Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Summer 2014)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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A Time of Transition
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

In this, my final *Digest Magazine* message as President and Chief Executive Officer of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, I wholeheartedly welcome Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, as my successor and the College’s eighth executive leader. Dr. Feldstein has demonstrated significant ability to direct large and complex organizations. His actions toward the elimination of health disparities have proven his adherence to principles that also serve as the foundation of PCOM’s instructional, research and service missions.

I remain humbled as I continue to offer my profound thanks to the entire PCOM family. My years spent at the College have been more rewarding and fulfilling than I ever could have imagined.

To our extraordinary Board of Trustees: Thank you for taking a chance on a non-Pennsylvanian, non-DO. Thank you, too, for the brilliance of your strategies, the depth of your commitment, and the kindness and mutual respect manifested in all your interactions.

To the Cabinet and deans: Thank you for allowing me to work with the best senior administrative team in the osteopathic medical world. Each of you is hugely talented and extraordinarily hard working. No task or schedule is too difficult. Our deliberations have always been open and honest. You are wonderful colleagues; it has been a privilege to work with you.

To my administrative support team, Vinnie Lafferty and Joan McGettigan: Thank you for always being ready to go the extra mile, for your gentle guidance and for your friendship.

To the students: Thank you for teaching us, inspiring us and keeping us feeling young. Thank you for entrusting us with your education and for fostering continuous improvements by letting us know what we could be doing better. And thank you for all you do in the co-curricular life of the College. Your generosity of spirit reminds us that life’s greatest gift is seeing that someone else’s life is made brighter by virtue of your presence in it. More than once during my years at PCOM, students have saved a life. In my tradition, this is the equivalent of saving the entire world. Thank you for making the world a much better place, now and in the future. I am honored to have played some small role in your life here.

To the faculty and staff: Thank you so much for your quest for excellence as you fulfill the instructional, research and service missions of the College. You are outstanding. And you surely understand the priorities and take continuous actions aimed at making the College the best that it can be.

To the alumni: Thank you for the multi-faceted support that has helped to shape the vision for PCOM’s future and make life easier for the students who have succeeded you. Your staunch support for your alma mater and your mentorship of current students are exceptional.

William Jennings Bryan said that “Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved.” The PCOM community has shaped its own destiny. Our collective vision is a strong vision, suggested by you and realized by you. This collective achievement is one of the great outcomes of modern PCOM history.

I look forward beyond my presidency to sharing many years of successes with you. No matter what direction you determine to shape PCOM’s future, my deepest support and affection will be with PCOM and with all of you.

With warmest regards,

Matthew Schure, PhD
Seventh President and Chief Executive Officer
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ON THE COVER

Cover image by Bruce Fairfield. A medallion is given to a new president and chief executive officer to represent a transfer of the responsibility of office and an obligation to promote and maintain the values represented by the institution. Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine’s presidential medallion, designed by the Tharpe Company, incorporates elements of the College seal.
Carol Henwood, DO ‘83, President, ACOFP

Sworn in as president of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) in March, Carol Henwood, DO ‘83, is “proud to be the second woman elected to this office and hopes to be a role model for women physicians trying to make a difference in family and osteopathic medicine across the country.”

She outlines three initiatives for her new role: “First, we will continue to promote the ACOFP Quality Markers, a program that electronically mines data from family medicine practices to help them qualify as an NCQA-recognized Patient-Centered Medical Home. The physician’s ability to demonstrate quality of care will be increasingly important as healthcare transformation continues. This program identifies wellness and chronic care opportunities and helps medical practices improve quality and efficiency that in turn enhances the patient experience.

“Second, there are currently 30 states served by active ACOFP State Societies. Our goal is to increase that number by 10. Not only do we want to add additional societies, we want to enhance the ones we have.

“And third, we will continue our work to grow the number of students going into family practice, increase opportunities for interaction between students and family practitioners, promote DO Day on the Hill and help students understand the role of advocacy in the profession.”

A Red Ribbon Day

The Dr. Michael and Wendy Saltzburg Clinical Learning & Assessment Center was officially dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 10. Made possible by a generous donation from the Saltzburgs, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, and other generous donors, the 11,000-square-foot facility houses state-of-the-art technology that allows students to practice, develop and demonstrate mastery of crucial clinical and communication skills in a safe, controlled environment.

Teaming Up

Changing the focus of healthcare delivery was the theme of the Student Government Association-sponsored “Integrated Healthcare Conference: A Team-Based Approach to Patient-Centered Wellness” held at PCOM this spring. Put simply, “The patient should be the center of attention, not the healthcare providers,” says Mark Cassano, MS/Psy ’12 (PsyD ’17), one of the conference’s coordinators. The conference brought together healthcare practitioners, students and faculty to discuss how shifting to a holistic, patient-centered approach can lead to improvements in both the quality of care and overall treatment outcomes.

The day began with a keynote address followed by a series of six breakout sessions during which specific scenarios were addressed by multidisciplinary teams. “The goal was to provide participants with exposure to the interdisciplinary team-based treatment models and foster inter-professional collaboration,” notes Mr. Cassano. “It’s not just having the doctors and nurses on board, but the psychologists, receptionists, even transportation services to look at all the needs of the patient. It’s about creating new models of care.

“Pennsylvania is one of the leading states in this movement, and we are hoping that through the development and implementation of programs like this, PCOM can become a hub for integrated health care in the city.”
The Healing Touch: A Continuing Medical Education Program

Precepting osteopathic medical students and residents may present unique challenges to supervising physicians when they wish to use osteopathic manipulative treatment/osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMT/OMM) techniques while on clinical rotations. With this in mind, GA–PCOM faculty members Walter C. Ehrenfeuchter, DO ’79, professor and director, osteopathic manipulative medicine; Murray R. Berkowitz, DO, MPH, associate professor, OMM and director of clinical clerkships in OMM; and William A. Delp, DO, assistant professor, OMM, designed an eight-hour CME program that was offered this winter.

Manual Medicine for OMM Preceptors and OMT Review was attended by about 20 participants from Georgia and Alabama. The course provided a hands-on learning environment where both MD and DO preceptors could learn, review and update their skills in order to supervise osteopathic medical students and residents. The program was approved for eight hours of AOA Category 1A CME credit. The CME program was the first coordinated Category 1A program conducted by GA–PCOM since the AOA Council on CME recognized the campus as an approved sponsor during its January 4, 2013, meeting.

In Network

The conversation between Darlene Dunay, DO ’83, and Kevin Gerrity, DO ’14, began with a Penn State connection, and then moved on to topics ranging from cardiovascular surgery to residencies. Thus are relationships formed at PCOM’s Student and Alumni Networking Night. Held on Founders’ Day each year, the event provides opportunities for students to get the “inside scoop” on life after medical school. But the benefits of the evening go both ways—students get advice from alumni, and alumni have the opportunity to keep tabs on what’s going on at the College.

A Roomful of Answers

Mr. Kearney with Gregg Severs, DO ’03. Dr. Severs was the first recipient of the John D. Kearney Scholarship at PCOM.

For the seventh consecutive year, PCOM trustee John P. Kearney and his wife, Lois, hosted a reception at the Glenmaura National Golf Club in Moosic, PA, for prospective and accepted PCOM students and their parents, pre-med advisors, and alumni, faculty and administration from the College.

Mr. Kearney explains that he hosts the event to give students and parents in Northeastern PA the opportunity to ask questions about PCOM. “Whatever questions you may have, the answers are in this room,” he said at the event.

Mr. Kearney’s connection to PCOM comes in many forms. His son, John D. Kearney, was a second-year medical student when he died in a tragic hiking accident in Arizona in 1999 as he tried to save a friend who had fallen. “JD was accepted to five other medical schools,” recalls his father. “But when he was introduced to PCOM and the osteopathic philosophy in his junior year at Wilkes, his dream was to go to PCOM. He loved every day he was at PCOM.” To honor JD’s memory, the Kearney family has established a scholarship at the College in their son’s name.
“Collaboration is the name of the game,” asserted Denah Appelt, PhD, professor, neuroscience, physiology and pharmacology, as she welcomed neurosurgeons, residents, medical students and administrators to PCOM’s first annual neurosurgery symposium held in December. During her introduction to the day-long symposium, Dr. Appelt discussed the benefits of conducting basic, clinical and translational research at PCOM. She pointed out the many research options available to residents and students, including work on Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease.

The symposium included a half day of lectures on cranial and spinal surgery interventions presented by esteemed neurosurgeons from the Philadelphia region. A hands-on workshop in the cadaver lab provided participants with the opportunity to use some of the most sophisticated neurosurgery technology currently available.

The PCOM neurosurgery residency program is a collaboration of six hospital sites with approximately 30 neurosurgeons.

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What’s in a Name?

The 48-credit Master of Science in Clinical Health Psychology program has been designated the Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling. The name change comes as a result of changes made by the National Board for Certified Counselors that require programs that provide National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification eligibility to clearly identify themselves as counseling graduate degree programs. The 60-credit track is now the Professional Counseling Concentration.
All’s Fair

Members of the GA–PCOM community recently participated in the Gwinnett County Regional Science and Engineering Fair, an annual tradition in the county for 35 years. This year’s theme, “Motivating the Next Generation of Science and Engineering Leaders—From Classroom to Career,” gave elementary, junior and high school students an opportunity to exhibit their work, discuss their projects with volunteer judges who are experts in their fields, and compete for a variety of awards and prizes. Six members of the GA–PCOM faculty served as judges. Brian Matayoshi, PhD, professor, neuroscience, physiology and pharmacology, and associate director, biomedical sciences; and H. William Craver III, DO ’87, dean and chief academic officer, osteopathic medical program, GA–PCOM, were featured speakers at the Fair’s Career Expo.

Keeping the Dream Alive

In February, the College’s Office of Diversity and Compliance sponsored the first annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award Ceremony and Dr. Ethel D. Allen DO Scholarship Fundraiser. The event was created to recognize members of the PCOM family who are committed to enhancing the lives of others and to raise funds to endow a previously established scholarship in Dr. Allen’s name. As Lisa McBride, PhD, chief diversity officer, explains, “Once endowed, Dr. Allen’s scholarship will be institutionalized, thus realizing her dream of increasing the presence of women and minorities in the healthcare profession.”

Among the six awards given was the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award, which was presented to Oliver Bullock, DO ‘78. Dr. Bullock has spent his career training medical students and caring for some of the city’s neediest individuals as a physician and medical director at PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division. Not only does he care for those who come to the Healthcare Center, he goes into the community to help the homebound ill. Dr. Bullock has partnered with many city and nonprofit agencies to ensure that those in his community receive not just health care, but children’s books, nutrition and social services and, perhaps most important, the knowledge that they are cared for.

Dr. Ethel Allen graduated from PCOM in 1963. After completing her internship, Dr. Allen practiced medicine in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia as a self-described “ghetto practitioner.” Dr. Allen was Philadelphia’s first black councilwoman and Pennsylvania’s highest-ranking black woman when she served as Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Still the Best

Alexander Nicholas, DO ’75, has received the American Academy of Osteopathy’s highest award: the Andrew Taylor Still Medallion of Honor. Professor and chair of the department of osteopathic manipulative medicine since 1977, Dr. Nicholas was recognized for his contributions to the field through his many articles published in the United States and abroad. He was also recognized for his book, written with his brother, Evan Nicholas, DO ’81, associate professor, osteopathic manipulative medicine; the comprehensive Atlas of Osteopathic Techniques, now in its second edition and used extensively in osteopathic medical schools around the world.

Active in many professional organizations, Dr. Nicholas is perhaps best known as an educator. In addition to teaching students and residents, he trains physicians in Germany and Austria, where he has helped develop a rigorous protocol for Osteopathic Principles and Practice.

As his winning nomination states, “Dr. Nicholas loves to teach. He does so with an appreciation of broad philosophical principles, great specificity in application, a genuine love of teaching, a sparkle in his eye and a story for every occasion.”
Philadelphia has long been a hotbed of scientific discovery. PCOM helped celebrate that heritage during the Franklin Institute’s ten-day Science Festival this spring. The city-wide celebration featured interactive programs that engaged Philadelphians of all ages. The College was privileged to partner with the Institute and participated in several activities throughout the week.

