

[Events](#)[Gatherings](#)[Highlights](#)[On-Campus](#)[Alumni Briefs](#)[Information](#)

Welcome to the first electronic version of YOUR alumni newsletter! We are very excited to present you with this new format for various reasons. First, you can access your newsletter immediately — literally at your fingertips—and second, it's better for our environment. If you'd like to view a previous issue, click link below:

[ALUMNI WEBSITE](#)

We hope you are pleased with this new format and look forward to receiving news and updates from you to share with your fellow alum in the next issue.

We hope you enjoy your new alumni e-newsletter!

A MESSAGE FROM
THE ASSISTANT DEAN

ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

Greetings Alumni! What a busy year it has been!

We would like to thank those of you who attended our gatherings at ACOFP in Las Vegas, AAO in Orlando, AROC in Atlantic City, EROC in NYC, and OMED in Las Vegas. We held three outstanding and well-received CME programs, providing alumni with an opportunity to gain CME credits and reconnect with colleagues. We celebrated the 25th and 30th class reunions with the Classes of 1983 and 1988 at the legendary Tribeca Grill in New York City, and the 10th year class reunion with the Class of 2003 at the beautiful Riverview in Long Island City.

For the first time, we hosted Career Day at NYIT's de Seversky Center. We offer a very special thank you to those of you who participated. The members of the Class of 2015 were extremely grateful for the opportunity to speak with you one-on-one. As we move forward into 2014, we hope that you become a part of this important program.

As always, thanks to all of you – our valued alumni- for participating in the White Coat Ceremony held each year at the Crest Hollow Country Club. Your participation in this event has become a time-honored tradition at the College and is so valued and cherished by the members of the class, their families and the entire NYIT-COM family.

In October, at his first State of the College Address, Dean Gilliar outlined his vision for the College through the year 2025. To read more about Dean Gilliar's Address, please turn to page 24.

As an alumnus, you should be proud of the accomplishments of your alma mater this past year:

- After receiving over 6000 applications, the College admitted 315 new students into the Class of 2017; 280 traditional and 35 émigré students. The College has become increasingly more competitive with applicants having an average GPA score of 3.6 or higher and an average MCAT score of 28 or higher.
- Our NYIT-COM faculty received over 1.4 million dollars in combined grant awards and had a notable number of works published. Further, the College received a Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) grant for \$600,000.
- In addition to establishing a new Department of Medical Education and updating the OMM and Anatomy Labs, the College introduced InKling on-line textbooks into the curriculum and successfully implemented the PACT and Accelerated D.O. Programs.
- This year, the College rolled out a photographic initiative, Through the Lens, which draws on the talents of the NYIT-COM community. The Initiative strives to document, visualize, memorialize, empower, and invite community members to thoughtfully recognize what is around us – what we as a community interact with and touch in our everyday lives, and directly encompasses the new student chosen NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine motto, "Hands, Minds, and Hearts." Thus far, the first two segments of the Initiative have yielded winners, with the third installment's deadline extended to January 5, 2014. To read more about this program, click the link below:

http://www.nyit.edu/index.php/medicine/announcements/through_the_lens_initiative/

As always, we value your support of the Alumni Fund; your input, advice and questions are welcomed and encouraged.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the many events we're planning for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Felicia Bruno
Assistant Dean
Student Administrative Services/Alumni Affairs



A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

December 2013

Dear Fellow Alumnus,

This year we have achieved a milestone. With the May 2013 graduating class, there are now over 6,000 fellow alumni.

We are proud to have so many distinguished colleagues from the past 32 years. Membership has grown and we value your input, suggestions and needs.

Thanks to the generosity of the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, our organization remains strong and vital. The Alumni Association is creating an Alumni Directory. We hope this will be used by alumni looking to catch up with fellow graduates or to discuss and refer patients. Young alumni events remain a popular networking venue. We had a terrific event on the nautical mile this summer and plan to have more in the future. The Office of Alumni Affairs holiday party is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 18, 2013. This is always a well-attended, elegant event. I hope to see many of you there.

Our January meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2014. Stay tuned for more information.

Please contact me with any suggestions or if you would like to be more active and help with any events. I can be reached through the Office of Alumni Affairs at (516) 686-7571.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Koehler, D.O., F.A.C.S.

President

NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association

Class of 1998

Officers:

President:

Sharon L. Koehler, D.O. ('98)

1st Vice-President:

Sonia Rivera-Martinez, D.O. ('02)

2nd Vice-President:

Karen Sheflin, D.O. ('01)

Treasurer:

Kenneth Eng, D.O. ('96)

Secretary:

Robert Lee, D.O. ('03)

Board of Directors:

William Blazey, D.O. ('05)

Patricia Hunt, D.O. ('88)

Michele Reed, D.O. ('97)

Bernadette Riley, D.O. ('05)

CAREER DAY ~ SHARING YOUR GIFT OF EXPERIENCE

As part of our continuing efforts to connect students with our alumni, the Office of Alumni Affairs hosted Career Day on Wednesday, July 24, 2013. Members of the Class of 2015 arrived at the beautiful NYIT de Seversky Mansion for this important information-filled day. Tables were set up "exhibit style" in the ballroom. To our delight, 28 alumni (a record!) from a wide variety of specialties and class years, gave so generously of their time and experience to share with third year students. Some areas of specialization that were represented were Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Surgery, OB/GYN, Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, Surgery, Cardiology, and Gastroenterology, just to name a few. We received such wonderful feedback from our students with comments such as "You guys should have this every year," "Great program, thank you," "This has helped me decide to explore a new career path," and countless other positive comments.

A wonderful variety of food was available throughout the different rooms in the Mansion for all students and alumni to enjoy. De Seversky was the perfect compliment for this magnificent event.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS!!





THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS!!

