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Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Winter 2015-2016)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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INAUGURATION
OF THE EIGHTH PRESIDENT
JAY S. FELDSTEIN, DO ’81
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends:

While the purpose of a presidential inauguration at a college or university is to celebrate the history of the institution and to anticipate its future, I can attest that for me, inauguration put my role in the institution into context. My formal installation—and the receptions and student service activities that followed in both Pennsylvania and in Georgia—were humbling occasions, among the most momentous days of my life. They solidified what I have found during my first year as president—exploring for the second time (the first, as a student) this exceptional place. Inauguration exposed the high regard with which so many hold our College—and truly showcased the intellectual passion and sense of community Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine instills in its students, faculty, staff and alumni. I remain grateful to all those who made inauguration such a special day for PCOM and for me.

I hope you will enjoy reading this special issue of Digest Magazine, which captures in words and photography the College’s inaugural events. It also delineates the points of PCOM 2020, the shared, strategic vision that has been created since my tenure began.

In addition, I trust that you will be pleased to learn—through the feature story “Trained for Trauma Care”—about the unique contributions of PCOM alumni at Aria Health in Philadelphia who treated the mass casualties of the Amtrak derailment this past spring. Investigations into this tragedy are still ongoing. They continue to raise issues of national transportation safety and the importance of trauma care preparation and response.

The work of other alumni—as well as current students, faculty and staff—are also highlighted in this edition. Included, too, is a touching tribute to Camille DiLullo, PhD, professor of anatomy, who recently passed away following a battle with cancer.

With warm regards,

Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81
President and Chief Executive Officer
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ON THE COVER
Image by Melissa Kelly – Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, eighth president of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, delivers his Inaugural address.
This spring and summer, the College celebrated its newest group of healthcare professionals in Commencement ceremonies in Philadelphia and Georgia. GA–PCOM kicked off the season with a ceremony on May 29 for its DO, graduate programs and pharmacy students; all told, 238 students received their diplomas. On June 7, the Philadelphia campus celebrated as 266 students received their DO degrees and moved on to some of the most competitive residencies in the United States. John W. Becher, DO ’70, chair, emergency medicine, and current president of the American Osteopathic Association, gave the keynote speech. Finally, on July 31, 221 students received their degrees from PCOM’s nine graduate programs.

MEET THE GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2015

GERD NAYDOCK, PsyD ’15
In the span of five decades, Dr. Naydock has lived about five lifetimes—and none would be considered “easy.” After growing up in orphanages in Germany and Baltimore, he worked difficult jobs, enlisted in the Marines, and took a sales job that ultimately brought him to Philadelphia—and to his career in psychology. “Everyone has that resilience in them. I did. I think it’s your belief about your past that can either make you or break you—it shouldn’t really define you as a person.”

KATIE BOZMAN, PharmD ’15
Growing up just 30 minutes from GA–PCOM, Dr. Bozman says it wasn’t just the College’s location that appealed to her; she was able to work on research projects from her first year. After interviewing for a residency position, Dr. Bozman matched with her dream program, where she will have the opportunity to develop skills in pediatric clinical research. “I will be able to cultivate and complete a research project that will improve medication safety and patients’ quality of life,” she says.

JULIAN TRIVINO, DO ’15
Dr. Trivino’s interest in osteopathic medicine stems from a love of science, and a desire to comfort and reassure those in need when they are at their most vulnerable. “I have always wanted a profession where I could look back at the end of my career and ask myself, ‘Did I make a difference in the world?’” he says. “In medicine I have found a job where, if happiness and self-fulfillment were currency, I would be the richest person alive.”

VICTORIA LAWN, DO/MPh ’15
To help combat the stigma among medical students that surrounds mental illness, Dr. Lawn worked to create a yearly, three-hour program where students could share their own experiences with mental health issues. “How can we address these issues in our patients if we can’t address them in ourselves?” she says. Since the program began, it has grown to include a group of students and faculty committed to the mental health and well-being of all students.
Growing up in Burma, Ms. Win witnessed many children unable to obtain healthcare, and it launched her desire to become a physician. She applied to the Biomedical Sciences program to further her science knowledge, and this fall, she started in the DO program at GA–PCOM. “The experiences I gained [here] gave me an opportunity to continue pursuing my dream of becoming a pediatrician and serving underserved populations,” she says.

Shortly before Commencement, Drs. Burkholder and Chinmaya practiced their medical skills in a real-world setting—at 40,000 feet. On an overnight flight from New Delhi to Guangzhou, the two men drew on their training from PCOM to assess and monitor a fellow passenger who was having chest pains. With their care, the passenger remained stable, and was transferred to an EMT crew upon arrival in China. Drs. Burkholder and Chinmaya say the experience was eye-opening, but one that made them confident that their training at PCOM would allow them to provide quality medical care in any situation. “It was the true test before graduation and something that most medical providers never experience in their careers,” says Dr. Chinmaya.

For more information on other graduates from the class of 2015, visit pcom.edu/commencement.
DO STUDENTS MENTOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

DO students have been mentoring Philadelphia high school students as part of the Health Careers Academy.

For the past year, several DO students at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine have been participating in Health Career Academy (HCA), a mentoring program designed to promote an interest in health careers among high school students.

This year, more than 30 PCOM students visited local high schools to teach concepts related to emergency medicine and community health. They discussed ER cases with 10th graders; held interactive activities on topics such as spinal cord injury, hypertension and cancer with 11th graders; and helped train 12th graders to become health ambassadors within their communities.

HCA was founded by Barry Mann, MD, chief academic officer at Main Line Health, and has chapters at several local medical schools. PCOM co-chairs Odessa Pulido (DO ’17), Julie Qiu (DO ’17) and Michaela Seigo (DO ’17) brought the program to the College last year, after Dr. Mann gave a presentation on campus about HCA. “The response from PCOM mentors was amazing,” says Ms. Pulido. “The PCOM branch of Health Care Academy is now an integral part of the Main Line HCA network.”

NEW PROGRAM PREPARES THIRD YEARS FOR SUCCESSFUL CLERKSHIPS

Third-year DO students practice their clinical skills as part of I2C, a new curricular program designed to bridge the basic science of DO students’ first two years with the clinical skills of their last two.

This summer, DO students in the class of 2017 received a head start on practicing their clinical skills before beginning their clerkships, as part of a new curricular program based in the Dr. Michael and Wendy Saltzburg Clinical Learning & Assessment Center. Called Intro to Clerkships, or I2C, the initiative was spear-headed on the Philadelphia campus by Arthur Sesso, DO ’81, professor and chair, surgery.

GA–PCOM has held a similar program for its students for the past several years.

“I2C was funded by a $225,000 gift from Michael C. Saltzburg, DO ’77 (who, along with his wife, Wendy, provided funding in 2014 to renovate the center). Students in the class of 2017 were broken into four groups, each participating for four weeks in a different workshop focusing on various aspects of clinical knowledge, from taking a patient’s history, to learning how to scrub in for a surgery, to inserting an IV line.

“Having our first clerkship experience on campus, with people we know, for a few hours each day, was very helpful,” says Robert Gadomski (DO ’17), who most recently was on an internal medicine clerkship at Lankenau Hospital. “Easing into the process made me feel more confident.”

Elizabeth Budnik (DO ’17), who recently completed a clerkship in OB/GYN at Reading Hospital, feels the experience made her better prepared than some of the other students in her cohort. “During my OB/GYN clerkship, we did estimations of cervical dilations, which was something we practiced on models during I2C,” she says. “When I did them during my clerkship, I got two out of three checks correct. I would not have known what I was feeling without that practice.”

Ms. Budnik’s clinical skills were so strong, in fact, that she received praise from the director of her clerkship. “OB/GYN is an area I’m very interested in, so it was a little intimidating to start my clinical experience with it,” she says. “But I2C helped me be more prepared from the very first day.”
SEEKING NOVEL WAYS TO TREAT ARTHRITIS IN PETS—AND HUMANS

Dr. D’Angelo is testing a novel way to treat osteoarthritis in pets that is safer, easy to administer to pets and cost-effective for their owners.

Osteoarthritis affects about 20 percent of dogs, and a majority suffer from post-traumatic osteoarthritis (PTOA), caused by a prior injury such as an anterior cruciate ligament tear. Osteoarthritis results from imbalance of tissue repair and synthesis in the affected joint.

Most current treatments focus on pain and symptom management with non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, or NSAIDs. However, their long-term use can cause a host of issues for furry companions, such as bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract, kidney failure and even death. Marina D’Angelo, PhD, professor, bio-medical sciences, lost a pet of her own in this manner, and it was one of the catalysts that prompted her to look for a treatment that was not only safer but also treated the disease’s underlying cause.

In 2011, she and colleagues began researching a treatment that lacked the long-term side effects of NSAID use, and developed a peptide that essentially stops the disease from gnawing away at the cartilage around a dog’s joints.

“It’s called Extracellular Matrix Protection Factor™ (ECPF-1) and is an intra-joint injection that reduces the pain and damage caused in PTOA by targeting individual enzyme-protein pairs,” Dr. D’Angelo explains. “By targeting specific sites on the protein, ECPF-1 acts as a bumper to block the enzyme from settling on the target protein.”

The ultimate goal for Dr. D’Angelo and her colleagues is to bring this treatment to the marketplace for pets, and eventually for humans as well (the disease affects about three million adults over age 60 each year). To that end, they formed ProteaPex Therapeutics, LLC. In April 2014, she and her colleagues were granted a patent for the specific ECPF technology they had developed, and they are currently conducting preliminary studies to showcase its effectiveness.

“This is a novel approach to management of PTOA that we have seen to be effective in slowing the disease’s progression,” Dr. D’Angelo says. “Through the development of this technology, we are poised to deliver a treatment for PTOA that is safer than available treatments, easy to administer to pets and cost-effective for their owners.”

GRADS PURSUE INITIAL RESIDENCY AT PCOM SCHOOL OF PHARMACY – GEORGIA CAMPUS

Kacie L. Waters, PharmD ’15, and Priyam K. Mithawala, PharmD, are breaking ground at PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus. They recently began their Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) residency that operates in partnership with Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville, Georgia. The two residents matched with the newly established program earlier this year and officially began their one-year residency program on July 1.

The residents will complete eight five-week rotations with clinical rotations at Gwinnett Medical Center and an academic rotation at GA-PCOM. They meet regularly with Samuel M. John, PharmD, PGY1 residency program director.

“Pharmacy is a very open field, and this residency provides more opportunities,” says Dr. Mithawala, who previously worked as a pharmacist at Select Medical Hospital in Macon, Georgia, and pursued the PGY1 residency because she sought more clinical training with preceptors. She plans to complete a PGY2 residency in infectious diseases before working at a university where clinical practice and teaching go hand in hand.

Dr. Waters graduated from the PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus this past May. She is excited to be one of the first from her alma mater to be part of the pharmacy residency program as it gets off the ground. “It’s been interesting going from being a student and looking up to my teachers to then being on the other side as one of their colleagues,” she says. In the future, she hopes to complete a PGY2 residency specializing in ambulatory care, and plans to work in a family practice clinic.

As a new program currently in candidate status, the pharmacy residency program is seeking full accreditation from the American Society of Health System-Pharmacists in July 2016.

PCOM NAMES NEW CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

Carrie Collins, JD, joined PCOM as chief advancement officer in August. Ms. Collins previously served as vice president for institutional advancement at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. During her tenure there, she had direct oversight of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. She secured several major and planned gift commitments, and led the first major fundraising event on USciences’ campus, which well exceeded its financial goal. In March 2014, Ms. Collins was recognized as one of Philadelphia Business Journal’s “40 Under 40” for her fundraising success.

