



Fall 2010

# Horizons Fall 2010

Nova Southeastern University

Follow this and additional works at: [http://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsu\\_horizons](http://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsu_horizons)

---

## NSUWorks Citation

Nova Southeastern University, "Horizons Fall 2010" (2010). *Horizons*. Book 8.  
[http://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsu\\_horizons/8](http://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsu_horizons/8)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the NSU Digital Collections at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Horizons by an authorized administrator of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact [nsuworks@nova.edu](mailto:nsuworks@nova.edu).

FALL 2010

# HORIZONS

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



**NSU's Family Therapy  
Program Adds Horse Power**

*ALSO INSIDE: Bringing Hope to Haiti • Creating Educators Who Excel*

# Updating your alumni record has its benefits.



what's new @ NSU



social networking



events



gift

Visit <https://www.nova.EDU/webforms/alumni/>  
and select promo code "HORIZONS" to receive a gift.

# Table of Contents

## Features

---

- NSU Brings Hope to Haiti **4**
- Equine Therapy **8**
- Vatican Splendors **15**
- NSU's Fischler School Creates Educators Who Excel **16**
- Garden of Tranquility **20**
- Greek Life at NSU **26**
- Pop Culture Enters Academia **32**

## Departments

---

Letter from the Chancellor **2**

### Academic Notes

- Huizenga School Makes a Pitch for Sales **3**
- NSU Delivers Medical Training to War Zone Doctors **3**
- On Turtle Patrol **14**
- Leadership Program Gives Students an Edge **24**
- Health Care's Paperless Future **35**

### Around Campus

- Art a Class Act at the Studio School **6**
- A Family Affair at the Student Educational Centers **6**
- University School Headmaster Receives Award **7**
- NSU Hosts Live Political Debates **7**
- NSU Goes Greener **37**

### Q & A

Leo Irakliotis **13**

### Faculty Profile

Sigmund Stahl **22**  
Jason Campbell **24**

### Student Profile

- Residential Life is the True "Real World" **28**
- Building a Sorority, Raising Hope **30**
- Student Courts a New Life Through NSU Law Center **31**

### Alumni Profile

Steven Seltzer and Rowena Peralta **34**  
Marvin Chaney **36**

### Athletics

Giving the Sharks Their Strength **38**

### Why I Became...

Sue Kabot **40**  
Scott Poland **40**



Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associates, bachelor s, master s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, non-disqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

06-034-10SAT

# HORIZONS

is produced by the Office of Public Affairs at  
Nova Southeastern University  
3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796



## ADVISORY BOARD

**Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.**

Chancellor, Nova Southeastern University

**George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.**

President and Chief Operating Officer

**Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.**

Chancellor, Health Professions Division

**Frank DePiano, Ph.D.**

University Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

**Joanne Ferchland-Parella, M.B.A., M.L.A.**

Vice President, Institutional Advancement

**David Dawson, B.B.A.**

Executive Director, University Relations

**Richard E. Dodge, Ph.D.**

Dean, Oceanographic Center

**Brad A. Williams, Ed.D.**

Dean, Student Affairs

**Honggang Yang, Ph.D.**

Dean, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

## EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**Julie Spechler**

Director, Public Affairs

## MANAGING EDITOR

**Oline H. Cogdill**

## ART DIRECTOR

**Susan Hayward**

Associate Director of Publications/Senior Graphic Designer

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS AND WRITERS

**Alan Hancock**

Associate Director, Public Affairs

**Felecia Henderson**

Associate Director, Public Affairs

**Andra Parrish Liwag**

Associate Director, Public Affairs

**Ken Ma**

Associate Director, Public Affairs

**Elizabeth Serieux**

Coordinator, Business Operations

## OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS

**Ron Ryan**

Director of Publications

**Sheryl Koral**

University Editor

**Kymerly Robinson**

Associate Editor and Copywriter

**Roberta Harris**

Graphic Production Manager

Send letters to the editor to  
[julies@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:julies@nsu.nova.edu)  
or use our online contact form.



To the Friends and Family of NSU:

The new school year brings myriad changes to Nova Southeastern University. New students and new professors continue to make each fall an exciting time of progress and growth at NSU.

That sense of freshness translates to this issue of *Horizons*. You may already have noticed that the magazine is slightly smaller. By trimming the size, we contribute to NSU's Go Green Initiative, since we will use less paper and less ink.

*Horizons* may be smaller in size, but it still takes an expansive look at NSU's large role in the local community and the world.

In this issue, we look at the university's response to the tragic earthquake in Haiti. We continue to help the people of Haiti through the compassion, skills, and dedication of our faculty and staff members and students from, among others, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Center for Psychological Studies, the College of Optometry, and the Fischler School of Education and Human Services.

Closer to home, we see how graduates from the Fischler School prove that the need for strong teachers, school administrators, and educators always exists, no matter the economic times. These are careers for today and tomorrow.

Our community involvement is reflected in the studies by the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences that incorporate horses into family therapy.

The atmosphere of progress shows in a Q&A with Leo Irakliotis, the new dean of the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences; a story on the innovative Sales Institute at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship; and the College of Pharmacy's unique medicinal and healing garden.

Students are NSU's foundation, and its heart. In this issue, you'll meet a few of the many students destined for success in their careers and life, including four of our residential hall leaders, and learn about the campus and community contributions of NSU's growing Greek organizations.

A new semester brings a new look, but at NSU, our norm remains growth, innovation, and a commitment to excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ray Ferrero, Jr.". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "R".

Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.  
Chancellor, Nova Southeastern University

## Huizenga School Makes a Pitch for Sales

It's the lifeblood of any business, and now NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship is making sales a core part of its training and curriculum.

The emphasis on sales is the result of feedback from more than 30 Florida businesses. The Huizenga School executives wanted to determine what education and skills the companies desire from their employees that is currently lacking. When it became clear that sales training was an area of need, the Huizenga School moved quickly to fill the void.

In August, the state-of-the-art Sales Institute opened on the third floor of the Carl DeSantis Building. The 8,200-square-foot institute features a grand room for events, conference rooms, six interview rooms for corporate recruiting, and 16 mock sales presentation rooms, all of which have video-recording capabilities so presentations can be reviewed. Several rooms also include video-conferencing technology.

"On the day it opened, The Sales Institute became one of the finest sales training facilities in the country," said Michael Fields, Ph.D., dean of the Huizenga School. "The resources are in place to give our students every advantage in learning sales techniques, and we've added a top-rate faculty to teach them."

To provide sales management materials for courses, the Huizenga School has partnered with Sandler Training, which has been ranked number one for training programs 10 times in *Entrepreneur Magazine's* Franchise 500. A new bachelor's degree in business administration was added and includes four required sales courses. Other additions to the Huizenga School curriculum include an undergraduate minor in sales, sales concentrations in the Master of Business Administration program, and certificate programs.

"The skills learned in our sales classes will help our students in whatever field they enter, whether it's to sell a product to a consumer or sell an idea to corporate executives," said Fields. "This training will help differentiate them in the job market." ■



Ross Donaldson, M.D., demonstrates training to physicians in Bagdad while NSU doctors coach from the screen.

## NSU Technology Delivers Medical Training to War Zone Doctors

In the middle of the Iraqi war, 12 physicians used Nova Southeastern University's communications technology to learn how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and other lifesaving skills on children.

The university, in partnership with health care providers from the University of California—Los Angeles (UCLA) and the International Medical Corps (IMC), conducted a three-day, live broadcast training from NSU's main campus. The training was televised in real time to a dozen Iraqi pediatricians, surgeons, anesthesiologists, and emergency medicine physicians at an undisclosed location in the Iraqi capital.

The training provided the Iraqi doctors with the first American Heart Association (AHA)-certified Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) course using video technology. During the training, two IMC and UCLA physicians were in the same room with their Iraqi counterparts to provide hands-on skills training.

Kevin Nugent, director of Emergency Medical Services education and training at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Deborah Mulligan, M.D., director of NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy, coordinated the training.

"There are thousands of Iraqi children suffering from cardiac arrests and respiratory problems that need physicians with the skills to treat them," said Nugent.

After passing the course, the physicians received a PALS certification card issued by the AHA-approved training center at NSU.

Mulligan said training doctors in the PALS course is defining new ways that emergency care training can be offered to health care professionals in hard-to-reach communities, such as in rural areas of the United States and Afghanistan. "In these desperate circumstances, quick response is often the difference between life and death," said Mulligan. ■

# W

hen an earthquake demolished Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010, more than 230,000 Haitians died, while many others were severely injured. The survivors were left to face the devastation: homes reduced to rubble, cars flattened like pancakes, power poles splintered, and streets turned into canyons of cracked asphalt. The capital was largely destroyed, and all was lost except one thing: hope.

Hope came in the form of an optometrist with an ophthalmoscope, a device used to look into the back of an eye. Hope was a psychologist with comforting words. Hope became a doctor with surgical tools and a stethoscope. Hope showed up as an educator with colorful art projects and a literacy program. Hope appeared as a logo with a shark embedded in the letters NSU.

The faces behind those letters belonged to Nova Southeastern University students, faculty and staff members, and

in the relief effort because I felt I could help. It was as simple as that."

The medical team arrived at the airport field hospital 10 days after the earthquake. The hospital compound consisted of three large tents housing a surgical ward, a general medicine and pediatrics ward, and cots that served as sleeping quarters for the all-volunteer medical personnel.

"We had no running water, no conventional bathrooms, no showers, and no hot food," Cross said. Despite the conditions, Cross treated patients, some of whom were so weak they had to be carried to him. During his four-day stint in Haiti, Cross tried to treat the victims without having to amputate their limbs. "I wanted to give these patients the benefit of the doubt because, let's face it, it is difficult enough to make it in Haiti," he said. "If you don't have a leg or you don't have an arm, it's going to be much more difficult."

Bruce Peters, D.O., professor of pediatrics and medical director of NSU's medical clinics, went to Haiti in June.

## NSU BRINGS **hope** TO HAITI

BY KEN MA

administrators who offered monetary and hands-on assistance immediately after the trembler struck the nation.

Following the quake, NSU's family quickly organized relief efforts, collecting food, clothing, and supplies to ship to Haiti. Faculty and staff members and students also donated thousands of dollars. NSU students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine's (COM) Rural Medicine Club and the Student National Medical Association presented George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president, with a \$1,000 check to donate to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.

Representatives from NSU also offered medical services as part of the Project Medishare for Haiti/University of Miami (UM) program, working in the UM Global Institute Hospital, which was located in tents at Port-au-Prince's damaged Toussaint Louverture International Airport.

One of the NSU representatives was Brian J. Cross, D.O., clinical assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at COM and director of Orthopedic Trauma Service at Broward General Medical Center. Motivated by the images of intense suffering he saw in the media, Cross joined a medical team that flew to Haiti with Project Medishare. "The earthquake was a brutal assault on your emotions," said Cross. "I wanted to participate

Peters was the only pediatrician in a four-member group with the James Wilson Bridges Medical Society sent to parts of the country with orphanages that had not received health care. The team spent several days providing health care to those living in the mountains and hills.

"Some of the children were so badly injured that we had to transport them ourselves to the University of Miami tent hospitals. The land and people still looked totally devastated," said Peters, who added he plans to return to help establish a school-clinic combination for the distant communities near the orphanages.

Smith Blanc, a 2009 graduate from NSU's College of Optometry, saw more than 100 patients a day after arriving in Haiti on February 22. During his time in Haiti, he became the sole provider of eye care, treating patients for dry eyes, ocular traumas, and eye infections. He also provided baseline ocular testing for patients infected with tuberculosis, one of the most prevalent contagious diseases in Haiti.

"If I hadn't been there to help, some of the patients would have lost their vision due to bacterial infections," said Blanc, a

*Below left and center: People flock to a garden hose for water; one of myriad tent cities. Photos courtesy of CNN*

*Below right: Brian Cross, D.O., performs surgery in a tent hospital in Haiti.*

Haitian-American. “A majority of the patients had no means to receive the health care they needed. It felt good knowing that I was making a difference.”

One of Blanc’s colleagues, Josie Toussaint, coordinator of Low Vision Services at The Eye Care Institute at NSU, served as a Creole, French, and English interpreter for foreign doctors and earthquake victims. Toussaint, a Port-au-Prince

“They were confused, didn’t know what to think, what to feel, as if they were losing their minds,” said Campbell. “They had feelings of uncertainty, disorientation, and anxiousness.”

His goal was to help victims make sense of the events. He also assured them that their thoughts and feelings were common for individuals who were exposed to traumas caused by earthquakes. Many of his patients suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Campbell checked on them regularly to make sure they were not harming themselves. “It was rewarding to see a mother, who wanted to kill herself and her four children, having hope after five daily sessions of therapy,” he said.

Therapy of another kind was conducted in Miami-Dade County for Haitian teens displaced by the earthquake.

Haitian-born Charlene Desir, Ed.D., program professor at NSU’s Fischler School of Education and Human Services,

native, was also an on-the-spot nurse and social worker, assisting relief workers in transporting patients to their homes, if they still existed.

Currently, the College of Optometry serves on an international task force, organized by the Pan-American Health Organization, to develop a strategic plan with Haitian eye care leaders to reconstruct vision services in Haiti. Although the quake destroyed Haiti’s national school for the blind and rehabilitative services for the visually impaired, ophthalmology residents continue to train at a Port-au-Prince university hospital.

NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies (CPS) was the first academic unit from South Florida to send a psychologist to Haiti. CPS associate professor, Stephen Campbell, Ph.D., who has a long history of working with trauma victims in Africa, arrived in Haiti on February 7, 2010. Campbell spent 10 days at the Port-au-Prince airport field hospital counseling patients.