BIJU ABRAHAM('03)
REEM ABU-SBAIH('01)
ISAAC ALAMURI ('03)
KELLY BARNA ('07)
SANDY BARTOLOTTA('02)
JACK BRAHA('06)
DANIEL CAVALLO('09)
ADAM CHESTER ('93)
MICHAEL DITILLO ('02)
MARISSA FERRAZZO-WELLER ('09)
MARK FRIEDMAN ('90)
JUDITH GLASER ('05)
CARL GOODMAN ('94)
JOHN HO ('02)

PATRICIA HUNT('88)
ELENA IVANINA ('10)
RICHARD JACARUSO ('87)
SCOTT KRAKOWER ('06)
DONNA MCMAHON ('87)
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER ('00)
GREGORY SAGGIO ('94)
STEPHEN SERYNEK ('05)
JAMES SHANAHAN ('86)
JONAS SOKOLOF ('03)
MEHRAN TAFRESHI ('89)
TAKEKO TAKESHIGI ('96)
DAVID TEGAY ('97)
MARISA WOLFF ('12)

FUTURE ALUMNI RECEIVE THEIR WHITE COATS

After successfully completing their classroom training and pre-clinical studies, 287 members of the NYIT-COM Class of 2015 proudly received their white coats at a ceremony held in their honor on Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at the beautiful Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, NY. The ceremony marks the transition from classroom to clinical years.

During the ceremony, rising third year medical students were “coated” with their white coats, the traditional dress of physicians for over one hundred years. Fifty-three NYIT-COM alumni graciously participated in this student-alumni event and coated our students, clearly demonstrating the important significance of this time honored tradition. Kevin Klein, D.O. ('83), this year's guest speaker, addressed the students and audience with an inspirational speech.

Following the ceremony, an elegant dinner reception was held in honor of this event. Proud parents, faculty, staff and administrators were there to share in this milestone in the students' medical careers.

These future physicians are now continuing their education in clinical assignments at NYIT-COM hospital affiliates throughout the New York metropolitan region.



***Congratulations to the members of
the Class of 2015.***

Thank you to our alumni coaters

Reem Abu-Sbaih, D.O. 2001

Salma Afroze, D.O. 2002

Isaac Alamuri, D.O. 2003

Pamela Banks, D.O. 1987

Nancy Bono, D.O. 1992

Daniel Cavallo, D.O. 2009

Thomas Chan, D.O. 1999

Atulkumar Chavda, D.O. 2001

Agnes Chio, D.O. 2008

Ronald D'Agostino, D.O. 1985

Sherman Dunn, D.O. 1984

Kenneth Eng, D.O. 1996

Bandad Farhad, D.O. 2005

Clifford Feiner, D.O. 1987

Mitchell Fischer, D.O. 1989

Theodore Flaum, D.O. 1991

Alexander Frenkel, D.O. 2003

Mark Friedman, D.O. 1990

Monica Grover, D.O. 2008

Elizabeth Haines, D.O. 2005

Patricia Happel, D.O. 2008

Joseph Hassan, D.O. 2005

Patricia Hunt, D.O. 1988

Asra Husain, D.O. 2008

JordanWerley-Keys, D.O. 2010

Sharon Koehler, D.O. 1998

Patricia Kooyman, D.O. 2003

Eliyahu Kopstick, D.O. 2003

Scott Krakower, D.O. 2006

Bruce Levitt, D.O. 1982

Erika Lorig-Wolf, D.O. 2007

Ezmonye Madu, D.O. 2013

Carlos Magalhaes, D.O. 2000

DonnaMcMahon, D.O. 1987

Richard Ng, D.O. 1987

Christopher Plummer, D.O. 2000

Ardeshir Rastinehad, D.O. 2004

Sonia Rivera-Martinez, D.O. 2002

Eric Rosen, D.O. 2006

Otto Sabando, D.O. 1998

Gregory Saggio, D.O. 1994

Thomas Scandalis, D.O. 1987

Russell Schub, D.O. 1984

Hemangi Shukla, D.O. 2006

Frank Siguenza, D.O. 1987

AshleySimela, D.O. 2008

Suzanne Sirota-Rozenberg, D.O. 1988

Sharima Sitafalwalla, D.O. 2012

Michael Terzella, D.O. 1999

Alexander Weiss, D.O. 2002

Sheldon Yao, D.O. 2002

Md Abdullah Yousuf, D.O. 2011

ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Classes of 1983 and 1988 Reunion

On Saturday, September 21, 2013, the Office of Alumni Affairs hosted a 25th and 30th reunion celebration at the Tribeca Grill in NYC for members of the Classes of 1983 and 1988. The festive evening was the perfect opportunity for alumni to gather together and share memories, conversations and updates.



ALUMNI GATHERINGS

ACOFP - Friday, March 22, 2103 ~ Mon Ami Gabe~ Paris Hotel Las Vegas

A gathering of approximately 75 alumni and friends took place at the beautiful French bistro, Mon Ami Gabi at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas during the ACOFP convention this year. Our very own Teshina Wilson, D.O. ('07) was honored at the Opening Session (see article below). Alumni had some time to catch up, relax and enjoy a spectacular menu.



2013 ACOFP Young Osteopathic Family Physician of the Year



Teshina Wilson, D.O. ('07) was named the 2013 Young Osteopathic Family Physician of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP). Dr. Wilson received the award during the Opening Session of the ACOFP's 2013 Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars on the morning of Thursday, March 21, 2013 in Las Vegas.



Teshina practices in Wilmington, Delaware at Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, a community health center where she often attends to patients who are without health insurance, not enough insurance coverage, or those who are between jobs. Without her care, many of Teshina's patients wouldn't otherwise have access to healthcare.

