Dr. Thomas DeLauro graduated from NYCPM in 1976. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and a Fellow of several podiatric subspecialty organizations. Dr. DeLauro served NYCPM as an academic dean from 1980-1992, and he is a full professor of both podiatric medicine and podiatric surgery. He has served our profession as editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association and as a member of the examination committee for the American Board of Podiatric Surgery.
Dr. DeLauro was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Brooklyn College where he majored in Physical Education. His curriculum focused heavily on biology and kinesiology, which whetted his appetite for the foundation of medicine and left him hungry for more. His senior year, he fulfilled all of the pre-medicine requirements so that he could graduate and pursue a career in medicine. Podiatry was of particular interest to Dr. DeLauro as he saw an opportunity to prosper as a result of the expanding need for podiatrists and shortage of providers.

Dr. DeLauro seized every opportunity to learn as much as he possibly could while at NYCPM. His mastery of the curriculum is evident as he graduated as the valedictorian of his class. His most memorable moment at NYCPM was graduation, a time to celebrate overcoming the trials and tribulations endured at school, and an event that represents readiness to move on and flourish as a doctor of podiatric medicine. At the time of Dr. DeLauro’s graduation, residency was not a requirement, and most DPM’s began to practice immediately; this was not the case with Dr. DeLauro. He once again seized the opportunity to learn even more and better his knowledge base and himself as a practitioner. He attended his first year of residency at Peninsula Hospital in Far Rockaway, New York, where he advanced his knowledge of both general medicine and podiatric surgery. He attended his second year of residency at Atlanta Hospital and Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where the scope of practice is vast. He was familiarized with exceptionally technical surgical procedures of bone up to the level of the tibial tuberosity and soft tissue up to the hip. Dr. DeLauro’s skills and understanding of medicine and surgery that he gained from his training are insurmountable and impressive.

In 1978, after his second year of residency, he moved back to the New York area and now resides in Staten Island, New York with his lovely wife, Isabelle. The happy couple has two bright and successful daughters. Lauren, the youngest, is a financial trader for Morgan Stanley, and Nicole is a DPM with two thriving practices; one in New Jersey and the other in Staten Island where she practices with her father. Dr. DeLauro thoroughly enjoys working with his daughter in Staten Island, and also has a successful practice in Manhattan.

At NYCPM, Dr. DeLauro is a wonderful professor, and Chair of the Department of Medical Sciences. He enjoys the balance of academia and clinical practice. When asked about his favorite aspect of his job, he replied “being able to train and motivate young people to carry on and advance the profession to the next level.” Students will vouch that he does nothing short of that. He is a revered clinician and a pleasure to learn from,
due to the fact that he is not only good-hearted in nature, but has paramount education and experience to share. He challenges students in order to guide them and make them the best they can be. He advises students to learn as much as they can and work hard now, so that they can play for the rest of their lives. You can only treat what you recognize, and you can only recognize what you know, so acquiring the greatest amount of knowledge early on will make your career interesting and fun. Dr. DeLauro impresses this ideal on students in order for them to be prosperous and well prepared for practice.

When asked where he sees podiatry going in the future, he stated that podiatrists and podiatric surgeons are an elite group because of the ability to specialize in such a precise region. He predicts that subspecialties will continue to flourish, and we will continue to generate our own literature that our medical colleagues quote and learn from. Dr. DeLauro is enamored by the allure of being a health care provider and proud to be a podiatrist. He is a wonderful mentor, professor, chairman, and practitioner. Likewise, he is a shining example of the greatness that NYCPM breeds. Dr. DeLauro is an alumnus to be proud of and an irrefutable role model for students and colleagues of our profession.
The incoming Class of 2016 was welcomed in a very special way this year with the first ever freshman welcome boat cruise. The cruise embarked from Chelsea Piers in downtown Manhattan on a sunny Saturday afternoon in September and gave the students a spectacular view of the New York harbor. During the cruise, a three-course lunch was served and live piano music was enjoyed.