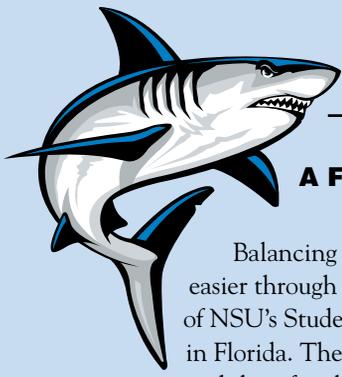


collaborated with Barry University to start a summer program called Literary

Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE). The program, funded by the nonprofit Children’s Trust of Miami-Dade, helped Haitian students assimilate into high school, providing them with academic and literacy skills, and arts-focused activities such as poetry, acting, dancing, music, and painting related to their culture.

“The program was a great opportunity for the students to socialize and prepare for their next school year,” Desir said. “It has far exceeded my expectations. The students were very engaged in learning about their culture.” ■

SCOTT COLTON, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS AT NSU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, AND FELECIA HENDERSON, NSU ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE.



## Around Campus

### A Family Affair at the Student Educational Centers

Balancing school and family becomes a little easier through Family Fin Days, hosted by each of NSU's Student Educational Centers (SEC) in Florida. The annual events bring students and their families together for an outing to a local attraction.

Daisy Ramos, a nursing student at the SEC in Fort Myers, said the Family Fin Days get her family into the Shark spirit. "My family enjoyed meeting people who share my life with me in school," said Ramos, who brought her mother, father, and niece to the event.

Past Family Fin Days have included trips to the Wet 'n Wild water park in Orlando, zoos, and local parks. "The events bring NSU students together for a fun day," said Milton Cepeda, president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at the Jacksonville SEC, who enjoyed an outing at the city zoo with his wife.

"It was a great experience and a chance to meet other NSU students and their families outside of school," said psychology major Samantha Gaulden, who also visited the Jacksonville zoo with her daughters and husband.

The trips often include a lunch where students can socialize and hear discussions about NSU activities and events from SGA members and student affairs staff members. Professors and staff members sometimes join the trips, adding to the NSU community feel. This year, Family Fin Days were designated as Shark pride events, and students attending received Shark pride T-shirts, added Jene P. Kapela, director of student affairs at the student educational centers.

"I was able to meet, and learn more about, a lot of students at our site," said Ramos. "It's like a big, happy family in Fort Myers now."

For more on Family Fin Days, visit [www.nova.edu/cwis/safatsecs/events.html](http://www.nova.edu/cwis/safatsecs/events.html). ■

### Art a Class Act at the Studio School

A nine-year-old boy measures the space between an apple and a banana. A lawyer pauses as she assesses the length of the model's forearm. A retired airline pilot beams as he mixes paints. And an instructor carefully constructs a still life of bottles, chairs, and yesterday's newspapers for a class of attentive artists of all ages.

These scenes take place each week in the studios and classrooms of the Studio School at the Nova Southeastern University Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale. Launched during 2005 with drawing, painting, and other classes, the Studio School has expanded each year.

The Studio School takes a big leap this fall, enlarging both its space and its classes in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

The Studio School is expanding its classes to include 5- and 10-week-long semesters for adults and for young artists (grades 1 through 12) throughout the year. Day and weekend workshops on ceramics, photography, printmaking,

fiber arts, and sculpture also will be added. Eventually, courses will include computer graphics, motion graphics, design, and glass-making. Lectures and classes on the history of art will complement the hands-on instruction.

Two-week sessions at the Creative Summer Art Academy will continue to be offered next year for young artists.

The classes are taught by a team of professional artists guided by museum deputy director Anthony Lauro, M.F.A., who was dean of media studies at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio. While in Ohio, Lauro was named an artist-in-residence in both Dresden, Germany, and Kasama City, Japan.

As part of Nova Southeastern University, the Museum of Art offers special discounts to NSU employees and their families. For information about schedules and courses, contact the museum's education department at (954) 262-0239 or at [Education1@moafl.org](mailto:Education1@moafl.org). ■



## University School Headmaster Receives Distinguished Educator Award

Educators at University School of Nova Southeastern University have long been lauded by parents and peers as the behind-the-scenes superstars helping the children they educate achieve great things.

So, it's no surprise that Jerome S. Chermak, Ed.D., University School headmaster, is the 2010 recipient of the Richard and Dorothy Lear Distinguished Educator Award.

The award is the highest honor given by the Association of Independent Schools of Florida (AISF).

Named for the founders of the Lear School of Miami, the award annually recognizes one person who has shown extraordinary leadership and achieved special distinction by developing educational opportunities for Florida children.

Chermak, past president of AISF, has served as an administrator at University School for the past 26 years.

"Dr. Chermak has helped the school foster academic, artistic, and athletic excellence," said Ray Ferrero, Jr., NSU chancellor. "As a result, 100 percent of University School graduates are accepted to colleges and universities. This is a stellar record, and we are very proud of our graduates and the educators who have helped them achieve so much."

More than 75 percent of University School's 181 faculty members hold advanced degrees. Through Chermak's direction, they provide individualized attention and promote each student's ability to learn, grow, and succeed.

"Dr. Chermak is a dedicated and talented educator," said George L. Hanbury II, NSU president. "We are very fortunate to have him at University School and look forward to his continued leadership there."



As a recipient of the Richard and Dorothy Lear Distinguished Educator Award, Chermak is in good company. Former recipients include Abraham S. Fischler, Ed.D., president emeritus of NSU; Modesto A. Maidique, Ph.D., former president of Florida International University; and John Silber, Ph.D., former president of Boston University.

For more information, please visit [www.uschool.nova.edu](http://www.uschool.nova.edu). ■

## NSU Hosts Live Political Debates

Florida Governor Charlie Crist, Representative Marco Rubio, and Florida Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink don't often cross paths. However, all three will be at Nova Southeastern University during October to participate in debates to become Florida's next U.S. Senator and governor.

Crist, an Independent, Rubio, a Republican, and Representative Kendrick Meek, a Democrat, are running for the U.S. Senate seat. They will square off on October 19 at NSU's Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

On October 20, Sink, a Democrat, is scheduled to debate health care executive Rick Scott, a Republican.

Each debate will be televised live throughout Florida and run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on their respective days.

"These debates are important for Florida residents, who will go to the polls this fall to make decisions that will have a lasting impact on the state," said Ray Ferrero, Jr., NSU chancellor. "NSU is pleased to host these debates in conjunction with Leadership Florida and the Florida Press Association."

NSU also hosted both debates in 2006.

The Senate race has drawn intense national coverage as the result can tip the balance of power in Washington. Both debates will focus on issues such as health care, oil drilling, Social Security, foreign policy, the economy, NASA's future, and the environment.

Each debate will feature a moderator and a three-member panel. CBS affiliate WFOR-TV will televise the debates. The debates are not open to the public, but the public can submit questions by visiting [www.beforeyouvote.org](http://www.beforeyouvote.org). ■

# EQUINE THERAPY

## NSU'S GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES USES HORSE SENSE IN FAMILY THERAPY

“The horse is your mirror,” proclaims an Arabian proverb. And a horse paddock located in Davie, Florida—just a few miles south of Nova Southeastern University’s main campus—adds new meaning to this proverb. That’s because it offers a unique program that uses horses to assist in psychotherapy.

In hands-on therapy sessions, horses assist clients with life and relationship challenges through the Family Therapy Program at NSU’s Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) and Stable Foundations, an independent, equine-assisted psychotherapy program. The method enables clients to learn about themselves and their relationships by participating in activities with horses, and then discussing their experiences with a therapist.

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON





*Left: Horses assist clients with life and relationship challenges.*

“This is perhaps the first collaboration in the country in which a university has created a community partnership using equine-assisted therapy to provide an internship site for family therapy graduate students,” said Shelley Green, Ph.D., NSU professor of family therapy and training director for Stable Foundations. The program also offers clinical services to individuals, families, and groups in the local community.

“This model allows for a unique experience of learning by doing, and is based on the belief that people have the ability to find their own answers,” said Green.

In contrast to therapeutic riding approaches, equine-assisted family therapy (EAFT) does not involve mounting a horse. “Therapeutic riding for people with disabilities is great work, but it is not what we do. This is psychotherapy for individuals and families, and we incorporate a horse as a tool in that work,” said Lorisa P. Lewis, M.S., L.M.H.C., program director of Stable Foundations, who is internationally certified in equine-assisted psychotherapy.

NSU’s equine therapy program follows the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association’s model for equine-assisted therapy and uses a team composed of a licensed mental health professional, an equine specialist, and



one or more horses. The therapist and client discuss feelings, behaviors, and observations that they have during the session. The experiences are related to day-to-day situations and are expected to enable a person to make positive changes in his or her life.

Tommie V. Boyd, Ph.D., chair, Department of Family Therapy, and Honggang Yang, SHSS dean, both believe in the advantages of equine therapy. “Equine-assisted therapeutic training is a rewarding advancement for families working on relationship issues,”

said Boyd. “Dean Yang and I are pleased to support these new endeavors with Dr. Green and Stable Foundations. Equine therapy has been utilized for a number of years, and we are excited to include this training in our family therapy programs.”

The partnership between Stable Foundations and NSU began with Lewis and Green. They both believed in the benefits of incorporating horses into clinical work with families, and they shared a vision of developing a training model for NSU family therapy graduate students. Green said a “generous offer” from Amy Sperling, who owns 15 acres in Davie, to use her stable and paddocks, plus two of her horses, has helped the program grow.

“This helps us bring in another component for students in NSU’s family therapy program. It really promotes a positive training environment,” said Green.

With EAFT, horse experience is not necessary, and most clients arrive with no horse knowledge at all.

Why horses? “Horses pick up on the subtleties of human behavior. They are highly attuned to their environment and what is going on around them,” said Lewis.

Students who train and work using the EAFT model have found it invaluable in their development as therapists.

Randy Heller, a fourth-year family therapy doctoral student at NSU and a clinician in private practice in Plantation, Florida, felt including horses in her training as a therapist could be valuable for her clients—and herself. “My instincts were telling me to do one thing, but I was more focused on what I thought should be happening. Trusting myself allowed me to be in a more trusting relationship with the horse,” she said.

While EAFT is proving its enormous value for those training to become family therapists, it is empowering for families in therapy. The horses allow the therapist to see how family members





*Equine therapy is valuable for SHSS students training to become therapists.*

much since Sue was born,” said the oldest son, Phil, about his youngest sister. The family learned of EAFT after one of the older daughters finished several sessions with Lewis.

Lewis brought the group to where outreach coordinator and equine specialist for Stable Foundations Valerie Bruce Judd waited with the horses. “We always have two trained specialists present at all times when the clients are working with the horses,” said Green. “Valerie’s job is to watch the horse, and her priority is to be aware of the interaction between the horse and the client. She also monitors safety. We discuss what is happening during the session, noting carefully what the horses are doing as a way to help the family notice patterns of behavior.”

Lewis then invited the family to choose a horse. Phil, the oldest sibling, immediately walked to one of the horses, but the rest of the family remained behind. “Is that how it usually goes?” Lewis asked to the family. Each member of the group nodded. “He always jumps right in,” said a younger sibling.

The family was given another task: to get a saddle from the fence and place it on one of the horses. After a few fits and starts, the family, following Lewis’ instructions to have the two younger siblings direct the group in its task, completed the exercise. Afterward, the family commented on the exercise—designed to allow them to explore their typical styles of relating to each other—and how unusual it was for the younger siblings, typically the followers, to act as the leaders of the group.

“The beauty of the process is that, while the horses are just being horses, there is just a whole lot of learning going on for everyone. Their natural ability to respond intuitively to humans can lead to new understandings and new solutions. The horses make great co-therapists,” said Green. ■

*\*Names have been changed to protect patient confidentiality.*

Individuals, couples, groups, children, and families can participate in equine-assisted family therapy. Fees are comparable to other outpatient family therapy services. Some health insurance plans may cover a portion of the cost. To learn more, contact Lorisa P. Lewis, program director of Stable Foundations, at (407) 493-9656; or Shelley Green, professor of family therapy at NSU, at (954) 262-3028. Therapy sessions are held in Davie, Florida.

For more information on equine therapy, visit Stable Foundations at [www.equinefamilytherapy.com](http://www.equinefamilytherapy.com) or the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association at [www.EAGALA.org](http://www.EAGALA.org).

interact with each other—who are the dominant members and who are the followers—and how the family’s relationships can be improved.

“The horse often reflects the family dynamics and helps the therapist gain understanding. You do not get that immediacy in a clinical setting. Here, the therapist can quickly get a sense of each person’s role in the family,” said Lewis.

Olivia Schlapfer Colmer, an NSU family therapy doctoral student and clinical coordinator for Stable Foundations, agreed. “For the family, results are also immediate. It demonstrates, in a nonthreatening way, how to work together. We’ve seen that it allows them to see different ways of handling things.”

Recently, six members from the Redding\* family arrived at Stable Foundations for a family therapy session. Goldie and Paris, two mares that Sperling rescued from abuse five years ago, worked as horse therapists on the team.

The Redding children, in a family of 11, range in ages from 15 to 28 years old. “I haven’t even lived in the house

## Computer Science Dean Embraces the Transformational Power of Technology

BY ANDRA LIWAG

For **Leo Irakliotis**, technology is much more than just the bits and bytes that comprise the latest must-have gadget or digital super toy. As NSU's new dean of the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (GSCIS), Irakliotis is on the frontline of a field that is transforming daily, changing the way we learn, interact, and communicate.

Irakliotis joined NSU in February 2010, after building successful programs at MCI Telecommunications; IBM; GBI-China; and CCC Information Services, Inc. Most recently, he served as director of professional programs, a founding fellow of the Computation Institute, and associate chairman in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Chicago. He succeeds Dean Emeritus Edward Lieblein, Ph.D., who retired after serving the school for 16 years.