“Carrie’s proven track record of cultivating and maintaining relationships with alumni, and securing major gifts for institutions of higher education, makes her an ideal fit for the position of chief advancement officer,” says Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, president and chief executive officer of PCOM.
CAMPS CARDIAC AND NEURO DEEMED A SUCCESS

From all accounts, Camp Cardiac and Camp Neuro, held this past summer at Georgia Campus – PCOM, were tremendous successes. Staffed by more than two dozen GA–PCOM volunteer students and professors, the five-day camps introduced high school students from across Atlanta to the art and science of medicine. Participants learned about such topics as heart anatomy and physiology, diagnosing and treating a heart attack, suturing, physical therapy, and the stages of a stroke, as well as living a healthy lifestyle, both mentally and physically, and applying to medical school.

GA–PCOM was the only site in the state of Georgia to offer the two camps, which were founded in 2010 by cardiac surgeon Richard Lee, MD, MBA, and several medical students as a not-for-profit venture. “It was truly amazing to watch the students become excited about their futures and create lasting friendships with other students who share the same passion,” Natalie Vukmer (DO ’18) says. “Not only was this a great learning experience for the high school students, but it gave GA–PCOM’s medical, biomedical and pharmacy students a way to give back to the community.”

STUDENTS RALLY AROUND EMPLOYEE ON BRINK OF HOMELESSNESS

In March, Janet Simmons, a cafeteria worker at PCOM, lost her house in a fire. She found shelter at a Red Cross location, but could only stay for 21 days. Still, she came to work every day as though nothing was wrong. A few days later, Veronica Williams (DO ’17), asked Ms. Simmons how she had been, and Ms. Simmons explained her situation. “I was shocked, she said it almost as an aside,” Ms. Williams says. “We often study in the cafeteria until 8 or 9 at night, so we see Janet nearly every day. So it felt inappropriate not to do anything.”

After talking with College administrators, Ms. Williams canvassed her classmates for donations for Ms. Simmons. Ms. Williams set up a GoFundMe page with an initial goal of $1,000, and within a day, the students had blown past it.

“Inappropriate not to do anything.” Ms. Simmons explained her situation.

CHAMPIONING HEALTHCARE IN GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH

Gwinnett Medical Center, a 553-bed not-for-profit healthcare network with hospitals in Lawrenceville and Duluth, was named the “Champion of PCOM” at the second annual Champions of Healthcare Awards Celebration held at the Infinite Energy Center in Duluth on October 23. In addition, Senator Renee Unterman of District 45, who serves as chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee and vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the Georgia Senate, was named a “Distinguished Friend of PCOM.”

The Champions of Healthcare Awards honors are given yearly to institutions and individuals that have demonstrated a commitment to partnering with GA–PCOM in reaching the College’s educational goals to train caring, competent and proactive future doctors, pharmacists, physician assistants and biomedical scientists.

Emceed by CBS46 reporter Karyn Greer and with keynote remarks by Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, vice president for health sciences and medical affairs at New York Institute of Technology, the event which was the culmination of GA–PCOM’s 10 Years of Impact celebration, attracted about 300 community members, physician and pharmacy preceptors, faculty, staff and students. Proceeds from the event help support the GA–PCOM Student Award Fund which provides support for a student planning to practice in an underserved area of Georgia.

Hannah Southerland, a first year pharmacy student at PCOM School of Pharmacy, was the recipient of the first Student Award Fund. She plans to return to her hometown of Alma, Georgia, to serve the community as a pharmacist.

Ms. Williams (DO ’17) (fifth from left), worked with classmates to organize a fundraiser for a cafeteria worker (fourth from left), who lost her home in a fire.

Shu Zhu, MD, PhD, assistant professor, bio-medical sciences, GA–PCOM, was named an Educator of Excellence.
With support from the American Heart Association, along with funding from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, the research of Rangaiah Shashidharamurthy, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus, focuses on autoimmune disease, including vasculitis (an inflammatory disease that destroys blood vessels) and arthritis. A paper published by the American College of Rheumatology outlines a recent finding involving the molecule lipocalin 2, which plays a protective role during arthritis. It was found that this molecule presents a promising target in the treatment of immune complex–mediated inflammatory/autoimmune diseases.

Dr. Shashidharamurthy is also studying the role of Fc gamma receptors and complement protein during immune-complex mediated vascular damage, and the synergistic effect of microbial products and immune complexes during autoimmune inflammatory disorders. Another project, in collaboration with Eric Wang, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus, and Ganesh Thota, PhD, at Emory University, studies the effect of small molecules in reducing and/or preventing the ongoing inflammation during autoimmune disorders.

“Inflammation is the key event during the pathogenesis of many autoimmune inflammatory disorders,” Dr. Shashidharamurthy says. “Therefore our laboratory is focused on delineating the molecular mechanism of key signaling molecules to develop a targeted therapy.”

Recently, it has been proposed that certain components in inflammatory disease may play a role in reducing fat deposition in tissue. In collaboration with Srujana Rayalam, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus, Dr. Shashidharamurthy is studying the molecular mechanism of alternative macrophage-mediated browning of white adipose tissue. This process favors the reduction of storage fat (white) and an increase in energy producing fat (brown). Down the road, this insight could play a role in reducing obesity.

Overall, the impact of Dr. Shashidharamurthy’s research could provide new targets for protecting the body from destructive side effects of inflammation and provide the basis for new treatments, better understanding and improved health.

In Partnership with the Franklin Institute

For more than two years, PCOM has partnered with the Franklin Institute, one of Philadelphia’s oldest and most renowned scientific institutions, to educate Philadelphians about science and the principles of osteopathic medicine. By participating in events such as the Franklin Institute’s Science After Hours series (pictured—an October “Super Hero” themed event), PCOM faculty have the opportunity to educate thousands outside of the College’s walls.

In addition, at the Franklin Institute’s Philadelphia Science Festival—a weeklong, citywide collaboration that runs each spring—PCOM faculty join more than 200 of the region’s most influential institutions, museums and cultural centers to instill a love of science in all Philadelphians. Several professors showcased their expertise during the 2015 festival.

Faculty members from across PCOM were on hand at the Franklin Institute’s Science Festival Kick-Off Party to discuss their research and knowledge in areas such as anatomy and forensic medicine.

Greg McDonald, DO ’89, professor and chair, forensic medicine and pathology, used his expertise to help attendees solve a staged murder at the wildly popular Mutter Museum.

PCOM faculty and students brought back the Mega Brain—the world’s only inflatable, walkthrough brain exhibit—to teach Philadelphians about brain form and function at the festival’s signature event, the Science Carnival on the Parkway.
GA–PCOM CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF IMPACT

Ten years ago, Georgia Campus – PCOM welcomed its first class of 75 osteopathic medical students. Today the campus is celebrating this milestone by reflecting on its impact in Gwinnett County and the state of Georgia.

A study commissioned by Tripp Umbach, a national leader in independent economic analysis, found that in 2014 alone, GA–PCOM directly and indirectly generated $107.7 million of economic impact in the state. An additional 800 jobs are created or supported indirectly as a result of GA–PCOM’s operational, employee and student spending across Georgia.

In its first decade, the College has conferred more than 900 doctoral and masters’ degrees and more than 300 certificates to GA–PCOM graduates.

With more than 7,000 student volunteer hours contributed last year, the College’s impact is felt in the community. “Our students are focused, motivated and fully committed to service, as are our partners in this community and across Georgia,” says Bryan Ginn, chief campus officer. “Hundreds of practitioners, hospitals and health systems who allow our students to work with them to gain clinical skills deserve our thanks.”

“The establishment of GA–PCOM was a critical development in the face of Georgia’s extreme physician shortages,” says Denise Kornegay, executive director of the Georgia Statewide Area Health Education Network. “Each year, large numbers of GA–PCOM graduates are choosing both residency opportunities and practice opportunities in our state. GA–PCOM is truly a part of our state’s solutions.”

In total, PCOM has invested $37.6 million in property, plant and equipment into its southern campus during the past decade, with improvements and physical plant expansion in the works. David Shafer, Georgia State Senate president pro tempore, notes, “GA–PCOM has fulfilled a critical need to educate talented medical professionals in our state. I look forward to seeing the campus grow, both in student population and programs, over the next several years to better serve the medical needs of all Georgians.”

During the 2015 session of the Georgia General Assembly, the House and Senate passed resolutions honoring GA–PCOM and its ten-year service to Georgia.

PCOM STUDENTS HELP KEEP HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES IN THE GAME

This past May, nearly 200 students from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine participated in the Athlete Health Organization’s (AHO) free health screening event, “Keeping Student Athletes in the Game, For Life.” The annual event provides comprehensive physical screenings to more than 1,000 underserved high school student athletes in the Philadelphia School District. These screenings save lives, as each year life-threatening concerns are identified and a plan is developed to ensure that the students get necessary follow-up care.

During the event, PCOM students assisted with providing physicals, eye exams, orthopedic screenings, pulmonary function tests and electrocardiograms. They also helped to counsel high school students and their parents on information related to nutrition and concussion trauma.

Daniel Parenti, DO ‘87, professor and chair, internal medicine; John P. Simelaro, DO ‘71, professor and chair emeritus, internal medicine; and Michael A. Venditto, DO ‘77, chair, pulmonary and critical care medicine, have all been involved with the AHO’s screening event for several years, and saw student athletes at the pulmonary station. “PCOM has been a part of this since it began,” Dr. Parenti explains. “[AHO founder] Jerry Steingard, MD, a family physician in South Philadelphia, recruited us to participate. This is an excellent way for our first-year students to get hands-on clinical experience,” he says.

PCOM medical students (pictured with Drs. Venditto and Simelaro) provided high school athletes with physicals at the AHO’s annual health screening event. Photo credit: Rich Walker Photography.
Instead of packing their bags for the beach or catching up on sleep this summer, many Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA–PCOM) students extended support across the globe. Taking on various missions of service, they traveled to Nepal, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and across the United States in order to make a difference.

Seven students in GA–PCOM’s osteopathic medicine, pharmacy and biomedical sciences programs embarked on a three-week medical mission trip to Nepal during July. They provided medical and humanitarian relief to a clinic in the village of Jhor in Kathmandu, Nepal, in the wake of this year’s devastating earthquake. Two of the students, Carolyn Falk-Tran (DO ’18) and Jeff Williams (DO ’18), had never left the country before the trip, while another student, Angie Amado (PharmD ’18), says the trip offered her an appreciation of the U.S. medical system and access enjoyed in this country.

Jessica Biller (DO ’18), Lindsey Collier (DO ’18), and Samantha Mandel (DO ’18), along with three students from other medical schools, completed a DOCARE medical mission trip to Chacraseca, Nicaragua. DOCARE International is a medical outreach organization dedicated to providing health care to indigent and isolated people in remote areas around the world. From June 23 to July 4, the group traveled with a pediatrician and provided medical care to the villagers. In addition, the student doctors donated medical supplies to a local clinic, while part of the team helped build a house for a Nicaraguan family.

Nicolas Applvrs Jr. (DO ’18), Josh Bryant (DO ’18), Sarah Coyle (DO ’18), Samara Carolina Ferreira (DO ’17), Angela Luster Mitchell (DO ’18), and Kate Smith (DO ’18), members of the Christian Medical & Dental Association, participated in a Global Health Outreach mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Though they were unable to cross the Haitian border because of tensions between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, group members served impoverished areas of Santo Domingo and two remote sugar cane villages close to Punta Cana.