This exciting event gave views of the famous New York skyline that included the Empire State Building, the Brooklyn Bridge, Ellis Island, the newly constructed World Trade Center buildings, and a group favorite, the Statue of Liberty. For many of the students, seeing these landmarks was a first for them and proved to be a very enriching experience that surely they will remember for a lifetime. The three-course lunch included a Caesar salad, a choice between maple-roasted chipotle chicken and pan seared citrus salmon, and New York cheesecake.

Along with seeing amazing sights of New York, students also had the pleasure of meeting and conversing with faculty, staff, residents, and other students from NYCPM in a more relaxed environment. In attendance were Mr. Louis Levine, Dr. Michael Trepal, Dr. Jonathan Haber, Dr. Eileen Chusid, Dr. Peter Barbosa, and Dr. Laurence Lowy. Also in attendance were Dr. Giannin Perez, Dr. Niral Patel, Dr. Jose Loor, and Dr. Barry Block.

Showing the Class of 2016 some highlights of the great Empire State served as an inspiring beginning to the next few years that will be spent at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine. Other welcome events included a picnic in Central Park’s Harlem Meer and the White Coat ceremony. An interesting statistic given at the White Coat ceremony by one of the keynote speakers, Dr. Barry Block, is that the Class of 2016 has 57 females and 51 males, while the incoming class forty years ago had just 1 female and 63 males!

Special thanks are given everyone that made these welcome events for the Class of 2016 possible.
Enjoying the Cruise and Views!!
On Thursday September 27, 2012 the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) Surgery Club and American Association for Women Podiatrists (AAWP) Club joined forces and offered a hands-on suture workshop. Held in room 213 at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM), a total of 26 students participated in the workshop, which was led by PGY-2 residents Dr. Giannin Perez and Dr. Jamie Chaffo. During the workshop, Dr. Perez and Dr. Chaffo taught enthusiastic students different suture techniques used in primary closure of wounds, such as Simple, Horizontal mattress and Vertical mattress. “They [the student participants] were all very grateful for the opportunity to practice their technique on something so important,” states ACFAS president Todd Chappell (2014). “Everyone seemed to enjoy their experience, thanks to the hard work of Dr. Perez and Dr. Chaffo.”

Suture workshops are held approximately once a month and are usually hosted by the ACFAS Surgery Club or American Society of Podiatric Surgeons (ASPS) Surgery Club. “AAWP is planning on having another suture workshop in a few months,” says AAWP president Lauren Dabakaroff (2014). “We specifically want to do it in conjunction with other clubs, so that everyone has an equal opportunity to practice suturing no matter what club they're in.”

In addition to the positive responses from the student participants, the presidents of both AAWP and ACFAS were both extremely happy with the outcome. “I was very grateful for the thoughtful preparation of the residents,” remarked Chappell. They prepared a presentation for the participants that helped them understand the basic techniques and helped them have a better understanding of what it was we would be trying to focus on in the workshop. Thank you residents!
Above: Dr. Jamie Chaffo, resident, demonstrating proper suture technique to members of 2014.

Right and Below: Todd Chappell, President of AACFAS Surgery Club, assisting 2014 classmates during the workshop.
Helping the Community: SNPMA Foot Screening

By: Crystal Gunsch

On Sunday, August 26th, the Student National Podiatric Medical Association (SNPMA) held a foot screening outside of the Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church on 123rd Street in Harlem. Led by Dr. Simon Nzuzi, this foot screening proved to be a great learning experience for the students who volunteered their time, as they got to see over 30 patients. Several individuals were referred to the Foot Center of New York. Foot screenings are a way to reach out to the community and individuals who might not seek help with their feet otherwise.

In addition to the foot screening, the SNPMA held a CV/Externship workshop on September 20th led by Dr. Khurram Khan, a distinguished faculty member at NYCPM. The SNPMA puts on special events with the goal of uniting fellow students in podiatry to help them develop professional relationships.