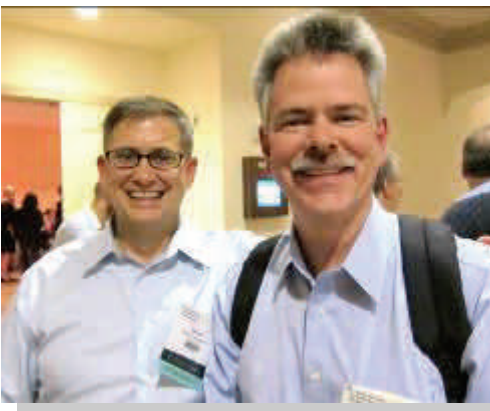
CONGRATULATIONS!



EROC—Friday, April 5, 2013 ~
Rosa Mexicano ~ New York City



AAO - Friday, March 22, 2013~
Rosen Shingle Creek ~ Orlando, Florida



OMED 2013

ALUMNI AFFAIRS



On Wednesday, October 2, 2013, over 120 alumni and guests gathered for the annual Alumni reception. The three hour event was held in the Foundation Room on the top floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel.



The Foundation Room's outdoor patio provided a beautiful sunset view of the Las Vegas skyline. Dean Gilliar extended a warm welcome to all who attended.

The upscale yet casual atmosphere afforded the perfect background for alumni to mingle, reminisce, and catch up. The rooms were filled with couches, cocktail rounds, delicious food and smiling faces.





NYIT Vice President, Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O. Awarded American Osteopathic Association's Highest Honor



On Wednesday, October 2, 2013, Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs, Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., received the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) highest award, the Distinguished Service Certificate, for her outstanding accomplishments in furthering the osteopathic medical profession.

The prestigious award was presented to her at the Opening Session of the AOA OMED 2013 Conference, held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center.



CONGRATULATIONS, DR. ROSS-LEE!



CLASS OF 2003 Ten Year Reunion



On the chilly but pleasant Saturday evening of November 9, 2013, members of the NYIT-COM Class of 2003 celebrated their ten-year anniversary at the beautiful Riverview Restaurant in Long Island City.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, along with smiling and delighted faces as members of the class reconnected after so many years.

They shared many fond memories of their time in medical school along with updates on their careers and pictures of their children. As the night came to a close, guests simply did not want to leave... a good sign that this event had been a tremendous success!

At the conclusion of the evening, hugs flowed and everyone exchanged contact information promising to keep in touch. The memories they made that night will last a lifetime.

Highlights



JUAN ACOSTA, D.O. ('97) received the ACOFP Distinguished Fellowship for 2013. This honorary title is recognized by the profession which acknowledges the further accomplishments of an emergency physician already holding the title of Fellow in the College, and who has surpassed the expectations of the College by advancing the practice of emergency medicine through his or her own efforts in the founding of or teaching in an approved residency program, conducted significant research in the field of emergency medicine, made professional contributions or service to national, regional or local agencies dedicated to either osteopathic medicine or emergency medicine, or provided service to America through national service. He has also been elected to the ACOEP Board of Directors.

Dr. Acosta is presently the Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Medical Education, Director of Clinical Rotations, Regional Dean and Director of Medical Education at Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, Washington.



DENNIS DOWLING , D.O. ('89)

The NBOME announced that in September, Dr. Dowling joined the Department of Continuous Professional Development and Innovations (CPDI) in the role of Medical Consultant Director for the OPAIM program on an interim basis. In this capacity, Dr. Dowling will provide medical content support and leadership to Dr. Dot Horber and the CPDI team as they continue to develop OPAIMs and move forward with other CPDI initiatives.

Dr. Dowling also serves as Coordinator for OMM Assessment for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination, and contributes his expertise to several NBOME committees including the Innovations in Testing Advisory Committee, the COMLEX-USA Composite Committee, CSTAC and CSTAC's Sub-Committee for SOAP Note Misrepresentation. The position involves Dr. Dowling consulting with the national boards on projects specific to osteopathic continuous certification, better known as OCC.



PATRICK O'SHAUGHNESSY, D.O. ('99) has been appointed to Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Catholic Health Services of Long Island. Beginning in 2006, Dr. O' Shaughnessy served as Assistant Director of Emergency Medicine for St Charles. Later, he became Director of Emergency Medicine for St. Catherine of Sienna, eventually being promoted to CMO.

Dr. O' Shaughnessy was a physician member of the Suffolk County Heroin and Opiate Task Force, which developed policies to stem drug abuse and monitor prescription opiate abuse in the county. A firm believer in education, he developed an informative EMS educational series for local EMS providers to help educate on best practice pre-hospital guidelines. Dr. O'Shaughnessy is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Health Care Quality and Management.



BERNADETTE RILEY, D. O. ('05) was among 10 recent graduates of the 2013 ACOFP Physician Leadership Institute (PLI), a rigorous, 12-month applied academic program with concentrations in political, organizational and academic leadership. The goal of the PLI program is to offer ACOFP members with certification in concentrated tracks that will prepare them to assume leadership positions within the ACOFP and the greater osteopathic community.

Dr. Riley is the Medical Director of The Long Beach Group Practice, as well as a faculty member at Long Beach Medical Center's Family Care Clinic. She also serves as the Coordinator of Simulation Medicine, Coordinator of Research and Coordinator of Medical Students at the Long Beach Medical Center.

KENNETH STEIER, D.O. ('83) was recently appointed Campus Dean for the new Middletown campus of the Harlem-based TouroCOM. Currently, Dr. Steier serves as Clinical Dean and Professor at TouroCOM, a position he has held since July 2011. While at TouroCOM, he has been instrumental in achieving accreditation for the new Middletown campus .