The kick-off event, Science Carnival After Dark, filled the Franklin Institute with hands-on exhibits for a Friday night of exploration. Recalling that Body Worlds, the display of plastinated humans and animals was exhibited at the Franklin Institute, Denah Appelt, PhD, professor, neuroscience, physiology and pharmacology, created an exhibit of plastinated body parts for the event. An interdisciplinary team of PCOM faculty researchers joined Dr. Appelt for an evening of hands-on learning. At a nearby exhibit, Greg McDonald, DO ’89, vice chair, clinical associate professor and director, forensic medicine, walked festival-goers through a “who dunnit” crime scene of wounds and weapons.

One goal of the festival was to spread scientific inquiry throughout the city by way of “science cafés.” Geared toward an adult audience, the cafés were interactive discussions with a scientific twist. Farzenah Daghigh, PhD, professor, biomedical sciences, participated in the discussion “To Veg or Not to Veg?” noting the nutritional benefits and challenges of eating a plant-based diet.

The week culminated in the signature event – Science Carnival on the Parkway. PCOM stood out from the crowd of more than 150 exhibitors with its Mega Brain®, the world’s only portable, inflatable, walk-through brain exhibit. Visitors entered the 18 foot long exhibit through the frontal lobe and exited through the cerebellum. PCOM researchers were on hand to explain brain structure, brain function, brain trauma and disease.
Physicians Aid Association of the Delaware Valley Provides Financial Aid

For the third consecutive year, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine is the recipient of a generous gift from the Physicians Aid Association of the Delaware Valley. Seventeen DO students with financial need are benefitting from the association's $70,000 grant.

Foundations Add Support to Saltzburg Center

The Connelly Foundation of West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, has made a $30,000 gift to the new Dr. Michael and Wendy Saltzburg Clinical Learning & Assessment Center. The College has acknowledged the Connelly Foundation's support by naming a simulation training room.

2014 Graduates Give Back

Graduating students support the legacy of giving at PCOM by making personal contributions to the College as an expression of appreciation for the education they have received and to ensure that future students have the same opportunities.

The DO Class of 2014 (Philadelphia), led by class chair Matthew V. Speicher, DO ’14, made a very generous gift to assist in the purchase of an EKG machine for the Emergency Medicine Department. The members of the DO Class of 2014 (GA–PCOM), led by class chair Divya Bansal, DO ’14, designated their gifts for the Fund for PCOM.

PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus Class of 2014, led by class chair Shahrouz Dehgahi, PharmD ’14, designated their gifts to the Dr. John C. Kermode Fund. Dr. Kermode, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences, passed away last year.

Wayne Sikes Chairs Development Committee

Wayne Sikes, a member of the PCOM Board of Trustees since 2008, has been appointed chair of the Development Committee of the Board to oversee fundraising initiatives. Mr. Sikes is one of two board members who reside in the state of Georgia. Charged with governance of the fundraising initiatives of the College, the Development Committee is currently made up of eight trustees who meet throughout the year.

Mr. Sikes, assumed his new role from former trustee Bernard Bernacki, DO ’81. Mr. Sikes has “great expectations for PCOM’s giving culture.”

Three New Scholarship Funds Endowed

Mrs. Arlene Leone, widow of former OMM clinician and faculty member Anthony Girard Leone, DO ’57, has contributed $50,000 to establish an endowed scholarship in memory of her husband. The Anthony Girard Leone, DO ’57, Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a fourth-year DO student enrolled at the Philadelphia campus who plans to incorporate osteopathic manipulative treatment in a primary care practice.

The Sharon Qureshi Khan, DO ’98, Memorial Scholarship is being established by Dr. Khan’s parents, Nasreen M. Khan, DO ’93, and Mr. Moazzam Khan. This scholarship will be awarded to a second-, third- or fourth-year DO student from the state of Delaware who demonstrates financial need. The recipient may be enrolled at either PCOM or GA–PCOM.

Steven L. Edell, DO ’69, has made a $50,000 commitment to establish the Edell Family Scholarship. This scholarship will benefit students in the DO program who demonstrate financial need and are Delaware residents.

A major initiative of the College is to increase scholarship aid to lessen the debt burden of students. All three scholarship funds qualify for the PCOM Trustee Scholarship Program, a supplemental grant also benefitting recipients. The College gratefully acknowledges the Leone, Khan and Edell families for their gifts, which will be distributed in perpetuity.

To discuss your gift for PCOM, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Development:

215-871-6120 or 800-739-3939 (Philadelphia) or 678-225-7506 (Georgia).

You may also email Scott Richter, special gifts officer: scottr@pcom.edu; Pam Ruoff, interim chief advancement officer: pamr@pcom.edu; or Alisa Toney, alumni relations & development officer, GA–PCOM: alisato@pcom.edu.
It's easy to be wowed by the 11,000-square-foot Dr. Michael and Wendy Saltzburg Clinical Learning & Assessment Center, which opened on the fourth floor of Rowland Hall this year and was dedicated in April.

Besides several conference rooms, there are 15 clinical examination rooms; four training rooms focusing on endoscopy, orthopedics, cardiology and laparoscopy; an ICU/CCU suite; and a 12-bed emergency room. A fully equipped operating room boasts real operating room tables and lights that students learn to manipulate and position while maintaining sterility. TRAUMAman, a torso simulator, lets students insert chest tubes and perform other basic lifesaving procedures. A portable robotic surgery simulator provides virtual-reality training on how to use the da Vinci surgical robot—"very expensive hospital equipment that our students now know well," observes Arthur Sesso, DO '81, medical director of the Center and Galen S. Young, Sr., DO '35, Chair in Surgery; professor, department of surgery; and program director, general surgery residency. A laparoscopic simulator employs haptic technology in gallbladder, hernia and OB/GYN procedures, so that a student not only sees what she is doing but feels it too, "and learns how much she can pull on something before it breaks," Dr. Sesso says.

The focus of several simulations is STAN, a lifesize, programmable human patient simulator (HPS) that simulates over 80 bodily functions. "STAN picks up where standardized patients leave off," explains Penny Patton, the Center's program administrator. "STAN can have a heart attack; he can die." STAN's colleagues include the Pre-hospital and Nursing Patient Simulators, lifesize HPSs that wirelessly come to life; they have all human pulses and pupil response, and they respond to defibrillation and intubation. Brian Rudd, the Center's simulation specialist, says that students are normally "a bit apprehensive" when first dealing with an HPS. "But when they get more comfortable, they are amazed at when the simulators can do."

The technology beyond the Center's walls is as important as what's within them. Dr. Sesso insisted that simulations be accessible through campus WiFi so faculty can see a live simulation from their own offices, or view it later on tape. And however they choose to watch, they can also hear. "Simulations make a lot of sounds," Dr. Sesso notes. "I wanted integrated sources of sound, which the simulation company had never done before. You can sit in a classroom and talk, and we can hear you as if you are in the room at the sim."

But for both Dr. Sesso and Ms. Patton, at least as dazzling as the Center's devices is its ever-growing stream of students, fac-

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Gifting the Optimum in Simulation Technology for Skills Training and Competency Assessment

A million-dollar donation names and endows the Dr. Michael and Wendy Saltzburg Clinical Learning & Assessment Center by Janice Fisher
ulty and visitors. Ms. Patton says, “Visitors have noticed that our Center has a comfortable and unique feel to it.”

The feeling starts at the front door, with an entrance that opens onto a lobby. “No one has to wait in the hallways,” says Ms. Patton. Even though multiple simulations are probably taking place, students can relax, checking the video monitor to see when they need to be ready.

Much of what’s in the Center had previously been dispersed over two floors of Rowland Hall and at Evans Hall. In 2010, Kenneth Veit, DO ’76, MBA, provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, asked stakeholders to consider “what it would take to put everything under one roof,” says Ms. Patton. Today, the Center’s wide hallways literally and figuratively bring together students in the DO, PA and Psychology programs—a big goal for us,” according to Ms. Patton. “We wanted to be open to outside institutions too. We needed to be easily accessible and visitor-friendly.

The welcoming environment coexists with careful quality control. For instance, there are two cameras in each clinical exam room, one fixed and one pan-tilt-zoom. Those watching from the control room can see the students without themselves being seen. Camera operators can ensure that students don’t inadvertently block with their bodies what their teachers need to view.

The Center is positioned to become a key site of transition between the classroom and the field—a “great bridge,” says Dr. Sesso. “To help students associate lecture material with clinical content. Many simulation labs only teach how to insert an IV or central line. But we’re using simulations to reinforce basic science concepts, which constantly challenges students.” Dr. Sesso likens the simulations to what happens when pilots undergo recertification: “You put them in a cockpit and increase wind shear. Now what will they do? No two simulations are alike, and you can run a different scenario each time.”

The demand is already expanding. “A lot of people want to use sim labs off hours—after rotation or before going into hospital. Students don’t want to cut class, but they want to get in,” says Dr. Sesso. “We start early in the morning,” agrees Ms. Patton, “and Psychology students come in the evenings; staff may be here until 9:30 at night. Ultimately we may be running 24/7.”

The Center also houses PCOM’s robust Standardized Patient (SP) program, introduced in the late 1980s. “For example,” explains Ms. Patton, “over a series of sessions, first-year DO students learn exam maneuvers associated with different body parts. Standardized patients meet with an SP trainer, in conjunction with Dr. Morris [Harry Morris, DO ’78, professor and chair, family medicine] and Dr. Becker [Michael A. Becker, DO ’87, vice chairman, family medicine department], so that in two days, the entire class—in groups of four or five students—works with the 17 SPs over 90 minutes to learn the same language and the same maneuvers.” Ms. Patton adds that “students working with SPs may be nervous. For example, a physician assistant who is 22 years old may be asking intimate questions of someone three times his age. But you can’t learn how to be confident online!”

Still under development is a “disaster room,” a part of the floor that “looks like a bomb hit it,” says Michael C. Saltzburg, DO ’77 (see sidebar). This area will show DOs how first responders extricate people from car wrecks, or what skills might be needed in a pandemic or terrorist event that results in multiple casualties. “We’re seeing new things as physicians,” says Dr. Sesso. “It’s not just the hospital or trauma center that will have to deal with a contagious outbreak and quarantine.”

Along those lines, Dr. Sesso continues, the Clinical Learning & Assessment Center aims “to train doctors to do their part and to work with co-professionals. The doctor used to be the central figure; now you have nurse practitioners, paramedics and physician assistants. The team concept has never been more important than it is today. I don’t see another medical school program that’s dedicated to the integration of all these medical practitioners.”

When Michael C. Saltzburg, DO ’77, was a student at PCOM, he recalls, “Everything was on paper, or Netter’s drawings or slides. And we learned to insert IVs by practicing on each other.” With a gift of $1 million to endow the Clinical Learning & Assessment Center, Dr. Saltzburg and his wife, Wendy, have ensured that PCOM not only stays current, but leads in offering cutting-edge technology for teaching today’s students.

Among the beneficiaries is the Saltzburgs’ youngest daughter, Lauren, a fifth-year student earning combined DO/MBA/MA in Healthcare Administration and Ethics degrees. “She and her classmates were just in the Center last week, along with some students from Jefferson,” Dr. Saltzburg notes with pride on all fronts. The Saltzburgs see their exceptionally generous gift as a tangible expression of gratitude for what Dr. Saltzburg’s medical school training has meant for their family’s lives.

An orthopedist, Dr. Saltzburg began his practice in sports medicine in Philadelphia, and then moved to the Altoona area. He continues to practice three days a week—the fourth day is for paperwork,” he notes wryly—performing minimally invasive procedures and orthopedic pain management.

Dr. Saltzburg learned about PCOM’s plans for the Clinical Learning & Assessment Center in conversations with Matthew Schure, president and chief executive officer, and Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean. In 2010, a gift from Dr. Saltzburg had enabled the College to acquire the InsightArthro VR System Simulator. Originally housed on the fifth floor of Rowland Hall, it has a training room of its own in the new Center.
REMEMBERING
Herbert Lotman, LLD (Hon.)
Former Chairman, PCOM Board of Trustees by David McKay Wilson

Herbert Lotman, LLD (Hon.), the food-industry pioneer, philanthropist and former Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Trustees chairman who passed away on May 8, was a humble man apt to introduce himself as “just a butcher.”

Mr. Lotman, who died at age 80 from complications of heart failure, is remembered at the College as the leader who helped breathe new life into PCOM in the mid-1990s and transform it into a multi-disciplinary institution that thrived under his chairmanship. He served on PCOM’s Board of Trustees from 1990 to 2014, and chaired the panel from 1992 to 2004.

