraq on December 21, 2004—immediately following an insurgent mortar attack upon an army mess-hall. His are humanistic observations of shrapnel wounds and medical miracles . . .

“EMT, TOC,” emanated loudly from the previously quiet radios as the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) alerted the Emergency Medical Treatment Area (EMT). These were directives that made the medics, nurses and physicians of the 67th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) uneasy. “The dining facility at Marez has sustained a direct hit. No word on number of casualties or ETA.”

I looked at my watch—1215, lunch time. “This is going to be bad, very bad.” I thought. I started alerting all hospital personnel that we had an incoming mass casualty (MASCAL) situation.

The home of the 67th CSH is Wuerzburg, Germany; however, from January 2004 to January 2005, the unit was deployed to two locations in Iraq—Mosul and Tikrit—in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As one of two primary care physicians in the Mosul location, I was responsible for a wide variety of duties. One of these duties was the chief of emergency medicine (I am normally a family physician; however, I was the doc on duty when the radio message transpired).

As we awaited more details regarding the casualties of this catastrophic event, two military vehicles arrived with the first wounded individuals. The first casualty was an Iraqi soldier who was receiving CPR; he had a non-survivable head wound. The second casualty also had penetrating trauma to the head. He, too, was dead.

Shortly thereafter military trucks began to arrive, each one carrying three to six wounded individuals. Our emergency room was quickly overwhelmed. The trauma bays were doubled up with patients and all the litter stands were utilized, so the stretchers were placed on the floor. And when the ER filled up, we started lining the patients up outside. The patients were arriving faster then we could triage them.

The surgeons quickly identified a few seriously injured patients with chest and abdominal trauma—and the ORs were filled. As we started to organize the number of casualties and the severity of their wounds, mortars started falling on the base, with one directly hitting the roof of the hospital. The cement building held up well and, with over 40 patients on stretchers outside the hospital, we were quite lucky that no one was injured. We responded by moving the patients inside even as our triage organization was rendered completely awry.

One by one, we treated each casualty. At 2330, we were able to step back and catch our breaths. Ninety-one casualties from the blast had arrived at the CSH. Eighteen were DOA, and four others later died from non-survivable wounds. Twenty patients were transferred to other CSHs in Iraq. Nine surgeries were performed in the OR; 10 surgeries were performed outside the OR. Eight patients required mechanical ventilation. Fourteen chest tubes were placed. Thirty-nine CT scans and over 200 plain radiographs were done. Two-hundred and seventeen intravenous medications were prepared by the pharmacy. Two-hundred and ninety-four laboratory tests were performed, and 40 units of blood products were transfused.

By definition, a MASCAL situation is when the number of patients and their injuries exceed the available resources. This was indeed a MASCAL.
We are in a unique time. PCOM remains committed to excellence. Its graduates continue to impress in their performances. And we now have a critical mass of alumni with the means to advance our school even further.

Bernard Bernacki, DO ’81
Chair, 2005 Annual Fund

2005 ANNUAL FUND

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

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

For more information on how you can renew your gift or give for the first time, please contact the
Office of Alumni Relations & Development
4180 City Avenue
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800-739-3939
alumni@pcom.edu

You can also make your gift online by visiting our Web site at www.pcom.edu.
June 23-26
Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) Annual Meeting
Cincinnati Marriott at RiverCenter, Covington, KY

July 7-10
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

August 17
Board Meeting
PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA

September 13
PCOM Golf Classic
ACE Center, Lafayette Hill, PA

“For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.”

from “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” – William Wordsworth

A spring view from the PCOM donor garden.

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
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