More than 75 golfers hit the links at the Whitemarsh Valley Country Club outside Philadelphia on September 21, for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine’s 23rd Annual Golf Classic, title sponsored by Independence Blue Cross. Participants including Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, president and chief executive officer; John P. Kearney, chairman, PCOM Boards of Trustees; Leonard Finkelstein, DO ’59, chancellor; and Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, played to raise funds for the College’s five Healthcare Centers. These community-based centers provide primary care to some 30,000 patients in underserved areas in Philadelphia and rural Pennsylvania. In addition, the centers serve as educational sites for PCOM’s medical and psychology students.

Since the event’s inception in 1992, it has raised more than $1.8 million.

In September, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) approved Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine as a site for a master’s degree in Physician Assistant Studies. Twenty students will be admitted to the two-year program that will begin in June 2016.
“If a President’s success and legacy is defined by turning vision into reality, I believe my success will not be determined by the words I say here today, but rather, by the actions of this One College and One Community in the days, months, and years ahead. Because together, we can and will make our One Vision a reality.”

— President Feldstein
Inaugural events for Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, proffered the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine community the opportunity to officially welcome the institution’s eighth president, marking at the same time, the College’s osteopathic tradition and 116-year history of academic excellence. A formal installation ceremony officiated by Thomas J. Gravina, vice chairman, PCOM Boards of Trustees, and chair, PCOM Presidential Search Committee, with John P. Kearney, chairman, PCOM Boards of Trustees, was held on September 17 at Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue. The ceremony included an academic procession, greetings from College representatives and shared citations from key dignitaries, and engagement of the office and presentation of presidential symbols. It was followed by receptions for various internal and external constituencies. In October, additional celebrations were held on Georgia Campus – PCOM and at the 1818 Club, Duluth, Georgia. And students from both campuses participated in service activities in honor of Inauguration—reinforcing the larger community’s sense of solidarity and dedication to public service.

The theme of the Inauguration—One College, One Community, One Vision—was inspired by PCOM’s motto, Mens et Manus (translated as “Mind and Hand”), to stress a holistic institutional identity and College community, and to portray strength in a single forward-moving institutional vision that will be carried out under President Feldstein’s leadership.

President Feldstein’s inaugural address recounted the principles upon which PCOM was founded in 1899, what it has become, and what it can become. The latter was underscored by President Feldstein’s commitment to new College initiatives, solidified in PCOM 2020, a strategic plan that aims to propel the institution forward and to further position it as a national leader:

“So how does a College with nearly 3,000 students engaged in the study of various healthcare and behavioral health fields—in two states—move forward? How does it grow and flourish during an especially fluid time in American higher education and during a confounding period of healthcare reform and regulation?

Last fall, I posed these questions to the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine community when—together—we began our strategic planning process. Over the months that followed—as One College, One Community—we identified institutional aspirations and values that will define One Vision for the next decade and beyond.” [see pages 14-15 for an overview of PCOM 2020]

An alumnus of PCOM, President Feldstein succeeded (July 2014) Matthew Schure, PhD, who served as the College’s president and chief executive officer for more than a decade. Prior to his post at PCOM, President Feldstein served as president, Northern Division, Pennsylvania Managed Care Plans, at AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies. He is board certified in emergency medicine and occupational medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.
“An Inauguration fosters the coming together of communities—internal and external—and manifests a profound sense of unity as portrayed in our celebratory theme: One College, One Community, One Vision. As chairman of the College’s Boards of Trustees, I know that I speak on behalf of our institution when I say that we are confident that Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, is a man of remarkable scope and accomplishment—a leader who will take PCOM into the future.”

- John P. Kearney, Chairman, PCOM Boards of Trustees
The underlying concept of the Inaugural theme is to modernize the focal messaging of the College’s seal and coat of arms (circa 1925 and 1938, respectively). The theme nods to the Latin motto *Mens et Manus* (“Mind and Hand”) to stress a cohesive institutional identity and College community, and to portray strength in a single forward-moving institutional vision that will be established under President Feldstein’s leadership.

The words accompany a special event emblem. The graphic pattern of the emblem is circular in nature to show wholeness and is constructed of shields (simplified from the original College seal and coat of arms). Eight shields—one for each of the College’s presidents—contain three triangles.

The triangles are symbolic of the three segments of the human vertebral column and also of the holism of body, mind and spirit. This holism is significant to the osteopathic identity. The triangles also conjure the structure of the College’s three-pronged instructional, research and service missions. As triangles do, they represent an eternal, unending nature—a convergence of the past, present and future. And ultimately, the triangles represent a three-fold vision for the institution—or three components that come together to form a whole: *One College, One Community, One Vision.*
PCOM 2020: A SHARED VISION

PCOM 2020 summarizes five themed aspirations and ties planning cycles and resource allocation to each. Among the themes include:

**Strategic Theme One:**
**CAPITALIZING ON OUR OSTEOPATHIC HERITAGE**

“PCOM will uphold its position of national leadership in osteopathic thought, education and musculoskeletal therapies. Our leadership role will not be limited to maintaining the existing osteopathic tenants, but evolving them and expanding them to other healthcare providers and incorporating them in inter-professional education. By emphasizing the preventive aspects of nutrition, exercise physiology and behavioral medicine across disciplines, we will make osteopathic medicine more accessible to patients.”

**Strategic Theme Two:**
**ENSURING STRENGTH, CONSISTENCY AND QUALITY IN CLINICAL TRAINING**

“With the consolidation and closure of many hospitals and the current freeze on Graduate Medical Education funding, experiential learning is at a premium. PCOM will build and maintain a national clinical training network that is a model of innovation and efficiency that will provide extraordinary opportunities for students and graduates. We will become a national pioneer in developing outpatient primary care graduate medical education programs with a focus on integrative care, preventative medicine, wellness and population health. At the same time, we will invest in virtual healthcare simulation and blended learning in the clinical setting.”

**Strategic Theme Three:**
**EXPANDING OUR EDUCATIONAL MISSION AND FOOTPRINT**

“PCOM will grow with vision and purpose to expand educational programs and instructional locations that will reach more health-profession students in multiple regions while supporting a robust university infrastructure. We will maintain a campus environment and resources for students that will optimize the PCOM educational experience and enhance career opportunities for our students. And as the College adds more programs to build out its portfolio, we will be cognizant that the diversity of choices be equal to the diversity of our student body, faculty and staff.”

**GROWING ACADEMIC OFFERINGS**

**JOINT DO/MPH**
PCOM and Thomas Jefferson University’s School of Population Health have partnered to offer doctor of osteopathic medicine students the opportunity to receive a master of public health degree from Jefferson while completing coursework at PCOM. PCOM biomedical sciences students are also taking public health courses at Jefferson as part of a new Biomedical Sciences/Public Health Concentration program.

**MS IN AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE ADMINISTRATION (ALTCA)**
A 36-credit ALTCA program has been designed to address the need for leaders in critical long-term care services, from home- and community-based care to assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. A key component of the program is the Nursing Home Administration program, which satisfies the educational requirement for licensure in Pennsylvania.

**MS IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES AT GA–PCOM**
The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant has approved GA–PCOM as a site for a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

**EMBA FOR DO ALUMNI**
Saint Joseph’s University’s Haub School of Business, in collaboration with PCOM, will offer—beginning in March 2016—an accelerated online Executive Master of Business Administration program with a focus on health care. Offered for alumni of the College’s doctor of osteopathic medicine program, alumni will be able to take advantage of discounted tuition rates as well as credit for previous coursework fulfilled at the College.
Strategic Theme Four: PROMOTING OUR INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY AND BRAND

“PCOM will enjoy an enhanced national reputation that connotes tradition, strength, student and faculty diversity, variety of programs, educational excellence, innovation and a core foundation as the leader in student-centered education and community-based primary health care.”

MARKETING TOWARDS A HIGHER PURPOSE

In January 2015, PCOM embarked upon a partnership with 160over90, an internationally recognized branding and creative services firm. Named for elevated blood pressure and human reaction—as is often the agency’s goal—160over90 markets for the likes of American Eagle Outfitters, Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz, the Miami Dolphins, Nike, the Philadelphia Eagles, Sony, and Under Armour. In the realm of higher education, they have provided services for Butler University; Duke University; Fairfield University; Loyola University Maryland; Trinity College; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Hartford; and the University of Notre Dame among others.

Initially, 160over90 was charged with conducting a brand assessment at PCOM so as to fully understand the College’s mission, philosophy, challenges, key objectives, and positioning within the higher education landscape. Agency partners interviewed more than 300 members of the College community and spent time on both campuses, immersing in the culture.

160over90 has since worked with the College’s Office of Marketing and Communications to build a brand campaign that imbues aspirational messaging and photography combined with bold typography. This will be the first time the College’s two campuses will function under a fully-integrated brand. The campaign was unleashed fall 2015.

The Office of Marketing and Communications also launched a new website (pcom.edu) for the College in October. The site is the collaborative work of an internal team as well as of Paskill, Stapleton & Lord, a national marketing and enrollment management firm. Seer Interactive, an industry leader in SEO, SEM, and analytics, assisted in the implementation of strategic search-engine optimization.

Strategic Theme Five: POSITIONING PCOM FOR GROWTH, STABILITY AND REDUCED TUITION DEPENDENCY

“As the business model for higher education continues to evolve, PCOM will reduce tuition dependency while ensuring ongoing financial support for the mission by operating at peak efficiency and developing additional revenue streams. To this extent, the PCOM Boards of Trustees has approved the formation of the PCOM Primary Care Innovation and Venture Fund so we may invest in the Philadelphia and Atlanta venture capital ecosystems. An initial investment of 5 million dollars will allow our fund to support companies that can shape the future of health care. Students, faculty, staff and alumni will have the opportunity to have their startup companies funded and to be part of an exciting new endeavor that ultimately will allow for professional development and growth—while building a non-tuition based revenue stream for the benefit of the College’s students.”

PARTNERING TO HELP TREAT HIGH-RISK ELDERLY IN PHILADELPHIA

Since late summer, PCOM has embarked on its first enterprise partnership with The Residentialist Group (TRG), a California-based management group specializing in the development and operation of house call programs. TRG is headed by Norman Vinn, DO ’77, president, who also served as former president of the American Osteopathic Association. The partnership specializes in the delivery of residentialist care—which focuses on the care of home-bound or access-challenged patients—and offers complex case management and in-home clinical services to Philadelphia’s high risk, frail elderly population.

At the heart of the new partnership is the launch of the Residentialist Housecall Medical Group (RHMG). The Greater Philadelphia-based network will develop interdisciplinary teams to address the physical and psychological needs of its patients. Specially trained RHMG physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants will deliver a range of services, including post-hospitalization care transition services to reduce readmission rates; ongoing chronic care for patients too frail or disabled to leave their homes; palliative care services and annual Medicare wellness visits.

PCOM’s tradition of clinical excellence in both geriatrics and palliative care spans more than two decades. In support of the new network, PCOM faculty and staff in the Department of Geriatric Medicine will utilize their expertise to advise RHMG staff on issues such as clinical policy, evidence-based clinical protocols, and contract development with regional Accountable Care organizations and managed care networks.
“Not much was going on when my pager went off. The operator said, ‘You’re part of the response team for the derailment.’ I asked her to repeat what she’d said. ‘Go down to the ER and you’ll get instructions,’ she told me.”

—Lindsey Perea, DO ’13, general surgery resident

“I’ll never forget my patient: He was covered from head to toe in soot, even his eyelashes. I was trying to get his clothes off and choking on soot. He was barely conscious. . . . Today, when I smell dirt, I think of him.”

—Julia Todd, DO ’13, combined emergency medicine and family practice resident
The patients had such traumatic, devastating injuries. Yet they complained about nothing—they were shell-shocked, in such fear.