“Herb rejuvenated the institution and secured its future,” says Matthew Schure, PhD, president and CEO. “There were tough decisions to be made at that time, and it was a difficult period in the institution’s history. Yet there is no question that we made the right decisions—both fiscally and academically.”
Mr. Lotman headed the Board when PCOM owned two hospitals: City Avenue Hospital and Parkview Hospital. Both were in dire financial straits and required financial assistance from the College to remain afloat. Mr. Lotman spearheaded the drive to sell the healthcare facilities. Once the College no longer had to subsidize the hospitals, PCOM was able to expand its mission to include graduate studies in biomedical sciences and psychology. The College was also able to strengthen clinical learning opportunities for students through the five established Healthcare Centers.

Mr. Lotman chaired the Board during the years when College officials developed plans to build a branch campus in Suwanee, Georgia, where construction began in 2005.

He was also a driving force behind the turnaround of the PCOM Foundation, the College’s endowment fund, which bottomed out at $11 million in 1993 during the financial crisis with the hospitals PCOM subsequently sold. By 2004, the endowment had reached $81 million, and it exceeds $200 million in 2014.

“He kick-started the PCOM Foundation,” says Paul W. McGloin, CPA, LLD (Hon.), who succeeded Mr. Lotman as Board chairman in 2004. “It was tough sledding in the early days, and Herb was able to gather the support of the Board, alumni and faculty. We’ve been going in the same direction ever since.”

Mr. Lotman was an affable fellow who could work a room with his big smile, quick wit and a big hug for those he knew well. And he was always engaged in philanthropy. Mr. Lotman’s personal gifts to PCOM made him one of the College’s most generous benefactors since its founding more than a century ago. In 1997, a large gift from the Lotmans named the Gertrude and Samuel Lotman Lobby in Evans Hall.

Mr. Lotman, who got his start in business in his family’s wholesale beef company in Philadelphia, developed the cryogenics system for frozen hamburgers that revolutionized McDonald’s international fast-food empire. In the 1980s, his company was involved in creating the Chicken McNuggets meal, which became one of the fast-food chain’s huge successes.

His company, Keystone Food Corporation, became the largest privately held meat-products company in the United States. Keystone was providing meat, poultry and fish to 28,000 restaurants in 13 countries at the time of its sale in 2010.

Mr. Lotman became involved in the College through his wife, Karen Levin Lotman, whose family has longstanding ties to PCOM. Several Levins received their medical training at PCOM, including Abraham N. Levin, DO ’35; Jacob M. Levin, DO ’35; Samuel I. Levin, DO ’35; and Joel L. Levin, DO ’69.

The College’s Levin Administration Building, housed in the early 20th-century Tudor Revival mansion, was renovated in 1997 with the financial support of the Lotmans, and named in honor of the Levin family. To further commemorate the long family ties the Levin family has with PCOM, Mr. and Mrs. Lotman donated portraits of Mrs. Lotman’s father, brother and two uncles that hang in the lobby of the building.

“I continue to be in awe of the beauty in the mansion, which was transformed through the Lotmans’ philanthropy,” says Dr. Schure. “I’ve been awed by the beauty since its transformation.”

Mr. Lotman’s community involvement and philanthropy has touched individuals around the world. He co-founded the McDonald’s LPGA Championship, a major women’s professional golf tournament, which has raised $48 million for the Ronald McDonald House Charities since its inception in 1985. He and his wife also founded the Macula Vision Research Foundation, which provides funding to scientists working to cure retinal and macular diseases.

He also served on the boards of the Children’s Cancer Research Foundation and the International Board of the Ronald McDonald’s House Charities, and supported the revival of Philadelphia’s Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia.

At PCOM, Mr. Lotman brought his business acumen, financial discipline and graciousness to the boardroom. His understanding of PCOM’s operation, however, wasn’t reliant solely on what he’d read in reports or heard at meetings. He’d often speak with students to get direct feedback on the school’s direction.

“He’d listen to everybody’s concerns, and you’d know quickly whether he agreed or disagreed,” says Mr. McGloin. “Herb was interested in making sure that the College got the recognition it deserved and instilled a sense of pride in the institution.”

Any differences in perspective around the board table did not extend to his personal relationships. Dr. Schure recalls the time when he learned that his son was hospitalized overseas, and the Schure family had flown there to be by his side. Upon his arrival on foreign soil, the PCOM president picked up a phone message from Mr. Lotman, assuring Dr. Schure that he had connections in that country, and if the Schures needed help they should call him immediately.

“That was Herb’s nature,” says Dr. Schure. “Your well-being mattered to him. He was a business genius, and he also had a deep concern for his colleagues and their families. It’s rare to find all those characteristics in one individual. We found them in Herb.”

Mr. Lotman’s survivors include his wife, Karen; his sister, Marlene Weinberg; his children Shelly Fisher and her husband, Scot Fisher, DO ’82, and Jeff Lotman and his wife, Therese Lotman; and five grandchildren.
am incredibly humbled to receive the O. J. Snyder Memorial Medal,” says Matthew Schure, PhD. “This honor marks the pinnacle of my career. I share it with the entire Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine community.”

Dr. Schure’s outstanding career epitomizes the values embraced by the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal. He has served PCOM for 13 years as a visionary president and chief executive officer, advancing Mission-centered instructional, research and service outcomes as well as the goals of a College community that is recognized for its academic excellence and collegiality.

Early in his tenure, Dr. Schure initiated a community-based strategic planning process charged with identifying institutional goals that would reaffirm the College’s Mission and exploit its strengths. The resulting plan, which is evaluated annually, was integrated into operational planning and has enabled the College not only to survive the changing tides of state and local government funding, healthcare reform and other external changes and challenges, but to flourish. Plan accountability and transparency has led to commendations from accrediting bodies. At the same time, the plan has perpetuated a culture of inclusiveness—a sense of community about which Dr. Schure is so proud.

“There is tremendous strength within our community,” says Dr. Schure. “From our energy and resolve, we have been able to envision the enormity of that which was possible and, through our strategic planning processes, achieve it for ourselves and for those we serve. The PCOM community deserves great thanks. So, too, does the PCOM Board of Trustees;
the Board has shown unwavering support and has modeled the civility and respect that distinguishes our College.”

Among the major strategic priorities of Dr. Schure’s tenure has been growth at the College—both in scope and size. Master’s degree programs in organizational development and leadership and forensic medicine were added in 2001 and 2002, respectively. In 2002, the Psychology Department expanded to include school psychology programs. Six dual-track degree programs were extended as options for students from the osteopathic medical program as well as students in the graduate programs and from partnering institutions. Strategic partnerships—from “home base” clinical teaching fellowship partnerships increased.

“There is tremendous strength within our community”

– Dr. Schure

In 2005, the College opened its branch campus in Suwanee, Georgia, with a focus on helping to fill the need for more healthcare professionals in the South. Today, Georgia Campus – PCOM offers professional doctoral degree programs in osteopathic medicine and pharmacy, and master’s degree programs in biomedical sciences and organizational leadership and development. A physician assistant program will be added to the campus’s graduate program offerings; it will be developed in phases and is anticipated to be fully Georgia-based in 2016.

Facility expansion has been manifested in many forms. In 2001, the College purchased the former City Avenue Hospital. The building was razed, and the College sold a parcel of land to neighbor WPVI Channel 6. Investment income from the sale has been used for need-based student scholarships; the remaining acres will accommodate future construction.

The Center for the Chronic Disorders of Aging, supported in part by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, was created in 2003 to enhance basic science and clinical research at the College. In 2008, the Food and Allergy Research Initiative was created. In 2012, a chief scientific officer was appointed with the task of bolstering research processes and procedures and identifying research opportunities within the College and beyond.

Competency-based assessment as a method to train students was propelled by the College’s acquisition of a full-body, programmable human patient simulator, METI HPS, in 2003. Today, an 11,000-square-foot Clinical Learning and Assessment Center—a $2,352,000 leading-edge instructional technology and state-of-the-art management system—is the most recent investment for the training of future osteopathic physicians and health professionals.

Sound fiscal management practices instituted by the Board and PCOM’s administrative team have also sanctioned bold action; by aligning strategic objectives with business plans, the College has been able to suppress the rate of tuition increases for more than a decade—from a high that approached 10 percent to a consistent level close to 3 percent. At the same time, the College has built its endowment from $80 million to over $250 million during two recessionary periods and maintained a balanced budget with a substantial surplus for nearly a decade. The Fund for PCOM has grown from a baseline of $300,000 to a reliable $1 million unrestricted annual fund program. Standard & Poor’s has consistently cited the College’s efforts with a bond rating of A+.

Prior to his work at PCOM, Dr. Schure spent 30 years at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), an institution that his father, Alexander Schure, PhD, founded and led. Dr. Schure held a variety of positions at NYIT including professor of behavioral sciences, associate dean for academic assessment, chair of the department of community medicine and several top administrative posts before becoming NYIT president and chief executive officer in 1991.

A native of Queens, New York, Dr. Schure has been married to his wife, Judy, for 40 years. The couple has two children, Jared and Deborah, and three grandchildren.
From the cockpit of a U.S. Navy fighter jet to the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine campus, Matthew V. Speicher, DO ’14 has always been committed to helping people and “leaving a place better than I found it.”

As a Navy combat aviator, Dr. Speicher was deployed to the Persian Gulf during Operation Iraqi Freedom, flying missions deep into northern Iraq to provide close air support to U.S. ground troops. “Our goal was to make sure they got home safely,” he says.

He was drawn to the world of medicine, in part, by the flight surgeons who provided care to his colleagues, and by his family. “The flight surgeons were extremely selfless people and I was inspired by them, as well as by my wife’s experiences as a nurse,” he recalls. “The things she was doing to help people every day really struck a chord with me.”

A U.S. Navy scholarship student, Dr. Speicher has used the leadership skills he learned in the Navy to serve his fellow PCOM students and the community at large. While serving as class president and DO Council member, he organized and managed logistics for First Philly Physicals, an annual event in which medical students, under the supervision of attending physicians, provide free sports physical exams to inner-city high school athletes. Dr. Speicher and 250 of his classmates performed about 850 comprehensive physical exams in one day. The volunteers screened for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), which carries a high incidence of sudden death, especially in young athletes, and performed EKGs for every high school athlete. For those suspected of having HCM, echocardiograms were also conducted.

Dr. Speicher was invited to serve on the PCOM Faculty Curriculum Committee, which is currently restructuring the first two years of academic coursework at the College. During his year of service, Dr. Speicher reviewed courses, surveyed students, presented a comprehensive report of his findings to the committee and helped to rewrite syllabi.

Dr. Speicher was also selected to serve as a student member of the PCOM Admissions Committee. “Having the opportunity to review applications and interview applicants has given me a new appreciation for the incredibly talented students who are coming to PCOM,” he says.

“I’m happy that I have had opportunities to help my fellow students and the College,” adds Dr. Speicher, who plans to continue his Navy career by pursuing emergency medicine. “PCOM has a long tradition of training incredible doctors, and I’m honored to be part of it.”
When someone asks for help, Jason O. Milton, DO ’14, PharmD, MBA (GA–PCOM), likes to say “yes.” Whether it involves tutoring a fellow student, assisting people in the community or providing leadership for school organizations, Dr. Milton believes it’s important to step up to the plate.

At GA–PCOM, his first big “yes” came during his first year when he helped to establish a community outreach initiative with Rainbow Village, a transitional housing community in Gwinnett County for homeless families with children. Most heads of household at Rainbow Village are women who have fled lives of domestic violence and poverty. The organization’s goal is to provide assistance to these families to help break the cycles of homelessness, poverty, and domestic abuse.

“Rainbow Village is a relatively small organization with a large impact,” says Dr. Milton. “They provide families with a safe place to live, job placement services for parents and child care. When we met with them, I saw that there were many people in our community in need, and we had the manpower to help.”

GA–PCOM’s support for Rainbow Village began with the DO program and soon became a school-wide initiative. Together, students in various academic programs have organized numerous fundraisers and provided partial staffing for the organization’s after-school program.