*Horizons* recently spoke with Irakliotis.

### What attracted you to NSU and its GSCIS?

NSU is a young, vibrant university at a pivotal point, transitioning from academic adolescence to maturity. NSU is also supportive of growth. Here, I am part of a team that is creating tradition, rather than following a prescribed one.

### How do you hope to address challenges?

First, we need to reassess the school's role within the tri-county region and the state. We need to better understand the job market and economic growth needs and how we can support them by educating outstanding professionals in computing technologies. We are reaching out to numerous regional business leaders. I am establishing good working relationships with colleagues at other schools, and we are trying to recruit faculty members who can support our outreach mission.



Then we will have to take a better look at our education models and practices. Information technology was a discipline that didn't exist 50–60 years ago, and grew so fast, we never had a chance, as scholars, to reflect on how we educate in our discipline. What does it mean to have a master's degree in computer science versus one in information systems? How do we deal with emerging disciplines in information technologies?

### How does the school prepare its graduates?

We have to teach the skills to adapt and persevere. The idea is not how to teach people to be database experts, but how to stay experts in the field. I would like to see us consider a model where you get a degree from our school and maintenance on top of that for the next five or more years.

### How did you get so passionate about information technology?

I was your typical geek as a kid, and to this day, I'm thrilled with technology. It is making our society more transparent and democratic, enabling us to evolve from passive consumers of information to active reviewers and producers of it.

### Do you have any favorite inventions or technology-related hobbies?

I am fascinated with the iPad because it ushers in a new paradigm of interacting with information—the innovation is in the interaction and not just the device. My favorite gadget, however, remains the scuba regulator: a simple valve that has enabled humanity to enter a whole new world and explore a valuable part of our ecosystem.

For more information, visit <http://scis.nova.edu/>. ■

# Academic Notes

## On Turtle Patrol

BY KEN MA

Imagine if you are a tiny sea turtle—about the size of a credit card with petite flippers. You’ve just hatched from a nest on Hollywood Beach, Florida. Your mother is long gone, and in order to have a chance to survive, you must follow the light and make it to the ocean.

What stands in your way are natural predators and humans, whose urbanization of Broward County’s coastline has created myriad artificial lights that confuse your sense of direction, causing you to head to the road instead of the ocean. If you end up on the road, your chance of being crushed by a moving vehicle is great.

Here’s where more than 20 students at Nova Southeastern University’s Oceanographic Center (OC) come to your rescue. From March to October—turtle nesting and hatching season—OC students work feverishly to relocate thousands of turtle nests to coastal areas with less light pollution from street lamps, cars, buildings, and billboards.

Like clockwork, OC students get up before dawn, hop on their ATVs, and search for endangered turtle nests. Once the nests are located, the students relocate them to safer, alternative sites.

For more than two decades, OC students have been running the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program, which aims to give the little reptiles a better chance to survive.

“We make a difference by getting more turtle hatchlings into the water,” said Laura Wright, an OC student who is the program’s project manager. “It’s a great job that allows us to do a lot of fieldwork and conserve these animals.”

Survival, Wright said, is bleak for baby sea turtles. Scientists estimate that between 1 in 1,000 and 1 in 10,000 sea turtles make it from the nest to adulthood. Too many lights near the shoreline are part of the reason why their survival rates are low.

“Our beaches are illuminated, and the turtle hatchlings are programmed to crawl toward the most lit skyline,” said Curtis Burney, Ph.D., an OC associate professor and principal investigator of the turtle program. “Before people, the most lit skyline was toward the ocean.”

The baby turtles also face many other obstacles. They are a tasty snack for raccoons, foxes, and sea birds. Those lucky enough to reach the water face predators such as fish and other marine animals, lurking in shallow water looking for an easy meal. The turtles are also susceptible to hurricanes, which wash their nests out to sea, and human poachers, who take turtle eggs for consumption as delicacies.

The turtle program’s goal is to save three species of sea turtles: the green sea turtle, leatherback turtle, and loggerhead turtle. All three are on the endangered species list.

The turtles would have a better chance for survival if more people knew about their plight. As part of their work, the OC students educate the public about the turtles at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Dania Beach, Florida. They also release some hatchlings into the ocean for the public to see.

“The students are making a difference,” Burney said.

For more information on the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program, visit [www.nova.edu/ocean/seaturtles/index.htm](http://www.nova.edu/ocean/seaturtles/index.htm). ■



# VATICAN *Splendors*

The beautiful frescoes that Michelangelo created for the Sistine Chapel have inspired artists and visitors for centuries. Now you can see the compass and tools that Michelangelo used to create those magnificent works of art, along with spectacular paintings by artists Giotto and Il Guercino and sculptures by Baroque master Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Those and other unique objects illustrating the Catholic church's impact on history and culture will be on view at the Nova Southeastern University Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale during 2011.

Vatican Splendors: A Journey through Faith and Art opens on January 29, 2011, and closes April 24, 2011.

The exhibition is the largest collection of art, documents, and historically significant objects from the Vatican ever to tour North America. More than 200 objects, many of which have never left Rome, will be in the museum's galleries and in specially created environments designed to enhance the visitor's understanding of the historical and artistic significance of each work. On display will be paintings, mosaics, and sculptures, as well as the Papal Swiss Guard's armor, sword, and uniform.

Vatican Splendors illustrates the evolution of the Catholic church and its Papacy, beginning with Saint Peter. The exhibition will allow visitors to feel as if they are at the Vatican. Although not a literal re-creation of the tombs beneath the nave of Saint Peter's Basilica, a section will evoke the catacombs. These "catacombs" will contain artifacts, including a gold and silver reliquary holding bone fragments of Saint Peter and a gold votive plaque that was found in the tomb, marking the spot where Saint Peter's remains are located.

Vatican Splendors also will feature objects used during the election of Pope Benedict XVI, such as ballots, patens and urns used in voting and ceremonial vestments.

The exhibition commemorates the 500th anniversary of several significant dates in Catholic history: the building of Saint Peter's Basilica, the founding of the Vatican Museums, the establishment of the Papal Swiss Guard, and the painting of the Sistine Chapel.

The museum and NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences will host events that look at the Vatican's impact on culture, history, and education.

Jennifer Donelson, D.M.A., assistant professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Performing and Visual Arts, will conduct a program of Gregorian chants—with a full choir—on February 17, 2011, in the Vatican exhibition galleries.

"I believe these star exhibits bring additional excitement and energy to the community and the classroom. Our students and faculty members are fortunate to have close collaboration with the Museum of Art," said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

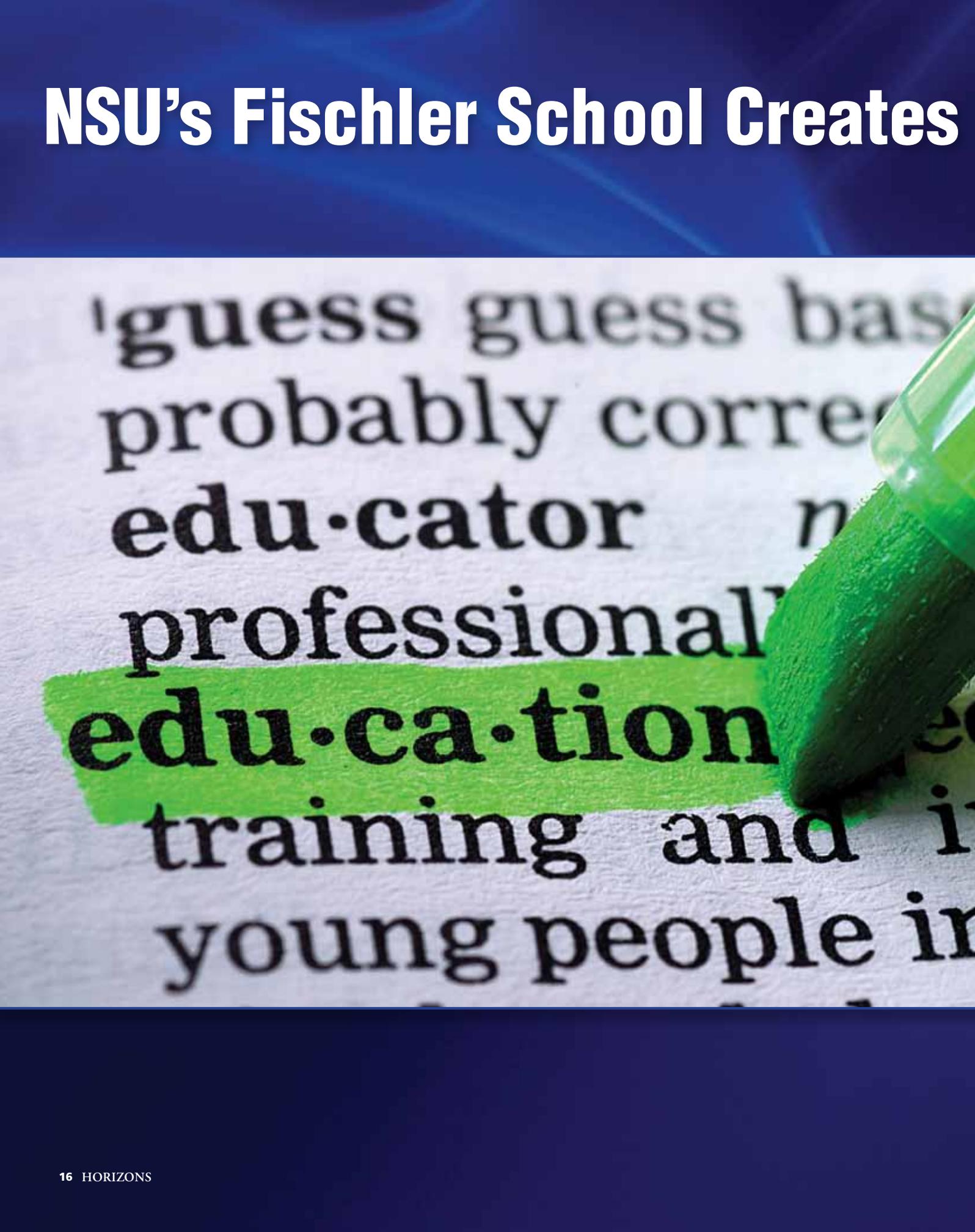
Call (954) 525-5500 or visit [www.moaf.org](http://www.moaf.org) for a complete list of lectures and programs scheduled in conjunction with the Vatican Splendors exhibition. ■



The Holy Family with Two Angels  
Bologna, Italy, 16th century, Oil on canvas  
Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Vatican City State

# NSU's Fischler School Creates

'guess guess base  
probably corre  
edu·cator n  
professional  
**edu·ca·tion**  
training and i  
young people in



# Educators Who Excel

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB AND ANDRA LIWAG



Nova Southeastern University Fischler School of Education and Human Services graduates are proving that a need and a place exist for great teachers, administrators, and educators who continue to make a difference, even in tough economic times.

An advanced education degree can open doors to traditional positions as teachers, principals, and superintendents or help an educational entrepreneur start a business or become an advocate for children and families. An education degree's versatility is one of the many reasons the Fischler School is the nation's top producer of minority doctorates in education. It's also why the Fischler School, with approximately 57,000 graduates, is one of the largest schools of education in the United States.

"Educators who understand contemporary teaching methods and how to reach students, who have the drive to be the best they can, and who continually seek to increase their knowledge are needed now more than ever," said H. Wells Singleton, Ph.D., education provost and university dean for the Fischler School.

Last summer, the Fischler School hosted a series of free Teacher Career Development Days. The workshops featured make and take home lesson plans; interactive curriculum tutorials in high-demand areas such as reading, exceptional student education, science, and Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL); professional career guidance; financial aid information; and free school supplies.

Singleton said he hopes the workshops showed teachers how much they are appreciated, valued, and needed. "Teaching is a calling—an honorable profession—and there's no doubt that our graduates are making a difference," he added.

Read on to learn how some Fischler School graduates are changing lives.



**PABLO G. ORTIZ, M.S., Ed.D. in Educational Leadership  
Provost, Miami Edison Senior High**

Becoming an administrator was not on Pablo G. Ortiz's radar when he began his teaching career. His goal was to teach high school and become a college baseball coach.

During his first job as a physical education teacher, he met a principal who recognized his leadership qualities. This positive feedback encouraged him to enroll in a master's degree program at NSU's Fischler School. From there, Ortiz worked his way up, as assistant principal and principal, before being promoted to provost at Miami Edison Senior High in 2009.

"What attracted me most to NSU was how the program is tailored to working professionals," Ortiz said. "You can build your coursework, curriculum, and assignments based on what you are currently doing."

Ortiz is the first person to hold the title of provost at Miami Edison, located in the heart of Little Haiti. The title was created to give the school a college image.

Last year, Edison spruced up its campus and created new academic programs. The magnet school is hoping to attract students with the programs, which require students to specialize in international studies, public affairs and health, the arts, or an honors program.

Ortiz, who earned his Ed.D. in 2002, was always a high performer. In 2006, while principal of the first bilingual school in Miami-Dade, he was named Principal of the Year. The school was nationally and internationally recognized as a model for dual-language bilingual education.

"Good, solid teachers are always needed," he said. "It is a highly marketable skill. For someone raising a family, teaching is a wonderful vehicle because it provides a set schedule and job security."



*Top to bottom: Pablo G. Ortiz,  
Vicki Folds, Melanie Bazarte,  
Viktor J. Joganow*

**VICKI FOLDS, M.S., Ed.D. in Leadership/Education/Technology Vice President of Education and Professional Development, Children of America**

Vicki Folds proves earning graduate degrees in education can bring success in the corporate world.