Left: Dr. Simon Nzuzi and SNPMA members prior to the foot screening

Below: JiSun Lee and Mina Hanna of the 2014 class performing a foot screening
Bruce Frankel Award
By: Cailin Rubino

At the summer Alumni Association meeting held this past July, the members presented the honorable Bruce Frankel Award to the most deserving candidate. Adisa Mujkic of the class of 2013 received the award. This award is given by the NYCPM Alumni Association every year in memory of Dr. Frankel. It is a scholarship that is given annually to a fourth-year NYCPM student who possesses the characteristics and qualities most cherished by the late Dr. Bruce Frankel. Dr. Frankel was deeply involved with the Alumni Association and NYCPM, serving as a president of the Alumni Association, as well as a professor, dean, and chairman at NYCPM. He was also a member of the APMA house of delegates, and a member of the New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society.

As a student at NYCPM, Adisa has been involved in a plethora of clubs, organizations, volunteer events, and research. To name a few, Adisa was editor-in-chief of the NYCPM Podiatric Medical Review, Pediatrics club president and secretary, alumni representative, student ambassador, big sister/mentor, education committee member, and tutor for several classes. Additionally, Adisa was involved in pelvic band study research to assess the immediate and post-treatment effects of a pelvic band and strapping in children with in-toe. Adisa also coordinated and participated in a medical mission trip to Kpando, Ghana to work in local clinics with children affected by HIV/AIDS.

To say the very least, Adisa is a model of what an NYCPM student should be. She balances school work, studying, volunteering, and extracurricular activities beautifully, and with a smile on her face all the while. Adisa was very deserving of the Bruce Frankel award.

Left: The winner of the Bruce Frankel Award- Adisa Mujkic
By: Prema Hampapur

In August of 2012, the New York College of Podiatric Medicine welcomed its newest student club, the Hispanic American Podiatric Students Association (HAPSA). Under the leadership of Heidi Godoy (2015) and her e-board, HAPSA came to life through the hard work and dedication of the students at NYCPM.

HAPSA’s main mission is to help build a clear relationship between the doctor and patient by striving to build clear communication. Through informative language seminars, outreach programs and health care events, HAPSA aims to provide competent, confident and caring health providers.

After hearing about the language barriers upperclassmen were running into in the FCNY clinic and Metropolitan Hospital, Godoy understood the need for an organization devoted to helping students converse in Spanish in the healthcare setting. “I was actually surprised that there was no Spanish-type club at the school, considering our location of Harlem,” states Godoy. “Both my previous work as a translator and the need for more Spanish-speaking students in clinic, is what pushed me to start a Spanish club at NYCPM.” In its debut year, HAPSA has a healthy number of members at 46.

After drafting a constitution and mission statement, as well as recruiting interested students, Godoy with the help of her executive board successfully made HAPSA a reality at NYCPM. Dr. Johanna Godoy is the faculty advisor. Born in Peru and fluent in Spanish, Dr. Godoy teaches Spanish classes in addition to supporting the club by attending events. Being the newest club on the NYCPM block has not stopped HAPSA from making a name for itself. HAPSA held a Spanish-themed bake sale and offered delicious Spanish sweets such as flan. Spanish classes have already been held where members learn common phrases, terms and body parts in Spanish.

The future looks very bright for HAPSA. HAPSA offers journal club meetings, Spanish classes and roundtables, as well as speaker presentations. “I am very humbled by all of the positive feedback we have gotten not only from students, but also from faculty and physicians,” remarks Godoy (2015). “Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us through this great journey, and we are excited to have a successful and eventful school year.”
NYCPM’s 7th Annual Residency Fair

By: Cailin Rubino

On September 7th, from 12-5 pm, NYCPM held its 7th Annual Residency Fair. This event is a wonderful opportunity for both residency programs, and students alike. It gives students the opportunity to see what each program has to offer, and it gives residency programs the chance to advertise themselves to fine NYCPM students.