“It is very important to be involved in your community,” says Dr. Milton, who has also served as co-chair of GA–PCOM’s Relay for Life and supported the Wounded Warrior Project through fundraising and advocacy events, among other community efforts. And as a U.S. Navy scholarship student, he served as president of GA–PCOM’s chapter of the Student Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. During his tenure, he was instrumental in coordinating efforts for the organization’s national meeting, which was hosted by GA–PCOM on campus. Military physicians from all over the world came together with medical students from across the country to discuss issues and opportunities in military medicine. “Rarely does a military scholarship student have the chance to sit down at a table with admirals, generals, captains and colonels in an informal situation where you can ask anything you want,” observes Dr. Milton, who plans a Navy career as an active duty physician in neurosurgery with special interests in neurocritical care and trauma.

As president of GA–PCOM’s chapter of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association, Dr. Milton emphasizes the importance of advocating for the profession. “I jumped into the DO program feet first, and have become an advocate not just of GA–PCOM, but of the profession.”
In the pages that follow, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine community expresses its appreciation to Matthew Schure, PhD, seventh president and chief executive officer, for his consummate service to the institution. During his tenure he helped to guide the College with steadfastness and vision. His accomplishments are now a legacy, a part of the great tradition of PCOM.

At the same time, the community welcomes Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, as the College’s eighth president and chief executive officer. The College community is inspired by the promise of possibility his tenure will bring.
“Dr. Schure has always been a strong supporter of the research efforts at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine—ever willing to help promote our work and share his enthusiasm for our novel approaches to Alzheimer’s disease and other research within the Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging remains outstanding. But even more impressive to me is Dr. Schure’s compassion and humanity for everyone in the institution. He is always welcoming, positive and supportive. I will never forget how he reached out to me with great concern and caring a number of years ago when I was suffering through some issues with my eyes. His empathy was and is palpable, a great gift to me and our entire community—an enduring legacy.”

– Brian J. Balin, PhD
Professor of Pathology and Microbiology, Department of Bio-Medical Sciences, and Director of the Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging

“Thank you, Dr. Schure, for your inspiration and vision for the health of our country. I have been grateful for your commitment to the advancement of osteopathic medicine, your sincere support of my endeavors and your desire to shine a light on the PCOM community. Thank you for your warm spirit and bright smile.”

– Jay Bhatt, DO ’08, MPH, MPA, FACP
Managing Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health; Internist, Erie Family Health Center; and Physician, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

“Great leaders are unique and rare; they possess multiple qualities. They are effective communicators, listeners and motivators. Great leaders are trustworthy, responsible and organized; they possess a vision for the future and are guided daily by their beliefs and convictions. Matthew Schure, PhD, has all of these qualities and characteristics and so many more. I have had the great pleasure, despite living and practicing in Bedford, Pennsylvania, of meeting, working with and discussing many topics with Dr. Schure regarding osteopathic medicine and its future. Dr. Schure will always have my respect as a great leader of my alma mater, and even more so, as my friend.”

– Elliott J. Bilofsky, DO ’87, FAOCO
Otolaryngologist, Head and Neck Surgeon; Director of Medical Education, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center – Bedford Memorial, Everett, Pennsylvania

“What I appreciate the most about Dr. Schure is the fact that he knew me by name from the first time he came to visit Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. I was a member of the campus’s inaugural class, and while it was an exciting time in the College’s history, it was also a challenging time. Dr. Schure made numerous visits to GA–PCOM and always wanted to hear my class's feedback. He celebrated our successes and listened and responded to our concerns. He was genuine in all his interactions and was clearly invested in the success of GA–PCOM—and in each of us as individual students.”

– Debbie Bjork, DO ’10 (GA–PCOM)
Mental Healthcare Professional, Blythewood, South Carolina

“Matthew Schure as president and chief executive officer has been a blessing for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. His vision, leadership, sensitivity and creativity have catapulted the institution into a class by itself. Those of us who have served with him in various roles can and should feel proud that we are part of his legacy. I wish him—and his family—continued blessings, peace of mind and happiness as this journey ends and a new one begins.”

– J. Steven Blake, DO ’89, MSc, FACOI
President and CEO, Blake Gastroenterology Associates, LLC; Member, PCOM Board of Trustees

“I have been associated with Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine since the early 1980s, first as a student and a resident and later as a faculty mentor and a member of the surgical residency training team. In some ways this was a difficult time for PCOM as needing what osteopathic medicine could bring to improve primary care. The College already had in place discussions of the next step in expanded health care education.

When I look back to find the catalyst for change and the resolve to support it happening, a common thread is revealed. Dr. Schure joined PCOM during my hiatus. I had returned to a campus under his leadership that had grown strong, reached out and advanced, understood needs and took the steps necessary to make things happen. PCOM is where it is now in no small measure because of Dr. Schure. Though he will never really leave the “PCOM family” and is only increasing our daily distance apart, he can be assured that those of us left behind remain on his solid ground.”

– H. William Craver III, DO ’87
Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Osteopathic Medical Program, GA–PCOM

“Many adjectives are used to describe leaders: focused, inspiring, determined, visionary. But seldom do we hear about leaders being gracious. That was the first characteristic that struck me when I started working with Matt Schure. Our paths might cross several times a day in meetings and other campus events, and each time Matt would extend his hand to offer a genuine welcome. It was to say, ‘I am glad you are here.’ He always meant it, and he still does. As we worked together on the Strategic Plan, Georgia Campus – PCOM and endless accreditation reviews, I learned the true definition of a warmly inclusive collegial management style.”

With Gratitude . . .
When I would drop off a draft document, Matt’s review was always painstakingly complete, but also amazingly prompt. Even my most verbose narratives were treated to a detailed review—not in days or weeks, but within hours. It is just another way that Matt shows thanks and respect for the work that has been done by his team.

Differences of opinion are a part of life in academia. To Matt, they are an opportunity to listen and find common ground. From his example, I learned the difference between management and leadership. I have also learned that the rarest and most valuable talent of a leader is that ability to develop other leaders. Thank you, Matt. It’s been an honor.”

– Robert G. Cuzzolino, EdD
Vice President for Graduate Programs and Planning

“Matt has been instrumental in providing vision and strategic direction for the past 13 years at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and deserves the accolades that accompany those feats. In addition to his work accomplishments, I have observed and appreciated another side of our president. From day one, I have observed Matt to be a very compassionate individual who truly cares about others. He takes the time from his duties to personally reach out to members of the PCOM community to congratulate them, to offer words of encouragement, to send get well wishes or condolences. It is most impressive that during the times we live in, when everyone is quick to send an electronic message, Matt continues to take the time to handwrite eloquent notes with sincere and heartfelt content. Matt will be truly missed.”

– Peter Doulis, CPA
Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

“I am honored to have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Schure during a good part of his tenure at PCOM. Shortly after arrival, he initiated a new strategic planning process, setting the course of the College for the next decade. Many good ideas were formulated—particularly opening a branch campus. So it began: initial planning, the purchase of property, hiring of faculty and staff, and finally the acceptance of the first class of DO students. The challenges were many, but with Dr. Schure’s guidance, GA–PCOM has continued to grow and thrive.

At the same time, the main campus in Philadelphia is stronger than ever. I’ve watched the College’s academic programs continue to grow over the years, and I’ve witnessed Dr. Schure’s commitment to the success of each one. The reputation of PCOM on both a local and national level has never been better. Dr. Schure will be missed by all; however, he leaves a strong foundation upon which the College can begin the next chapter in its history.”

– Carol A. Fox, MM
Retired Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

“Dr. Schure’s commitment to social justice and his integrity were never more apparent to me than at the College’s first Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Ceremony. I watched him embrace alumni and award recipients with genuine affection and respect. Speaking with him after the event, it was clear that creating an inclusive environment at PCOM and laying the groundwork so that we could continue this work were very important to him. Although I have always respected Dr. Schure as an effective leader and a genuinely caring individual, that night solidified my sense of him as an individual of values and vision. He leaves PCOM a stronger, better institution for having graced us with his leadership.”

– Elizabeth A. Gosch, PhD, ABPP
Professor and Director, MS Program in Mental Health Psychology

“Dr. Schure stood by me during one of the most difficult times in my life, offering insight and guidance at a time when I needed it most. He is a mentor in the truest sense of the word.”

– Robert C. Greer V, DO ’12 (GA–PCOM)

“At the time when Dr. Schure became president, I was serving as a student council class representative. I was organizing a fundraiser for which my group was having afghans made and adorned with the school seal. It was my job to obtain Dr. Schure’s permission to allow usage of the school seal. When I met Dr. Schure in his office, he graciously signed the required paperwork. Then, without hesitation, he wrote a check to purchase the first afghan. I knew at that moment that he had a big heart, and I trusted that he would make a great leader for the College.”

– Carl Hoegerl, DO ’01
Chair of Internal Medicine, Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine

“From the moment I met Matt Schure, I realized his exemplary leadership as he transformed the vision of the PCOM community, having an Office of Diversity and Compliance. Since my arrival at PCOM, Matt has been truly amazing; he has welcomed me into the community with open arms and supported the ideas and initiatives of my office. I would like to offer this message to Matt: Best wishes for your retirement. May you enjoy it even more than you enjoyed your time at PCOM. Thank you for being an excellent role model and mentor to all of us.”

– Lisa M. McBride, PhD
Chief Diversity Officer

“I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Matt Schure, PhD, since 2000, when he first came to us from New York. I was in charge of the selection committee that picked Matt, and having grown up in New York, and being familiar with his former school, I felt a certain kin-
ship right from the beginning. I have watched Matt grow in his abilities, and I have been impressed by his insightful intuition when handling challenges and confrontations as well as opportunities and great successes. He has done this all while building a larger, more successful, more diverse and more dynamic institution than the one that was here when he first arrived. He achieved all this without losing sight of the responsibility to his family and his extended family—the students, teachers and staff here at PCOM.”

– Paul W. McGloin, LLD (Hon.)
Chairman, PCOM Board of Trustees

“In the midst of economic uncertainty and unprecedented changes in the field of medicine, Dr. Schure has the unique ability to bring a sense of peace and reassurance simply in the way in which he interacts with students and faculty. He has truly left an indelible impression of integrity and compassion within the student body and the whole PCOM family.”

– Valerie L. Moore (DO ’15)

“I view Dr. Schure as a living example of a servant leader. God and our abundant universe brought Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine the right person at the right time in Dr. Schure. He is a tremendous husband, father and educator. I am so proud to call him my friend.”

– Luke G. Nelligan, DO ’91
Physician, Excell for Life Family Care and Pediatrics, Indianapolis, Indiana; Past President, Alumni Association of PCOM

“I have always been inspired by Dr. Schure’s focus on community. I do my best to uphold his philosophy here in the School of Pharmacy—that PCOM faculty, staff, administration and students are more than just an organization. We are like family and are bonded by a common goal to educate and train so as to improve the quality of life for all those we serve.”

– Mark P. Okamoto, PharmD
Dean and Chief Academic Officer and Professor of Pharmacy, PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus

“After the PCOM Board of Trustees made a commitment to open Georgia Campus – PCOM, it soon fell to Dr. John Fleischmann and me to help introduce Dr. Schure to the various mores and folkways of Pennsylvania’s sister state. Seeking to reassure Dr. Schure that he’d fit right in, I reminded him that Benjamin Franklin had been agent for the Colony of Georgia from 1768 to 1774; he seemed sufficiently impressed, even inspired. Our most challenging times were always trying to explain the unique ‘culture’ of the state capital, where politics are more art than science—and in helping Dr. Schure navigate the culinary delights of the region, particularly the sweet tea and the ‘meat and three’ menus of the wiregrass and swamps of far South Georgia. Invariably, he’d simply flash that trademark grin and shake his head in disbelief. Yet beyond diet and dialect, I learned early that Dr. Schure did translate well in Georgia, where his tremendous love for students, personal integrity, strong faith and unwavering commitment to the PCOM vision have helped to build a legacy of which ol’ Ben would surely be proud. Blessings, Mr. President!”

– Mark Sanders
Georgia Government Relations Counsel

“A leader, a motivator, a friend—Dr. Schure always opened his door to the entire community, and to us, the students, he opened his heart.”

– Mike Tecce (DO ’15)

“Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine has been most fortunate to have the right president at the right time. Each president has brought his unique skill set to the school for growth and expansion and at times, survival. Matt has been the right president for PCOM for the past 13 years. He has brought experience and intelligence to navigate the College into its current multi-campus, multi-program environment, positioning us well for the next decade of future challenges and growth.”

– Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA
Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean
Along the road of life, if we’re lucky, we encounter a most unique and special human being who has a profound influence on us. For me, Matthew Schure, PhD, president and chief executive officer, is that person. I remember the day I first met him. I thought, “Wow, this guy really has it together. He knows what he’s doing. He’s got a great vision.” And he has proven that over and over again during his tenure at PCOM. What he has accomplished in a relatively short period of time is amazing. But what is even more remarkable is the way he has done it.

Matt is not only the quintessential leader but also the quintessential human being. He has tremendous resolve to do what’s best for the organization while at the same time caring deeply about people—and that is really his legacy. Matt develops individual relationships with people. I swear he knows every faculty and staff member on campus by first name, and probably most of the students, too. He never hesitates to say thank you and recognize people for their accomplishments. All the while, he stays in the background and never seems to take credit for all that he’s done to put the College in the wonderful position it’s in.

Matt has had his finger on the pulse of everything that is important for the success of the College. His absolute commitment to the students and to the staff has been really critical in terms of helping us move forward as an institution. He’s respectful, positive, encouraging, compassionate, accepting and giving of his time, always making himself available to assist with whatever you need.

I think back to the times when our programs were undergoing accreditation by the American Psychological Association and National Association of School Psychologists and then reaccreditation. Matt has always been there to speak on our behalf, to show his support for the programs, to do whatever we needed him to do. He will read a 300- or 400-page document page by page, line by line, and when you get it back, you know he’s read it because it’s populated with little yellow sticky notes indicating his questions and comments. He is passionate about what he’s doing, and that’s infectious.

Matt’s level of commitment, caring, spirituality, leadership and integrity is completely unmatched. Over the years, when we’ve had faculty who were ill or had a family member who was ill or lost a family member, I’ve sent a memo to our faculty and administration to let them know. Matt would call me and say, “Bob, do you think it would be okay if I reached out to that person?” And then he would. That’s just part of who he is. When he says he walks life’s journey with us, he truly means it.

Matt has been someone we absolutely treasure. He has inspired us and served as a role model whom we all try to emulate in our lives.
Just three years out of residency, David Kuo, DO ‘96, was a bit intimidated when first examining a certain new patient at the PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Division.

The patient was Matthew Schure, PhD, PCOM president and CEO, who has made it a practice to seek his primary care within the College’s four urban Healthcare Centers. There, in the community-based centers, fourth-year medical students work on eight-week rotations under the supervision of PCOM faculty, honing clinical skills while healing some of Philadelphia’s most underserved populations.

On his preliminary exam of Dr. Shure, Dr. Kuo recalls, he was so nervous that he forgot to take Dr. Schure’s blood pressure. He did better in a subsequent physical exam when he detected a nodule on Dr. Schure’s prostate. Dr. Kuo grew more concerned when he saw that the College president’s PSA levels, while still within the normal range, had doubled in a year.

He referred Dr. Schure to a urologist, who, following the analysis of a biopsy, confirmed Dr. Kuo’s suspicions. Dr. Schure consequently underwent successful treatment for prostate cancer at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

During the time of his cancer diagnosis, treatment and over the years, Dr. Kuo’s patient has become his mentor as well. “I remain Dr. Schure’s physician, and he still calls me for curbside consults,” says Dr. Kuo. “It has been affirming to have him as an advocate, and nice to have him bounce things off me.”

Dr. Schure has also used his annual physical exam as an opportunity to turn the tables in the physician-patient relationship, and to inquire about the challenges Dr. Kuo faces in his practice and personal life.

“He’d sit there for 15 minutes, asking me about how I was doing,” recalls Dr. Kuo. “That’s the big thing with him—he’s a genuine and kind person. He cares about the whole person; he naturally embraces and acts the Mission of our College.”

Once, Dr. Kuo told Dr. Schure that he felt stressed by all the paperwork his job required. He also acknowledged that he’d often take his charts home and retire to his home office after dinner, while his young children cavorted around the house.

“Dr. Schure cautioned that I needed to spend more time with my family and my kids, before they grew up,” Dr. Kuo recalls. “I heard him, and really took his message to heart. Now, I say it to co-workers and patients all the time. I still need to do work at home, but I wait until the kids are in bed.”

Dr. Kuo’s duties at the Healthcare Center, which once required him to be active in clinical situations five days a week, have diminished as he now serves as assistant dean for graduate medical education and runs PCOM’s family medicine residency program.

“Dr. Schure still asks me about my job, and we talk about various medical education issues and approaches,” Dr. Kuo says. “I often ask him about how best to handle things and how to manage those tough situations in the workplace. He gives me the best suggestions off the cuff. I am truly going to miss Dr. Schure—my mentor and friend—in his retirement.”
When I joined Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine a year and a half ago, one of the first things I noticed was the family feel of the College. Much of this is driven by the leadership and dynamic that Matthew Schure, PhD, president and chief executive officer, brings to the table. He really has created a “culture of family” at PCOM, and I think that’s a true hallmark of his presidency.

Just having a conversation with Matt, you can see that he’s very focused on the individual he’s talking to at the moment. He recognizes every individual’s value and worth with a great deal of sincerity. As he visits GA-PCOM often, it’s fascinating to watch the president of the institution walking around and calling people by name—people who have been here for some time, and new hires as well. He has a great capacity for recalling people and their families and their special circumstances that he’s come to know.

Over the past few years, we’ve experienced tragedies at GA–PCOM—among them, the death of a faculty member and the death of a student. Each time, the empathy and sympathy that Matt expressed touched a lot of folks here. Students, faculty and staff were moved by the way he sincerely reached out in such a compassionate way.

After the tragic loss of a student, Matt flew down late one afternoon from Philadelphia and arrived just in time for the memorial service. He spent time with the family and then had to fly back early the next morning to meet a commitment. The fact that the president took time to come all the way down here for the memorial service was recognized by the students as “awesome.” He was not asked to speak; he was just here, and that made a difference.

Last year when we lost a beloved faculty member, John Kermode, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Matt reached out to his family numerous times. Just the day before he passed away, Dr. Kermode had been recognized by PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus as Professor of the Year for the second year in a row. Matt recognized the loss that his passing represented to the students. The next time he was on campus not long after, he made every effort to reach out to the students and talk with them about Dr. Kermode and the impact he had had on their lives. Matt was very supportive to faculty members as well.

Another hallmark of Matt’s service as president is his great vision and the bold steps he took to expand PCOM into uncharted territory in the South. Recognizing the significant challenges and need for healthcare education in the Southeast in particular, Matt was, in many ways, the first to drive the ball forward and bring PCOM to Georgia. We are fulfilling the mission he envisioned, leading the way in the number of graduates becoming primary care physicians serving the rural population and the underserved in the inner cities in Georgia and the Southeast. This is a definitive testament to Matt’s vision. His legacy will be looming large for years to come here at GA–PCOM.
Seeds Planted Are Bearing Fruit

A tribute to Dr. Schure and his leadership in Georgia
by John Fleischmann, EdD, MBA, MPA, former founding campus executive officer, Georgia Campus – PCOM

All who have had the good fortune to know Dr. Schure recognize that he has been a positive inspiration and force at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine over the past decade. Matt has been an outstanding leader.

As founding campus executive officer of Georgia Campus – PCOM, I introduced President Schure to the first GA–PCOM DO class in 2005, and my words are as true today as they were almost a decade ago: He is a man of importance, but he is also a man of modesty. He is a man of faith, who understands practical aspects of interpersonal relationships. He is a man who believes in the sacredness of life, who acknowledges the value of a life well lived. He is a man of vision, who has an unclouded view of the potential for osteopathic, pharmacy and biomedical sciences education in the South. He is a considerate man, who values the opinions of others. He is a family man, who glows when considering the accomplishments of family.

When I reflect back to January 2004, and my first six months with PCOM—tasked with the responsibility of finding a location for a branch campus in Georgia—I realize that Matt’s vision of developing a campus that would be capable of evolving from a single-degree to a multi-degree campus was certainly the best strategy for the Georgia initiative. So, rather than acquire a 100,000-square-foot facility, as was originally planned, we acquired a 150,000-square-foot facility with acreage for expansion. The results are self-evident.

Next time you are on campus, I ask you to look about and see all that has been achieved under Dr. Schure’s leadership, including a beautiful campus with state-of-the-art technology; an accomplished faculty and administration that any college would be proud to identify as its own; two accredited doctoral programs; three master’s degree programs; a joint DO/MBA degree program; a vivarium for GA–PCOM research opportunities; three primary care GME programs; and capitation support for post-graduate osteopathic residency positions from the state of Georgia.

All of these accomplishments are focused on effectively addressing critical healthcare needs in Georgia and throughout the southern region. The seeds planted in Gwinnett County are bearing fruit throughout the South. In a region of the country where osteopathic medicine was largely unknown or mischaracterized, we now see osteopathic colleges planned or operating in all but Louisiana, plus GME opportunities that are spreading throughout the region. Those in the know realize that PCOM’s initial efforts in Gwinnett County have certainly not gone unnoticed, and are being emulated.

It is clear that Matt’s good spirit and positive attitude emanate from his family, and especially from his wife, Judy, because as we say in the South, “Az Mamen iz nisht freylekh, no one is freylekh.” This venerable adage has stood the test of time in many of our lives. For those who may not speak Yiddish, the literal interpretation is: “If Mama ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy.”

My benediction for Matt and his family is this: “May God bless and keep safe the Schure family, in all you do, for you have generously given much for the benefit of many. Amen.”

A longer tribute by Dr. Fleischmann appeared in the Gwinnett Daily Post (May 2014). The newspaper has granted permission for this abbreviated piece to be published in Digest Magazine.
Institutional ANNOUNCEMENT

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Welcomes

Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81

as Eighth President and Chief Executive Officer

by Jennifer Schaffer Leone

“I would like to thank the PCOM Board of Trustees and the members of the search committee for the honor to serve as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of my alma mater. I am truly humbled by the opportunity to build on the legacy of PCOM’s history and Mission. This is a dream come true—both professionally and personally.”

– Dr. Feldstein

An alumnus of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, succeeds Matthew Schure, PhD, as the institution’s eighth president and chief executive officer.

Dr. Feldstein holds an impressive record of success in healthcare management. Since 2010, he has served as President, Northern Division, Pennsylvania Managed Care Plans, at AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies.

He has worked as Corporate Chief Medical Officer/Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer/Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs at AmeriHealth Caritas; as Senior Medical Director, Mid-Atlantic region, and Director, Network Medical, Southern New Jersey/Delaware division at Aetna; as Medical Director at Concentra Health Center; as President/Chief Executive Officer at Occupational Health Resources, Inc.; as Founder/President/Medical Director at Spectracare Occupational Health Services; and as a physician and board member at Doctors for Emergency Services.

Dr. Feldstein earned his bachelor’s degree from Penn State University and his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from PCOM. He completed his residency in emergency medicine at the Medical Center of Delaware and his internship at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, now part of the Kennedy Health System, in Stratford, New Jersey. He is board certified in emergency medicine and occupational medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

The naming of Dr. Feldstein as president and chief executive officer completes a 13-month presidential search process at the College.
Surgeon Busts the Myths

The co-authors of Breast Symposium. He and his wife, Joyce, augmentation mastopexy at the AACS on his I.D.E.A.L. Breast Lift for simultaneous the Breast program; he shared his experiences (fall 2013), as part of the Aesthetic Surgery of Surgery (AACS) World Congress in New York speaker at the American Academy of Cosmetic in cosmetic breast surgery, served as a guest plastic and reconstructive surgeon specializing now continues at RowanSOM as a clinical professor of medicine, teaching rheumatology.

Ted S. Eisenberg, DO, Merion Station, PA, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon specializing in cosmetic breast surgery, served as a guest speaker at the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (AACS) World Congress in New York (fall 2013), as part of the Aesthetic Surgery of the Breast program; he shared his experiences performing more than 5,000 breast augmentations. In January 2014, he presented a lecture on his I.D.E.A.L. Breast Lift for simultaneous augmentation mastopexy at the AACS Breast Symposium. He and his wife, Joyce, co-authors of The Scoop on Breasts: A Plastic Surgeon busts the Myths, were interviewed by Dr. Manny Alvarez on Fox News Health on the topic of “What You Need to Know About Breast Implants.” The couple also appeared on CBS-3’s Talk Philly for an interview with Pat Ciarrocchi about breast health and mammograms.