Her slogan: education is power. She knew earning her Ed.D. would open doors for her, and NSU allowed her to fit the program into her schedule, through distance learning and graduate classes on weekends.

“My degrees have solidified me as an expert in my field, allowing me to be heard at boardrooms and at conferences,” she said.

A working mother, Folds changed to a career in education because she wanted a job to match her children’s schedules.

After working in early childhood programs, she became an assistant principal. In 1991, she entered the private sector as vice president of education for Tutor Time Child Care Centers, where she developed childhood curriculum for more than 485 child care centers.

Now, Folds is vice president of education and professional development at Children of America in Delray Beach, Florida, which operates 42 schools that provide early childhood education and development programs nationwide.

An adjunct professor at Palm Beach State College, Folds also established a National Training Institute for professional development.

“With [Fischler], you don’t have just one corridor to go down,” she said. “The school opens many corridors to a variety of options. I was able to travel through those options because of my education.”

**MELANIE BAZARTE, Ed.D. in Early Childhood Education Author, lecturer, teacher, parenting expert known as “The Parent Doctor”**

Melanie Bazarte taught more than 3,000 students in preschool, Head Start, and first and second grades, but it wasn’t until she started workshops for her classroom parents that she had an epiphany: working with students was not enough. Good parenting, she realized, begins before birth.

That idea grew into Bazarte’s business—teaching educational classes to parents and children at South Florida’s West Boca Medical Center and Boca Raton Community Hospital. Her classes range from Parenting 101—a one-day workshop for expectant parents—to Sibling classes—a 90-minute class to prepare children for a new baby in the family.

She also has written books on child development including *Parenting 101*, *Nurturing with Nutrition*, *Let’s Pretend*, *Finger Plays*, and *Discipline 101*. “I teach practical tips,” she said. “That’s what my books are famous for. People say they are easy to read. There is no fluff.” Her *Parenting 101* book was a clue on the television show *Jeopardy!*

Although Bazarte had a master’s degree in elementary teaching, she knew she needed additional credentials for her new career. What attracted her to NSU’s Fischler School was the graduate degree program’s flexibility that allowed students to continue working while going to classes. Bazarte attended classes on Saturdays for three years to earn her doctoral degree.

“My doctorate opens many doors. Now I’m known simply as Dr. Melanie,” said Bazarte.

**VIKTOR J. JOGANOW, Ed.D. in Educational Leadership Superintendent, Passaic Valley Regional High School, New Jersey**

Viktor J. Joganow, an educator for 40 years, has never tired of teaching. “I will be 61 this year, and I don’t see myself walking away anytime soon,” he said. “I still have a passion for it.”

That passion began when he was a high-school student at Passaic Valley Regional High School. After graduating from college, he returned to his old high school to teach. He went on to become superintendent of two different school districts before returning to his home town in 2001.

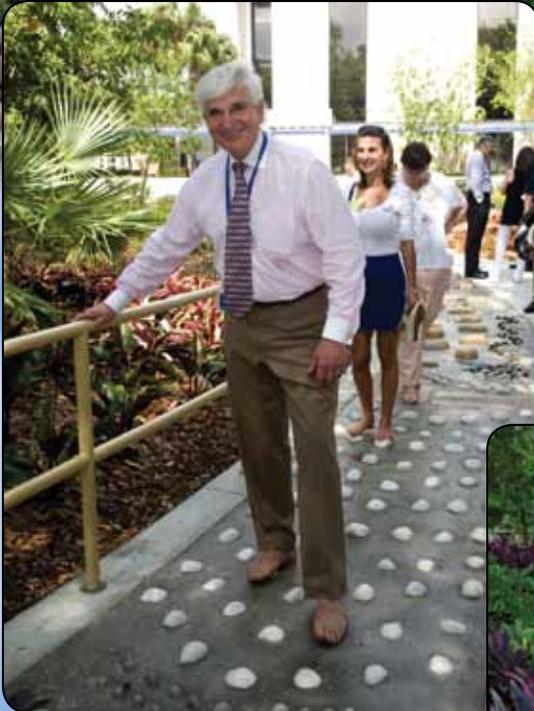
He credits much of his success to NSU’s innovative graduate school programs at the Fischler School, where he earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership.

Two years ago, Joganow and two other Fischler School graduates, Dominick A. Potena and Theodore A. Jakubowski, were honored as Superintendents of the Year.

“There is no question NSU was a leader in the off-campus structure,” he said.

While at NSU, Joganow worked on a model for establishing a foundation to generate revenue for school districts. His concept is being used in his school district and two others.

Joganow said a degree in education does not limit a graduate to teaching. A background in education can prepare a person for other fields of work. “It gives you practical experience in dealing with data and analyzing information, which puts you in a better position to make decisions in any field,” he said. ■



*Top left: NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., walks barefoot on the Reflexology Pathway.*

*Center: NSU's Medicinal and Healing Garden*

*Bottom left: Carsten Evans, Ph.D., (sitting) the visionary behind NSU's healing garden, and Jesse Durko, the garden's landscape artist*



# garden of Tranquility

## MEDICINAL AND HEALING GARDEN

BY KEN MA

In an open field near the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center, a patch of trees and herbal plants straddle a stone pathway designed to heal those who walk on it. Welcome to Nova Southeastern University's serene garden.

Officially called the Reflexology Pathway at the NSU Medicinal and Healing Garden, the pathway and green space opened in April 2010. The garden and pathway are managed by NSU's College of Pharmacy (COP). **Carsten Evans**, Ph.D., assistant dean for continuing education at the COP, envisioned a place where the NSU community could find plants with medicinal qualities and seek healing with a reflexology path. "This is a place where people can escape their busy lives and find tranquility," said Evans, adding that the garden is the only one of its kind on the East Coast.

The 66-foot long Reflexology Pathway features a collection of special rocks from around the world artistically embedded in cement. Located in the middle of

the garden, the pathway is based on similar paths in ancient Egypt, India, and China. Walking barefoot on it massages and stimulates acupressure points in the soles, which are connected to various energy meridians in the body. The pressure of stones under the feet and gravity provide a therapeutic exercise. Descriptions along the path highlight the stones' benefits.

Visitors can also read about the herbal plants and take a tour of the garden, which was designed by landscape artist Jesse Durko. During the tours, Evans talks about the historical legends surrounding the garden's plants, bushes, and trees.

The garden is also a living classroom, designed to play a central role in the education of the public, students, and health care professionals. NSU will offer integrative-medicine programs, where students will utilize both the garden's plants and the Reflexology Pathway, in addition to lectures in acupuncture, aromatherapy, Asian medicine, health psychology, nutrition, and wellness. ■

# Faculty Profile

## CDM Founder Leaves Lasting Imprint

BY KEN MA

**Sigmund Stahl** does not know how to retire.

He tried 15 years ago, leaving a prominent dental career at the New York University College of Dentistry. He left the bright lights of Manhattan for sunny South Florida after spending decades as a periodontic professor, researcher, and associate dean.

He told his NYU colleagues he was going to retire in the land of sandy beaches. But the lure of dental medicine was too strong. In 1996, Stahl was recruited by Nova Southeastern University to help start the College of Dental Medicine (CDM). He agreed.

Stahl, M.S., D.D.S., who is now an adjunct professor of periodontics at the CDM, worked closely with the college's founding dean, Seymour Oliet, D.D.S., to launch a fledgling dental school in 1997 with 75 students. The school has since blossomed into one of the best and most selective in the nation.

"We were not sure if there were going to be students or patients," said Stahl. "But now, we are getting lots of patients and the brightest students in the country."

Helping launch NSU's dental school, the only one in South Florida, is one of many accomplishments for this legendary dentist and educator. After escaping Nazi Germany as a boy, Stahl spent more than six decades in the United States pioneering teaching methods and research in periodontology—the study of gums, bones, and other supporting structures of teeth.

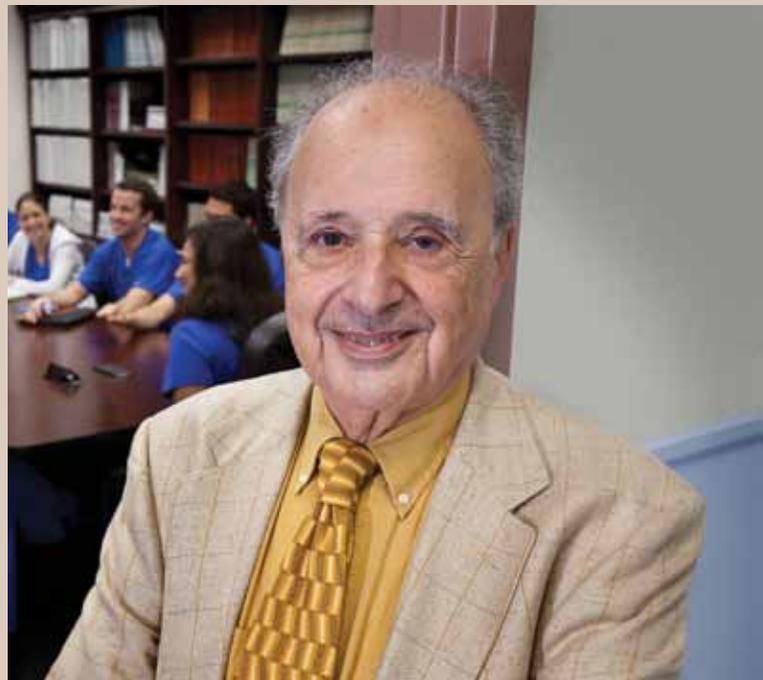
"As one of the early founders of periodontics, he is a giant in the field," said Frank DePiano, Ph.D., NSU provost and vice president for academic affairs. "He was instrumental in getting our dental school up and running. We are lucky to have him."

While others might think highly of him, Stahl, 85, downplays his accomplishments with humility. Instead, he considers himself lucky to turn his life's passion for dentistry into a career. But most of all, the soft-spoken gentleman, who resides in Palm Beach County, looks forward to what genuinely makes him tick—the chance to positively influence the next generation of dentists.

"Teaching is very sacred," Stahl said. "You are a person who has the ability to transform a human being. My job is to stimulate my students, so they ask questions."

One of those inquisitive students, Gregory Pette, D.M.D., a third-year postgraduate dental resident in the CDM periodontal program, considers Stahl a mentor.

"He has greatly impacted my career," said Pette. "He inspired me to be heavily involved in clinical research. His continued enthusiasm for teaching and the field of dentistry, blows my mind."



### Trailblazing Years

Stahl's dream of becoming a dentist began as a young man in New York City, where his family moved after leaving Germany in 1939. Curious and brilliant, Stahl completed dental school at the University of Minnesota College of Dentistry in 1947. Two years later, he would add a master's degree in histopathology—the study of the manifestations of diseases—from the University of Illinois.

In 1950, he began his career at NYU as an instructor in charge of research. Five years later, he became an assistant professor in the dental school's Department of Periodontia and Oral Medicine. In 1978, he was named associate dean for academic affairs.

"This man has truly amazed me," said Stuart Hirsch, D.D.S., an associate dean at NYU College of Dentistry. "He is an individual who is always curious. And he really believes in quality."

At NYU, Stahl began his trailblazing research in periodontics. He wanted to know how gum tissue healed around teeth after dental work, as well as the impact that gingivitis—the inflammation of gums—had on teeth. He was also curious about how bone in a patient's mouth would react to dental implants. The goal was to make sure implants stayed in the mouth.

His research led to a better understanding of all these issues and has helped dentists improve their techniques. Stahl also became one of the first dentists to use pap smears to help diagnose oral cancer.

“I asked myself, ‘Why can’t we scrape surface cells out of the mouth to test for cancer,’” he said. “In the 1960s, that was a novel technique to discover oral cancer. Now, it’s fairly common. The earlier you diagnose oral cancer, the better your chances are.”

Stahl also studied how a lack of protein, through malnutrition, affects bone and gum tissues. “When a patient is malnourished,” he said, “their gums and bones may take longer to heal after a dental procedure.”

“Because of his research, he has been an icon in the world of periodontology,” said William Parker, D.D.S., chair of the periodontology department at NSU dental and one of Stahl’s colleagues.

accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation, which is a body of the American Dental Association. He worked on the nuts and bolts of starting a new school, such as financing, budget management, and getting facilities, namely the dental clinic, off the ground. Stahl also used his reputation and prestige to help recruit a top faculty, which was hard to come by because of a national shortage.

“He was recognized in the dental profession,” said Robert Uchin, D.D.S., the CDM’s current dean and one of its first administrators. “Whoever he called, he would get answers. He had lots of connections. He set a tone for the dental school and its search for excellence.”

Excellence is what the CDM has been achieving since it opened in 1997, becoming the first dental school in the nation to do so in 24 years. It now has 105 students per entering class, the largest low-cost dental and special-needs clinics in Florida, a renowned faculty, and cutting-edge research projects including the use of adult stem cells to clone teeth.

The CDM’s acceptance rate, currently less than 15 percent, makes it one of the most selective dental schools in the nation. Entering first-year students score in the 90th percentile on the Dental Admission Test and have an average grade point average between 3.65 and 3.7. The CDM provides dental treatment for a variety of patients, including those with AIDS/HIV, cleft palate, autism, cerebral palsy, and craniofacial disorders through its community dental clinics in Davie, North Miami Beach, and Pompano Beach and the Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood.

Stahl served as the CDM’s associate executive dean, as well as professor and chair of the periodontics department. In 2005, he decided to retire, again. But, like his first retirement at NYU, it was not successful. The longing to influence the next generation of dentists kept pulling him back. For the last five years, Stahl has traveled from his Palm Beach County home to NSU’s main campus to serve as an adjunct professor at the CDM to pursue his passion. “Teaching students gets my juices flowing,” Stahl said. “When you see a young person grasping an idea, you feel so good inside. It’s called the ‘ah-ha’ reaction. That’s what I live for.” ■

### Unsuccessful Retirement

Stahl’s pioneering days at NYU came to an end in 1996, when he left the Big Apple to retire in Florida. Not long after, he was recruited by Oliet to help start the CDM.

