MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Happy New Year from everyone at the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center (NEOHC). I am excited to share the various projects and accomplishments of the past year. Our focus remains on building a strong foundation of well-indexed collections and outreach to our various user groups, including UNE students, faculty, and administration; D.O.s; and professional and amateur researchers across the country.

Over the course of the past year, NEOHC has benefitted from the assistance of a student worker, Maddy Mark. Maddy is a second-year history major and has helped with photograph preservation projects as well as arranging and indexing collections. Working with students allows the NEOHC to reach an engaged audience while increasing our productivity. To view information about our collections, visit us at une.edu/neohc/collections. Digitized collections, including photos, documents, and videos, can be seen at dune.une.edu/neohc. The collections continue to grow. The center has benefitted from several donations over the past year as well as continued participation in our oral history project.

Throughout 2018 I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you at the MOA conferences and the ROME conference in Mystic, Connecticut. My outreach has not been limited to D.O.s, however. In May I attended the American Association for the History of Medicine conference, the largest gathering of academics in the history of medicine field. The biggest outreach success, however, has been the completion of our new office located in the Jack Ketchum Library on the Biddeford Campus. Better visibility has substantially increased the number of faculty and students “dropping by” to discover the NEOHC.

The past year has been an exciting year in the NEOHC. We are looking forward to continuing our growth through 2019 and beyond. In the coming year the NEOHC will be continuing the foundational work of preserving and indexing the collections as well as increasing the number of collections available online. I would like to thank everyone who has supported us through the last year and wish you all a prosperous New Year.

Zachary Enright, NEOHC archivist
Are you interested in donating to the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center? Do you have papers, photographs, videos, newsletters, or other materials that document the osteopathic profession? Consider donating them to the NEOHC. At the NEOHC we are able to preserve those materials and make them accessible to researchers all over the world.

If you are interested in contributing to the NEOHC but do not have materials of historical value, consider participating in our oral history project. We are looking for D.O.s and those with experience in the osteopathic field of all ages and experiences — from students to the retired.

If you or anyone you know is interested in contributing materials or participating in the oral history project, please contact archivist Zachary Enright at zenright@une.edu or (207) 602-2131.

**HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT**

"40 Years of DOing it Right"

In 1971, an informal group of 50 osteopathic physicians met to discuss their concern about the aging populations of D.O.s in New England. These discussions, which had quietly started a decade earlier, culminated in the creation of the New England Foundation for Osteopathic Medicine (NEFOM) in 1973 and the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE COM), which opened its doors in October 1978. From the beginning it was clear that this small osteopathic school was different.

The University struggled with tight finances and required the commitment, dedication, and assistance of D.O.s from all over the region — some travelling long distances to teach classes and participate in admissions interviews. The first UNE COM classes took great risk in attending the provisionally accredited medical school. It is through these early struggles that UNE COM developed the strong community and supportive culture that would allow it to grow and prosper over the next 40 years.

**1942**
The Massachusetts College of Osteopathy, the only osteopathic medical school in New England, closes.

**1961**
Drs. Robert Brown and Hadley Hoyt begin exploring the possibility of an osteopathic school in New England.

**April 28, 1971**
Fifty D.O.s from around New England meet at the Lexington Sheraton Motor Inn in Lexington, MA, to organize the effort to create a new College of Osteopathy in New England.

**July 1973**
The New England Foundation for Osteopathic Medicine is chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**April 1974**
Negotiations with Northeastern University end.

**January/February 1975**
First conversation between William Bergen and Jack Ketchum concerning the possibility of an osteopathic school at St. Francis College.

**May 8, 1975**
Memorandum of Agreement signed between NEFOM and St. Francis College.

**May 1977-December 1978**
The University under "warning status" by NEASC and at risk of losing accreditation.

**May 1977**
Memorandum of Agreement signed between NEFOM and St. Francis College.

**1975**
Recommendations for a Regional Action for Optometry, Osteopathic, and Podiatric Education in New England are published, estimating the average age of D.O.s in New England in 1973 was 62, that the majority were in family practice, and that residents of New England were underrepresented in the medical field.

**January 1976**
"Working Paper for a Proposed New England College of Osteopathic Medicine" defines the purpose of the college as "to train health professionals for primary care delivery in underserved areas."

**1976**

**May 1977-December 1978**
The University under "warning status" by NEASC and at risk of losing accreditation.

**June 27, 1977**
NECOM receives pre-accreditation status.

**April 4, 1978**
Board of Trustees chooses the name the University of New England.

**May 10, 1978**
Board of Trustees votes to create a separate independent corporation to handle the medical school’s funds.

**May 20, 1978**
NECOM denied provisional accreditation.

**June 1978**
NECOM receives federal funding.

**August 2, 1978**
NECOM receives provisional accreditation.

**September 1978**
The University of New England opens its doors.

**October 1978**
First NECOM class matriculates.

**CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COLLECTIONS**

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