SHELDON C. YAO, D.O. ('02) was elected to the American Academy of Osteopathic (AAO) Board of Governors on Thursday, March 21, 2013, at the annual business meeting during the AAO Convocation in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Yao will serve a three-year term. Board certified in NMM/OMM and Family Practice, Dr. Yao is the acting Chair and Assistant Professor in the Department of OMM at NYIT-COM. In addition to teaching OMM, he sees patients at the on-campus Academic Health Care Center and precepts students in incorporating OMM into clinical practice.



Dr. Yao is also involved with research projects investigating the effects of OMM on Parkinson's disease, and an OMM educational studies. Dr. Yao is Chair of the AAO Membership Committee and a member of the C-NMM/OMM and Student Academic Committees.



Life After Cancer...From a Doctor Who's Been There

Jay Burton, D.O. ('84) a cancer survivor, believes that people learn from other people's experiences. Dr. Burton shared his experiences through diagnosis, treatment, hospitalization, complications and anxieties with others during a talk he gave about surviving cancer (along with two other survivors) at the Jewish Community Center in Springfield, CT on Thursday, October 17, 2013.

Burton, who practices internal medicine with Enfield Associates in Enfield, Connecticut, was diagnosed in May 2010 with acute myeloid leukemia. "When someone gets a diagnosis, most patients are afraid of what they don't know; I was afraid of what I DID know (as a physician). I knew what could happen to me...it's scary." Dr. Burton had a stem cell transplant October 2010 and has been in remission since July 2010.

Participants in the program learned about the emergence of primary care cancer survivorship programs and the need for more of them. Dr. Burton hopes to establish programs for survivors of adult-onset cancers to receive primary care from a team of physicians and others trained in post-cancer wellness.

Once a workaholic, Dr. Burton says that in a "strange way" leukemia saved him because it caused him to take a break from the fast-paced hamster wheel of life. He says he was talking the talk but not walking the walk. He has made major changes in his life such as cutting back to working three days a week, eating a healthier diet and working out at least twice a week. Dr. Burton's advice is not to ignore your health, and if you are diagnosed with cancer, "just take each day as it comes; you have to get through each day."

Donor Memorial Service

On Tuesday, May 14, 2013, the Class of 2016 held a Donor Memorial Service to honor those who donated their bodies to science. A beautiful booklet of creative works containing illustrations by members of each anatomy table was distributed to guests prior to the ceremony. Several of these heart-felt and meaningful works were read aloud for guests to enjoy. The service also included a beautiful musical violin tribute by Emile Gogineni, OMS I, who was accompanied on piano by Yin Chi, OMS I, during a moment of reflection led by John Shen, OMS I.

To conclude this special program, guests were led by the students to the grounds outside of the Serota building for a tree dedication ceremony led by Kallie Desmond, OMS I, and a flower ceremony that was introduced by Daniel Pasternack, OMS I. An inscribed memorial stone (pictured below) was placed at the base of the tree. The beautiful and meaningful ceremony was certainly a perfectly fitting tribute to those who gave "The Most Precious Gift."



Clinical Application of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine – An Evidence-Based Approach October 25, 2013

On Tuesday, October 25, 2013, the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine's OMM Department, in conjunction with the Office of Alumni Affairs, held a successful continuing education workshop entitled "Clinical Application of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine – An Evidence-Based Approach." This program had 25 participants ranging from residents to attending physicians. The OMM Department presented common patient presentations and discussed integration of osteopathic principles and practices. Recent advances in osteopathic research were discussed with each topic. Participants were then provided with hands-on instruction and learned to utilize osteopathic manipulative treatment on their patients. Dr. To Shan Li and Dr. Michael Terzella presented the latest research and approaches to sinusitis and pneumonia. Dr. Patrica Kooyman presented an approach to lower back pain. Drs. Sheldon Yao and Reem Abu-Sbaih collaborated to present the latest research on OMM and the obstetrical patient. Dr. Theodore Flaum presented an approach to carpal tunnel syndrome, and Dr. Jayme Mancini's presentation was on vertigo and dizziness. Participants provided positive feedback on the event and stated that the program helped them to improve their understanding of OMM and will increase their application of osteopathic techniques with their patients. Dr. Thomas Chan, an NYIT faculty member, commented that "the techniques shown were very useful, straightforward, and clinically relevant for any practicing physician. The techniques were presented clearly and there was plenty of helpful staff to answer questions."

The OMM Department, with the assistance of the Academic Technology Group, also piloted their OMM Clinical Applications webpage that provided participants with on-line videos and access to written descriptions of the topics covered. The web site can be viewed here: http://koya.nyit.edu/Clinical_Applications/

The OMM Department continues to strive to provide the most updated resources and quality workshops for students and physicians.

Special thanks to the OMM Department faculty and table trainers that contributed to help make the event successful:

- ◆ Reem Abu-Sbaih, D.O.
- ◆ Theodore Flaum, D.O.
- ◆ Patricia Kooyman, D.O.
- ◆ To-Shan Li, D.O.
- ◆ Jayme Mancini, D.O.
- ◆ Michael Terzella, D.O.
- ◆ Sheldon Yao, D.O.

Course table trainers:

Academic Scholars 2015 OMS III: Bianca Lee, Joceyln Young, Melissa Meghpara

ORIENTATION 2013: ALUMNI PANEL

SPECIAL THANKS

The Student Orientation Program this year included a new and important segment: *Orientation Alumni Panel*.

Members of the Class of 2017 welcomed four of our valued alumni, each with a different area of specialty, experience and story.

Alumni were asked to share their journey towards and after graduation. Each alum had a distinctive story, bringing different perspectives, insight and thought-provoking experiences for new students to appreciate and ponder. At the conclusion of the event, there was a resounding round of applause, indicating an extremely successful event. Speakers were approached by a large number of students expressing gratitude for sharing their experiences. Plans are to include this segment in upcoming years.