—Lindsey Roach, DO ’10, general surgery resident

The first woman patient had a hole in her lower abdomen. She was covered in dirt. Her rib cage on the left side looked like it was inside out. . . . She had so many injuries. She was the sickest person I ever saw who lived.

—Jonathan M. Schwadron, DO ’08, attending physician, emergency medicine

“Trained for Trauma Care”

PCOM alumni at Aria Health were well prepared to treat the mass casualties of May’s Amtrak derailment.

by Janice Fisher

“The patients had such traumatic, devastating injuries. Yet they complained about nothing—they were shell-shocked, in such fear.”

—Lindsey Roach, DO ’10, general surgery resident
Amtrak’s Northeast Regional train no. 188 from Washington, D.C., to New York—the busiest stretch of rail in North America—derailed and crashed in Philadelphia on May 12, 2015, at 9:23 p.m., about 15 minutes after it had departed from 30th Street Station. More than 200 of the train’s passengers were treated at seven area hospitals. Eleven sustained critical injuries; eight would not survive.

The hospital closest to the crash site, about a mile and a half away, was the 115-bed Aria Health–Frankford Campus—not a trauma center, and so under normal circumstances not a location that would receive such patients, and certainly not in such a short time frame and in such numbers. Aria–Frankford treated 36 injured passengers in a few brief hours that night. Among the doctors providing care were several Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine residents, a PCOM-trained attending physician, a PCOM alumna, and a PCOM faculty member.

Some were in the midst of their shifts at Aria–Frankford when the accident occurred and were astonished to find themselves, with virtually no notice, in the midst of a mass casualty at a community hospital. Several had begun the evening not at work, but celebrating a colleague’s birthday at a bowling alley. Among the latter group was Rob Danoff, DO, PCOM clinical professor of family medicine and program director of Aria Health’s combined family medicine/emergency medicine residency. When Dr. Danoff learned about the derailment, he called Gerald Wydro, MD, the chairman of emergency medicine for Aria Health, and confirmed that Aria needed assistance. He asked the residents who were with him, “Who here can help?” Everyone, he says, raised their hands. Some went to the Aria–Torresdale facility, about eight miles from Aria–Frankford; Torresdale is a designated Level 2 Regional Resource Trauma Center. Others, including Dr. Danoff, went to Aria–Frankford.

JULIA TODD, DO ’13

Julia Todd, DO ’13, working in Aria–Frankford’s intensive care unit that night, had been treating a critically ill patient. So when “someone came in with a look on his face, I thought something had happened to my patient.” Moments later, she was shocked to hear “Code Yellow” over the hospital’s public address system. Since she is a combined emergency medicine/family medicine resident, she went downstairs to the ER, along with an ICU nurse, because she knew the ER would be lightly staffed.

In the ER, Dr. Todd joined four residents and two attending physicians. “The nurse manager was getting the scoop from the field about who would be coming to us, but information was limited. Attendings were clearing out the ER as best as possible, dealing with patients who were ambulatory. Then we heard the sirens.”

The residents asked each other, “What should we be doing?” They decided to stand where the ambulances would pull up, and to take patients in order of arrival. “We did triage, stabilized them, and got in line again. This all happened fast—within 10 or 15 minutes after the sirens.” Dr. Todd recalls waiting with her colleagues in the emergency bay, “heart pounding, not knowing what to expect. We’re near Interstate 95, so we get some high-acuity trauma. But Frankford isn’t a trauma hospital, and the volume was overwhelming.”

The patient who had arrived coated in soot was barely conscious. “A nurse and I took care of him, getting him settled and onto pain meds so that we could leave him and he could be scanned for injuries,” says Dr. Todd. The scans revealed multiple rib fractures, and fractures of the cervical spine, as well as lacerations, abrasions, and bruises. Most notably, he had a scalp “degloving” injury: his scalp was coming off. “Two surgery residents [Lindsey Perea, DO ’13, and Lindsey Roach, DO ’10] and I cleaned out his scalp and pulled it back together.” Along with Dr. Todd’s next patient, who also had multiple injuries, the stabilized victim was transferred to Aria–Torresdale.

As Dr. Todd worked, she became aware that “the phones were ringing nonstop, with doctors on the other end. Doctors poured in, and nurses, residents, people not on the work schedule, even SPD units [Sterile Processing Departments] offering supplies.” After the severely injured patients came “the walking wounded, who were piled into paddy wagons,” followed by “a lot of people who were banged up.”

Around midnight, recalls Dr. Todd, accident victims stopped arriving. She went back to the ICU to finish her shift.

“Part of our emergency training is for disaster, and it’s on our boards every year,” says Dr. Todd. “But I never thought I’d see it in my life, especially so early in my career.

“I was comfortable that our faculty in ER is strong and our resident training is strong. It all worked seamlessly. We all deal with trauma, so we applied what we know on a bigger scale.”
Jonathan M. Schwadron, DO ’08

Jonathan M. Schwadron, DO ’08, was the attending physician in Aria–Frankford’s emergency room on the evening of May 12. He recalls seeing “a few police officers around 9 or 9:30. They said there had been a big crash, and I thought, ‘This isn’t a trauma center.’ I figured we’d get a few folks. But within 15 or 20 minutes we started getting patients.”

Dr. Schwadron would spend most of the next few hours at bed 26, with the severely injured female crash victim who had arrived first in the ER bay. “She wasn’t unconscious; her GCS [Glasgow Coma Scale] was 7. She was moaning and in discomfort, with low blood pressure. So the first thing we did was intubate the patient.” Along with two residents, Dr. Schwadron also inserted a chest tube and central line, and administered blood products. He talked with the Aria–Torresdale trauma unit about transferring the patient there. But when X-rays showed pelvic and back fractures, she was transferred to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.

The patient would prove to have seven rib fractures, a flail chest, a diaphragm rupture, serosal injury of the bowel, multiple pelvic fractures, and a lumbar spine fracture. “We only knew about some of these injuries,” he notes; “the rest were discovered later in surgery.”

Dr. Schwadron subsequently learned that his patient had been discharged. “It was nice to hear that it went well,” he says. “We don’t often see the outcome.”

Lindsey Roach, DO ’10

Lindsey Roach, DO ’10, now a fellow in surgical critical care at Christiana Care Health System, in Newark, Delaware, was in her last year of a general surgery residency at Aria–Torresdale on the evening of May 12. She was one of the residents who had been out bowling to celebrate a birthday.

She knew that Aria–Frankford would have only one general surgical resident in house at night, so Dr. Roach drove there first. Her first impression was that the crash victims “were scared to death. Some were on vacation in a foreign country and had been separated from their family; they needed consolation. It felt good that we could help out and that the hospitals where we work could come together.”

Dr. Roach treated five patients during the roughly 90 minutes she spent at Aria–Frankford, primarily helping to repair lacerations. When she arrived later at Aria–Torresdale, she says, “they had things under control. Everyone came in; it was amazing.”

“I think it was a great night all around,” she says, “a tremendous learning experience. How do you even begin to organize who to help first?” The learning goes beyond logistics, however. “So many doctors were called in—and so many went in to help who weren’t called in,” notes Dr. Roach. “These people are in the field for the right reasons.”

Lindsey Perea, DO ’13

Lindsey Perea, DO ’13, a surgical resident on staff that night at Aria–Frankford, remembers a “very surreal” situation, “especially for the first forty minutes when people kept coming. The ‘walking wounded’ were missing shoes but wearing suits, and covered in dirt.

“Two ER residents and I went over Dr. Schwadron’s patient with him. She was a Jane Doe when she arrived, and that was scary—she was so sick.” Dr. Perea also worked with Dr. Roach to help Dr. Todd clean out the degloving injury of the man with the complex scalp laceration. “Seventy percent of his scalp was hanging off. You can die from scalp bleeding. He had gravel and dirt between his skull and the wound.

“The PCOM program is heavy on trauma,” Dr. Perea notes. “I did six months last year alone. And so I had a good comfort level. We are all ATLS [Advanced Trauma Life Support] trained.

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“Once Dr. Fusco [Cynthia Fusco, DO ’91, director of the trauma program at Aria Health] arrived from Aria–Torresdale, we took her around to the patients who needed to be transferred. It was a relief. She was working the phone, walking around and orchestrating where people would go and how to get them there.”

Even though Aria–Frankford lacks the resources of a trauma center, “I don’t think it limited us,” says Dr. Perea. “We were
still able to provide adequate care. When people needed more care, we could get them to that facility in a timely fashion. We knew that we did a great job and had the support of Aria–Torresdale’s Level 2 Trauma Center.”

EMILY HATKE, DO ’13

Emily Hatke, DO ’13, a second-year emergency medicine resident at Aria–Frankford, was working a 3 p.m. to midnight shift. She was suturing a patient when a nurse’s husband—a police officer—came by and said there had been a train accident. “Even so,” she recalls thinking, “victims won’t be coming here. Then I heard it was an Amtrak train, so I knew that a lot more people were involved. And then I heard that it had happened at the Frankford railroad junction—and I knew that was close by.” When the “Code Yellow” was called, Dr. Hatke had never heard it before.

“We started clearing out all our noncritical patients from the ER. We called Julia [Todd] and Lindsey [Perea] to ask them to come down to help. We started getting supplies, and we all lined up at the door to wait.”

Dr. Hatke took the third patient to enter the ER bay. “He was covered from head to toe in soot or dirt—I wasn’t sure which, because I didn’t know more about the crash. He told us he had pain all over, especially in his legs. We took him back and did a quick rundown: ABCs [airway, breathing, circulation], figuring out the major problems, stabilizing him.” While Dr. Hatke was suturing the patient, she recounts, “he asked, ‘What city are we in?’ He had no idea where he was. Patients were in shock and confused, or sleeping. They couldn’t tell us their history.”

Dr. Hatke’s next patient had an open leg fracture, as well as a concussion and lacerations. He was soon transferred to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. Such patients would normally be sent to Aria–Torresdale, “but they were treating other crash victims,” Dr. Hatke explains.

When Dr. Fusco arrived at Aria–Frankford, says Dr. Hatke, “a lot of patients had been stabilized. But she helped us identify who needed to be admitted and where they should go. She was on the phones with surgeons at other sites. My patient needed an immediate operation on his leg; Dr. Fusco lined up a surgeon and an available emergency room. She was there most of the night, as long as I was there.”

Wherever she looked, notes Dr. Hatke, “people were doing exactly what they were supposed to do. And everything seemed very efficient. Nurses and technicians and everyone did an amazing job. Every patient who came to Frankford survived.”

After taking care of three patients, all of whom needed suturing after their CT scans had been reviewed, Dr. Hatke sat down to write up what she had been doing over the past few hours. Now that the patients were settled, she was able to obtain more detailed histories.

Reflecting on her experience, Dr. Hatke says, “This is what we’re trained to do in emergency medicine. Having kept my calm and taken care of my patients and worked as a team—
I feel I have a level of preparation that a lot of other residents and attendings don’t have. I feel that I’m able to handle anything in the future.”

**ROB DANOFF, DO**

Rob Danoff, DO, clinical professor of family medicine, PCOM, and program director of Aria Health’s combined family medicine/emergency medicine residency, found Aria–Frankford “eerily quiet” when he arrived, but it was also calm. People were in emotional shock.

“I remember so many people with dirt on them. I talked to a guy who had been in the second Amtrak car who was hurting all over the place. He remembered that he had been talking to someone on the train, and then next thing he remembered was a loud noise and suddenly he was on his side, spitting up dirt in the dark. A woman remembered hearing that same loud noise and then seeing a man fly by her—and she remembered nothing else until she was walking along the tracks with an emergency responder.”

