In Memorium

Judy Mehl Cowell, former OCPM Library Director, passed away April 21, 2022. She started at the College’s Library in 1968 and became the library director in 1972. In her over 33 years with OCPM, she witnessed many changes to the College - especially the move from Cornell Road to the building on Carnegie. Judy was the driving force in developing an exceptional podiatric medical library to support the students, faculty, alumni, and podiatric community. Moving out of the Cornell building's basement with a small collection of books, she expanded the size and scope of the library on Carnegie. Benefiting from new innovations, she introduced a media center to take advantage of audio and video tapes. In the 1990s, she oversaw the expansion and renovation of the fourth floor to house a larger library and add a large computer center to offer the students the most current technologies. Judy was an active faculty member serving on many committees over the years. Yet, it was her understanding of podiatric medicine that made her so valued at the College. Her research skills in searching the medical literature were second to none. Many will remember Judy for her dedication to the achievements and successes of all the OCPM students she helped. Judy was a kind and generous person who made many lifelong friendships at OCPM and had the respect and admiration of those who knew her.


Dr. Dan L. Johnson, DPM, class of 1976, 72, of Cross Lanes, West Virginia passed away Thursday, July 15, 2021. He was born October 5, 1948, in West Hamlin, West Virginia. Dan had a Bachelor’s degree in Science from Marshall University. He then decided to devote his life to medicine and attended the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, graduating in 1976. Dan graduated with his DPM degree and practiced as a podiatrist in several areas of West Virginia. Dan was a devoted son, husband, father and grandfather.

Stephen J. Kukura, DPM, class of 1997, 87, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 28, 2022 at the Hospice House. Dr. Kukura earned his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in Cleveland in 1997. An accomplished musician, Stephen was a founding member and bass guitar player for the local rock band Southwind in the ‘70s and ‘80s. A multi-talented music lover, in addition to the bass, he was skilled in acoustic guitar, organ, and drums.

Charles R. “Chuck” Rettig, DPM, class of 1973, 75, of Millersburg, MI, passed away at his home unexpectedly but peacefully on Wednesday, March 22, 2022. Dr. Rettig earned his Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine at the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in 1973. During medical school, Chuck was the editor of the school’s student publication Footprints and supported himself by working as a licensed pharmacist. Dr. Rettig established the Ann Arbor Foot Clinic and was a practicing podiatrist for over 27 years. In 2000, he retired from his podiatry practice and moved to Huron Beach.

William H. Wooley, DPM, class of 1971, 86 of Portsmouth, died Friday, March 25, 2022, at Hill View Retirement Center. He was born January 18, 1936, in Portsmouth and in high school was very active in instrumental and vocal music and with the Boy Scouts of America, where he received his Eagle Scout, and later went on to become a Scout Leader and Scout Master in his adult years. A life-long learner, he attended The Ohio State University, and later graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He went on to attend and graduate from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in 1971. Following his graduation, “Doc” opened his practice in Portsmouth in 1971. During his years in practice, he also opened offices in both West Union and Ironton, Ohio, and enjoyed visiting area nursing homes to provide one-on-one care to his less ambulatory patients. He was also a proud United States Navy Veteran.

Donald “Don” R. Aikema, DPM, class of 1970, 78 of Spring Hill, Tennessee passed away on March 18th, 2022 surrounded by his loving family. He was born on February 11th, 1944 in Youngstown, OH. He was a graduate of Western Reserve University and the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine class of 1970. For over 44 years, Don had his own Podiatry practice in the areas of both West Palm Beach, Florida, and Simsperville, SC. He loved what he did and when he finally retired in 2014, he moved to Spring Hill, TN to be closer to family.

Stanley J. Gurney, DPM, class of 1967, 81, of Meadville, died Friday, March 11, 2022 at Meadville Medical Center. Dr. Gurney was a graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine class of 1967. Dr. Gurney was a podiatrist in Meadville for 32 years and a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association, and past president of the N/W PA division. He was a diplomat of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and a fellow of the Academy of Ambulatory Foot and Ankle Surgery.