A very special thanks to the following alumni who gave so generously of their time for our “physicians to be:”

Jack Braha ('06)

Maria Prudente-Martocci ('00)

Michele Reed ('97)

Jonas Sokolf ('03)

National Youth Leadership Forum: Careers in Medicine

The National Youth Leadership Forum: Careers in Medicine introduces outstanding high school students to professional opportunities in the rewarding field of health care and offers them firsthand knowledge from professionals in the nation's top medical centers and institutions of higher learning.

The Forum challenges students to explore a wide range of health care career options as they get hands-on practice with diagnostic tools, observe common medical procedures and participate in patient care simulations. Students experience medical school, gain insights into academic choices, learn about the college admissions process and develop successful skills essential for today's health care visionaries. Additional topics include "The Personal Dimension," "Public Health and Community Action," and "Disaster Triage Simulation."

The NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine was again privileged to be selected to host two separate programs in July 2013. Most of the students attending the programs at NYIT-COM were from the Midwest and western parts of the United States and considered this an "experience of a lifetime."

During the NYIT-COM program, topics included:

- *Introduction to Osteopathic Medicine*
by Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., M.A.T., FACOFP, Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs
- *Anatomy*
by Brian Beatty, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Anatomy
- *Forensic Pathology*
by Maria Plummer, M.D., Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences
- *Pharmacology*
by Leslie Goldstein, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology

- *Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine*

by Sheldon Yao, D.O., Acting Chair and Assistant Professor; To Shan Li, D.O., Assistant Professor; and Michael Terzella, D.O., Assistant Professor, all from the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

- *Neuroscience*

by Raddy Ramos, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences

- *Institute for Clinical Competence*

by Anthony Errichetti, Ph.D., Chief of Virtual Medicine

- *The Admissions Process*

by Rodika Zaika, M.S., Director of Admissions



The students were also given a tour by the NYIT-COM Ambassadors (current medical students) who were able to answer many of the questions they asked.

NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine was again selected to host two separate programs during the summer of 2014.

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION GRANTS UPDATE

By: Lois Small – Project Manager, Educational Grants

NYIT-COM was awarded three grants through the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). The first grant, Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) was awarded in 2009. HCOP was a pipeline grant aimed at working with students from economically and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds as they are admitted to medical school and supporting them through the process. The grant was funded for three years followed by a one year no cost extension. NYIT-COM currently has 72 students in medical school funded by the grant, and this year admitted five students who participated in the undergraduate part of the grant entitled, “Achievers into Medicine.” The HCOP medical students made some outstanding contributions to NYIT-COM and are looking forward to becoming part of a diverse workforce willing to give back by serving in underserved areas. They participated in medical missions and completed the majority of their rotations in underserved areas, and some were selected as academic scholars and served in leadership roles within the institution.

In addition to the HCOP grant, NYIT-COM received HRSA funding for the Accelerated D.O./Family Medicine Continuum (Accelerated Program). The traditional medical education curriculum was truncated into a three-year accelerated family medicine oriented track. This innovative program is one of only seven in the country. It emphasizes delivery of primary care and chronic disease services, has early and continuous clinical contact, is a seamless curriculum linking undergraduate and graduate (residency) medical education (3 + 3 years), and is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). The first cohort of student physicians is engaged in rotations and is expected to graduate at the end of the academic year. Upon graduation from NYIT-COM, they do not have to participate in the “Match” as they will remain at the same hospital throughout their residencies. The grant offers students who are dedicated to family medicine an excellent vehicle for accomplishing their long term goals.

Our third HRSA grant entitled, “Faculty Development in Primary Care” is also in its third of five years. It focuses on teaching family medicine physicians how best to administer medical care to our growing geriatric population. NYIT-COM family medicine physicians worked collaboratively with the School of Health Professions and created an Inter-professional Team. These physicians are redesigning how they assess geriatric patients and address their medical needs. As part our grant activities, geriatricians presented two educational seminars at ACOFP meetings to highlight special medical issues that relate to the geriatric population.

As you can see NYIT-COM’s HRSA grants are working to accomplish specific goals aimed at improving medical education from the student physician, through family medicine physicians, to their patients.

Our goal is to improve medical care for all through education!



DEAN GILLIAR DELIVERS HIS FIRST STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

On Wednesday, October 9, 2013, Dean Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., delivered a riveting State of the College address highlighting the College's strong accomplishments to date, and outlining a clear vision of the institutional values and targeted future for the College, as an ethics driven, proactive educational leader within the field of medicine.

Offering sincere thanks and praise for the efforts of both faculty and staff, the Dean presented an informative snapshot of "where we are now," by reviewing the recent activities and accomplishments of the departments that service and support the students. "We want to come together as a team that really knows we have the same mission - and that one single mission is to produce that successful student who becomes a competent, confident, and compassionate physician."

Highlighting the College's outstanding achievements within the last year, the Dean announced that faculty members received over 1.4 million dollars in combined grant awards and had a very impressive number of works published. In addition, the College received a Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) grant for \$600,000, introduced InKling on-line textbooks into the curriculum, successfully implemented the PACT and Accelerated D.O. Programs, established a new Department of Medical Education, upgraded the OMM and Anatomy Labs, and rolled out a new Student Orientation Program for the Class of 2017.

Discussing statistics relating to the new Class of 2017, Dr. Gilliar emphasized the College's strong ability to successfully attract a high quality, competitive student base. He indicated the College received over 6,000 applicants, resulting in 315 new students accepted, or 5% of applicants. Further, 77% of the new students are from NY state, the average age of the student group is 24, 53% of the student group represent minorities, the average MCAT score was 28 or higher, and the average GPA score was 3.6 or higher.