The staff, says Dr. Danoff, was amazing. “The nurses, the front desk, security, the respiratory therapists, people in the lab, X-ray, scribes—everyone worked together. We do drills, but this was the real thing.” He also praises Philadelphia’s first responders: “The paramedics, firefighters, police were wonderful. The patients told me how caring and kind they were.”

While the emergency medical and surgical staff were handling the most acute and critical cases, Dr. Danoff and others dealt with “fractures, open wounds, concussions, cleaning faces and flushing eyes: we all went where we could help best. And we all worked in teams. In some rooms there were five doctors and several nurses.”

Dr. Danoff recalls the pride he felt as he watched Dr. Todd at work on a patient with Dr. Schwadron. “Julia did a terrific job. And Jon was highly professional and very organized. He led the team and set the tone. Residents reflect the attitude of the attendings.

“I’ve been a program director for about 20 years,” says Dr. Danoff. “I was so proud of the residents and other staff. It was a horrible tragedy, but there are bright lights. I walked by each room and watched them. I saw what they were doing and how well, and how much they cared.”

Dr. Danoff concludes that if the experience at Aria–Frankford that night had a theme, it was teamwork. “Everyone was working together with the same purpose: to help those in need and their families to navigate through that horrific event.”
In a 2013 interview with Digest Magazine, Camille DiLullo, PhD, professor of anatomy, department of bio-medical sciences, shared, “We learn best when we are engaged in endeavors that interest or excite us. I encourage learners to explore knowledge through the lens of their passions.”

An ardent educator and research scientist whose personal, passionate lens was that of art, Dr. DiLullo passed away on May 8, 2015, at age 58, following a battle with cancer. She served Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine for over 21 years, holding—in addition to her academic position—posts as faculty representative to the PCOM Boards of Trustees (2011 to 2013) and inaugural member of the PCOM Diversity Council.

Dr. DiLullo’s research focused on the temporal and spatial appearance of cell-specific proteins during the process of cellular differentiation. Her educational research centered on the enhancement of learning and the development of expertise for multigenerational cohorts in medical training.

She was a member of the American Association of Anatomists, the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation, the International Association of Medical Science Educators, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, and the Pennsylvania Muscle Institute. She served on the editorial board of the International Scholarly Research Notices – Anatomy, and was a reviewer for Anatomical Sciences Education, Clinical Anatomy, MedEdPortal, and Medical Science Educator.

Dr. DiLullo held a bachelor’s degree in biology and art history from La Salle University and a doctoral degree in anatomy and structural biology from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed post-doctoral fellowships in cardiovascular training in electron optical research and in microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania.

AN INSPIRING EDUCATOR AND RESEARCHER

During her tenure at PCOM, Dr. DiLullo taught anatomy and neuroscience to over 5,000 osteopathic medical and biomedical sciences students—thereby indirectly impacting the lives of some 7,000,000 patients. What better tribute is there to a woman who always had new ideas, novel methods—and who, even in her last days of sickness, incited the growth of her students, colleagues, and of the College as an institution?

Among Dr. DiLullo’s most reflective initiatives was her approach to first-year human dissection. While the experience has traditionally taught medical students to emotionally detach from their patient cadavers, Dr. DiLullo sought to instill empathy. She encouraged her students to acknowledge the personhood of their cadavers. She insisted that an interview produced by the Mayo Clinic, between a faculty member and the daughter of a man who donated his body to medical education, be shown to all first-year students. This she believed, paired with post-dissection memorial ceremonies, would help students better process the emotion surrounding the anatomical teaching method.

In one of her last major research projects—through the auspices of a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation—Dr. DiLullo encouraged novice learners in the Cadaver Dissection Laboratory Course to employ self-reflection and discussion of the emotional experience in advancing a humanistic approach to patient-centered health care. She shared her findings and curricular proposals during a 2014 gathering of the American Association of Anatomists, a regional meeting that she organized and hosted at PCOM.

Beyond the laboratory, Dr. DiLullo possessed a keen interest in enhancing the comprehensive learning experiences of her
students and the collaboration of her colleagues. She participated in student orientation activities and designed training modules for students including interactive workshops, educational learning objects and videos, and core-competency discussion sessions. For her colleagues, she spearheaded (beginning in 2009) an annual research retreat that brought together researchers from the Philadelphia and Georgia campuses and members of PCOM’s MEDNet.

**A FRIEND TO STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES ALIKE**

“From the beginning, Dr. DiLullo looked at the mess that was me and said, ‘I can help this one.’ I think that’s what made her so special—her ability to meet her students where they were and then to work to build them up by liberating them from their fears and inadequacies,” says Cierra Lewis (MS/Biomed ’16), (DO ‘18). For Ms. Lewis, Dr. DiLullo was “grace and mercy and strength and beauty. She was a demanding teacher, tutor, confidant, mother-figure, and friend.”

Patricia Mattioli, senior research assistant, anatomy, who worked closely with Dr. DiLullo adds: “Camille had a direct style of communication and a quiet sense of humor. She taught and modeled truth, fairness and objectivity—and urged everyone toward excellence. In turn, she earned the trust of students and colleagues alike.”

For Tage Kvist, PhD, retired professor of anatomy and chair, department of bio-medical sciences, Dr. DiLullo was a kind and thoughtful associate. He recalls, “Years ago, my wife and I underwent a significant house fire and building reconstruction process. One day, as we were beginning to settle back into our home, Camille came by. She gifted us with a handsome set of wine glasses to mark our return. That was just the way she was—thoughtful, generous, gracious.”

**AN ARTIST AND AESTHETIC**

For Dr. DiLullo, art and science were branches of the same tree. Dr. DiLullo often divulged that she did her best science when she was fully engaged with art.

Dr. DiLullo, herself, styled art. “In a sea of blue scrubs, Camille was easy to spot—sporting an artisan necklace, pin or earrings and her signature stilettos,” says Michael P. McGuinness, PhD, professor of anatomy, department of bio-medical sciences. “When I think of Camille, I think of classic Hollywood, of women like Katharine Hepburn in *The African Queen* who would escape enemy warships without sacrificing impeccable dress and style.”

Moreover, Dr. McGuinness recalls the intellectual enmeshment of art and science Dr. DiLullo applied to her very approach to observation and investigation: “If you look at slides from Camille’s lecture presentations, you realize they are unlike anyone else’s. As faculty, most of us position a title on each slide with an image that we discuss. Camille’s slides don’t have titles. They have questions. And there isn’t just a single image; there are multiple images. She didn’t want to tell her students the meaning of the slides. She wanted them to synthesize and analyze the information. She wanted her students to approach and appreciate science as they should approach and appreciate art.”

Marina D’Angelo, PhD, professor of anatomy, department of bio-medical sciences, adds, “Camille brought an artistic eye and flair to everything she did. She infused creativity into every task she undertook. Her spirit was vitality, energy, *art*.”

Dr. DiLullo served as faculty advisor to the PCOM Art Club and sat on the Advisory Board and Educational Outreach Committee for the La Salle University Art Museum. For two years, she was engaged in a project to restore her Washington Avenue home to its late 19th century grandeur, work that was recognized by the Haddonfield (New Jersey) Preservation Society in 2002.

As many of her colleagues can attest, Dr. DiLullo enjoyed shopping and dancing. Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, remembers travel with Dr. DiLullo to academic conferences: “Camille loved to shop and would walk all over the city, wherever we were. She attacked this field of study—fearlessly and relentlessly—as both scientist and artist. She discovered special, out of the way stores, not necessarily recommended in tourist guides, and bought unique gifts for herself and many friends.” He continues: “And she loved dancing; she truly fancied the sequences of human movement. Camille always seemed to make each moment worth living, to understand what it meant to be alive.”

**A PROONENT OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE**

Dr. DiLullo was unyielding in her commitment to the education, training and mentoring of women and to overall gender equity in higher education. She nurtured promising young scientists and future physicians—many minorities—through the Physician Scientist Training program. And she disclosed her personal struggles and experiences through the FabFems Project and STEM Role Models, national advising initiatives designed to inspire and engage women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics pipeline and to increase their retention in these fields.

“Growing up I always wanted to be a doctor—ALWAYS,” her endearing mentor profile begins. In it, Dr. DiLullo recounts the obstacles she confronted as a first-generation college student, receiving limited support from teachers and counselors; the complications she faced focusing and refocusing her career path, ever torn by an equal love of science and art; the anguish she felt as she was rejected from academic programs and posts; and the self-discipline she discovered that comes from persistence of action and vision. Furthermore, she tackles prejudice with candor, describing unconscious acts of gender bias in a scientific work environment.

But above all, she proffers genuine pointers to encourage and edify: “Don’t be dissuaded from what you believe is the right path”; “Recognize opportunities and take full advantage of those that are available to you”; and “Consciously engage in all the aspects of your life that bring you happiness.”
WINIFRED TOLEDO, RN ’58
Lifelong nurse recounts her experiences by Colleen Pelc

To say that Ms. Toledo, who attended the former Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Nursing in the 1950s, experienced culture shock upon arriving in Philadelphia would be an understatement. Moving from Onekama, Michigan, with a population of 435 people at the time, to her first year at 20th and Susquehanna, Ms. Toledo relied on others to help her get accustomed to her new world.

“Fortunately my roommate was from Philadelphia,” says Ms. Toledo. “I not only learned about nursing but also about big city living.”

Following graduation, Ms. Toledo moved back to Michigan, where she passed the state board, became licensed and worked in a hospital in Onekama.

“I then did what I had wanted to do since I was 16—to be a volunteer through my church—which had and still has a program of volunteer service,” she says. Ms. Toledo used her PCOM education to serve in Hospital Castaner in Castaner, Puerto Rico, a small hospital in a rural area in the mountains. “There I learned to speak Spanish and married a Puerto Rican.”

After spending two and a half years in Puerto Rico, Ms. Toledo moved, with her husband and daughter, back to Michigan, where she has lived ever since. She wanted to teach, so she went back to school at Central Michigan University and earned a master’s degree in health education.

“West Shore Community College created a program in nursing, and I taught there for 26 years helping others learn to be nurses,” she says.

Despite retiring in 2000, Ms. Toledo has decided to retain her nursing license and has completed the necessary continuing education courses over the years. “I no longer work at a hospital, but I use my knowledge about health care at a camp in Michigan for the Church of the Brethren. There I am available to provide necessary care for the campers, giving prescribed medication and dealing with small injuries and other needed care. I have learned so much since I finished nursing school, and health care has greatly changed, but I was prepared to be a nurse from my experience and education at PCOM,” she adds.

CLASS OF 1968
Alfred J. Poggi, DO, Somerset, PA, was honored with the 2015 Family Physician of the Year Award by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society. The award was presented to Dr. Poggi in recognition of his outstanding services to the osteopathic profession and his community.

CLASS OF 1969
Sally Ann Rex, DO, Northampton, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

CLASS OF 1970
John W. Becher, DO, Newtown Square, PA, was installed on July 20, 2015, as president of the American Osteopathic Association.

CLASS OF 1972
Mark E. Adlen, DO, Jupiter, FL, was appointed medical director at Water’s Edge Rehab in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Joan M. Watkins, DO, Tampa, FL, contributed a chapter to the sixth edition of Hamilton and Hardy’s Industrial Toxicology. Dr. Watkins is partially retired from clinical practice but continues a consultation practice. She also continues teaching residents and graduate students in the occupational medicine residency at the University of South Florida’s Morsani College of Medicine and College of Public Health.