“I said ‘yes’ because I have never had a chance to build a dental school,” Stahl said. “I was coming to a brand new place, where there was no tradition. I wanted to leave my imprint.”

That he certainly did. Working with Oliet, Stahl helped build the foundations for the CDM, including putting the faculty and staff members and students in place and earning



## Academic Notes

---

### New Leadership Development Program Gives Students an Edge

Anna Franzone wanted a college that would offer her opportunities to become a campus leader. She found that at NSU as part of the first class of students in the Razor's Edge Leadership Development Program, which launched this fall.

The Razor's Edge Leadership Development Program, named after NSU's shark mascot, will provide 22 freshmen with an intensive, four-year curriculum to develop their leadership skills. In addition to their unique curriculum, the students will attend four seminars designed specifically for them and four classes in leadership. The students will also attend monthly meetings with speakers and retreats at many locations.

Students in the Razor's Edge program will immerse themselves in NSU life by living on campus, participating in service projects, joining student organizations, and, eventually, taking on leadership roles. Participants receive \$10,000 in an annual scholarship package toward tuition, on-campus housing, and a meal plan. Upon completion of the program and a bachelor's degree in his or her respective major, each student will receive a Certificate in Leadership.

For Franzone, who was involved in numerous organizations while in high school in Hendersonville, Tennessee, including Health Occupation Students of America, Future Business Leaders of America, and National Honor Society, the program is giving her the leadership edge she desired.

"Razor's Edge is a great opportunity and made me really excited about coming to NSU," said Franzone, who plans to major in nursing. "I like the idea of getting together with this group of students, living together, taking classes together, and really developing into leaders on campus."

For more information on Razor's Edge, visit [www.nova.edu/studentleadership/razorsedge/](http://www.nova.edu/studentleadership/razorsedge/). ■



## Faculty Profile

---

### Bringing Genocide Awareness to a New Generation

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

Jason J. Campbell, Ph.D., typifies the new wave of fresh, young professors. But there isn't anything typical about him. At age 34, he is a self-described member of Generation X, and uses modern mediums such as YouTube—he's had 40,000 views to his video page that features his lectures on conflict and genocide—and an online blog to offer what he calls "learning without obstacles."

The assistant professor of conflict resolution and philosophy in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) at Nova Southeastern University knows his ideas work. He's received emails from international students in Australia and Singapore. One student wrote to him after watching Campbell's video lecture posted online about José Ortega y Gasset. The student said the video discussion helped him more than anything he had read in his studies about the Spanish philosopher.

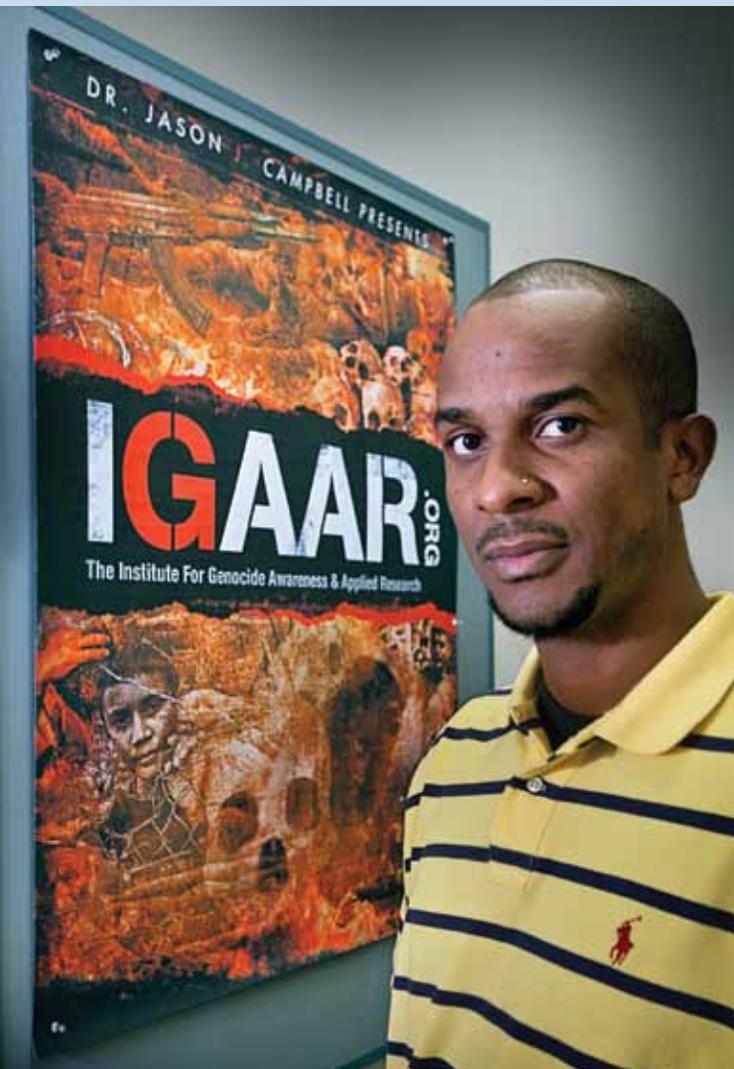
"Knowledge should be accessible immediately and it shouldn't be a difficult and arduous process for someone to tap into it. This next generation of educated people wants to know more, but they want it sooner," said Campbell.

When the professor talks, you understand he is a man on a mission. Not only does he want to get information out to as many people as possible, but there's another path he'd like to forge. He is intent on helping to put NSU on the map as a global player in his field of study: genocide.

This fall, Campbell began teaching Foundations of Genocide, which explores prevention strategies and increases awareness of genocide. Geared to political science students, the class also has undertones of philosophy. "This will give students a better understanding of contemporary genocide. It affects so many parts of the world."

According to Campbell, this is the first genocide class offered to students seeking an M.S. or Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from NSU's SHSS.

"Jason's work with genocide will have a significant impact on how we understand genocide," said Honggang Yang, Ph.D., dean of SHSS. "It will contribute to genocide prevention through research and the design of intervention and prevention theories and models. His



work is socially relevant and shows that NSU is on the cutting edge of helping to solve world problems.”

Another scholar concentrating on a hybrid of conflict resolution and genocide is Gregory H. Stanton, a research professor in genocide studies and prevention at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia. Stanton is also on the advisory board of the Institute for Genocide Awareness and Applied Research (IGAAR), a philanthropic organization that Campbell founded in 2009, with a call to action to raise awareness about genocide.

Campbell invited Stanton to NSU’s main campus this year to present him with an award from IGAAR. “It’s great for the university to have these types of distinguished educators coming here. And it’s a good opportunity for these big names to come to our campus and see the work we are doing,” said Campbell.

If he has it his way, some of the top social scientists in the field of genocide study will be tapped as guest lecturers in SHSS classrooms. Campbell’s passion hits a fever pitch when he talks about his students having access to speakers who would usually visit Ivy League schools. “How cool would it be if you were in a classroom with about 50 other students, and you were listening to one of these world-recognized scholars?”

Campbell’s own reputation makes that idea more than a dream. When he completed his Ph.D. in Sociopolitical Philosophy at the University of South Florida in Tampa, the offers came in from several schools urging him to join their faculty.

“NSU was the right place for me,” said Campbell, who was hired at NSU in August 2009, days after he earned his Ph.D. “I wanted to be at a place that gave me the ability to grow. NSU has that pioneering spirit. At another school, a new faculty member wouldn’t be able to do research that wasn’t in line with a traditional university structure. Here it’s not only doable, it’s encouraged.”

But there was a more personal reason NSU felt like the right fit. “I guess you could say I felt like I was coming home,” said Campbell. A Cooper City High School graduate, Campbell grew up in South Florida. Born in Jamaica, Campbell’s family moved from Brooklyn, New York, to Florida after his parents divorced. “My mom was a single mother with six kids,” he said, adding that, as the oldest at age 13, he had to help raise his siblings.

In Campbell’s classroom, he instills in his students that there are no limits—no limits to learning and no limits to achieving dreams, goals, and desires.

“I hope that when people watch my videos and see who I am, they are inspired. I’d like them to say, ‘If he can do it, I can do it.’ I’d like them to realize that it isn’t about intellect or being the product of great genes. It’s really about perseverance,” said Campbell. ■

# GREEK LIFE AT NSU: BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD,

For Nova Southeastern University junior Nikki Bignami, joining the sorority Sigma Delta Tau meant she had a group of sisters to watch out for her even though she was 1,300 miles away from her home in Long Island, New York.

Sara Stevens, also a junior, and a sister in Delta Phi Epsilon, said meeting other people involved in Greek life was a great networking tool and was instrumental in her becoming vice president of the Student Government Association.

There are more than 200 students active in 11 Greek organizations at Nova Southeastern University. Unlike other universities where Greek life has been embedded in the fabric of the campus for more than 100 years, NSU's organizations are fairly new. The Delta Phi Epsilon sorority started a mere 17 years ago, while the NSU chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity was re-established in March 2009.

These fraternities and sororities are growing by leaps and bounds at NSU, making a difference in the lives of the students, university life, and the community at large.

Three more organizations are on the way to being added to the roster within the next year, according to Alicia Bates, graduate assistant for Greek Affairs. "Our diversity keeps growing so much that students are realizing how important it is to start and join organizations that suit their needs and interests."

The mission of Greek organizations at NSU is to promote friendship, leadership, scholarship, and community service. Also, the Office of Student Activities requires that students maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 to keep their membership and to hold office.

"My sorority [Delta Phi Epsilon] is based on the five S's, which include social, service, self, sisterhood, and scholarship," said Amanda Patterson, who arrived at NSU as a

sophomore transfer student and graduated in 2004. She received a master's degree in mental health counseling from NSU in 2007 and is now a clinical director working with adolescents. "Being involved in Greek life gives your college experience meaning. Not only do you build relationships with your sisters or brothers, you build relationships within the Greek community at large, as well as the NSU community."

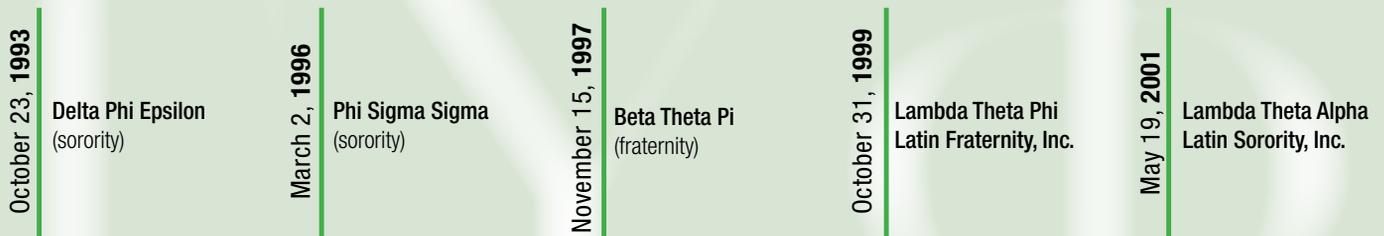
Patterson, now an alumna, said she serves as a sorority adviser. "Being the adviser is a rewarding experience because I get to share with potential new members, as well as the current members, the experience that I had."

Unlike the common perception of sororities and fraternities where Greek houses dot the streets of college campuses, you won't find a sorority or fraternity house at NSU. Not yet, anyway. But there is a floor devoted to Greek life in The Commons Residence Hall, the Greek Village Community. To live in the Greek Village, a student must be an active member of the NSU Greek system.

With a varied mix of students living on campus and NSU's steady population of commuters, Greek life becomes an even more important social element as a strong link to the university community.

"I think it's easy to fall into the trap of going to class and going back to your house or your dorm. But Greek life at NSU offers the potential to meet friends," said Stevens, a marine biology major.

For a student who wants to become involved in a Greek organization, but isn't sure which one would be the best fit, Bignami, a marketing major, recommends shopping around. "I asked people I met during my first week at school what each sorority was about," said Bignami, now the vice president of recruitment for Sigma Delta Tau.



**TIMELINE OF NOVA/NSU GREEK ORGANIZATIONS**

# SISTERHOOD

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

Bates says the Office of Student Activities encourages students to participate in Greek life. “If you want to become a part of it, there is a home for everyone. We tell any student who is interested to research each group and find out more about them. Also, each school’s Greek organization is different, so an organization here might not be the same as a chapter at another university.”

Chapters have grown in popularity at NSU since their emergence, especially in the last five years, said Brad A. Williams, Ed.D., dean of student affairs. “The greatest emergence is in those that are multicultural. We have a Latin sorority and fraternity, and we are looking at the possibility of adding an Asian sorority,” said Williams. “Greek life has very much become a mirror of society and it is something we celebrate.”

Furthermore, many of the philanthropic efforts of the fraternities and sororities reflect the character of each chapter.

Sigma Delta Tau puts much of its resources into Prevent Child Abuse America, and hosted its third annual benefit concert last April, where the members raised \$1,000 for the charity.

The efforts of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority and its work with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention affected sorority sister Juliana Ospina. “When I lost my childhood friend to suicide, I didn’t reach out to anyone to help cope,” said Ospina. “Our Out of the Darkness Community Walk and the support of my sisters helped me heal.” (Juliana Ospina and the Out of the Darkness Community Walk are featured on page 30.)



