



COMP-Northwest Students Unique Internship

by *Crystal Rivera*

A group of students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest (COMP-NW) visited The Plastinarium in Germany, a month-long summer internship arranged by Brion Benninger, Professor of Anatomy COMP-NW. “We stayed on-site, living directly above the Plastinarium exhibit. The best part about living on property was we could wander throughout the museum while it was closed to use the plastinates to study at our leisure. It was a truly wonderful experience,” said Tyler Madison, OMS. The Plastinarium exhibits the methods of cadaveric preservations called plastination. This method was developed by Dr. Guenther Von Hagens in the 1970’s, which has revolutionized the study of anatomy. The Plastinarium is a modern-day anatomical theater that offers visitors a unique insight into the human body and art of anatomical dissection and preservation. “Our role was to work closely with dissections and showcase certain

portions of anatomy. They gave us autonomy and were willing to work with our own visions with the specimens. We also had one on one help from some of the world leaders in anatomy. One of the dissections I was able to work on was a heart, including a new way of preserving the pericardium. I also worked on an abdomen to help present the vessels in a very specific manner,” said Marcus Pearson, OMS. The anatomical specimens are used for the training of physicians and education of medical professionals and the COMP-NW students who participated in the internship were fortunate to experience this firsthand. “We were given lessons in clinical anatomy that bridged our anatomical knowledge with applicable medicine. These clinical lessons reminded me of the reason why I was there in the first place. It was not just to gain anatomical knowledge and dissection skills; rather, the greater significance was in the opportunity to enhance my skills as a physician in training in order to provide the best care to my future patients,” said William Maloney, OMS. ■