Robert A. Eslinger, DO, Reno, NV, is the medical director at Reno Integrative Medical Center. Dr. Eslinger co-authored the article “GC Protein-Derived Macrophage-Activating Factor Decreases N-Acetylgalactosaminidase Levels in Advanced Cancer Patients,” published in OncoImmunology (August 2013). His work is cutting-edge research in advanced cancer treatment.

Fizul H. Bacchus, PhD, DO, Dover, DE, is the owner and chief executive officer of Adolescent Medicine General Pediatrics & Allergy PA. Dr. Bacchus was given medical staff recognition by Bayhealth Medical Center for 25 years of service and active staff privileges. Dr. Bacchus founded the Benjamin Burton MD Pediatrics Department at Bayhealth Medical Center.

Craig J. Lenz, DO, Dothan, AL, delivered the keynote address to Troy University graduates during the fall commencement ceremony for the Dothan Campus held in December 2013.

Earl H. Brinser, DO, Elizabethtown, PA, was appointed regional medical director of Living Independently For Elders (LIFE). LIFE supports individuals 55 and older living safely at home by providing an alternative to nursing home care.

Katherine E. Galluzzi, DO, FACOFF, dist., Cherry Hill, NJ, was the recipient of the Outstanding Female Leader Award presented by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians at the organization’s 51st Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar.

Gretta A. Gross, DO ’97, Warner Robins, GA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians during its Conclave of Fellows Awards Ceremony.

Carol L. Henwood, DO ’83, Pottstown, PA, was inducted as the 61st president of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians at the organization’s 51st Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar.

Craig T. Johnston, Sr., DO ’81, Erie, PA, was the recipient of the 2014 Family Physician of the Year Award presented by the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.

Alexander S. Nicholas, DO ’75, West Chester, PA, was awarded the A.T. Still Medallion by the American Academy of Osteopathy.

Sally Ann Rex, DO ’69, Northampton, PA, was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians during its Conclave of Fellows Award Ceremony.

Stephen L. Burnstein, DO, Marlton, NJ, has retired “after 35 wonderful years” at his rheumatology practice. Dr. Burnstein also served as vice chairman and then chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at RowanSOM (formerly the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—School of Osteopathic Medicine); he now continues at RowanSOM as a clinical professor of medicine, teaching rheumatology.

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CHRISTOPHER L. SNYDER, DO ’98
Aspiring astronaut hopes to seek life on Mars
by Colleen Pelc

More than a decade ago, while following the NASA Mars Rover Project, Dr. Snyder became intrigued by the Mars One Project, a global, not-for-profit private mission with the goal of establishing the first human settlement on Mars in 2023. “In 2013, there was an open call for potential crew members to become the first astronauts to make the journey to the fourth planet. I’ve always wanted to do this, as many others have over the past thousands of years of human evolution,” explains Dr. Snyder. He currently practices family medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Everett, Pennsylvania, as well as serving as the medical review officer for UPMC-Bedford, working with MedExpress Urgent Care and working as a contractor on behalf of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Juvenile Justice System.

“I’ve often dreamed of what it might be like to step foot on and live on another planet,” he says. According to the Mars One Project website, more than 200,000 applicants from 140 countries sought to become project astronauts. In December 2013, only 1,058 applicants were chosen for the second phase of interviews and medical testing—and Dr. Snyder was one of them.

“I am very honored to be on the shortlist for this historical evolutionary leap. I feel like I felt when I was accepted to medical school: one selected among many strong applicants for a select number of seats,” he says. Following the second phase of testing, six teams of four astronauts will be chosen to begin their seven-year training. The first “unmanned mission” will take place in 2018, and starting in 2024, crews of four will begin their nine-month tour of Mars every two years.

Phase I–II clinical research services in specialized patient populations for both inpatient and outpatient settings and will make it the most comprehensive, high-end Phase I organization in the world.

Carol L. Henwood, DO, Pottstown, PA, joined Main Line HealthCare, and opened a new practice, Family Medicine, in Royersford.

Dyanne Westerberg, DO, Glen Mills, PA, was appointed monthly columnist for the new family health section of the Gloucester City News. Dr. Westerberg is the chief of the department of family and community medicine at Cooper University Health Center.

CLASS OF 1984

Ross Contino, DO, Hanover, PA, joined the medical staff at Silver Spring Township–based All-Better Care Urgent Care Center.

CLASS OF 1986

Karen E. Arscott, DO, Waverly, PA, was the keynote speaker at the inaugural Pre-Medical Conference hosted by Misericordia University’s American Medical Student Association. Dr. Arscott is an associate professor of clinical sciences at Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton.

Mark D. Baker, DO, Erie, PA, joined the medical staff at Medical Associates of Erie. Dr. Baker is an assistant clinical professor of family medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

David Carlson, DO, Springfield, IL, was appointed chief physician executive of Hospital Sisters Health System.

Mark E. Moran, DO, Allentown, PA, was named medical director of the Surgery Center of Allentown.

CLASS OF 1987

Michael A. Becker, DO, Blue Bell, PA, was recognized as an Unsung Hero by the American Osteopathic Association, a designation given to “an osteopathic physician who has enhanced the image of osteopathic medicine by living each day as an example of what an osteopathic physician should be.”

Anthony E. DiMarco, DO, Kennett Square, PA, joined Lancaster General Medical Group as the managing physician at Parkesburg Family Medicine. He was also appointed medical director at LG Health Urgent Care–Parkesburg.

Joan M. Gryzbowski, DO, Conshohocken, PA, was recognized as a Guardian of the Profession by the American Osteopathic Association. This award is presented to “an osteopathic physician who demonstrates a strong sense of pride in the osteopathic medical profession and works actively to advance osteopathic medicine.”

Daniel J. Parenti, DO, Philadelphia, PA, was recertified in pulmonary medicine by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.

CLASS OF 1988


12TH ANNUAL NAOMI & BERNARD FISHER, DO ’52 DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Amy K. Wagner, MD, associate professor and vice chair of research, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Pittsburgh, served as the 2014 guest lecturer. Denah Appelt, PhD, professor of neuroscience, Department of Bio-Medical Sciences, PCOM, introduced Dr. Wagner, who proffered a researcher’s perspective on traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Wagner later met with students and faculty for an informal lunch reception.

The Fisher Lectureship was made possible by a gift from the late Bernard Fisher, DO ’52, in memory of his wife, Naomi Fisher. Special thanks to Scot A. Fisher, DO ’82; Lynn Fisher; and Gary Fisher, DO ’73, for maintaining the legacy of their parents with their continued support of this lectureship series.
Mark A. DeMasi, DO, Ocean City, NJ, joined the medical staff at Reliance Medical Group in Pleasantville.

CLASS OF 1989

J. Steven Blake, DO, MSc, Philadelphia, PA, president and chief executive officer, Blake Gastroenterology and Associates, LLC, and member of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Trustees, named a new junior partner, Carmen Anita Sandridge, DO ’02.

CLASS OF 1992

Rocco J. Crescenzo, DO, Norristown, PA, co-authored “Quality of Life (Qol) Among Patients with Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) Treated with Pazopanib Versus Sunitinib in the COMPARZ Study,” Journal of Clinical Oncology 31, 2013 (suppl 6; abstr 346); “Comparison of PFS and Safety for Asian Compared to North American and European Populations in the Phase III Trial of Pazopanib Versus Sunitinib in Patients with Treatment-Naïve RCC (COMPARZ),” Journal of Clinical Oncology 31, 2013 (suppl 6, abstr 366); and “Progression-Free Survival by GCIG Criteria: Analysis of the Secondary Endpoint of the AGO-OVAR16 Trial,” International Journal of Gynecological Cancer 23(8), October 2013 (suppl 1). Dr. Crescenzo also completed an oral presentation at the European Society of Gynecologic Oncology, Liverpool, United Kingdom.

CLASS OF 1993

Diane A. Adams, DO, Erie, PA, joined the obstetric and gynecological staff at Nason Hospital.

Beth Ann Bingaman, DO, Phoenixville, PA, joined the medical staff at Goshen Family Practice, part of Main Line HealthCare.

Michael J. Tozzi, DO, South Hill, VA, joined the medical staff at Halifax Surgical Associates, part of Halifax Regional Health Systems.

CLASS OF 1994

John Green, III, DO, APO, AE, has been promoted to the rank of colonel in the United States Army. Dr. Green is the command surgeon assigned to the Area Support Group at Doha, Qatar. He has served in the military for 33 years.

Anthony V. Matejicka, II, DO, Toms River, NJ, was appointed chief medical officer of Community Medical Center.

A. Steven Pecora, DO, Linwood, NJ, was elected secretary-treasurer of the medical staff at Cape Regional Medical Center.

Kirby J. Scott, IV, DO, Hagerstown, MD, was highlighted in the article “Hagerstown, MD ENT Doctor Knows How to Combat Sinus Problems” published in Digital Journal (January 2, 2014).

CLASS OF 1995

John B. Bulger, MBA, DO, Danville, PA, was elected secretary-treasurer of the American College of Osteopathic Internists. Dr. Bulger is the chief quality officer and director of the hospitalist service line for Geisinger Health System in Danville. He is a member of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Trustees.

Timothy G. Grube, DO, Pottsville, PA, opened a new practice, Grube Gynecology, in Frackville.

Beth A. Ricci, DO, Erie, PA, was Millcreek Community Hospital’s Doctor’s Day honoree on March 26, 2014. Dr. Ricci is an associate clinical professor of family medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine at Millcreek Community Hospital. She is a practicing physician with Medical Associates of Erie, the clinical practices of LECOM, at the Southeast Family Practice office.

CLASS OF 1996

Joshua E. Goldberg, DO, Lafayette Hill, PA, has recently acquired Ear Nose Throat & Facial Plastic Surgical Specialists, PC. Dr. Goldberg has been in practice for 15 years and is board certified in pediatrics and adult otorhinolaryngology. In addition, he is an assistant professor of otorhinolaryngology at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

CLASS OF 1997

Melissa P. Broyles, DO, Glen Mills, PA, completed her fellowship at the University of Arizona under the guidance of Dr. Andrew Weil. Dr. Broyles has opened a new integrated medicine practice in Thornton.

CLASS OF 1998

Patricia M. Ihnat, DO, Wilkes-Barre, PA, was appointed chairman of emergency services at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Paul L. O’Donnell, DO, Woodstown, NJ, joined the surgical staff at Cape Regional Physicians Associates.

Christopher L. Snyder, DO, Dudley, PA, was highlighted in the article “Snyder Pursues Interstellar Dream,” published in The Fulton County News (January 14, 2014). Dr. Snyder is one of 1,058 aspiring astronauts selected for a second phase of interviews and medical testing for the Mars One project, which aims to establish a permanent human settlement on Mars and will be departing Earth in 2024. [see sidebar]

CLASS OF 2000

Seeta Arjun, DO, Mullica Hill, NJ, opened a new practice, Infocus Urgent Care, in West Windsor.

Michael E. Fath, Jr., DO, Duryea, PA, joined the medical staff at InterMountain Medical Group.

John Nicasio, DO, Longmeadow, MA, joined the medical staff at HMC Endocrinology at the Holyoke Medical Center.

CLASS OF 2001


CLASS OF 2002

Keri Jo A. McHugh, DO, Spotsylvania, VA, completed the 2013 Philadelphia Marathon with a time of 4:04:45. Dr. McHugh is a board-certified emergency physician at Culpeper Regional Hospital. Patrick J. McHugh, DO, Spotsylvania, VA, was accepted into the University of Virginia Darden School of Business MBA Class of 2016.

Carmen A. Sandridge, DO, East Norriton, PA, was named junior partner by J. Steven Blake, DO ’89, president and chief executive officer, Blake Gastroenterology and Associates, LLC, and member of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Trustees.

Ving Yam, DO, Escondido, CA, was highlighted with his wife, Stephanie K. Iem, DO, MS/Biomed ’03, in the article “Holistic Care at Family Medicine and Geriatrics,” published in The San Diego Union-Tribune (January 12, 2014).

CLASS OF 2003

Jarrod H. Gipe, DO, Carlisle, PA, received two appointments: chairman of the anesthesiology department and medical director of the outpatient surgery center at Carlisle Regional Medical Center.