CLASS OF 1973
Jerome M. Horwitz, DO, Cherry Hill, NJ, is one of two recipients of the Lourdes Health Foundation 2015 Healing Spirit Award. The annual award honors a Lourdes physician for his or her compassion, dedication to patients and years of service. Dr. Horwitz is a cardiologist and a founding member of South Jersey Heart Group – Lourdes Cardiology.

John S. Stevens, Jr., DO, Allentown, PA, was re-elected for a three-year term on the American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

CLASS OF 1974
Michael Jon Feinstein, DO, Coronado, CA, has been reappointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, on which he has served since 2012.

Richard G. Tucker, DO, Mount Laurel, NJ, received the Drexel University OB/GYN Faculty Teaching Award. Dr. Tucker is the site coordinator for the Drexel OB/GYN residency at Virtua Memorial Hospital in Mount Holly, New Jersey, and maintains a private solo practice in Mount Laurel and Manahawkin, New Jersey.

George D. Vermeire, DO, Oreland, PA, re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, was elected vice president of POMA and was installed during POMA’s 107th Annual Clinical Assembly.

CLASS OF 1975
Dennis L. Eckels, DO, Bolivar, PA, a physician with Valley Ambulatory Health Center in Seward, presented—for the fourth time—the “Nothing is Impossible Necklace.” Dr. Eckels is credited with launching the necklace program in his community—providing an incentive for women to undergo mammograms and to promote breast cancer awareness and prevention. The necklace is the result of a collaborative effort between Brighton Jewelers and Nemacolin Woodlands Resort and represents the hope for a breast cancer cure and the support for the millions fighting the disease.

CLASS OF 1976
Walter S. Dobushak, DO, Kerhonkson, NY, has accepted a full-time appointment and is now seeing patients at McAndrew Family Health Center in Vandling, Pennsylvania.

Kenneth J. Veit, DO, MBA, Lafayette Hill, PA, was honored with the 2015 POMA Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association during the Annual State Banquet held in conjunction with POMA’s 107th Annual Clinical Assembly. Dr. Veit received the association’s highest honor in recognition of his countless contributions to the osteopathic profession and to POMA.

CLASS OF 1977
Anthony J. DiPasquale, DO, Ocean City, NJ, has been named the Benjamin A. Field, DO, FACOEP Mentor of the Year for 2015 by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.
Silvia M. Ferretti, DO, Erie, PA, was honored with the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Carl E. Meyer, III, DO, Greenville, PA, joined the Scientific Advisory Board at Premier Biomedical, Inc. Dr. Meyer is a pediatrician and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Kathryn Meyer, DO, Greenville, PA, joined the Scientific Advisory Board at Premier Biomedical, Inc. Dr. Meyer is an emergency physician certified by the American Academy of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Michael C. Salzburg, DO, Holldaidysburg, PA, and his wife, Wendy, were named “two of the most charitable people in Pennsylvania” by Philadelphia Magazine. The couple donated $1 million to name Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Dr. Michael and Wendy Salzburg Clinical Learning & Assessment Center.

CLASS OF 1978
Harry J. Morris, III, DO, West Chester, PA, professor and chair, family medicine, was recognized in February by the Credentials Committee for the Certifying Commission in Medical Management as a Certified Physician Executive.

CLASS OF 1979
Anthony J. Cerone, Jr., DO, Clayton, NJ, had his article, “Doctors Should Treat Patients Like Extended Family,” published in the South Jersey Times (May 6, 2015). Dr. Cerone is a guest columnist for the Times.

William F. Murphy, DO, Sarasota, FL, was invited to a symposium at the White House to address the need for post-graduate medical education and to help educate medical professionals about the disease of addiction. He developed the first and only osteopathic fellowship in addiction medicine approved by American Board of Addiction Medicine. He is the family practice residency director for Largo Medical Center in Florida as well as medical director for Largo Medical Center and director for Largo Medical Center’s Continuing Clinic and in Florida as well as medical director for Largo Medical Center.

CLASS OF 1980
Benjamin Abraham, DO, Snellville, GA, was named Physician of the Year – Family Practice at the Gwinnet Chamber Healthcare Excellence Awards.

Lauren P. Argenio, DO, West Pittston, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

CLASS OF 1981
Frank Paolantonio, DO, York, PA, was elected to a two-year term as president of the medical staff at Memorial Hospital in York.

CLASS OF 1982
Bruce A. Feinberg, DO, Decatur, GA, host of the WSB Radio program “The Weekly Check-Up,” delivered the keynote address at Georgia Campus – PCOM’s spring commencement. Dr. Feinberg is the chief medical officer of Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions.

William J. Meis, DO, Glenside, PA, received the 2014-2015 Clinical Teacher of the Year Award given by the PCOM Department of Surgery and received the 2015 Dean’s Appreciation Award for service in the Department of Surgery at PCOM.

Wayne J. Stuart, DO, Knoxville, TN, joined the staff at Summit Medical Group in Seymour.

CLASS OF 1983
Gary A. Aaronson, DO, New Hope, PA, was selected as a 2015 “Top Doc in Pulmonary Medicine” by Philadelphia Magazine.

Kevin B. Gerold, DO, Towson, MD, was promoted to associate professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine.

Angelo Mancuso, DO, Decatur, AL, diagnosed north Alabama’s first known case of leprosy. The last reported cases were in south Alabama in 2012.

Lee Pachter, DO, Elkins Park, PA, was named editor-in-chief of the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Dr. Pachter has served as an associate editor of the journal since 1997.

Dyanne Westerberg, DO, Glen Mills, PA, had her articles “This Year’s Flu Strains Different, More Severe,” “Self Injury Among Young People: A Growing Problem” and “Heroin Use Causes Problems, Sometime Death” published in Gloucester City News in January, March and April 2015.

CLASS OF 1984
Patrick J. Kerrigan, DO, Wilkes Barre, PA, was elected as a delegate of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association and will represent District 4.

William J. Strowhouer, DO, Media, PA, is opening his eighth Physicians Weight Control office in Doylestown. His practice offers medical treatment for obesity.

CLASS OF 1985

CLASS OF 1986
James M. Bonner, DO, Mullica Hill, NJ, was elected president of Inspira Medical Center Woodbury in New Jersey, overseeing the 550-member medical staff. Dr. Bonner has served as the medical director of emergency medicine there since 1998. Dr. Bonner also serves on the board of directors of the Alumni Association of PCOM.

Marc F. Domsky, DO, Jackson, WI, was elected chief of staff at St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson Hole. He also serves as chief of anesthesia.

Philip David Orons, DO, Wexford, PA, was named a fellow of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology (AOCR) and honored at the 2015 AOCR Annual Convention in Las Vegas.

Mary E. Quillian, DO, Lakeland, FL, joined Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach.

Michael J. Zawisz, DO, Orwigsburg, PA, was installed as the 104th president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association during POMA’s 107th Annual Clinical Assembly.

CLASS OF 1987
Thomas F. Brown, DO, Fort Lauderdale, FL, was named assistant dean for clinical education at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. In addition, he is the director of graduate medical education at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.

Anthony E. Di Marco, DO, Kennett Square, PA, was chosen as president-elect of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association during POMA’s 107th Annual Clinical Assembly.

Larry N. Finkelstein, DO, Lafayette Hill, PA, was named medical director of the Bala Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Philadelphia.

THE ZEDECK MEDICAL HUMANITIES LECTURESHIP SERIES

In April, PCOM hosted the Zedock Medical Humanities Lecture Series in the Rose K. Ginsburg Amphitheater. Barron Lerner, MD, PhD, professor of medicine and medical humanities at New York University School of Medicine, presented “Two Doctors, Two Generations: Medical Ethics Then and Now.”

Albert Sarkessian, DO ’62; Kerin L. Fresa, PhD, professor and assistant dean of the osteopathic curriculum; and Dr. Lerner.
Richard E. Johnson, DO, Du Bois, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

James N. Masterson, DO, Jeannette, PA, received the Team Physician Honorary Membership award from the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainer’s Society in June 2015.

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

CLASS OF 1988

Russell G. Clayton, Sr., DO, Huntingdon Valley, PA, was appointed chief medical officer at Alcresta, a specialty pharmaceutical company.

Michael D’Ambrosio, DO, Media, PA, has been named co-recipient of the Practice Innovation Award for 2015 by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Joseph Heck, DO, Henderson, NV, took up the gavel as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee’s Military Personnel Subcommittee. U.S. Representative Heck will be running for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Herbert M. Schecter, DO, Penn Valley, PA, was elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. Chairman of POMA’s District 1, he is a delegate to POMA and to the American Osteopathic Association.

Kurt K. Thomas, DO, Hanover, PA, opened a new practice to focus on the delivery of a higher level of personalized healthcare with an emphasis on prevention, not just the treatment of illness. Dr. Thomas joined MDVIP, Inc., the leader in affordable personalized healthcare. He is the first MDVIP affiliate in Hanover and the 22nd MDVIP-affiliated physician in the state of Pennsylvania.

CLASS OF 1989

Anestis Gianitsos, DO, Philadelphia, PA, was promoted to clinical assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College – Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Gianitsos has been an anesthesiologist at the Methodistist Hospital Division – Thomas Jefferson University Hospital since 1993, where he has been actively involved in teaching osteopathic medical students.

Gregory McDonald, DO, Philadelphia, PA, has been appointed chair of the new Department of Forensic Medicine and Pathology of POMC. This department will oversee the forensic medicine degree programs and provide pathology teaching. Dr. McDonald also authored an article titled “Be Safe When Lightning Strikes,” published in the Philadelphia Inquirer (June 28, 2015).

Donna R. Moyer, DO, Perrinton, MI, was named a fellow of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology.

CLASS OF 1990

Henry R. Schuitema, DO, Medford, NJ, was elected vice chief of staff at Kennedy University Hospital. Dr. Schuitema is system-wide chief of emergency medicine at Kennedy and, since 1996, has been medical director of the Kennedy-Stratford emergency department.

CLASS OF 1991

Sheri D. Lim, DO, High Point, NC, has accepted a position as assistant professor and co-director of Clinical Decision Making, Department of Physician Assistant Studies, at High Point University.

CLASS OF 1992

Gene M. Battistella, DO, Moon Township, PA, was re-elected to serve on the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association during POMA’s 107th Annual Clinical Assembly. He also serves as treasurer for the association’s District 8 and as speaker of the association’s House of Delegates.

Charles F. Gorey, DO, Pottstown, PA, had his article “Must-Have Health Screening for Men” published in the Mercury (June 24, 2015). Dr. Gorey is a staff member at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, Department of Family Medicine.

John Petolillo, Jr., DO, Newtown, PA, was a guest speaker at Newtown Athletic Club in Newtown on June 25, 2015. His lecture covered rotator cuff issues, arthritis, and nonsurgical and surgical treatments.

CLASS OF 1993

Stuart A. Bradin, DO, Ann Arbor, MI, was promoted to associate professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at the University of Michigan.

CLASS OF 1994

Mary E. J. Sokach, DO, Falls, PA, was a featured speaker at the Wyomissing area’s Sixth Annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony held in May. She has served as the center director of the Exeter Township Medical Center as well as the assistant regional dean of the Commonwealth Medical College, South Campus, for the past 18 years.

CLASS OF 1995

Jeffery J. Dunkelberger, DO, Lewisberry, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Dunkelberger was also re-elected speaker of the House of Delegates during POMA’s 107th Annual Clinical Assembly.

Christopher P. Moyer, DO, Enola, PA, has joined Urology of Central Pennsylvania’s urology services at Fulton County Medical Center’s Specialty Services in Camp Hill.