Acknowledging outstanding student accomplishments, Dr. Gilliar congratulated three student winners from the recent American Osteopathic Association (AOA) OMED 2013 Conference held in Las Vegas, NV. The Dean then showed the video prepared by Victoria Kortlandt, OMS II, who won first place in the OMED 2013 Student Video Contest. After presenting the video to attendees, the Dean proudly stated, "I think it is wonderful what our students do. The ideas, the creativity, - and every time it is something new!"

Dr. Gilliar also offered strong praise for Academic Medicine Scholars, Kathleen Vazzana, OMS IV and Meredith Loh, OMS IV, who received second place honors in the OMED Student Research Poster Competition. "It was fantastic to see two of our students tied as second place winners," he said. In addition, he enthusiastically noted that students of NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine made a strong impact at the conference, having a very impressive 20% representation at the research poster event.

Acknowledging that the health care system is rapidly changing, Dr. Gilliar emphasized the need for the College to effectively deal with these changes by being aware of the environment, and acknowledging the necessity to change our educational system. "We can't be comfortable with being comfortable," he said. He emphasized that by developing new curriculum, a support services system to enable every student to succeed, and by expanding the College's reputation as a unique institution with a strong identity, this goal can be accomplished.

The Dean concluded the address by presenting his vision for the College, outlining that by 2025, NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine will be widely known for being:



A unique, distinctive, service-oriented college of osteopathic medicine with an emphasis on generalist care offering a continuum from undergraduate, graduate, and professional medical education.



A thriving interdisciplinary and inter-professional institution offering degree programs, research, and scholarly work in focused areas.



The leader of a forward thinking, integrated consortium of health profession education that supports interactive learning and effective education.



An advanced technological institution that provides innovative instruction and uses technology through worldwide networks and alliances.



An effective health care institution for delivering distinctive, osteopathic clinical service.

Hooding Ceremony CLASS OF 2013

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, 284 new doctors from NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine celebrated with family, friends, and faculty when they received their Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree during the 52nd NYIT Commencement Ceremony.

The next day, Monday, May 20, 2013, NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine held its 32nd Hooding Ceremony at the Tilles Center for Performing Arts, in Brookville, NY. During the ceremony, each new doctor took center stage to be hooded by the following honored faculty members: Donna-Marie McMahon, D.O., Sheldon Yao, D.O., Maria Plummer, M.D., and new Dean, Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O. Additionally, 61 graduates had the special honor of being hooded by family members, who are also practicing physicians.

Addressing an audience of nearly 2,000, Dean Gilliar welcomed the Class of 2013 and their guests while recognizing their accomplishments and celebrating their success. NYIT Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs, Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O. introduced this year's keynote speaker and 2013 NYIT Honorary Degree Recipient, Otis Webb Brawley, M.D., President of the American Cancer Society. She acknowledged him as a global leader in the field of health disparities research, and a contributor to many well known organizations, such as being medical consultant to CNN, co-chair for the U.S. Surgeon General's Task Force on Cancer Health Disparities, and author of the renowned book, "*How We Do Harm*," which describes the plight of patients in inefficient healthcare systems.

During his riveting address, Dr. Brawley challenged the new doctors to "value science, the scientific method, and learning." He also encouraged them to question things, be curious, keep an open mind, and practice evidence-based medicine.

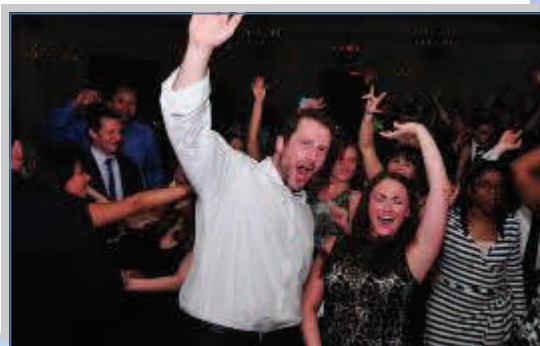
Sheldon Yao, D.O. ('02) and Melissa Ventimiglia, D.O. ('01) served as Alumni Marshalls for the Class of 2013 Hooding Ceremony.

Congratulations, Class of 2013, our most recent NYIT-COM Alumni!



DINNER DANCE 2013

To kick off the graduation festivities, each year the College hosts an elegant dinner dance for our soon-to-be D.O.s. The beautiful event took place on Thursday, May 16, 2013, at the Carlton in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, New York. Graduates, guests, faculty, and staff shared an evening of friendship, dining, dancing and celebrating. Reunited after two years of clinical rotations, this lovely venue provided the perfect opportunity for graduates to reminisce and celebrate their extraordinary accomplishments.



ALUMNI BRIEFS

Photo Unavailable

Muhamad Al Sharif, D.O. ('01), a cardiologist, has joined the Mason City Clinic in Iowa. Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Al Sharif completed his residency at the University of Toledo Medical Center and his Cardiology fellowship at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa.

Photo Unavailable

Emily Bahler, D.O. ('00) has been named, for the third time, Top Doctor in Geriatrics by *AM Monthly*. Board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine, Dr. Bahler completed her residency and Geriatric fellowship at Maimonides Medical Center.



Jacqueline Bober, D.O. ('10) received Good Samaritan Hospital's Paul S. Mandala Special Achievement Award. This award is presented to one resident each year for their achievements distinguishing themselves by advancing medicine in their respective fields. Dr. Bober completed her Pediatric Residency as Chief Resident in June, which was followed by a fellowship in Emergency Medicine at Downstate/Kings County Pediatrics.



David Broder, D.O. ('87), President of NYCOMEC, was reappointed Vice Chairman of the AOA's Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions (COPTI). He was also appointed to the AOA Committee on Governance and Organizational Structure and the Subcommittee on Constitution and Bylaws.