The Greek organizations also are combining efforts to support Up ’til Dawn. The year-round event, held on college campuses across the country, raises funds to support research for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

Ask any Greek about time spent in their sisterhood or brotherhood at NSU, and they will tell you that long after graduation, when the keepsakes have been put away, the impact of Greek life lingers. ■

December 10, 2005

Kappa Sigma  
(fraternity)

November 12, 2006

Sigma Delta Tau  
(sorority)

Spring 2008

Alpha Kappa Alpha  
Sorority, Inc.

March 2009  
(re-established)

Kappa Alpha Psi  
Fraternity, Inc.

Founding dates not available

Zeta Phi Beta  
Sorority, Inc.

Phi Beta Sigma  
Fraternity, Inc.

# Student Profile

## Residential Leaders Discover the True “Real World”

BY ALAN HANCOCK

The introduction to MTV’s long-running popular show *The Real World* asks what happens when strangers live together in a house and things “start getting real.” At Nova Southeastern University, when students live together in the seven residence halls on campus, “getting real” often means becoming ingrained in campus life, developing into campus leaders, and making close connections with fellow students.

Here’s a look at some residential students who have thrived while living on campus.

the leadership floor really helps,” Evans said. “My residential adviser provided really good suggestions on a number of occasions, especially when I ran for SGA.”

Evans, a marine biology major in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, is now a sophomore and has moved onto the leadership two floor—giving him the opportunity to continue growing his leadership skills and pass on advice to others.



Kory Evans



Jonathan Martinez



Mikaela Myers

### Kory Evans

For most college students, freshman year is a time of adjustment. But for Kory Evans, the adjustment time was accelerated as he quickly settled into a role as a campus leader.

Admittedly nervous when he made the move from his hometown of Philadelphia to NSU, Evans turned check-in days at the residence halls into an opportunity to find friends and connect with his hall mates. Soon, Evans expanded his network beyond his residential floor and became involved in several student organizations, including the SCUBA Crew and the Society of Anime, Games, and Entertainment. He also took on leadership positions, becoming vice president of the Nature Club and public relations chair for The Commons Hall Council, part of the Residential Student Association. By the end of his freshman year, he secured a position in the Student Government Association (SGA).

Part of his ability to assume and excel in leadership roles was living on the L.E.A.D. one (Leading Empowering Aspiring Developing) floor in The Commons Residence Hall. “Being on

### Jonathan Martinez

The journey from Brooklyn, New York, to NSU took Jonathan Martinez farther from home than any of his high-school classmates. It also meant leaving behind a large extended and close family, but it didn’t take long for Martinez to create a new “family” once he moved into Goodwin Hall.

“I didn’t know anybody here, but my roommate and I clicked from the very first day. We’re both from New York and are both Puerto Rican,” he said. “We started knocking on doors and introducing ourselves to everybody in the hall. Soon we knew everyone in the building.”

Martinez, an elementary education major at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, takes advantage of the active campus life at NSU and can often be seen at athletic events supporting the Sharks. “I’m the one screaming in the crowd with my fins and Sharks shirt,” he said.

Now a sophomore, Martinez is in a different residence hall—The Commons—but he’s certain the friendships and connections he made will last a lifetime.

From left to right: Kristina James, Yberka Cabrera, Craigrison Ferguson, Freire Alcantara, Jada Buckner, and Ulysse Charles at The Commons Residence Hall



### **Mikaela Myers**

Mikaela Myers was drawn to NSU by the opportunity to join the rowing team, allowing her to continue a sport she participated in throughout high school in Perrysburg, Ohio. But she was also able to expand her horizons on campus in a wide range of interests, including studying art and founding an undergraduate student organization.

As an art major, Myers earned second place for her charcoal figure drawing at last spring's On the Wire: Second Annual Juried Student Exhibition hosted by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences' Division of Performing and Visual Arts.

In addition to rowing, Myers' other extracurricular activities include being a member of the Leadership Roundtable Scholars and founding an undergraduate chapter of the Gay Straight Student Alliance (GSSA). "Knowing the importance of having a support group around you, I thought it would be helpful to start the GSSA," she said.

Myers serves as the GSSA president and grew the organization to approximately 20 members in its first year. She is working with graduate school chapters of the GSSA to bring the AIDS Memorial Quilt to campus. GSSA also participated in a fund-raiser last year for Red Hispana Florida, an HIV/AIDS organization.

As a sophomore, Myers is living in The Commons Residence Hall in the L.E.A.D. community, where she aims to network with other student leaders, building on her already-established foundation of campus involvement and leadership.

### **Ulysse Charles**

Ulysse Charles cried on her first day after moving on campus at NSU. By the next day, she was making friends and beginning the transformation from shy girl to confident young woman.

The youngest of seven children living in Miami, Charles had to convince her mother to allow her to live on campus. Her mother reluctantly approved, and Charles became the first in her family to leave home to attend college.

"I wanted to have a new experience, to try new things, and open up to new people," said Charles, now a junior living in The Commons.

Charles met a hall mate on the elevator her second day at NSU, and that led to a social network that has helped her become more self-assured and outgoing. That confidence has carried over into the classroom and in all aspects of her life.

"I was pretty shy in high school, but living on campus I've met new friends and formed study groups," said Charles, an athletic training major. "I'll talk in class now—I wouldn't do that before." ■

**For more information on residential life, visit [www.nova.edu/reslife](http://www.nova.edu/reslife).**

# Student Profile

## Building a Sorority, Raising Hope

BY ALAN HANCOCK

Lorena Cabrera didn't plan to join a sorority when she came to NSU. But when the Miami native found one that was a good fit, she not only joined it, she became president and led the chapter from the brink of extinction into one of the most respected student organizations on campus. She did all that while raising awareness and funds to prevent suicide.

NSU's chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc., was launched in 2001, but it struggled to find a foothold and became defunct on three different occasions. When, as a sophomore, Cabrera heard about the sorority, it had one member and was again coming off a defunct status. But the organization's emphasis on education and empowerment of women led Cabrera to pledge.

Looking for a way to raise Lambda Theta Alpha's profile and prevent it from future lapses, Cabrera and her sorority sisters searched for causes and events that could have an impact on campus and in the community. They found their cause in suicide prevention.

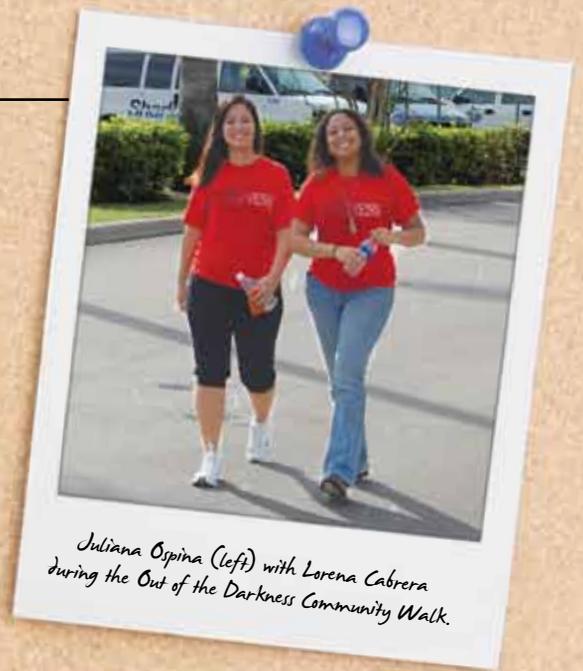
"Suicide hits close to home for a lot of people, but it's something that's not talked about much," said Cabrera, a psychology major. "When we all started discussing it, we found that we all knew someone who tried to commit suicide or did commit suicide."

The women discovered the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the organization's major fund-raiser, Out of the Darkness Community Walks. The walks had been held annually in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, but none in Broward. The sisters of Lambda Theta Alpha set out to change that.

Cabrera, who became president of the sorority in the spring of 2009, and her sisters worked with AFSP and NSU to hold a walk on NSU's main campus last year. Although the sorority was small, the sisters rallied support from other NSU organizations and departments, local businesses, and the community. The sisters' efforts led to a walk that exceeded their expectations, with 522 participants and more than \$22,000 raised for AFSP.

More important than the funds raised was the awareness of suicide prevention. One of Cabrera's sorority sisters, Juliana Ospina, became a driving force behind the walk, motivated by the loss of a childhood friend to suicide. The walk gave her a way to cope with the tragedy while helping others.

"I kept it to myself and didn't really tell anyone until the walk. For some reason, I finally had the guts to tell my story and



*Juliana Ospina (left) with Lorena Cabrera during the Out of the Darkness Community Walk.*

express to people how important it is to increase awareness," said Ospina. "The walk eased my heart because it allowed me to release the burden that I had for so many years."

Cabrera also felt the walk's impact when a stranger, with tears in her eyes, hugged Cabrera and thanked her for organizing the walk. "I felt triumphant in that moment," Cabrera said. "We were doing more than raising money, we were helping people."

The walk also met Lambda Theta Alpha's goal of becoming established on campus. Although it is still small, Lambda Theta Alpha is mighty. The sorority was recognized with several year-end awards last spring, including Undergraduate Organization of the Year at the Student Life Achievement Awards (known as the STUEYS), Service Cup Award, Service Project of the Year, and Event of the Year at the Student Leadership Awards Banquet. Cabrera also received the Student Volunteer Award from the AFSP.

"These young ladies exemplify courage and leadership beyond their years," said Michelle Manley, who serves as the adviser to Lambda Theta Alpha and is NSU's assistant director of student media.

Lambda Theta Alpha has made AFSP the chapter's philanthropy, and Cabrera, Ospina, and their sisters are working on another Out of the Darkness Community Walk for November with plans to make it an annual event. Cabrera and Ospina are both seniors this year, but Lambda Theta Alpha and NSU will benefit from their impact well beyond graduation. For more information on NSU's Office of Suicide Prevention visit, [www.nova.edu/suicideprevention/aboutus.html](http://www.nova.edu/suicideprevention/aboutus.html). For more information on the suicide walk, visit [www.outofthedarkness.org](http://www.outofthedarkness.org). For information on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, visit [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org). ■

## Law Student Courts a New Life Through NSU Law Center

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB

Jessica Chiappone is far from a typical law student.

Her mother left the family when she was 12 years old. She got into trouble with the law. She was in an abusive relationship. A roommate stole her identity. She dropped out of high school. And she became a single mom.

"I didn't have self esteem and I didn't care," said the third-year law student at Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad Law Center.

During the past decade, she turned her life around. The first person in her family to go to college, she earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from St. John's University in Jamaica, New York, where she was on the Dean's List.

At NSU, she is the American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division liaison for the Criminal Justice Section's Juvenile Justice Committee for Broward County. She is also in the ABA Law Student Division Fifth Circuit Lieutenant Governor Prerelease Initiative Pro Bono Honors Program for Florida. In the prerelease program, she works with incarcerated parents, and her lesson plan includes teaching parents how their lives can negatively affect their children.

She also was elected vice president of three student groups: the Criminal Law Society, the Public Interest Law Society, and the Italian American Law School Association.

A legal intern for the Seventeenth Circuit's Guardian ad Litem Program in Broward County, she drafts motions, responds to discovery requests, observes dependency hearings, creates timelines for case files, and logs court documents. The cases are heartbreaking, she says, but she wants to help the children so they don't go down the wrong path.

"Everyone tells me I am crazy," she said. "Why even go to law school? I'm a fighter, and I hope I will be a role model for someone else."

Chiappone, who hopes to become a public defender, chose the NSU Law Center after her father was diagnosed with bladder cancer and they moved to South Florida for medical



treatment. He is healthy now and helps take care of her two children while she goes to school two nights a week.

She also works as a research assistant for her two favorite law professors—Phyllis Coleman, J.D., and Michael Flynn, J.D. Coleman describes Chiappone as a goal-oriented hard worker who is focused on helping children.

"She is passionate about what she wants to do," Coleman said. "A lot of people say they want to make a difference. I truly believe that Jessica wants to make the world a better place. She has a plan and I think she is going to follow through with it. She is a genuine person. She really does care."

Flynn sees Chiappone as enthusiastic about learning.

"I think she has what appears to be two contradictory characteristics," he said, explaining why she will make a good lawyer. "She is exceptionally tough, but she also is incredibly sensitive. This is a person who will be able to understand people and be tough-minded enough to follow through."

It has been a rough battle to change her life, but her family keeps her motivated.

"For them," she said, pointing to photos of her sons, Anthony, nine years old, and Joey, three years old. "I know I made mistakes, and I can't tell them not to make mistakes. I want to show them if you try, you can succeed. If I fail, how can I set an example for them?" ■



# pop culture enters academia

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

**I**t may come as a surprise that an honors seminar at Nova Southeastern University led a biology major on the premed track to buy his first motorcycle. Or that a doctoral business student would be introduced to a legendary rock-music band through a strategic management course.

Pop-culture courses, and references to pop culture in traditional courses, are gaining ground at NSU. While motorcycles and rock music sound less than the stuff that higher education is made of, faculty members and students say their value should not be underestimated.

“I find that students are more invested in the subject, and able to understand the more difficult aspects of what we might teach if they can use their frame of reference,” said Jessica Garcia-Brown, J.D., an associate professor at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

The college began offering the pop-culture course, *The CSI Effect: Media and Criminal Justice*, for the first time in fall 2010.

“The course illustrates how television programs, such as *CSI*, influence the public’s perception of criminal justice, and how fiction is often mistaken for reality,” said Garcia-Brown.

Working with the Broward Sheriff's Office and its forensic team, those enrolled in the undergraduate course are shown what it is like in a real crime laboratory.

"It's saying to them, 'so you saw this on television, let's see if that's the way it really exists,'" said Garcia-Brown, who believes that there are many positives for using pop-culture references to convey serious subjects.

"In developing a course, you can take that information, enhance it, and put it into a curriculum, and that is what gets a student's attention."