E-MAIL YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS TO KATIE DONOVAN AT KATIEDON@PCOM.EDU
Linda Barnhart, DO ’08, Kennedel, PA, and her husband, William, welcomed their son, Henry Paul, born on October 19, 2013.

Brian J. Blair, DO ’11, Drexel Hill, PA, married Angel Chapman on September 21, 2013, at the Radisson Valley Forge. Dr. Blair’s best man was Michael Lyamu, DO ’11; groomsmen included Jonathan Foster, DO ’11, and Michael Samodio, DO ’11.

Sara B. Carr, MS/Psy ’10, Philadelphia, PA, married Sean Judge on October 26, 2013, at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster.

Tammy L. Dietz, DO ’05, Austin, TX, and her husband, Joshua J. Rininger, are the proud parents of Jaxon James, born February 27, 2013.

Courtney A. Downey, DO ’10, Walnutport, PA, married Edwin Boyle, Jr., on August 31, 2013, in Jim Thorpe, PA.

Karen N. Duvall, DO ’09 (GA–PCOM), Johns Creek, GA, and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their son, Micah Walker, born on February 13, 2013.

Charlotte A. Ebner, DO ’10 (GA–PCOM), Winder, GA, and her husband, Billy Harris, are the proud parents of twins, Francesca and Marisa, born on January 2, 2014.

Nicole J. Heisman-Rifkin, DO ’00, Collegeville, PA, and her husband, Elliott Rifkin, welcomed their daughter, Maya Jailyn, born on December 27, 2013. Little Maya joins big brothers Tyler and Dylan.

Ronald B. Lincow, DO ’04, Dresher, PA, and his wife, Robin, are the proud parents of Ruby Fiona, born on June 22, 2013. Little Ruby joins big brothers Shane (6) and Max (4).

Bridget Anne Lowry, MS/FM ’10, Manassas Park, VA, married Benjamin Patrick Price on April 27, 2013, at Our Lady of the Snows Church in Clarks Summit. A reception was held at Country Club of Scranton, Clarks Summit. The couple honeymooned in Portugal.

Carrie Ann Champ Morera, PsyD ’08, Hershey, PA, and her husband, David, welcomed their daughter, Layla Fabiola, born on February 26, 2013. Little Layla joins big sister Hailey (3).

Amber L. Rubal, DO ’13, Old Forge, PA, married John J. Sobuto, III, DO ’13, on October 19, 2013.

Paul M. Rutkowski, DO ’06, Dickson City, PA, married Kristin Mackowiak on September 21, 2013, at the Old Orchard Inn in East Aurora.

AAO ALUMNI/STUDENT/FACULTY MIXER

Kudos to David Coffey, DO ’84, FAAO, for completing an outstanding year as American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) president. He received the Gavel Award as Kenneth J. Lossing, DO, was installed as the new AAO president.

And heartfelt congratulations to Alexander S. Nicholas, DO ’75, FAAO, for receiving the A.T. Still Medallion of Honor, the most prestigious award presented by the AAO.

Stephanie K. Iem, MS/Biomed ’03, DO, Escondido, CA, was highlighted with her husband, Ving Yam, DO ’02, in the article “Holistic Care at Family Medicine and Geriatrics,” published in The San Diego Union-Tribune (January 12, 2014).

Alan J. Kanouff, DO, Hollidaysburg, PA, a partner with Altoona Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania, was awarded a sleep medicine certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Tamika L. Perry, DO, Dallas, TX, joined USMD Holdings, Inc., and the medical staff at the Cedar Hill Clinic.

Ann Marie Stephenson, DO, Rockville, MD, joined the medical staff at Capital Digestive Care.

CLASS OF 2004

Emily L. Rogerson Ciseck, DO, Rehoboth, MA, joined the medical staff at Southcoast Physicians Group in New Bedford.

Ronald B. Lincow, DO, Dresher, PA, opened the PMA Pain Management Center in Phoenixville. Dr. Lincow is also chief medical officer for On Call Physician Staffing.

Mark R. Lloyd, DO, Britt, IA, joined Hancock County Health System.

Kenneth A. Powell, DO, Jacksonville, FL, owns Coastal Spine and Pain Center. Dr. Powell was elected to the Board of Directors of Physician Group Services and PCP Financial Services.

John V. Tedesco, DO, Muskogee, OK, was highlighted in an article titled “With Scalpels or Axes, He’s Dedicated to His Craft” (hispanicbusiness.com, December 2, 2013).
Gregory C. Beato, DO, Blacksburg, VA, owns Medical Associates of Southwest Virginia. He received the Frist Humanitarian Award presented by HCA Hospital for his compassion and service to patients and the community. Dr. Beato has been the recipient, for three consecutive years, of the "Best Bedside Manner in Internal Medicine Award" in Our Health Magazine.

Holli M. Warholic, DO, Macungie, PA, joined the medical staff at St. Luke's Hospital–Anderson Campus. Dr. Warholic offers comprehensive gynecologic and obstetrical care for women of all ages.

CLASS OF 2006

Jonathan R. Kaufmann, DO, Honolulu, HI, was appointed chief medical information officer at Queens Medical Center. Dr. Kaufmann continues to be a hospitalist.

Jessie L. Mosley, DO, Huntingdon, PA, was named chairman of the department of medicine at J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital.

William J. Olstein, Jr., DO, Nanty Glo, PA, joined the medical staff at UPMC Huntingdon Family Physicians, an affiliate of UPMC Altoona and associated with the Altoona Family Physicians Residency Program.

CLASS OF 2007

Jessica L. Masser, MS/Biomed '07, DO '07, Johnstown, PA, was recognized as a Guardian of the Profession by the American Osteopathic Association. This award is presented to "an osteopathic physician who demonstrates a strong sense of pride in the osteopathic medical profession and works actively to advance osteopathic medicine."

Gregory Strunk, DO, Alexandria, PA, joined the medical staff at UPMC Huntingdon Family Physicians, an affiliate of UPMC Altoona and associated with the Altoona Family Physicians Residency Program.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:
CHARLES L. CARR, SR., DO ’55, AND CAROLYN HAZLETT CARR
by Lynne Carr Columbus, DO ’90

For a dashing surgeon performing an autopsy at the Bouchard Funeral Home in Largo, Florida, in 1962, nothing could prevent him from being attracted to the beautiful young funeral assistant taking notes as he dictated the results of the unfortunate patient's demise. Upon completion of the autopsy, the assistant left the morgue, but thoughts of her charm left a lasting impression on the surgeon—and would continue to do so until they met again on February 22, 1962, at a party held at the Bouchard home.

Following the party, a group decided to don their dancing shoes and head over to the Bellevue Biltmore Hotel. It was a rainy night, and parking was at a minimum at the historic property. When the surgeon stepped out of his car into the muddy parking lot, he heard laughter down the aisle. He looked up and was immediately smitten by the sparkle in the young assistant's eyes and the warmth of her contagious smile, as she ran by his car into the hotel to get out of the rain. He followed her into the hotel's Starlight Room, where the couple would spend the remainder of the night dancing.

On November 30, 1963, Dr. Carr and Carolyn Hazlett proclaimed their vows in Christ Presbyterian Church; a reception followed at the Bouchard home. As they celebrate 50 years of marriage, they continue to embrace love, happiness and togetherness. They celebrate family: four children and three step-children. Two of their children, Charles Carr, Jr., DO, and Lynne Carr Columbus, DO ’90, have followed in their father's footsteps, obtaining doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees. And they celebrate their dedication on behalf of the osteopathic profession. Throughout his career, Dr. Carr has trained and mentored hundreds of medical students, interns and surgical residents. A fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, he has been recognized with the PCOMS Lifetime Achievement Award and the Alan J. Snider Award. Mrs. Carr has supported her husband's profession through her involvement in the Auxiliary to the American Osteopathic Association.

Happy anniversary, Dr. and Mrs. Carr!

Jennifer L. White, DO, Saratoga Springs, NY, joined the medical staff at Saratoga Inpatient Physicians as a hospitalist.

CLASS OF 2005

Jeffrey A. Arthur, DO, Greenwood Village, CO, joined the medical staff at Colorado Orthopedic Consultants. Dr. Arthur performs knee and hip total joint replacement procedures.

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JOANNE PERRY, PsyD ’10
Helping students and peers manage challenges every day
by Colleen Pelc

As a school psychologist in South Brunswick, New Jersey, Dr. Perry (pictured left) can experience extreme highs and extreme lows throughout her workday. But those successes and challenges are what keep her going.

“Helping students learn to manage their social and emotional challenges is a very rewarding part of my job,” Dr. Perry says.

Through her training in cognitive behavioral methods while at PCOM, Dr. Perry has been able to hone her counseling abilities at her school with approximately 500 students, 40 of whom are in self-contained classrooms for severe learning and language disabilities.

“I have been able to work with both classified students and regular education peers in a variety of interventions. In small groups, I work on social skills, anger management and emotional regulation. Using a cognitive behavioral philosophy, I have been able to incorporate training from Dr. Jed Baker for working with lower functioning students and a variety of curriculums including social thinking, zones of regulation, and executive functioning by Sarah Ward,” she says.

Dr. Perry has been president of the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists since May 2013. She oversees monthly meetings and works with committees to enhance the profession. She also empathizes with her peers as they come to her with issues that may arise in their schools. And she promotes the value of a school psychologist in conjunction with the New Jersey State Department of Education.

“I know that many practitioners are struggling to demonstrate their contribution to the academic performance of students. Accountability has thrown new challenges to school psychologists as well as to teachers. My advice to my peers is to make their role more than a ‘gate-keeper’ for special education. Ask your principal or head, ‘What can I do for you?’ Make yourself a valued member of the school community and employ all of the skills within your training in your school,” she says.

CLASS OF 2008
Kelly Donnelly-Mueller, DO, Slingerlands, NY, joined the neurology department at Albany Medical Center.

CLASS OF 2009
Laura C. DePalma, DO, Greenville, NC, joined the Department of Pediatrics as a clinical assistant professor at Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Caitlin Ann Halbert, MS, DO, Newark, DE, graduated from the general surgery program at Christiana Care Health System in June 2014. She will be starting a minimally invasive and bariatric fellowship in July 2014 at Stony Brook University in New York.

Kyle C. Klitsch, DO, Allentown, PA, joined the medical staff at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network.

Pamela S. Tipler, DO, Yelm, WA, was the recipient of the 2013 Taunia Oechslin Young Alumna Award presented by Lycoming College. This award was presented to Dr. Tipler for her significant contributions to her country and her profession; for demonstration of leadership and accomplishment; and for outstanding service, volunteerism and ongoing work. Dr. Tipler began her career in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve select. In 2009, she was promoted to captain and was stationed in Tacoma, Washington, where she served as a physician. She was deployed to Egypt, where she served as a flight surgeon for multinational forces and observers.

Mark A. Troiano, DO, Newark, DE, is a cardiology fellow at Christiana Care Health System.

CLASS OF 2010
Christine E. Brown, DO, Buffalo, NY, was named 2013–2014 chief resident of pediatrics at the University of Buffalo/Women’s and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. Dr. Brown and her husband, Max, have a two-year-old son, Cameron S. Brown, III.

Sara B. Carr, MS/Psy, Philadelphia, PA, is employed as a behavior specialist and an intern-level school psychologist. She is currently completing her certification in school psychology from Eastern University.

Christina M. Raguckas, DO, Kingston, PA, joined Commonwealth Health and became a faculty member of the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education’s osteopathic and family medicine residencies.

Anjali Solanki, DO, Drexel Hill, PA, joined Crozer-Chester Health Network and will be practicing at Family Physicians of the DCMH Health Pavilion.

CLASS OF 2011
Justin L. Guthier, DO, Coopersburg, PA, was named 2014–2015 chief resident of internal medicine at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

CLASS OF 2013
Emily Klonoski, DO, Scranton, PA, co-authored an article titled “Use of Therapeutic Hypothermia in Cocaine-Induced Cardiac Arrest: Further Evidence,” published in the American Journal of Critical Care (January 1, 2014).