Christopher Buff, D.O. ('85), board certified in Family Practice, recently joined Saratoga Hospital. Dr. Buff completed his residency at St. Clare's Hospital Campus and practices with Scotia Glenville Family Medicine in Ballston Lake, NY.



Kent Burgwardt, D.O. ('94), staff physician in the Emergency Medicine Department, recently co-chaired Saint Mary's Hospital Foundation's 18th Annual Champion Golf Classic in September. Board certified in Pediatric Emergency Life Support, Advanced Trauma Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Dr. Burgwardt completed an Integrated Residency Program in Emergency Medicine.



Timothy Collins, D.O. ('01) was recently named one of two 2013 Physician of the Year by Vassar Brothers Medical Center (VBMC). Dr. Collins has been practicing at VBMC since 2007 and recently joined the new Division of Pulmonary Medicine at Health Quest Medical Practice. He completed his Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine fellowship at the Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Burlington, Massachusetts, and his Internal Medicine Residency at Albany Medical College. "Dr. Collins was nominated for his compassionate, empathetic and dedicated approach to patient care," said Margaret Cusumano, RN, VP for Patient Care Services, Chief Nursing Officer, VBMC. "He is a highly skilled physician and we are proud Dr. Collins has been selected for this award."



Jay M. Butterman, D.O. ('84), board certified in Psychiatry, was named Medical Director for MHN, a division of Health Net (a Managed Care Company). Dr. Butterman completed his residency training at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center.



Pascal Crosley, D.O. ('00) has been named Chief of St. Agnes Hospital's Department of Emergency Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Crosley, a member of ACEP, serves as Vice President of Practice Development for CEP America. He will oversee the main Emergency Department as well as its specialty tracks of urgent care, chest pain, pediatric and the implementation of CEP American's Rapid Medical Evaluation (RME) process. Board certified in Emergency Medicine, Dr. Crosley completed his residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



Soumitra Datta, D.O. ('04) recently joined the medical staff of Garden City Hospital in Michigan. Board certified in Emergency Medicine, Dr. Datta completed his residency program at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital.



Amit Dholakia, D.O. ('05) recently joined the medical staff of Mid-Hudson Medical Group as a Pain Management Specialist. Dr. Dholakia completed his internship at Good Samaritan Hospital, his residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and his Musculoskeletal and Pain Management Fellowship at the Rothman Institute, which is affiliated with Thomas Jefferson University. He will see patients in the Poughkeepsie and Fishkill offices.



Eric Eason, D.O. ('06) recently joined the Department of Pediatric Cardiology at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. Dr. Eason, who is board certified in Pediatrics, completed his Pediatric Residency at Miami Children's Hospital and participated in fellowships in Pediatric Cardiology at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital and Children's Hospital of Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Eason also holds a Master of Public Health degree from Nova Southeastern University.



Bamdad Farhad, D.O. ('05) has joined Southeastern Surgical Center and the medical staff of Southeastern Health and Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Dr. Farhad completed surgical residencies at Lenox Hill Hospital and St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, New York. He also completed a Fellowship in Bariatric Surgery at Tufts University Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts earlier this year. His areas of special interest include general and bariatric surgery.



Jason R. Frost, D.O. ('06) has joined the Pulmonary and Critical Care team at Mercy Hospital in Portland, ME. He completed an Internal Medicine Residency at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA and his Fellowship in Critical Care Medicine through the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in Rhode Island. During his Fellowship, Dr. Frost traveled to Germany's University of Tübingen to teach a critical care course to medical students attending the International Winter School.



Theresa Giannattasio, D.O. ('10) has joined The Pediatric and Adolescent Center in Netcong, NJ. She completed her specialty pediatric training at the Children's Hospital of New Jersey in Newark's Beth Israel Medical Center and at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. Dr. Giannattasio initiated the Rock-a-Bye Baby Safe Sleep Campaign and authored the nursery discharge letter sent to all New Jersey hospitals detailing safe sleep policies recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. She will utilize her expertise in osteopathic manipulation as an adjunct to medical therapy in the treatment of upper and lower respiratory infections, muscle injuries and strains, and other medical conditions to restore the body to its natural state.



Kate (Gray) Gilreath, D.O. ('10) began her family practice at Paulding County Hospital this past summer. Dr. Gilreath is board certified in Family Medicine and for the past three years, was a resident in the Fort Wayne Medical Education Program. This has been a long term goal for Dr. Gilreath who has returned to the community in which she grew up (Antwerp, OH).



Jason M. Golbin, D.O. ('00) has been named the new Chief Medical Officer for St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center. Dr. Golbin recently served as Associate Director of Critical Care Medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital and as a pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine physician at the Long Island Lung Center. Board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Diseases, Critical Care Medicine and Sleep Medicine, Dr. Golbin completed his chief residency at Lenox Hill Hospital and his fellowship at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.



Miss W. Hall, D.O. ('07) has joined the staff of Garden City Hospital, MI specializing in pain management. Dr. Hall completed her residency training and her fellowship program at the University of Texas Health and Science Center.



Matthew Hall, D.O. ('09) recently joined the University of Connecticut Health Center as part of the sports medicine team. Dr. Hall, whose areas of expertise include non-operative treatment of all sports injuries, completed his residency in Family Medicine at Brown University and the Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. He completed a Primary Care Sports Medicine fellowship at the University of Connecticut, as part of a joint program with Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.



Christine Hodyl, D.O. ('92), who serves as the Director of Breast Health Services at South Nassau Community Hospital's Gertrude and Louis Feil Cancer Center, was recently awarded with the Long Island Business News' "Health Care Heroes" Physician Hero Award. This award honors individuals for outstanding leadership and commitment. Dr. Hodyl joined South Nassau Communities Hospital in 2007 and is a staunch advocate of breast cancer awareness. Board certified in General Surgery; she completed her residency training and a research fellowship at Maimonides Medical Center and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.