Suzanne Ferriss, Ph.D., teaches one of the most popular courses in the Undergraduate Honors Program—Chick Lit, Chick Flicks. The course features a reading and viewing list of novels such as Sophie Kinsella's *Shopaholic* and Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary* and movies such as Amy Heckerling's *Clueless*.

"Exposure to popular culture is not the same thing as studying it or reflecting on it," said Ferriss. "The fact that students are exposed to such an enormous variety of films, television, video games, books, and graphic novels suggests that we should be teaching how to 'read' them as carefully and critically as we would other texts. You can have something that is intellectually challenging that is popular, too."

The undergraduate honors course, *Motorcycle Myth and Culture*, looks at the motorcycle as it has appeared in art, film, literature, music, and television. Taught by Ferriss and Steven E. Alford, Ph.D., professor at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, the course also focuses on how the two-wheeled vehicle has acquired meaning and created an impact in many cultures.

"We examine the motorcycle's place in economics, politics, history, and cultural anthropology, so it becomes entirely cross



Left: Barry Barnes, Ph.D., uses the *Grateful Dead* in a capstone seminar.

disciplinary," said Alford. "In this context, it becomes more than a mechanical device and a form of transportation."

The course also drives home the importance of motorcycle safety, added Alford. Biology major Ramey Alfarra always wanted a motorcycle. But his dreams of owning a bike were always deterred by myths surrounding motorcycle safety and culture. "The course gave me a more realistic outlook, and the knowledge encouraged me to purchase my first motorcycle."

There was something even more far reaching for Alfarra than finally getting enough courage to get his dream bike. "I believe this kind of interactive course helped me to better understand and retain information. The way the material was taught has positively affected the way in which I approach



more traditional, lecture-based courses now."

Ferriss isn't surprised. "Students develop the same skills they would in a traditional class, but they also have the chance to study something that

gives them pleasure. It's a great hook to get them learning."

Tucked away in some of NSU's complex courses, pop-culture references have found their place. In a capstone seminar on strategic management for doctoral business administration candidates, the classic rock group, the *Grateful Dead*, closes out the last day of study.

"On the last day of the seminar, everything is tied together by showing that the *Grateful Dead* were masters of strategic improvisation. In business, you have to know how to turn on a dime, and this is what the *Grateful Dead* did," said Barry Barnes, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Leadership Program at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Nontraditional ways of presenting subject matter is nothing new at Nova Southeastern University. NSU was founded on the idea of cutting-edge teaching methods in order to provide a rich educational experience.

Barnes offered his own analogy.

"Nova Southeastern University is the *Grateful Dead* of universities because it was—and is—always doing something different, unique, and ahead of its time." ■



# Alumni Profile

## Doctor Drawn to Patient-Centered Health Care

BY JODI NODING

Most would-be doctors apply to multiple medical schools in hopes of being accepted anywhere. But **Steven Seltzer**, D.O., an internist and health correspondent for Bay News 9 in Tampa, Florida, took a different approach. He applied to one medical school.

What drew Seltzer to Nova Southeastern University, then Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, was the osteopathic medical program, which takes a more holistic approach than traditional medicine. “We had osteopathic physicians as our doctors when we moved from the northeast to Fort Lauderdale. The way those physicians treated us and the way they spoke to us made a big impact on me,” said Seltzer, who graduated in 1993, the year before the two schools merged to become Nova Southeastern University.

“Osteopathic (D.O.) and allopathic (M.D.) schools produce competent physicians in both primary and specialty care,” he said. “Osteopathic training, which emphasizes patient-centered health care delivery, is as relevant today as it was when it was founded. All osteopathic physicians are cut from the same cloth when it comes to how we revere and respect each patient’s unique needs and situation. One size does not fit all, and I think osteopathic physicians are trained to think that way.”

Seltzer was interested in medicine as a child. “I knew I wanted to be a doctor at a very young age,” he said. “I enjoyed science. I liked helping people. I volunteered and worked at hospitals.” Seltzer’s early jobs included working as a phlebotomist—drawing patients’ blood anywhere in the hospital including the intensive care unit and the emergency room—and a hospital pharmacy technician, delivering medications and IV bags to the floors. After college, he took both the MCAT for medical school and DAT, the dental school entrance exam. He completed a year of dental school at the University of Maryland before he decided that he “enjoyed it, but didn’t love it.” So he decided to start over.

At Southeastern, “I was impressed that they weren’t just interested in your GPA and test scores, they were also interested in your people skills and your motivation to be a doctor. During clinical training, not only did they send us to osteopathic hospitals, but they also sent us to primarily allopathic training centers like Jackson Memorial and Mt. Sinai in Miami, as well as rural rotations where we cared for migrant workers. That gave us a special kind of exposure to the different ways to practice and deliver care. Clinical training had a holistic, hands-on approach. So you aren’t looking just at the disease, but the person. Mrs. Jones doesn’t just have heart disease. She’s Mrs. Jones, who has heart disease,” he said.

Seltzer completed his residency at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida, where he met another Southeastern internist, **Rowena Peralta** (D.O. ’94), who became his wife. Rowena Seltzer now works at Bay Pines Veterans Hospital in Bay Pines, Florida. She also was drawn to Southeastern for its focus on patients’ overall well-being.



The Seltzers are enthusiastic about how NSU has changed through the years.

“The NSU Osteopathic Medicine Program has continued to fulfill the mission started by Southeastern by providing a high-quality medical education,” said Steven Seltzer. “But by adding the depth of a larger university system, they have added more to the overall educational experience of the students in both diversity and technology. Clinical medicine requires not just great academics, but very strong skills in relating to people. The students are getting both at NSU.”

# Academic Note

## Health Care's Paperless Future

BY KEN MA

Both doctors recall instructors who shaped their thinking about medicine.

Cyril Blavo, D.O., now professor of pediatrics and public health at NSU, taught Steven Seltzer the importance of a differential diagnosis, considering every disease a symptom might be, not just the most likely or prevalent. "Dr. Blavo taught us to think differently," Seltzer said. "When someone comes in with shortness of breath, it's thinking beyond upper respiratory infection. Is it heart or kidney failure? Is it something else? The art of differential diagnosis is being affected today because of the heavy reliance on tests."

Both doctors also fondly remember histology teacher Lori Dribin, Ph.D., now assistant dean of student affairs for the College of Medical Sciences. "Dr. Dribin made learning fun," said Rowena Seltzer, of the class that focuses on the study of cells, tissues, and organs. "She took a difficult subject and made it seem easier than it was."

Dribin recalls the Seltzers, saying that both were a pleasure to teach. Her histology lessons stand out to students, she said, because, "I try to make it fun. I try to reduce the stress. Everything is so serious. It's really a performance if you want to keep students engaged. It's my comedy routine."

In addition to his busy private practice, Steven Seltzer is part of the health team on Bay News 9, working behind the scenes, editing, and fact checking, as well as on-camera, presenting hot-button health stories for the program, which is broadcast on the Bright House network. "I really enjoy it because it's patient education," he said. "I find it adds depth to your practice, but more importantly, it's a great way to do community service. And when you are researching stories, you sometimes are learning while you are presenting."

Steven Seltzer sees the future of medicine tied to prevention and motivating patients to take charge of their health care. The old model of a doctor being like a parent is outdated, he said.

"Diseases don't change that much," he said. "In my years of experience I've worked on trying to understand why people often ignore their health, yet have health insurance. What makes the difference is getting them onboard with you, to take their medication, and to be proactive in their own health care and prevention." ■

Imagine if your physician could access all of your medical records from a Blackberry or an iPhone. There won't be a need to track down messy notes and manila folders to find out if you were previously treated for cancer or have neglected your routine physical check up for years. Approximately 100,000 people in the United States die each year as a result of medical errors. Thanks to a federal government mandate, electronic medical records will be a reality throughout the country by 2014.

Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) is leading the charge to educate future doctors and health care professionals about paperless medical records. The Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) program trains students to effectively use information technology in health care, and develop and implement an electronic medical records system. The 43-credit program, which is the only such program being offered at a Florida medical school, also offers certificates in clinical medical informatics and public health informatics. This is a separate graduate program that is not part of the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) curriculum. Nor do you need to be a medical student to take this separate master's degree. The students enrolled in the biomedical informatics program come from many fields including management, education, and information technology, even practicing physicians brushing up on their skills.

"Biomedical informatics, which is an emerging field, serves as the bridge between health care and technology," said Jennie Lou, M.D., M.Sc., the medical school professor who heads NSU's biomedical informatics program. ■



# Alumni Profile

## Protecting Everything from Anything

BY DAVE DAWSON

**Marvin Chaney** is a professional collector—from exquisite jewelry and precious metals, to fine art, rare wines, and exotic automobiles. But Chaney doesn't own any of these priceless items—he's protecting them.

And he promises the owners he will guard these prize possessions from anything. Category five hurricanes. Fire. Theft. Bullets.

Chaney, M.B.A. '91, already had a successful self-storage business when he first conceived of RoboVault, the world's first high-tech, robotic, self-storage facility in Fort Lauderdale. "It became apparent that customers either wanted to get things out of the way or protect assets of real and personal value. That's what I set out to create...an impenetrable self-storage facility," he said.

Chaney credits much of his success establishing this one-of-a-kind business with what he learned securing his M.B.A. from NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. Chaney was in the inaugural class to receive an M.B.A. in Real Estate Development, currently offered through the Huizenga School as a Master of Science in Real Estate Development.

"After so many years in business, you think you have the business savvy to do anything," he said during a tour of RoboVault. "The real-world nature of my learning experience at the Huizenga School was an invaluable component of being able to launch this new venture."

After four years of research into cutting-edge technology with state-of-the-art security systems, RoboVault opened its doors in June 2009. Actually, it opened its outer doors. RoboVault has an inner storage system that a client can operate without assistance.

Imagine you are the owner of a vintage car and you want to protect it. You rent the space, and then drive your car through an overhead door into a private staging area. The door closes behind the car ensuring privacy. Then you use a biometric keypad to type in a secret code and leave your fingerprint. That activates a robotic crane that lowers a storage module to the staging area. A second door opens revealing the module and the car is loaded and secured. The robotic system lifts the module to the storage area. No one else can access the module without your private access code and biometric print. In fact, no outsiders can access the storage area.

A similar private-access process is used for storing fine wines, jewelry, and art collections. "We offer a client the level of protection and privacy that is, quite simply, unprecedented," said Chaney.

This combination of protection and privacy is paramount to clients. Kevin Lloyd Molloy of Michigan works for a private art collector. For hurricane season, Molloy needed a place to store the art collection away from his employer's waterfront home in Florida. Molloy said he was "tremendously impressed" with the robotic system and the staff's expertise. "My employer's art has been uninstalled from his home and is safely stored. Both my employer and I now have peace of mind that his valuables are in good hands."



The bunker-like building of concrete and steel-reinforced construction is also unique. It is the only building in South Florida certified by underwriters, Chartis, Chubb, Lloyds of London, and Travelers Preferred as a category five building. Chaney is quick to point out that clients may "save significant sums on their insurance" because of this designation.

Besides its Fort Knox-like structure, the building boasts museum-quality climate and humidity control including special rooms for wine, kept at 55 degrees. In case of a hurricane, backup systems will provide power for up to two weeks. The building has a sophisticated sprinkler system set off by fail-safe smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

"Individuals and businesses trust their most-valued possessions to RoboVault. I have every confidence that we offer the safest facility anywhere in the world," Chaney said. ■

## NSU Goes Greener

BY MICHAEL BERGBAUER

Anthony Iovino's job is to clean up NSU's campus. That's why Iovino, assistant director of Physical Plant stands in the Florida heat, surveying NSU's massive recycling compactor.

"NSU has always recycled, always strived to be green," said Iovino, stooping to pick up a bit of scrap on his way back to his office.

"But now, we have new tools."

These new tools—the compactor built last year and new holding containers for recyclables—have played a major role in NSU saving approximately \$260,000 in trash pick-up bills. NSU also receives a competitive rebate for what it recycles, with the first quarter of 2010 pulling in \$4,570.

NSU has also joined RecycleMania—a national competition among more than 600 colleges and universities to see which one can recycle the most.

According to RecycleMania's spring 2010 results, NSU ranked fifth in Florida by recycling more than 30 percent of its waste, beating the University of Miami and Florida State University.

"We're looking to boost those numbers in the [RecycleMania] competition," said Iovino. "The RecycleMania competition shows that NSU is doing its share [for the environment]. Students are able to say, 'I belong to a school that takes [recycling] seriously.' It makes NSU prestigious and that makes students proud."

"Recycling is part of the NSU fabric," said John Santulli, vice president of facilities management. "We want everyone on each of our campuses to make recycling a part of their regular routine."

NSU also has a complex energy management system that includes room sensors, high-efficiency lighting, and energy-efficient air conditioners. Two years ago, NSU received a \$599,000 incentive for its thermal energy storage system. Multiple chillers from several campus buildings were replaced with a single, high-efficiency central chiller plant. It produces and stores ice at night when power is less expensive, and uses it to cool buildings efficiently during the day when rates are higher.

Iovino's goal is for NSU to have zero waste. This means making it easier to recycle by placing more bins across the campus, educating the NSU community about recycling, and integrating recycling into campus events. NSU's Go Green Initiative uses advertising, email, and green-themed giveaways—such as aluminum water bottles and notebooks

made of recycled paper—for campus events. The Go Green Initiative is entirely funded by NSU's recycling rebates. To date, the initiative has \$12,000 ready for future recycling projects.

Iovino has several projects in the works. A composting unit will be installed this fall in the cafeteria at the Don

Taft University Center. Solar compactors—trashcans that use solar power to compact garbage throughout the day—are being considered. These compactors send an email when they are full.