This was the largest Residency Fair to date. There were 52 programs in attendance from all over the country, including New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, Rhode Island, Michigan, Ohio, Washington, D.C., Colorado, and Connecticut. Tables filled the hallways and rooms on both the second and third floors. The fair was open to all NYCPM students, and everyone present was dressed for success and eager to explore the residency programs.

This event would not have been possible without the tremendous effort and work done by the residency coordinators: Anissa Hashemi and Paul Carroll. They were very diligent in reaching out to all the programs and putting together the largest residency fair NYCPM has ever had. Hopefully NYCPM’s residency fairs will continue to be as diverse and successful as this year’s fair, so that students can continue to have this advantageous opportunity.

Grateful for the Sponsorship: Left to right- Michael Gazes, Meltem Ates, Alexandra Taylor, and Prakash Panchani at the Alumni Association Table
NYCPM Residency Fair's List of Participating Programs

Alumni Association (Sponsor)
Baptist Health South Florida (FL)
Beth Israel Medical Center (NY)
Boston Medical Center (MA)
Cambridge Health Alliance (MA)
Catholic Health Systems/Sisters Hospital (NY)
Christiana Care Health Services (DE)
Colonel Neary of West Point
Coney Island Hospital (NY)
Dekalb Medical Center (GA)
DVA - MD Healthcare System (MD)
DVA - New Jersey (NJ)
DVA - New York Harbor Healthcare (NY)
DVA Northport (NY)
Englewood Hospital and Medical Center (NJ)
Forest Hills in Queens (NY)
Geisinger Community Medical Center (PA)
Gouverneur Healthcare Services (NY)
Grant Medical Center (OH)
Highlands/Presbyterian St. Luke’s (CO)
Interfaith Medical Center (NY)
Jersey Shore Medical Center (NJ)
JFK Medical Center (FL)
Kendall Regional Medical Center (FL)
Lenox Hill Radiology
Long Island College Hospital (NY)
Long Island Jewish Medical Center (NY)
Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island (RI)
Montefiore Medical Center (NY)
Morristown Memorial Hospital (NJ)
Mount Vernon Hospital (NY)
Mt. Sinai Hospital of Queens (NY)
New York Community Hospital (NY)
New York Downtown Hospital (NY)
New York Hospital Queens (NY)
New York Methodist Hospital (NY)
NYCPM/Metropolitan Hospital Center (NY)
Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital (NY)
Roger Williams Medical Center (RI)
Saint Michael’s Podiatry Department (NJ)
Southeast Michigan Surgical Hospital (MI)
St. Barnabas Hospital Bronx (NY)
St. Barnabas Medical Center (NJ)
St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center (CT)
St. John’s Providence Hospital in Southfield
Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc (MI)
St. Mary’s Hospital (NJ)
St. Vincent Hospital/WMC (MA)
St. Vincent Charity Hospital (OH)
Staten Island University Hospital (NY)
Trinity Regional Medical Center (NJ)
United Health Services Hospitals (NY)
University Hospital/UMDNJ (NJ)
Washington Hospital Center (DC)
Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (NY)
Yale/DVA, New Haven (CT)
Is there anything you would like to see in the next issue of the Student Alumni Report? Perhaps you have an Alumnus you would like to nominate for our Featured Alumnus Article. As the Alumni Representatives and staff of the Student Alumni Report, we appreciate your input and feedback. Please feel free to contact any of the class Alumni Reps to make suggestions for future editions of the Student Alumni Report.

The Alumni Association Executive Board with Past and Present Presidents.

From Left to Right: Dr. Alan Bass, Vice President; Dr. Arthur Gudeon, President; Dr. Debra Weinstock, Secretary; Dr. Terry Spilken, Past President and Dr. Steven Plotka, Treasurer.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Barry Block.