ACOFP ALUMNI RECEPTION
In March, alumni, staff, faculty and friends enjoyed the annual American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Alumni Reception, following the ACOFP conference. The event took place in Lotman Lobby with six stations displaying PCOM through different eras, beginning with the 1960s and ending with student-led tours of the Dr. Michael and Wendy Saltzburg Clinical Learning & Assessment Center. Matthew Schure, PhD, president and CEO, recognized Carol Henwood, DO ’83, as the 61st president of ACOFP.
NEIL SAHA, MS/BIOMED ’10 (GA–PCOM)

Working to raise awareness of patient populations in need
by Colleen Pelc

Currently a medical student at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in Caguas, Puerto Rico, Mr. Saha (pictured center in white coat) spends much of his time studying and volunteering with various organizations in support of healthcare in the Caribbean territory. “While in Puerto Rico, I am learning more about one of the many cultures and languages that make up the United States. I am taking this opportunity to understand—more comprehensively—the importance of cultural and linguistic awareness as a healthcare team member,” Mr. Saha says.

As a biomedical sciences student at Georgia Campus – PCOM, Mr. Saha focused on areas of need in the Limited English Proficient community; he wants to continue this focus as he works toward his medical degree. “The importance of communication in medicine should always be of the utmost concern. I believe that learning how to improve the patient-physician interaction within growing minority communities in the United States should be addressed early in a medical student’s training. This knowledge can help minimize errors and provide better patient satisfaction,” he notes.

Mr. Saha credits his “intelligent and talented professors and classmates from GA-PCOM for providing [him] with the ability to become better acclimated to the academic community.” He feels he is more capable now of analytically assessing scientific questions while simultaneously applying creativity to solve them. He wants to draw from his experiences to apply a greater level of empathy and care in order to do whatever he can to help communities in need. “The need for healthcare dissemination in Puerto Rico is great, but more than anything, as throughout the U.S., education for prevention is paramount. This begins with healthcare providers at all levels,” Mr. Saha says.

Michael F. Shank, DO ’80, Media, PA – Geriatrics
Aaron S. Best, DO ’04, Havertown, PA – Internal Medicine
Michele Boornazian, DO ’98, Lansdowne, PA – Internal Medicine
Maria C. Bucco, DO ’88, Media, PA – Internal Medicine
Dina F. Capalongo, DO ’91, Exton, PA – Internal Medicine
Jill B. Cohen, DO ’92, Plymouth Meeting, PA – Internal Medicine

Brian G. Friedrich, DO ’87, Thornton, PA – Internal Medicine
Joseph D. Hope, DO ’93, Boothwyn, PA – Internal Medicine
Stephen M. Humbert, DO ’89, Drexel Hill, PA – Internal Medicine
Stephanie Hutchison, DO ’08, Philadelphia, PA – Internal Medicine
David R. Kalodner, DO ’82, Rose Valley, PA – Internal Medicine
Nicole S. Nagy, DO ’04, Malvern, PA – Internal Medicine

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY RECEPTION

In February, the Office of Alumni Relations and Development, the Department of Psychology and the Office of Admissions hosted the College’s annual School Psychology Alumni/Student/Faculty Reception. Guests gathered at Petits Plat Restaurant in Washington, D.C., to network and to catch up on activities at PCOM. The reception was held in conjunction with the 2014 National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention.

TOP DOCS – MAIN LINE TODAY (DECEMBER 2013)

Denise A. Kalman, DO ’86, Newark, DE – Allergy & Asthma
Robert J. Bulgarelli, DO ’90, Glen Mills, PA – Cardiology
Eric M. Gnall, DO ’00, Taylor, PA – Cardiology
Rajesh K. Reddy, DO ’04, Downingtown, PA – Cardiology
Mark A. Ginsburg, DO ’03, Aston, PA – Dermatology & Plastic Surgery
Edward F. Ryan, DO ’79, Devon, PA – Dermatology & Plastic Surgery
Kenneth K. Doroski, DO ’81, Wayne, PA – Emergency Medicine
Lori Lorant-Tobias, DO ’02, Portstown, PA – Emergency Medicine
George M. Parsons, DO ’84, Cherry Hill, NJ – Emergency Medicine
Deebanne M. Tavani, PhD, DO ’86, Garnet Valley, PA – Endocrinology
Brian C. Copeland, DO ’02, Wallingford, PA – Gastroenterology
Rupal S. Kothari, DO ’97, Boothwyn, PA – Gastroenterology

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**In Memoriam**


Scot W. Brayford, PA-C ’02, Emmaus, PA, October 28, 2013.

Andrew D. DeMasi, DO ’47, Cherry Hill, NJ, December 21, 2013.

N. Harry Gartzman, DO ’52, Voorhees, NJ, December 17, 2013.


Eric M. Hitchcock, DO ’05, Mechanicsburg, PA, March 13, 2014.

Robert V. Kiel, DO ’75, Fairview, PA, August 20, 2013.

Lawrence E. Miller, DO ’57, Chester, NJ, March 2, 2014.


Jane Morris, DO ’46, New Wilmington, PA, January 10, 2014.

David J. Revak, DO ’70, Gilbert, AZ, January 30, 2014.


Paul B. Schmid, DO ’82, Orlando, FL, December 17, 2013.

Benjamin Serota, DO ’50, Boynton Beach, FL, March 31, 2014.

Marvin E. Sultz, DO ’60, Delray Beach, FL, December 5, 2013.

Earle Travis, DO ’58, East Greenwich, RI, February 18, 2014.

Michael Yurkanin, DO ’65, Trenton, MI, December 31, 2013.

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**HONORING CAROL A. FOX, MM**

In April, a brunch was held to honor Carol A. Fox, MM, retired associate vice president for enrollment management. During the event, a plaque—which now hangs in the Admissions Office—was unveiled. It displays the names of over 500 donors who contributed to the College in Ms. Fox’s name. Fundraising for the plaque was spearheaded by Paul Suhey, DO ’84. A scholarship will also be created in Ms. Fox’s name in the future.

**TOP DOCS CONT.**

Leo J. Robb, III, DO ’85, Exton, PA – Internal Medicine

Armen M. Sevag, DO ’03, Media, PA – Internal Medicine

Andrew D. Sitkoff, DO ’85, West Chester, PA – Internal Medicine

David A. Targan, DO ’99, Philadelphia, PA – Internal Medicine

Kelli E. Yacono, DO ’05, Springfield, PA – Internal Medicine

Kimberly A. Atkinson, DO ’90, Upland, PA – Neurology

Craig J. Gardner, DO ’02, Malvern, PA – Neurology

Norman A. Leopold, DO ’68, Chester, PA – Neurology

David A. Thomas, DO ’78, Media, PA – Neurology

Thea Cooper Barton, DO ’03, West Chester, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Catherine E. Bernardini, DO ’96, Narberth, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Melissa L. Delaney, DO ’93, Downingtown, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Rachna Anand, DO ’04, Philadelphia, PA – Oncology

Robin M. K. Ciocca, DO ’01, Philadelphia, PA – Oncology

W. Alan Keogh, DO ’76, West Chester, PA – Oncology

Kenan Aksu, DO ’93, Exton, PA – Orthopedics

Tricia M. Beatty, DO ’03, Narberth, PA – Orthopedics

Jeffrey J. Citarra, DO ’04, Exton, PA – Orthopedics

Jack E. Kazanjian, DO ’98, Malvern, PA – Orthopedics

Demetrios Menegos, DO ’05, Philadelphia, PA – Orthopedics

Laurence V. Cramer, DO ’91, Blue Bell, PA – Otolaryngology

Alexander C. Keszeli, DO ’89, Glen Mills, PA – Otolaryngology

Jeffrey J. Citara, DO ’04, Exton, PA – Orthopedics

David A. Thomas, DO ’78, Media, PA – Neurology

Thea Cooper Barton, DO ’03, West Chester, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Catherine E. Bernardini, DO ’96, Narberth, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Melissa L. Delaney, DO ’93, Downingtown, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Rachna Anand, DO ’04, Philadelphia, PA – Oncology

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Thea Cooper Barton, DO ’03, West Chester, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Catherine E. Bernardini, DO ’96, Narberth, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Melissa L. Delaney, DO ’93, Downingtown, PA – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Rachna Anand, DO ’04, Philadelphia, PA – Oncology

Robin M. K. Ciocca, DO ’01, Philadelphia, PA – Oncology

W. Alan Keogh, DO ’76, West Chester, PA – Oncology

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**GA–PCOM NETWORKING NIGHT**

In November, students, staff and alumni gathered for the GA–PCOM Alumni/Student Networking Night, held at Dave & Busters in Lawrenceville, Georgia. First- and second-year students had the opportunity to network with alumni and learn about how to navigate school, residency programs and employment in a healthcare career.

**CLASS NOTES**
My first experience in the emergency room was as a high school Medical Explorer and volunteer at Jeanes Hospital, now part of Temple University Health System, in Northeast Philadelphia. I was one of those “science nerds” who at a young age desired to become a doctor—despite the fact that I almost passed out the first time I witnessed a patient receiving sutures.

When I was a student at Penn State, I volunteered—again in the ER—at Mountain View Hospital, State College, Pennsylvania, during my junior and senior years. The diversity of cases and action I saw fed my early adrenaline addiction. At the same time, I began to admire the ER doctors who were second career physicians; the field was in its infancy—from a residency perspective—and many of those staffing the ER were general surgeons, family practitioners and pediatricians who had given up private practice for shift work and hospital employment. They were all excellent clinicians, and their personalities varied greatly. Among my favorites was Tom S. Melane, II, MD, a pediatrician and department head, who never lost his cool or temper no matter the circumstance. He became one of my earliest mentors—and also a fierce chess opponent. During department down times, he would counsel me about my career plans and teach me strategies, tactics and rules of the game (both games, actually—medicine and chess).

While applying to medical school and completing graduate work in physiology, I served as an orderly (based in the ER) and autopsy assistant. My job—and previous experiences—solidified my goal: to become an ER physician.

I was accepted at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and began my studies there in the fall of 1977. I recall fondly my first ER rotation as a third-year PCOM student. It was a summer rotation at Atlantic City General Hospital, Atlantic City, New Jersey. There I met Sid Richman, DO ’51, who took me under his wing (his son Steven Richman, DO ’81, was a fellow classmate and friend) and taught me the art of triage and imparted to me his OB/GYN knowledge in the acute care setting. A personal highlight of the rotation was being able to remove a splinter from Miss Tennessee's finger during Miss America Pageant week; the procedure was of the upmost importance, as she was a piano player!

During my rotating internship at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, now part of the Kennedy Health System, in Stratford, New Jersey, Frank Levin, DO ’74, and Alex Rodi, Jr., DO ’79, continued to encourage my passion to pursue an ER residency when everyone else urged internal medicine. In the end, adrenaline won out over *Harrison's*, and I began an ER residency at the Medical Center of Delaware (now Christiana Care Health System). There I met another lifelong mentor, Ben Charles Corballis, MD, FACEP. Dr. Corballis was director of the ER—a physician who assumed responsibility and accountability for the provision of patient care. His was the belief that if you put your patients first, everything else will fall into place.

Working in an ER requires constant multitasking, flexibility and the need to function in high-stress situations. While the focus is to stabilize patients by treating acute illness, injury or trauma, the crux of the labor is employing interpersonal skills and compassionate care. Nowhere in the hospital is the multidisciplinary nature of medical care more pronounced than in the ER. Seamless teamwork is critical, as is a keen understanding of prioritizing and allocating resources effectively. In the ER, crucial life and death decisions must be made—sometimes without complete data at hand—because not acting will surely result in a poor outcome. The ability to make important decisions without all the information that one may desire becomes even more important in our mega-data world. Do we ever have enough data? It is a skill set that we are all mastering in our rapidly changing society.

After more than a decade devoted to irregular hours and a high-intensity environment, I opted to transition my career, opening an occupational medicine practice. Several years later, I again made a change—this time away from clinical medicine to a position as a network medical director in the insurance industry. However, even as my posts advanced and responsibilities in the field of healthcare management grew (my last service being President, Northern Division, Pennsylvania Managed Care Plans, at AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies), I never abandoned the use of my ER skills. I merely transferred them to my efforts.

Now, as I begin my tenure at President and Chief Executive Officer at PCOM, I know I will again call upon my ER experiences to help guide me. The philosophies of my mentors will encourage me to always take a step back and keep in place and in mind the whole of our institution and community. I look forward to working together—with all members of the PCOM family—to meet the many challenges and opportunities before us.
BETWEEN PRESIDENTS:
Matthew Schure, PhD, shakes hands with Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, outside the Office of the President.