Helen Kaporis, D.O. ('07) recently joined the preventive medicine staff at Cooper Clinic in Dallas, Texas, as one of two new dermatology physicians. Dr. Kaporis will be performing comprehensive skin cancer screenings on patients who undergo preventive exams as part of the Cooper Clinic Standard Six Preventive Exam. Board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology, she will also offer cosmetic services. Dr. Kaporis completed her residency at Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville, MO.



Michael Kreymer, D.O. ('08) recently joined Mount St. Mary's Hospital as part of a new team of anesthesiologists created to meet the expanding surgical needs of patients and physicians. Dr. Kreymer, an émigré physician who also graduated from the Ivanovo State Medical Academy in Russia, completed his anesthesiology residency at the University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital.



Ronald Litman, D.O. ('85), Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine has agreed to become the new Medical Director of the MH Hotline for the Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States. Malignant Hyperthermia is a potentially fatal, inherited disorder usually associated with the administration of specific general anesthetics. Board certified in Pediatrics and

Anesthesiology, Dr. Litman completed his pediatrics residency at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, part of Case Western Reserve University, his anesthesiology residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center and a Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



Richard Pagliara, D.O. ('02) is the 2013-2014 Collier County Medical Society President and a Board Member of the Radiology Regional Center. He is board certified in Radiology, having completed his residency in radiology at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, CT. Following his residency training, he completed an Abdominal/Body Imaging Fellowship at the SUNY at Stony Brook University Hospital.



Katie B. Pare, D.O. ('10) has joined the Pediatrics Department at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Nashua. She completed her pediatric residency at New York Medical College, Westchester Medical Center's Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla, New York.



Maksim Rovensky, D.O. ('05) recently joined the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at St. Francis Hospital Heart Center and will be seeing patients at Cardiothoracic Surgery Associates in West Islip. Dr. Rovensky completed his general surgery residency at Maimonides Medical Center and his fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center.



George R. Ruggiero, D.O. ('98) has been installed as the President of the Suffolk County Medical Society. Dr. Ruggiero, board certified in Family Medicine, completed his residency at Nassau University Medical Center. He is Director of Medical Education and Director of the Family Medicine Program at Peconic Bay Medical Center.



William C. Scott, D.O. ('02) has joined Memorial Health University Physicians specializing in Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Scott will provide interventional pain management and physical medicine and rehabilitation with a focus on spine and musculoskeletal medicine. He completed his residency training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans and was fellowship trained in Interventional Pain Management at Nexus Pain Care in Provo, Utah.



Ronald Stengel, D.O. ('82) recently joined the Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center. Board certified in Diagnostic Radiology, Dr. Stengel completed his residency in Family Medicine at Baptist Medical Center. He also completed a residency in Neurology/ Diagnostic Radiology at the Metropolitan Hospital in Philadelphia.



Judith Rigaud Volcy, D.O. ('96) was honored by the Atlanta Archdiocese at The White Mass recognizing the life-saving work of health care professionals. Dr. Volcy was encouraged to pursue a medical career by her mother, who was a nurse. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and completed her residency at Grady Hospital in Atlanta. Dr. Volcy taught as an Assistant Professor at Morehouse School of Medicine before joining WellStar Health System.



Kelly Teagle, D.O. ('11) will become Chief Resident of Internal Medicine at Maimonides Medical Center in July 2014.



Angela Walker, D.O. ('02) has joined the Bronson OB/GYN Capital Avenue SW Medical Group in Battle Creek, MI. Board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, she completed her residency through St. Johns Macomb Hospital in Warren, MI. Prior to joining Bronson Battle Creek, she served as Attending Physician in OB/GYN at Henry County Health Center in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Dr. Walker has completed research in Alternative Therapy in the Treatment of Bacterial Vaginosis.



Teniesha Wright Jones, D.O. ('03) was recently appointed to the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP) Board of Directors. Dr. Wright Jones currently serves as the Osteopathic Site Director for the Providence Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program. She completed her residency at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers and holds certificates in advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, basic life support and neonatal resuscitation. She also serves as the Chairperson for the Public Relations Committee of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.



Jason Wu, D.O. ('08) recently joined the medical staff of The Orthopedic Institute of New Jersey. Dr. Wu, board certified in Internal Medicine and a fellowship trained rheumatologist, completed his Internal Medicine residency and Rheumatology Fellowship at Winthrop University Hospital and Nassau University Medical Center.



CONGRATULATIONS ALUMNI:



Eric Eason, D.O. ('06) and Melissa Hunter were married on September 21, 2013 in Charleston, S.C.

Rajiv Mahesh Agashiwala, D.O. ('08) and Sharon Otterman were married on March 22, 2013.

Peter Andolina, D.O. ('08) and Annette Somma have announced their engagement. An August 2014 wedding is planned.

Erin Culbert, D.O. ('12) and Christopher Koenigsmann were married on September 27, 2013.

Kaitlyn Storey, D.O. ('12) and Michael Philips were married on August 10, 2013.

ERAS Fellowships Documents Office (EFDO)

For all alumni planning on participating in the December Application Cycle for ERAS® Fellowships Documents Office (EFDO) for positions beginning July 2015, please note that the Office of Student Administrative Services will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2013 through Thursday, January 2, 2014.

To request a Medical Student Performance Evaluation, previously known as a Dean's Letter, please follow this link and request an MSPE/Dean's Letter:

http://www.nyit.edu/medicine/alumni/documents_forms/

To request a NYIT-COM transcript, please follow this link:

http://www.nyit.edu/images/uploads/nycom/medicine_Transcript_Request_Form_12-06-12.pdf

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE OFFICE
OF
ALUMNI AFFAIRS

MEDICINEALUMNI@NYIT.EDU