Joyce L. Vrabec, DO, Bear Creek Township, PA, has joined Geisinger – Kistler Clinic as an internal medicine physician. Dr. Vrabec is trained to care for...
patients age 18 and older, and has a special interest in geriatric medicine and the management of diabetes and hypertension.

**CLASS OF 1996**

Nicole M. Alu, DO, Laurel, DE, has joined Peninsula Regional Family Medicine in Salisbury, Maryland.

Christopher C. Clark, DO, Erie, PA, was named clinical client relations medical director at Highmark Inc.

**CLASS OF 1997**

Joanne Kakaty-Monzo, DO, Phoenixville, PA, has been named academic chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, PCOM (both the Georgia and Philadelphia campuses). She also teaches in the OB/GYN residency program at Lankenau Hospital.

Karla D. McCann, DO, Kittanning, PA, discussed the challenges of providing healthcare in rural Armstrong County at her new South Jefferson Street office in the Armstrong Primary Care Center in an article featured in the Trib Total Media (January 28, 2015).

**CLASS OF 1998**

John N. Boll, Jr., DO, Williamsport, PA, served as a medical director for the 2015 Little League Baseball World Series. Dr. Boll coordinated medical coverage for the umpires and members of the 16 baseball teams.

Francis Scott Carlin, DO, Fallsington, PA, joined the multispecialty medical group at Cape Regional Physicians Associates as a family practice physician.

Bradley J. Miller, DO, Northumberland, PA, was elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

**CLASS OF 1999**

Julia M. D’Amora, DO, Fincastle, VA, has been assigned as primary physician to the Gebe Center for Healthy Aging in Daleville.

Ositadinma Ogugua Opara, DO, Dumas, TX, led the first Obazu National Council medical mission to Obazu village in South Eastern Nigeria (August 10-18, 2014). The goal of the mission was to identify patients with high blood pressure, diabetes and strokes and to counter medical problems such as malaria and GI issues.

Janie L. Orrington-Myers, DO, New Bern, NC, joined Onslow Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville. Dr. Orrington-Myers is the hospital’s first female general surgeon.

Stefanie M. Steiner, DO, Avondale, PA, presented “Family Eating and Exercise 101,” a lecture at the Jennersville Regional Hospital Seminar at the Hilton, Kennett Square, on April 9.

**CLASS OF 2000**

Nicole Heath Bixler, MBA/DO, Land O’ Lakes, FL, received the 2015 Outstanding Female Leader award presented by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. The award’s purpose is to recognize women physicians who serve as clinical role models, teachers, highly accomplished professional leaders and sources of inspiration for women and men who are in medical training.

Joshua S. Coren, MBA/DO, Harbоро, PA, was appointed chair of the Department of Family Medicine of the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, effective July 1, 2015.

Robert Earl Davis, Jr., DO, Paxinos, PA, has joined the cardiovascular team at Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg.

John D. Lawson, III, MS/Biomed ’97, DO, Conshohocken, PA, joined Main Line HealthCare in Havertown. He is also on staff at Lankenau Medical Center, Bryn Mawr Hospital and Riddle Hospital.

Lori Lorant-Tobias, DO, Pottstown, PA, had her article “How Runners Can Beat the Heat” published in the House Calls section of the Pottstown Mercury (August 12, 2015).

**CLASS OF 2003**

Julianne Falleroni, DO, Appletown, WI, has joined the family medicine clinic at Family Care of the Fox Cities in Appleton.

Alan J. Kanouff, DO, Hollidaysburg, PA, was a speaker at the Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania in August. His topic was sleep apnea treatment alternatives.

Sarah McGinley Turner, DO, Blacksburg, VA, has been hired as a staff physician at the...
DAMMUN M. PIERCE, DO ’04
by Colleen Pels

As a laborist at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Virginia, Dr. Pierce spends most of his days helping to bring little ones into the world. But Dr. Pierce also spends time being a mentor to the residents of Washington Hospital Center and the medical students of Georgetown University School of Medicine.

“I was recruited to this job by my previous residency advisor and mentor—which gives it a special meaning to me. As more people are given access to health care, we will need healthcare providers to keep up with patient volume,” Dr. Pierce says. “Providing health care is what we all took an oath to do, which includes treating people from various ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. Having the opportunity to mentor gives me the opportunity to not only affect my patients, but the patients of those whom I mentor, multiplying my efforts to have a positive influence on my community.”

Dr. Pierce also offers his time as a supervising physician for his local resident-managed county clinic. “We have a diverse population, with the vast majority of our patients being immigrants or uninsured patients of Arlington County. We provide general gynecological and prenatal obstetrical care for our patients. We are also able to arrange referrals for subspeciality services and social and financial services to promote healthcare in our community,” he says.

A lifelong learner, Dr. Pierce uses his day-to-day experiences to grow as a person as well as a doctor of osteopathic medicine. “I love learning and staying on top of current trends in medicine. This means that along with keeping up with current research, I also enjoy learning from the residents and students. I am always surprised at what my students know, and the surprising ways I can use that information in my pursuit to become a better physician.

“I am proud to see the contributions that DOs continue to make not just to osteopathic medicine, but to medicine as a whole, infusing our philosophy with modern medicine—taking the whole person approach and treating the mind, body and spirit,” he adds.

APPRECIATION award from Juniata College as part of their alumni weekend in June.

Lauren Noto-Bell, DO, Havertown, PA, appeared on 6ABC (January 2015) to discuss and demonstrate osteopathic manipulative medicine.

CLASS OF 2007
Heather M. Beauparlant, DO, Soldotna, AK, joined the active medical staff at Central Peninsula Family Practice in Kenai.

Johnny Lops, DO, Brooklyn, NY, left his position as team psychiatrist for the Brooklyn Nets to focus on his first book, released in May: Reinvent Yourself: Essential Tools From a Brooklyn Psychiatrist Who Has Seen It All.

Deidre Kathleen Lynn, DO, Worcester, MA, joined the staff at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

Paula M. Renzi, DO, Yakima, WA, joined the Senior and Residential Care Program, a service of Community Health of Central Washington, as a staff physician.

CLASS OF 2008
Nicholas C. Avitabile, DO, New York, NY, was appointed clinical instructor in the Department of Radiology at PCOM. He was a contributing author to the article “Two Cases of Heterotopic Pregnancy: Review of the Literature and Sonographic Diagnosis in the Emergency Department,” published in the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine (March 2015).

Adam H. Berman, PsyD, Jenkintown, PA, has been appointed to the Y.A.L.E. School of Philadelphia team of educators and clinicians as a school psychologist.

Jay D. Bhatt, DO, MPH, Chicago, IL, has been appointed the first chief health officer of the Illinois Hospital Association and was elected president of the Midwest Alliance for Patients Safety, an Illinois-based patient safety organization.

Peter F. Bidey, DO, Philadelphia, PA, had his article “When Child Has a Cold, What to Do?” published in the Philadelphia Inquirer (January 4, 2015). Dr. Bidey also discussed the ways osteopathic manipulative medicine can benefit children (March 19, 2015); ways to keep children safe from water-borne illnesses (May 28, 2015); and how to speed recovery after a bug bite (August 6, 2015) on Philly.com’s Healthy Kids Blog.

Michael I. Hanzly, Jr., DO, Blasdell, NY, has joined the Buffalo Medical Group Department of Urology. Dr. Hanzly specializes in prostate, kidney and bladder cancer along with other urologic malignancies, in addition to treating all general urologic concerns.

Boaquang Sy Le, DO, Sicklerville, NJ, joined the medical staff at Troy Regional Medical Center in Alabama.

CLASS OF 2009
Helen Anne Chang, DO, Mountain View, CA, is completing her fellowship at Stanford University Hospital and will join Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, as a faculty anesthesiologist.

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA RECEPTION

Students, staff and alumni traveled to Scranton on April 21 for a reception for prospective PCOM students from Northeastern Pennsylvania, hosted by John P. Kearney, chairman of the PCOM Boards of Trustees, and his wife, Lois. Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, president and chief executive officer, and Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, spoke to the guests about the College and its initiatives.

Dr. Veit, Dr. Feldstein and Mr. Kearney.
Claudia Amelia Ebner, DO, Winder, GA, joined the staff at Northeast Georgia Physicians Group Braselton Family Medicine in Braselton.

Amanda M. Schell, DO, Boalsburg, PA, received dual board certification in internal medicine from the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.

Nicola Stepanian, DO, Bala Cynwyd, PA, has graduated from his nephrology fellowship at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and is joining Metropolitan Nephrology Associates in Philadelphia.

Zachary Englert, DO, Sierra Vista, AZ, had her article “Antibiotics: Too Much of a Good Thing?” published in the Bisbee Daily Review/Sierra Vista Herald (January 18, 2015).


Laura DePalma, DO, Baltimore, MD, has joined the Pediatric Department of Johns Hopkins University Bayview Medical Center.

Vito V. Cirigliano, DO ’08, Southern Pines, NC, and his wife, Mary Kenny Cirigliano, DO ’08, welcomed a son, Massimo Vincenzo, on February 14, 2015. Little Massimo joins big sister Sophia.

Matthew Evan Dubrow, DO ’98, Portland, OR, and his wife, Gabrielle, are the proud parents of Calvin Dean, born on May 30, 2015. Calvin joins big sister Gabby and big brother Matthew.

Karen N. Duvall, DO ’09 (GA–PCOM), and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their second baby boy, Gabriel John, on February 22, 2015. Gabriel joins big brother Micah.

Lori Frisard, DO ’06, Hollywood, FL, and her husband, Frank Menschner, are the proud parents of Leo Frisard-Menschner, born on August 5, 2014.

Maria Ann Kern, MS/Biomed ’11, MS/PA ’05, Old Forge, PA, and her husband, Christopher, are the proud parents of Anna, born February 8, 2015.

Michelle Noreski, DO ’10, Philadelphia, PA, and her husband, John, are the proud parents of Tyler John, born on May 10, 2015.

Heather Orkwis, DO ’09, Rochester, MI, and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their baby girl, Ava Lilliana, on June 15, 2015. Ava Lilliana joins big brothers Liam and Brynn.

Monica Kanal, DO, Fairfax, VA, joined Dominion Internal Medicine in Warrenton.

Charlotte Amelia Ebner, DO, Strawser, PA, joined the staff at Northeast Georgia Physicians Group Braselton Family Medicine in Braselton.

On March 23 the Institutional Advancement Department hosted a panel discussion and networking event for students and alumni of the MS in mental health counseling program at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue. Faculty and alumni fielded career questions from current students. A reception was held prior to the discussion.

Pamela J. Ruoff, MS, from the Institutional Advancement Department, addresses the crowd at MS in Mental Health Counseling Event.
TRACY (LAZUR) SMITH, MS/PA-C ’09

Widening her footprint in the physician assistant field
by Colleen Pellec

When Ms. Smith graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, she never could have imagined how her role of physician assistant would evolve in just a few short years to “more of a management position,” she says. Ms. Smith is currently the director of professional development for The Residentialist Group in Laguna Hills, California, and a clinically practicing physician assistant for the Residentialist Housecall Medical Group.

The Residentialist Group, founded by former American Osteopathic Association president Norman Vinn, DO ’77, is the management services company for both Housecall Doctors Medical Group in Laguna Hills and the newly formed Residentialist Housecall Medical Group, a Philadelphia-based joint venture between PCOM and The Residentialist Group.

After working under Dr. Vinn’s direction for a few years, Ms. Smith became involved in the operational and professional development of the organization, which opened her eyes to the healthcare world beyond the clinical treatment aspect.

“I felt that having a wider understanding of the healthcare industry helped me to better understand the impact it has on the treatment of a patient. The knowledge I gained through the work I was doing with Dr. Vinn encouraged me to go back to school for my master’s of healthcare administration degree, which I am now close to completing,” Dr. Vinn has recently expanded his organization to the Philadelphia area, and with the partnership of PCOM, I am confident that we can have an impact on the health of the access-challenged patients in the Philadelphia area,” Ms. Smith says.

“I believe that my clinical background, paired with my administrative background, allows me to have a wider footprint for both the physician assistant profession and for the underserved patients in the Greater Philadelphia area. I am devoted to helping increase the awareness of the needs of the homebound population and also increasing physician assistant awareness of roles in primary care for this underserved population,” she adds.

Ms. Smith currently resides in Conshohocken with her husband and dog, and attends Saint Joseph’s University.

of Conemaugh Physicians Group – Neurology in Johnstown. Dr. Lanciano will see outpatients at Conemaugh East Hills and inpatients at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center’s Main Campus.

Erin Elizabeth Miller, DO, Wilkes Barre, PA, joined Geisinger Community Medical Center as a general surgeon. She is part of the surgical team under the direction of Timothy J. Farrell, MD, FACS, the medical center’s director of surgery.


Jennifer Marie Swenski, DO, Madison Township, PA, joined Commonwealth Health – Avoca. Dr. Swenski also is on staff at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton.

CLASS OF 2011

Julia M. (Rothlisberger) Brinley, DO, Charleston, SC, joined Colorado Springs Neurological Associates in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Dr. Brinley completed a neurological residency at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Erin M. Feinstein, DO, Lebanon, NJ, completed her chief residency in neurology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In July, she started a movement disorders fellowship at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Lulu He, DO, Shaler Heights, OH, was named 2015-2016 Chief Resident of Diagnostic Radiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Catherine M. Krouse, DO, Falmouth, ME, has opened a primary care medical practice, Lotus Family Practice, in Falmouth.

Adam S. Lamly, DO, Selkirk, NY, joined St. Peter’s Health Partners Medical Associates Primary Care Physicians in Albany.

Shelby E. Osborne, DO (GA–PCOM), Fayetteville, AR, joined Swan Mountain Women’s Center. This past summer, she spent four weeks in Ecuador, where she studied Spanish in an intensive language program for healthcare providers.

Hetal Karahan Sheladia, MS/Biomed, San Francisco, CA, won an apron to join chef Gordon Ramsey’s “Master Chef” kitchen on the season 6 premiere, May 6, 2015. She is the founder of PrettyPolymath.com, a food, travel and culture blog with more than 4,000 monthly views.

Shaile Viroja, MS, DO, Bethlehem, PA, has joined the Folcroft Family Practice in Folcroft, after completing her residency at Plaza Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

CLASS OF 2012

Asher A. Edwards, DO, Long Beach, CA, graduated from his internal medicine residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance; in July, he began a fellowship in palliative care at the University of California, Irvine. He is the recipient of the Darryl Y. Sue, MD Humanism in Medicine Award.

Anthony J. Froncillo, DO, Hollidaysburg, PA, joined the Tyrone Regional Health Network and the new Pinecroft Medical Center in Tyrone.

Aaron E. George, DO, Chambersburg, PA, co-authored the article “Let Sleep Be Thy Medicine” featured in the online publication Modern Health Care, May 27, 2015.

Matthew E. Joseph, DO, Kingston, PA, joined Geisinger Health – Dallas, Dallas, Pennsylvania, as a family medicine physician.

Timothy B. Mack, DO, Malvern, PA, joined Main Line Health Care Family Medicine in Westtown, specializing in family medicine. Dr. Mack has also participated in volunteer medical missions in India and Brazil.

Nicholas J. Madden, DO, Hollidaysburg, PA, co-authored the article “Celiac Artery Stent Placement for Coronary Ischemia,” published on June 11, 2015, in the Annals of Vascular Surgery.

Christopher M. Minello, DO, South Abington Township, PA, has joined The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education as a full-time faculty staff member. Dr. Minello also joined

GA–PCOM DO CLASS OF 2010 REUNION

The GA–PCOM DO Class of 2010 celebrated their five year reunion on May 29, 2015 at Loca Luna restaurant in midtown Atlanta, Georgia.
the Weight Center for Primary Care’s Clarks Summit practice as a full-time physician.

Alana Carlson Rickard, DO, Beach Lake, PA, has joined Pediatric Practices of Northeastern PA. Her interests include musculoskeletal medicine, nutrition and type 1 diabetes.

Cassandra L. Tunis, DO, Clarks Summit, PA, joined Geisinger – Pittston as a family medicine physician.

In Memoriam

David A. Bevan, DO ‘69, Gladwyne, PA, June 6, 2015. Clinical Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology; Member of the PCOM Corporation. Served the College for 36 years.

Harvey Bryant, Jr, DO ‘75, Philadelphia, PA, October 19, 2015. Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Served the College for more than 30 years.


David Kasper, DO ‘84, Shavertown, PA, August 20, 2015.


Lisa A. Marino, DO ‘03, West Chester, PA, June 10, 2015.


Paul J. Palmerio, DO ‘77, West Chester, PA, April 4, 2015.

Kush S. Patel, MS/PA-C ‘14, Philadelphia, PA, March 1, 2015.


Marvin L. Rosner, DO ‘57, Bala Cynwyd, PA, January 11, 2015.


Chester E. Smith, DO ‘58, Philadelphia, PA, May 1, 2015.


Theresa A. Walls, DO ‘75, Lancaster, PA, November 30, 2014.

Lorraine C. Watts-Klow, DO ‘61, Vero Beach, FL, August 18, 2015.


In 2015.

Conestoga, PA, September 6, 2015.


Cameron Youngblood, MS/FM, Swedesboro, NJ, is among the newest class of Woodrow Wilson New Jersey teaching fellows, announced in July 2015.
In an effort to stay alert for a marathon study session, I draw the string of my blinds downward, allowing sunlight to pour into the room. The beam of intense light gleams onto a crisply ironed white coat hanging on my closet door. The coat is completely naked, baring not a name tag, pin, or stain. Its length barely passes my waist, and its only use came during a premeditated encounter with a standardized patient during my third week of school. I imagine that someday the immaculate coat will lose its color and reflect dichotomous times of struggle along with success. However, on this particular day, it will remain on the hanger. It is examination week during my first year of medical school, and I’m surprisingly amused that I’ve become accustomed to studying in the same chair for most of the hours I am awake. As more information is digested page by page, feelings of intense pulsations in my head push through.

Staring at my notes, I am startled by the vibration of my phone. It is my mother. It has been at least a few weeks since we have talked; I jump at the chance to talk to another human being whose primary concern isn’t inborn errors of metabolism. I answer the phone to hysterical sobbing, and I can’t comprehend any of her words. “Mom, what is going on, what is wrong?” Catching her breath, she relays that her general practitioner, Dr. William Simon, has passed away. I’m shocked to hear the news. She just saw him a couple of weeks prior to renew a prescription. “Renewing a prescription” — that was one of my mother’s many excuses to see her physician.

Most patients find the medical system to be a burden and physician appointments, an inconvenience; what is the point of scheduling an appointment just to renew a prescription? This was not the case for my mother. A five-minute encounter to obtain a signature on a prescription pad would turn into a 25-minute conversation with a friend. Only minimal parts of this conversation consisted of anything medically related. In what most would consider an annoyance in their busy days, my mother saw an opportunity to strengthen an important relationship in her life.

I know that my mother had a phenomenal relationship with her physician, and the severity of her emotion is complex. At a loss for the magical words that will alleviate her despair, I ask, “Will you be OK?” With even more pain in her voice, she says to me, “You don’t understand, this man knew everything about me, more than any other person on the planet.” As her son, I know the degree of loss she is experiencing. We go on to discuss the great physician and the great man he was.

Before I entered medical school, I had the chance to shadow my mother’s great physician for a day just before Christmas. When I walked into his office that day, no one was there yet. I noticed a photograph on his desk of a man on a motorcycle. When Dr. Simon finally entered, we introduced ourselves. His voice was gentle. He was taller than me, with a broad build, and slicked-back white hair. Matching his white hair was his white coat. It bore his credentials and was faded around the neck collar and sleeves. I noticed that it hung down past his thighs just above the knee. The man in front of me didn’t scream “motorcycle enthusiast,” so I had to ask, “Is that you on the motorcycle?” He laughed, happy to talk about his bike, and he added that he hadn’t had much time to ride lately. Our introduction was short and we were soon off to see patients.

During my time with Dr. Simon, I tried to process the medical jargon as best as I could: *postherpetic neuralgia, sulfonylureas, dermatomal distribution,* and *negative postconcussive symptoms* were all terms I penned down to look up when I returned home. I was extremely impressed with his patient rapport. That holiday season, his patients brought custom crafted Christmas cards, antique toy car models, gift cards to be used for his motorcycle, and treats for his dogs. Anything that was refused as being “too much” was met with immediate threats of leaving the gifts at the front desk against his will. Some patients simply wished for him to enjoy his holiday season.

“I found the shadowing experience to be exciting, but the most memorable facet was having the opportunity to witness an educated man put himself in the shoes of his patients, no matter the situation. From the homeless patient with oligodontia who hadn’t sought medical help for two years to the healthcare professional battling persistent depressive disorder, every patient was met with a caring approach. I relished each minute of the experience; each patient became an opportunity to make a positive impact on another life. I quickly realized why it was no chore for my mother to visit him as often as she did.”
As my telephone conversation with my mother continues, I mistakenly ask a sensitive question, “How are you going to find another doctor?” The question sends her into heaving sobs. She is in disbelief and tells me that she can never step foot into that office again; it would just be too much for her knowing that he won’t be there. She eventually tells me that she has to go and tells me to study hard.

Resting the phone back on my desk, I take a deep breath, contracting my diaphragm to its maximum potential. I fill my lungs with as much air as possible to relieve the emotion. However, I cannot control myself. I am sobbing, suddenly struck with severe sentiment. This time, I am feeling the pain of my mother’s words as a future physician. I sit back to reflect on the night-after-night intense rigor of study and what such sacrifice will mean in the future. I stop to think that today my mother has lost not only a great physician and a great man, but most importantly, an irreplaceable friend.

As I try to pull myself back together, I search for the obituary online to find dozens of comments from now physician-less patients. The response is overwhelming. One comment describes that the clock on the wall in the physician’s office seemed to be nonexistent. Another patient adds that the 15-minute-per-patient rule was never adhered to. Others say Dr. Simon practiced like physicians of the past, one who felt part of the family. Patients ailing from social hardship valued his opinions as if his words were just as therapeutic as any chemical agent he prescribed. Even on the day of his passing, Dr. Simon continues to influence the lives of his patients.

I started the day like any other preclinical student studying metabolic pathways, but a phone call has shifted my perspective. I realize the potential a physician has to positively influence a patient’s life, not just medically, but personally and with compassion. In just a few short years, facts, pathways, and presentations of medical education will not be remembered in the form of books. Triads of symptoms will become stories with meaning and individuals seeking answers to their problems. It is my hope that my future contributions will affect the lives of others just as Dr. Simon’s did for his patients.

I imagine that on the day of his passing, he hung up his long, worn white coat and left an open spot for a fresh one.

Dedicated to Dr. William Simon with permission from his loving wife, Penni Simon.
More than 280 students in the DO class of 2019 took part in a significant rite of passage in their medical education this fall, during the traditional White Coat Ceremony at the Philadelphia campus. The first-year students heard from administrators and leaders in the field of osteopathic medicine, as well as students in years two, three and four.