Buildings and dorms on campus are equipped with recycle bins to accept glass bottles and jars, aluminum and tin cans, mixed papers, newspapers, magazines, corrugated cardboard, printer cartridges, batteries, and plastic bottles and cups with the

number one or number two recycle symbols, he said. Residence halls are

also equipped with recycle bins. For more information about RecycleMania and the Go Green Initiative, visit [www.nova.edu/gogreen](http://www.nova.edu/gogreen). ■



## tips for a greener office

### USE YOUR OWN COFFEE MUG AND UTENSILS

Foam cups and plastic utensils are not recyclable and take an extremely long time to biodegrade. Brew coffee at work in your own personalized mug and eat with utensils from home.

### START A CARPOOL

Go green before you even arrive at the office.

### MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PAPER

Reuse obsolete documents and old letterheads. Cut them into squares to make functional reminders and notes.

### TURN OFF ELECTRONICS

Switch off computers, monitors, printers, lights, etc., when not in use.

### RECYCLE MORE

Put paper, bottles, and other waste in a proper recycle receptacle. To request a recycle bin for anywhere on campus, contact Physical Plant at (954) 262-8800 or [physicalplant@nova.edu](mailto:physicalplant@nova.edu).

# Athletics

## Giving the Sharks Their Strength

BY ALAN HANCOCK

To stay alive, some sharks must remain in constant motion. To gain an edge on their competitors, NSU Sharks student-athletes are in constant motion, getting stronger and faster in a dedicated strength and conditioning program that stands apart from most National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II schools.

NSU's strength and conditioning program was added in 2006 as part of the Athletics Department's mission to build champions and provide the resources for NSU student-athletes to succeed. With a staff of two full-time coaches and two graduate assistant coaches, the program is the largest of any school NSU competes against in the Sunshine State Conference. And the results are paying off.

"It is not an accident that our teams have improved since the inception of the strength and conditioning program," said **Michael Mominey**, NSU's director of athletics. "The physicality of our teams is evident, and this has translated to the mental toughness of our athletes."

The staff, led by head strength and conditioning coach **Shelton Stevens**, provides each of NSU's 17 men's and women's athletic teams with year-round programs tailored to each individual sport. Staff members work with assigned teams in the weight room and on the practice fields, and the work is done preseason, in season, and off-season. Many student-athletes even participate during the summer. Those who don't are provided a manual with their workout requirements and a log to record their progress.

The program's goals are more than just adding strength and improving fitness. The coaches also focus on preventing injuries, proper nutrition, and the psychological aspects of competition.

"During the season, the teams lose some hard fought games," said Stevens, who previously worked with strength staffs at Florida State University and Louisiana State University.



"We work on the mental aspect and help them bounce back."

The benefits of a strength and conditioning program that is unequaled at many schools NSU competes against are not lost on the coaches.

"It's taken a burden off the coaches," said head softball coach **Lesla Boneé**. "I don't have to get the players into the weight room, and the players get to spend quality time with someone who is certified in strength and conditioning and knows more in that area than I do."

Boneé also sees the results in games. Her team led the Sunshine State Conference in steals in 2009, swiping 112 bases—35 more than any team in the conference.

"We are very aggressive. We love to run," Boneé said. "To do that, we need strength and power. Having someone monitoring the strength and conditioning of our team and our development has really helped us."



Left: Coach Shelton Stevens works with members of the softball team.  
Below: Laura Saladrigas, 19, a member of NSU's softball team

The strength and conditioning program took another step forward with the opening of a new weight room in August 2010. The 5,300-square-foot facility features all new floors and equipment, and it's the first time the Shark athletes have a weight room of their own. Student-athletes used to workout in a section of the RecPlex in the Don Taft University Center. But as new teams were added—men's and women's swimming and diving teams are beginning competition this year—they outgrew the space. Now with a weight room specified to the needs of student-athletes, equipment emblazoned with the Sharks logo, and motivational quotes and photos on the wall, NSU's athletes have been given another edge.

"The strength and conditioning program includes the best in facilities, equipment, programming, and personnel, and that provides an advantage in recruiting," Mominey said.

The real advantage is with the student-athletes—many in a strength and conditioning program for the first time—and the results they see as their hard work turns into improved performance in their sport.

"We work together, we cry together, we bleed together, it's just so fulfilling," Stevens said. "We work these athletes pretty hard, but it's worth it, and they love us for it." ■



## Athletic Highlights

- NSU's women's golf team is once again the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II National Champions, winning the title by 40 strokes in May. Sandra Changkija, a business administration major, led the Sharks by capturing the first individual title in NSU history. Changkija was named the NCAA Division II National Player of the Year for the third year in a row; Abbey Gittings, a sports management major, was honored as the National Freshman of the Year; and Kevin Marsh collected his second consecutive NCAA Division II Coach of the Year award.
- Changkija also competed in the 2010 U.S. Women's Open at the Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, in July. She qualified by finishing fifth in the U.S. Women's Open Sectional Qualifier held at the Oaks Club in Osprey, Florida, in May.
- Michael Mominey relinquished his position as the Sharks head baseball coach to focus solely on his role as athletics director. Mominey posted a record 302–226 in his 10 years as coach. He has served as athletics director since 2002. Greg Brown, a former scout for the Houston Astros and assistant coach at Broward College, replaces Mominey as head baseball coach.
- Carlyle Thompson, a marketing major, placed sixth in 400-meter hurdle finals at the 2010 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in May. His time of 51.66 was the fastest in the event in NSU history, and his finish earned him All-America honors. Thompson is the first NSU student-athlete to compete at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.
- Shortstop Lauren Lopez, a criminal justice major, was named the Sunshine State Conference Softball Player of the Year. She batted .415 and set the NSU record with 61 runs scored, while leading the SSC with a .746 slugging percentage, seven triples, and 12 home runs. Lopez earned Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division II All-America Softball Third-Team honors.
- NSU Athletics has a new Web site—*NSUsharks.com*. Live game stats and live game video and audio are among the new site's features.

# Why I Became...

BY FELECIA HENDERSON



## Sue Kabot, Ed.D.

As the director of clinical programs at NSU's Mailman Segal Institute (MSI), Kabot specializes in researching and developing programs for children with autism spectrum disorders. She also supervises two of MSI's newest programs for children with autism, Starting Right and the Unicorn Children's Clinic, and chairs NSU's Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism.

**Defining moment in her career:** Kabot's dream of pursuing a career in special education began when she was young. As a teenager, she worked at a summer camp for children with developmental disabilities. Later, she developed programs for children living in state institutions who were being moved into community-based group homes. But, Kabot said, none of her academic or professional training prepared her for the birth of her own son, Mike, who was born with autism. At age four, Mike began attending a special education program at MSI's Family Center Preschool. When the Fort Lauderdale Oral School, now the Baudhuin Preschool, moved to NSU's main campus in 1984, Mike, now in his thirties, became a student there. "NSU was—and still is—at the forefront of providing programs for young children with special needs," Kabot said.

**Best thing about her job:** "I have had many opportunities at NSU to develop a variety of programs in the area of autism. I have had the creative freedom to do what I thought best—to provide quality services to individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who work with them." ■

## Scott Poland, Ph.D.

Poland, a licensed psychologist, is an associate professor at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies (CPS). He serves as the coordinator of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office, director of the Internship Specialist Program in School Psychology, and co-director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**Why he chose psychology:** A driving force in Poland's desire to help others comes through personal tragedy. "I am a survivor of my father's suicide," said Poland. "I saw him struggle with alcoholism and readjustment after WWII. My first book was on suicide prevention, which has been my highest priority throughout my 30-year career."

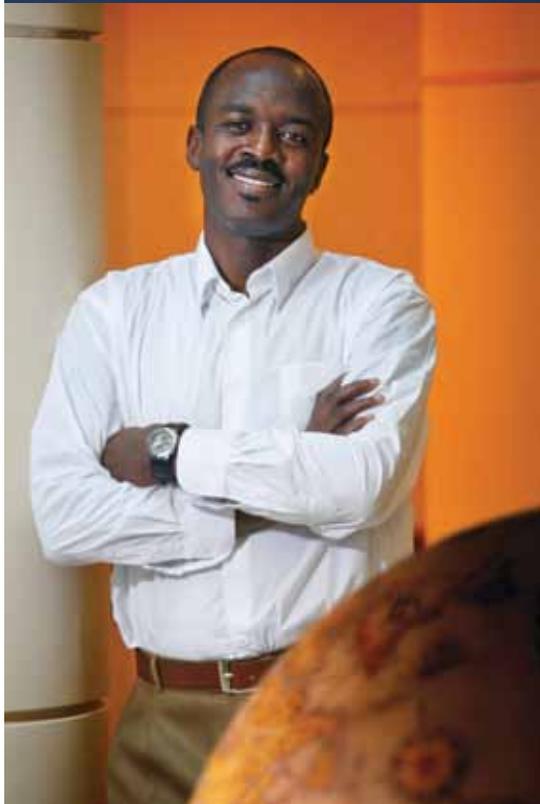
**Defining moment in his career:** Leading a crisis team in Littleton, Colorado, in the aftermath of the Columbine massacre. "I vividly remember being the main speaker to over 3,000 Columbine parents, just days after the massacre. My message to parents was about, 'reaching out and not preaching to their children' and truly being there to listen."

**Best thing about his job:** "I have had my voice heard at the highest levels of our government," said Poland about offering counseling in the aftermath of school shootings in Oklahoma, Washington, and New York. "I always felt proud of what I and other members of national crisis teams were able to do to assist those in great need. My experiences provided me with the opportunity to advise the President of the United States about school violence and to testify before the U.S. Congress." ■

**Why I Became... is an ongoing *Horizons* feature about the people who make up the NSU community and why they chose a particular career path. Suggestions are welcome for future Why I Became... profiles. Send information to [julies@nova.edu](mailto:julies@nova.edu).**

# CHANGING LIVES

# AND CHANGING THE WORLD



**ABUBAKR ELNOOR** | Doctoral Candidate

Graduate School of  
Humanities and Social Sciences

*Abubakr Elnoor* came to NSU to find solutions for his country, Darfur. The university's Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR) programs offered him hope. Elnoor considers his DCAR professors to be great role models with global perspectives. Support for DCAR continues what Elnoor says is needed to resolve conflict: "Passion and patience." Your gift to THE NSU FUND provides scholarships and resources for students who are inspiring change in the world.

Nova Southeastern University



[nova.edu/giving](http://nova.edu/giving)

Please consider making a gift to THE NSU FUND this year. Your support is critical in making a difference in the lives of our students. Please complete the enclosed envelope or contact Mike D'Eugenio, director of annual giving at (954) 262-2100 or [annualfund@nova.edu](mailto:annualfund@nova.edu) with any questions.





3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

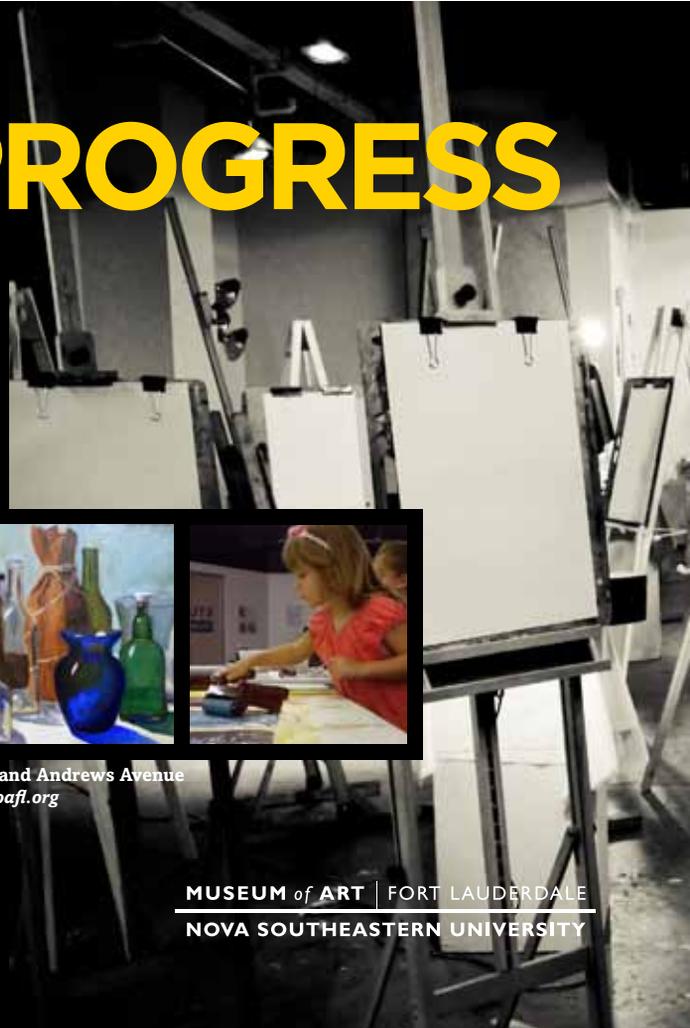


NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 886

# THE ART OF PROGRESS

- Figure Drawing
- Oil Painting
- Mixed Media
- Photography
- Ceramics
- Sculpture
- Printmaking
- Art History
- Workshops
- Watercolor
- Grades 1-12
- Adults

Our **Studio School** will undergo a major expansion early fall 2010 to a 20,000-square-foot facility. Look for a **grand opening** announcement in late fall 2010.



The Studio School is on the corner of Las Olas Boulevard and Andrews Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale. | (954) 262-0239 | [www.moaf1.org](http://www.moaf1.org)

STUDIO  
SCHOOL

To stay updated on our progress and to be added to our contact list, email us at [education1@moaf1.org](mailto:education1@moaf1.org) or visit our Web site at [www.moaf1.org](http://www.moaf1.org).

MUSEUM of ART | FORT LAUDERDALE  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY