



Fall 2012

Horizons Fall 2012

Nova Southeastern University

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FALL 2012

HORIZONS

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

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IN RESEARCH

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Inside: Center of Excellence, NSU Veterans, International Students, Senatorial Debate, Student Orientation Leaders, Alumni at NASA and Disneyland Paris, Student Educational Centers



“Our center is critical for the environmental sustainability of coral reefs.”

—George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.
NSU President and CEO

CHANGING
LIVES

AND
CHANGING THE
WORLD



Lesley Viera

I want to change the world by making a difference for those with cancer. I imagine a world without cancer.

Junior, Biology, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Travis Moore

I want to change the world by preserving the oceans. I dream of sustainable fisheries for the future.

Master of Science, Marine Biology, Oceanographic Center



Pamela Shelling

I want to change the world by giving everyone a beautiful smile.

Doctor of Dental Medicine, College of Dental Medicine

Laurieann Robinson

I want to change the world by starting a family business. I dream of a world where small businesses thrive.

Sophomore, Business/Legal Studies, H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship



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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

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Yineth Sanchez
Class of 2013



HORIZONS

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To the Friends and Family of NSU:

Here at Nova Southeastern University, we believe in investing in our students.

What we teach them, the ways we prepare them to meet the challenges of the work place, and how we help them become productive members of their communities illustrate NSU's commitment to our undergraduate and graduate students.

This investment in students pays huge dividends and is highlighted in this issue of *Horizons*.

We are immensely proud of the new Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research, now open at the Oceanographic Center. The new, state-of-the-art, 86,000-square-foot facility is a crown jewel of vital research and academic excellence urgently needed for improved understanding, managing, and conserving coral reefs. The Center of Excellence is the only research facility in the United States dedicated to coral reef ecosystems science. The center will advance coral studies for generations of students, faculty members, and researchers.

Florida is projected to be home to the largest population of veterans in the nation within eight years. NSU gratefully salutes these veterans and their families for their service to our country. The university's community outreach programs, research, and counseling initiatives show our appreciation to our student-veterans and their families.

The first weeks of college are an important, life-changing time for new students. NSU's incoming students find instant help and friendship from those students who serve on NSU's orientation committee. Likewise, NSU keeps the welcome mat out year-round for our large population of international students. You'll meet some of these students in this issue.

Finally, *Horizons* will introduce you to some of NSU's outstanding professors and student-athletes. NSU's successful alumni have made an impact from NASA to Disneyland's Paris location.

NSU's investment in our students continues to pay off each day.

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer, Nova Southeastern University

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Orientation Leaders
Create Lasting
First Impressions

BY ANDRA PARRISH LIWAG

First impressions are made in the blink of an eye, and staff members at NSU's Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Involvement keep that in mind daily. The office's student orientation leaders are a huge part of making sure students and families have a smooth transition when coming from high school to college, transferring from another college, or returning to school from the workplace.

"Attending orientation is the foundation of any student's college experience," said Heather Studenberg, NSU's director of orientation and commuter student involvement. "And our orientation leaders, who are students themselves, help new students create successful starts to their academic careers."

At orientation, new students meet classmates, deans, and faculty members; learn about the university's student services and resources; and discover what it's like to be an NSU Shark.

Visit www.nova.edu/studentorientation for more information about NSU's orientation programs and leaders.

Let's meet some of the extraordinary Sharks who lead NSU's orientation experience. ■

Brittany Marie Schemtob

Age: 21

Hometown: Coral Springs, Florida

What program are you in? Psychology; a senior

Why did you choose NSU? I came to NSU for leadership camp during high school and fell in love with it. From that moment, I knew NSU was my number one choice. I brought my parents to open house; they fell in love, too. Since then, I've been a proud Shark!

What is the best part about being a Shark? NSU's staff and faculty members care so much. I wouldn't have had as many opportunities if I went to another university. I've learned to be a better leader, communicate, and work in diverse groups. Also, being a Shark has given me the opportunity to help develop traditions and spirit at NSU.

What's your favorite NSU tradition? First Bite, because it is the first giant pep rally of the year to celebrate being a Shark. It is also an event I helped develop, which was an amazing experience.

What organizations and activities are you involved in? Vice president of programming for Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority, campus entertainment director for the Undergraduate Student Government Association, orientation team leader, Finatics, and the President's 64

What are you most passionate about? I am most passionate about helping people, and in each organization, I am able to do that in different ways.

What made you decide to become an orientation leader? At freshman orientation, I asked my leader how to become one, and he



Brittany Schemtob, left, and Ashley Challenger review a class assignment.

introduced me to the director of orientation right on the spot. Ever since then, I've been working in the Orientation Office.

Who is your favorite professor? I learned so much in Abnormal Psychology with Dr. [Thomas] Fagan [at Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences]. His stories were always my favorite.

What is your favorite place on campus? The Orientation Office! I have made so many memories and friends and learned so much about myself there. I love it.

What are your career aspirations? I will pursue a master's [degree] in college student affairs, and ultimately, would love to be a director of orientation and eventually a vice president of student affairs at a university.

What is a fun fact we should know about you? Through my involvement at NSU, I was able to find my passion and future career.

"I had an amazing experience during my summer 2009 freshman orientation. The program made sure students had personalized guidance and support. I wanted to have that effect on other students."



Adrien D. Glazil

Age: 20

Hometown: Union, New Jersey

What program are you in? Double major in Legal Studies (prelaw) and Criminal Justice; a senior.

Why did you choose NSU? NSU is among the few South Florida universities offering a prelaw major. Others offered political science, which wasn't a route I was looking to pursue. The small class size appealed to me, because it would allow for more networking opportunities, as opposed to other larger universities. Also, it was cost efficient.

What is the best part about being a Shark? The community support. The sense of community is not just a saying here, we truly are all part of the Shark family while attending this university and thereafter.

What's your favorite NSU tradition? Homecoming Week

What organizations and activities are you involved in? The President's 64, commuter senator for the Undergraduate Student Government Association, orientation team leader, secretary of the Criminal Justice Club, and DJ G-Sharp at Radio X 88.5 FM

What are you most passionate about? I am very passionate about school. I enjoy the late-night studying, the class discussions; everything about learning attracts me. I am passionate when it comes to learning, whether academically or socially.

What made you decide to become an orientation leader? I had an amazing experience during my summer 2009 freshman orientation. The program made sure students had personalized guidance and support. I wanted to have that effect on other students. I applied at the end of my freshman year and have been with the program for the past three years.

Who is your favorite professor? Stephen Ross Levitt [who teaches comparative politics and law at Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences], is such an engaging and knowledgeable professor.

What is your favorite place on campus? The Alvin Sherman Library

What are your career aspirations? I want to be a criminal defense attorney because I believe some people deserve a second chance, not to mention those wrongfully convicted.

What is a fun fact we should know about you? I am a good dancer, in my own special way.

Sasha Pimentel

Age: 18
Hometown: Miami, Florida

What program are you in? Musical Theatre; a sophomore

Why did you choose NSU? NSU was the only university that offered a true musical theatre program in South Florida, so it was automatically on the top of my list. Once I went to orientation, I knew it was a perfect fit for me.

What is the best part about being a Shark? Shark Pride! I have never seen a school this young with so much spirit and so eager to start traditions.

What's your favorite NSU tradition? Fins Up—you can call this out anywhere around campus and most, if not all, of the people around you will join in.

What organizations and activities are you involved in? The NSU Vocal Ensemble, vice president of the Commuter Student Organization, and the Orientation Team

What made you decide to become an orientation leader? My own orientation leader did. I had such an awesome experience at my orientation, and I knew that I wanted to make incoming students feel as welcomed into the Shark Family as I was when I attended.

What is your favorite class? My acting classes are the best! No matter what we're working on, the lessons are always interactive between the students and professor.

What is your favorite place on campus? The West End Deli, by far. Whenever I'm working on an assignment or just looking for a nice place to relax between classes, I always find myself at the deli.

What are your career aspirations? I would love to make it to Broadway one day. But until I get there, I would love to work on creating a camp for underprivileged children to expose them to the arts.

What is a fun fact we should know about you? The first song that I ever sang in public was *Fallin'* by Alicia Keys, and I won a televised talent competition with it.



“...I knew that I wanted to make incoming students feel as welcomed into the Shark Family as I was when I attended.”

AROUND NSU

NSU Well Represented at Olympics

BY BRANDON HENSLE

Nova Southeastern University had three of its best representing the school during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England.

Swim team member Esau Simpson competed for his home country of Grenada, coming in first in his heat in the 100-meter freestyle event. Although he didn't advance to the semi-finals, Simpson was proud and honored to represent both Grenada and NSU in the games.

NSU's Hollie Bonewit-Cron coached the team hailing from the southeastern Caribbean island chain. Bonewit-Cron is the first-ever head coach of NSU's new men's and women's swimming and diving program, which has already seen great success, including both teams taking 2012 Sunshine State Championship (SSC) titles.

"This experience has already changed me. This level of competition only comes from constant, full-time dedication. Esau has exemplified this type of commitment in the two years that he has been with this program," said Bonewit-Cron. "Esau went to the Olympic games with a goal in mind and achieved that goal with a new Grenada national and Olympic record, as well as a new NSU long-course record. This experience will only help me be a better coach for the swimmers here at NSU."

A native of St. David's, Grenada, Simpson trained six days a week at NSU with the Sharks Aquatic club team under Bonewit-Cron's guidance. Simpson's Monday-through-Saturday Olympic-preparation regimen consisted of aerobic-based training combined with speed and added power work.

"The opportunity to represent myself, NSU, and my country, as well as the Grenada Amateur Swimming Association, transformed the experience into a goal-seeking, pioneering trip," said Simpson, an NSU sophomore majoring in biology. "I will forever be grateful to the support from my amazing collegiate team. Without NSU, I would not be the swimmer I am today."



Swimming coach Hollie Bonewit-Cron and NSU swimmer Esau Simpson traveled to London, England, to participate in the 2012 Summer Olympics.

In addition to the swimming duo, Howard Layne, M.P.T., D.P.T., a physical therapy alumnus from what is now NSU's College of Health Care Sciences, was selected to be a volunteer physical therapist for the London Olympics. He worked exclusively in the men's basketball venue helping team USA.

"Going to the Olympics in London was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Of course, I was nervous about going and whether my skills would be on par with the rest of the world," said Layne. "But the physical therapy skills that I learned while at NSU prepared me to be not just the best I could be, but a leader in the clinic and venue. I was invited to a special meet and greet at the Team Great Britain House where I met many Olympians and medalists. The highlight of the evening was definitely meeting Prince William and his wife Kate. When I speak to students at NSU or to people who ask me about the university, I tell them 'NSU took me to the Olympics. Where can NSU take you?'"

The opening ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympic Games were held on July 27. The games then ran for more than two weeks, with closing ceremonies held on August 12. ■

Dateline: Health Earns a Telly Award

BY KENNY MA



Dateline: Health, NSU's public service television program hosted by Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division, was named an award winner in the 33rd Annual Telly Awards.

Dateline: Health's winning episode featured the South Florida Spine Clinic describing spinal surgery options and pain modulation. It included footage of a physician assessing a patient and reviewing radiographs and a demonstration of a new pain modulator that's threaded into the spine and controlled remotely by the patient as needed. Nearly 12,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries competed in the Telly Awards.

The 30-minute program covers a wide range of contemporary health care issues through interviews with health care experts, researchers, and policymakers.

Dateline: Health airs on the Broward Education Communication Network (BECON). It is carried by COMCAST and AT&T U-verse cable providers, Direct TV, and Dish Network satellite. It is aired seven days a week throughout South Florida, reaching approximately 4.3 million households in the tricity area.

"This prestigious accolade validates the quality of *Dateline: Health's* programming and the impact we are making in the South Florida health care community," Lippman said.

In 2008, two *Dateline: Health* episodes took Telly Awards in the educational video/film category. The program has also been nominated for three Emmy Awards.



The Telly Awards, founded in 1979, are the premier awards honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs; the finest video and film productions; and online commercials, video, and films.

"Nova Southeastern University's accomplishment illustrates its creativity, skill, and dedication to its craft and serves as a testament to great film and video production," said Linda Day, executive director of the Telly Awards.

In support of NSU's Vision 2020 and Core Values, and to recognize Lippman's service to the university and the community, The Lippman Collection has been donated to NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. The Lippman Collection includes more than 340 episodes of *Dateline: Health* and is available to the public on DVD.

For more information about NSU's *Dateline: Health*, visit www.nova.edu/datelinehealth/. ■

Pictured: Fred Lippman is the host of Dateline: Health, NSU's public service television program, which highlights contemporary health care issues.

Education Programs Granted Highest Level of National Accreditation

BY ANDRA PARRISH LIWAG

Nova Southeastern University's Abraham S. Fischler School of Education has celebrated many major milestones and a new accolade has been added to the list. The school's education programs have been accredited without qualification by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

This means that, in addition to regional accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, NSU's education programs have been vetted at the highest levels, said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer.

The designation covers Fischler's initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator preparation programs at all university locations and online, as well as the Center for Psychological Studies' Master of Science in School Counseling and Psy.S. in School Psychology programs for practitioners in P-12 schools.

NCATE is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as a professional accrediting body for teacher preparation and accredits more than 650 colleges of education nationwide.

"NSU is proud to receive this accreditation, because it is a testament to the high quality of our educational offerings and our top-notch graduates who will ultimately benefit generations of students to come," said H. Wells Singleton, Ph.D., dean of the Fischler School.

Over the years, NSU has developed the careers of more than 60,000 teachers, administrators, trainers, and other educational professionals. In addition, more than 300 current superintendents and 33 college presidents across the nation hold doctorate degrees from NSU's Fischler School.

For more information about NSU's accreditation, visit www.nova.edu/academiclife/university-accreditation.html. ■

Medical Students Without Borders

BY KENNY MA

In Vietnam last spring, Leigh Anne Bressler, then a fourth-year medical student, was shocked to learn the correlation between money and quality health care. The impoverished nation's health care system runs largely on a cash-pay system.

"As a whole, my experience in Vietnam has opened my eyes to some of the health care needs of other cultures," Bressler said.

Her experience is reflective of other medical students from NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine who, over the years, have volunteered for international medical outreach or rotation programs in 28 countries on five continents. The students receive academic credit while learning about international health care systems.

More than 150 medical students participate annually in international medical trips lasting from 10 days to three months, according to Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.,



Pharm.D., dean of the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Since 2008, the students have become medical ambassadors of NSU, participating in the delivery of primary care throughout the world. They also have introduced osteopathic medicine to many countries where this branch of American medicine is generally unknown.

"The international rotations allow our medical students and faculty members to learn and share different health care delivery systems and to introduce the osteopathic profession [to people] around the world," said James T. Howell, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean for professional relations at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine and director of the International Medical Rotations Program.

NSU medical students have completed rotations in Haiti, Peru, India, the United Arab Emirates, China, South Africa, Ireland, Guatemala, Kenya, and many more places. ■



The GLOBAL PATH TO NSU

International Students Find a New Home and Friendships
While Pursuing Their Degrees.

BY JOHN DOLEN

There are many ways that international students discover Nova Southeastern University. Dragana Ilic—one of 1,231 students from abroad—was attracted by NSU’s academic reputation in her field of study: marriage and family therapy.

Ilic, recruited from Serbia as an undergraduate to play on another college’s tennis team, chose NSU to pursue her Ph.D. at the university’s Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“I met people who told great stories about the program,” she said. “I was accepted at two other schools, but I chose this one.”

So how does that NSU reputation stand now, two years into her program?

“I love it; the professors are tops in my field, and it’s a privilege to work with them,” said Ilic, 33, who recalls fondly her days on Belgrade courts with the likes of Novak Djokovic (“a nice guy”) and other Serbians at the top of the tennis world today.

NSU is committed to making international students feel at home and acclimated to their new surroundings so they can concentrate on academics.

Exploring the global path to NSU requires a stop with Anthony J. DeNapoli, Ed.D., executive director of the Office of International Affairs.

The congenial director, master of five languages, is as skilled at painting an overview of student programs as he is at quickly pulling up key statistics. For example: Out of the 1,231 international students at NSU, the top five countries represented are Canada, Venezuela, India, Jamaica, and Saudi Arabia; students hail from 116 countries; and 27 percent are undergraduates. He even notes such curiosities as the fact that of the 127 international students in the pharmacy program, 72 are from India.

Sometimes the increase of international students in one program or another is simply due to word of mouth back in their home countries. As Ilic illustrates, word of mouth is a powerful magnet. Look no further than NSU's soccer team, for example.

"We brought in several players from Italy one year; they enjoyed the experience... and later they became the recruiters," said head coach Giuseppe DePalo, himself Italian. "Now we have nine Italians." The Italians join international student-athletes from South Africa, Peru, England, and Canada. A similar pattern has emerged on the basketball team, according to DeNapoli, where there is an out-sized contingent from Australia.

THE BORDERLESS WORLD

How does NSU attract students from such far-flung corners of the world?

It doesn't hurt that NSU has partnerships, projects, and programs from Jamaica to Malaysia and several dozen countries in between. In different roles at NSU, DeNapoli has been a part of an exponential growth in this area, including online. "The borderless world," as he calls it, is reached by "marketing, quality, reputation of the programs, and word of mouth."

Leaving home for college can be a daunting experience that is magnified when that student is from another country. Sometimes it's the simple things, such as getting a driver's license; obtaining a Social Security card; or even finding the way to NSU's main campus from the airport.



Deborah Pabon, international student and scholar adviser; Alejandra Parra, associate director of international affairs; and Isabelle Verret, an international student from Haiti

But one of NSU's core values is being student-centered, so DeNapoli and his team communicate with students constantly to ease that transition. Last year, he and Alejandra Parra, M.A., associate director of international affairs, pioneered a "virtual pre-arrival orientation." The online presentation, which the prospective student views in his or her own country, is so innovative it is being studied and implemented by other colleges and universities.

"Anything you need to know prior to leaving your country—email, clothing, health insurance, housing arrangements, course registration, student visa requirements and procedures, and more—is in the program," said Parra, from Argentina, who is also finishing her doctorate in education at NSU. "We do a briefing on what it's like to live here. We even have a quiz that the student completes at the end."

DeNapoli has also added a Skype site to the arsenal: "We are available to talk and text-chat with prospective students from their own country."

Once the student arrives, a division of DeNapoli's department, the Office of International Students and Scholars headed by Parra, takes over. The welcome orientation is a check-in process where staff members connect with the student individually and advise on matters from housing and jobs to student visas and immigration compliance issues.



Above: Dylan Dinesh, center, with Teisha Joseph, Shivali Patel, and other members of the Indian Students Association

Right: Moisés David González of Colombia, Tameka A. Thomas of Jamaica, and Fernando Martínez of Venezuela in the Office of International Affairs



Two full-time advisers and five graduate assistants staff this effort all year long; also coordinating an assortment of workshops—even one on income tax preparation for foreign nationals.

Various departments and colleges have their own traditions. Soccer Coach DePalo has staff members greet new soccer players at the airport and help them settle.

Chinese student Milly Yin was picked up at the airport by a member of the Student Affairs department when she transferred to NSU last summer from a college in Arkansas. Yin began work this semester on her master's degree in college student affairs, which she said is the reason she chose NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Orientation is also provided by a host of campus clubs such as the Indian Student Association, currently headed by junior Dylan Dinesh, who is studying biology under the dual admission program.

"I receive emails at the beginning of the new school year from students wondering where they can find a place to live," Dinesh said. "I'll meet with them and give advice. Some will go to our Facebook page, which they find through the NSU Web site, and then find roommates through the postings."

Dinesh is Indian American. So while he is not technically an international student, he can be an Indian student's best friend. Not to mention a friend for other Indian Americans. "Back in Texas where I lived, I never had any Indian friends," said sophomore Bhupesh Manikonda, also in the

Below: Anthony J. DeNapoli, executive director of the Office of International Affairs



dual admission program. "Thanks to [the organization], I also am more in touch with Indian culture."

Culture is center stage in many activities. Junior Isabelle Verret, a biology major from Haiti, heads the Nova International Students Association (NISA). Welcoming students from all countries, NISA sponsors weekend trips throughout Florida, community cleanup projects, and festivals. Members are available to help those coming from vastly different cultures, whether they join the group or not.

Calvin Austin, a prelaw student, first approached NISA because he wanted to raise the profile of Guyana, his home country. "Last year, I was trying to find an organization to represent Guyana," said Austin, who is now the organization's treasurer. "[At NISA] everyone is kind of like family, willing to help, and accepting."

These programs and clubs help students adjust to life at NSU while keeping them connected to their culture and focused on their studies. DePalo notes that the Athletics Department has staff members who keep track of the student-athletes' academic standing, and provide mentoring as needed.

Dinesh says his education is on track at NSU. "The quality of education I am getting here at NSU is spectacular," he said. "The professors care about their students. NSU also offers many opportunities for students to become campus leaders."

Both NISA and ISA often form study sessions if students need help, and "to offer moral support," added Verret.

"We want to see students achieve what they have come to NSU for, and we would like to be a part of that," said Dinesh.

The paths to NSU from around the world are as diverse as the students themselves. And even before they get to NSU, those ready to serve them eagerly await. After all, that's what being a student-centered university is all about. ■

FACULTY PROFILE

Farquhar Professor Evaluates U.S. Voting History

BY OLIVE H. COGDILL

As Americans vote for city and state officials and, of course, the next President of the United States, NSU professor Charles (Chuck) Zelden, Ph.D., will watch the election returns with even more interest than the average voter.

Zelden will view the election as a historian, gauging it from a nonpartisan viewpoint, concentrating on how each outcome affects the country, and evaluating how it might be considered by future generations.

“I am interested in studying the process of running elections and what they mean. I describe myself as a voting rights and election law historian,” said Zelden, a professor in the Division of Humanities at Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Zelden’s expertise often results in the local and national media quoting him during their election coverage.

“Chuck Zelden is a valuable resource for all South Florida political reporters, including me,” said Michael Putney, senior reporter on politics and government for WPLG, Channel 10, in South Florida. Putney also writes a semi-monthly column on politics for *The Miami Herald*. “[Zelden] knows his stuff and can boil down complex political issues in ways that make them understandable.”

Anthony Man, political writer at the *Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale, agreed. “It’s not just that he’s up on the news. He’s able to put the news into context that really helps illuminate what’s going on, even when it’s not obvious or the truth is hidden below the surface. I assume Zelden has plenty of personal opinions. But whatever they are, they don’t shape his take on the political world. He tells it like it is, whether

it’s positive or negative for the Democrats, the Republicans, or anyone else.”

For Zelden, making the intricacies of constitutional history, the judicial process, and election law comprehensible is, in part, an extension of what he does in his undergraduate classes at NSU.

“My job is to explain the technicalities of politics or law so the undergraduate students understand it. That translates very well to the general public,” said Zelden, who was named the 2012 Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of the Year. The award is presented to a full-time professor with at least 10 years of teaching experience at NSU, a sustained record of scholarship, and a portfolio demonstrating excellence in teaching.

“My expertise is in the structure of politics rather than the horse race elements of politics. I try to get at the essence of how politics and voting work in a real-world context,” he said.

Zelden can discuss the Electoral College, Supreme

Court rulings, and the history of voting and voting rights for hours.

“My wife calls it my hobby, and she’s right,” said Zelden.

And his passion for his subject translates to the classroom.

“I am selling history to 18-year-olds. I tell them it is the world’s greatest soap opera. Everything is involved with history and politics. It’s why I am so enthusiastic about it,” he said.

“Charles Zelden is well regarded on campus and within the community as an insightful resource for thoughtful



NSU professor Charles Zelden views elections from a historical perspective.

Zelden studies the process of running elections.



analysis on election issues and civil rights matters. A prolific scholar, Charles brings his knowledge and enthusiasm for his work into the classroom. Students really respond to his approach, as they value his accessibility and remain in contact with him long after graduation. He also serves as a mentor to newer faculty members. He remains an incredible asset to the university,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Zelden Studied Civil Rights Litigation

Zelden’s expertise in voting and elections grew out of his interest in voting rights litigation and how the courts were shaping the civil rights process.

Following the publication of his first book, Zelden was looking into civil rights, including voting rights in the South during the 1970s and 1980s. Then the 2000 election controversy occurred. Numerous recounts led to the lawsuit *Bush v. Gore*, which ended when the U.S. Supreme Court decided the election in favor of George W. Bush, defeating Democratic nominee Al Gore. These events drew Zelden into the topic of election law history.

“I was looking at the events from a very different lens than most people. I was in Florida trying to explain what was happening to our votes, and that gave me a different perspective from other commentators on those events,” Zelden said.

As the recounts were under way, he knew that he would one day write about the 2000 election. But he decided to put his ideas for a book on the back burner. Instead, he published two books that focused on civil rights and voting rights in the mid-20th century. It wasn’t until 2005 that Zelden says he was finally ready to tackle the subject of this election.

“From the moment the *Bush v. Gore* case was decided by the Supreme Court, I knew I would write its history. But I also knew I needed time to understand it and time for the events to mature. Historians need context,” he said.

He spent 18 months writing the book *Bush v. Gore: Exposing the Hidden Crisis in American Democracy*, a nonpartisan look at the controversial election. It was published in 2008. In 2010, the University Press of Kansas published an updated and abridged second edition of Zelden’s book, which continues to be relevant today with purged voter lists and improper voter registration making headlines.

“The controversy about the 2000 election was always about flaws in the voting process and not just about broken voting machines or a controversial Supreme Court ruling. These flaws have not gone away,” Zelden said.

Zelden received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history during 1985 from Washington University in St. Louis. He earned his Ph.D. from Rice University in 1991 and had been working as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas—Arlington when he was tapped by NSU in 1993. He remembers the days when what was then known as the Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies had less than 50 faculty members and about 400 day students and his office was in a trailer. He is proud of NSU’s myriad changes during his 19 years at the university.

“We have built something special at NSU. Our honors program, our facilities, our faculty, our undergraduate programs—I am so proud of all of it,” he said. “Walk into just about any library and it is cold. NSU’s [Alvin Sherman] library feels warm and welcoming, despite its size. Besides which, I think we have the prettiest campus in South Florida.”

Still, Zelden notes, a quality education has been a constant at the university. “NSU has always offered students a good classroom experience because we had dedicated faculty members. We still offer that good classroom experience, but now, with all the changes and growth, we also offer a good college experience,” said Zelden.

When he is not teaching or observing elections, Zelden is working on his seventh book, a biography of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. “I am going full circle back to civil rights history,” he said.

As for free time, Zelden is an avid reader, preferring nonfiction history, mysteries, and science fiction novels.

But his main hobby will always be the history of elections, voting rights, and politics. “I never tire of talking about those subjects,” he said. ■

“Having this innovative center filled with our best researchers and their students will help NSU and the world take a giant step forward in coral reef research.”

—Richard E. Dodge, dean of NSU's Oceanographic Center and executive director of NSU's National Coral Reef Institute

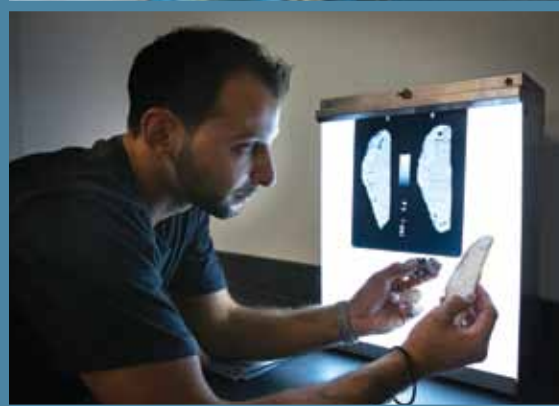
PROTECTING CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

BY KENNY MA

Commanding your attention at the tip of the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park peninsula is a futuristic, five-story, glass and steel structure with a panoramic view of downtown Fort Lauderdale, Port Everglades, and the Atlantic Ocean.

As impressive as this architectural gem is, what truly makes it distinctive is the quality of coral reef research being conducted inside. Nova Southeastern University's Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research is the largest facility in the United States dedicated to studying reef ecosystems throughout the world.

Coral reefs, with their beautiful shapes and colors, are the rainforests of the seas. Their ecosystems are home to thousands of species of tropical fish, game fish, sharks, invertebrates, marine plants, and micro-organisms.



The United Nations estimates that, globally, coral reefs generate more than \$172 billion per year from the services they provide including tourism, recreation, and fisheries. However, like the rainforests, coral reefs are rapidly degrading. If they perish, the oceans will destabilize, having severe consequences for sea life and the economies that depend on them. For South Florida, where tourism and ocean-based economy generate \$6 billion annually from reef-related activities, and more than 71,000 jobs, the effects could be devastating.

The Center of Excellence is home to the research that aims to reverse the trend.

“By opening this state-of-the-art facility, NSU is taking a leadership role in Florida’s marine science research and helping to boost an important, multibillion-dollar coral reef industry that employs thousands of South Floridians and sustains many small businesses,” said NSU President and CEO George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D. “The Research Center is critical for the environmental sustainability of coral reefs, which are the life blood of our region, the oceans, and their ecosystems.”

Housed at NSU’s Oceanographic Center, bordering Dania Beach and Hollywood, Florida, the center features wet labs that would be the envy of any marine biologist. Saltwater from the Atlantic Ocean is derived from several saltwater wells, pumped into 5,000-gallon seawater filtration tanks, purified, treated, and then transferred to controlled lab environments. There, cutting-edge computers and other equipment help students and scientists conduct groundbreaking research.

NSU scientists concentrate on a number of diverse marine science disciplines including deep-sea biology, shark behavior and genetics, fish ecology, marine geology, sponges, and ocean wind and waves, as well as coral reef restoration, diseases, reproduction, and genetics. Lab entrances have display panels with videos that describe the research being conducted by the principal investigators. Faculty members and researchers are world-renowned scientists who have traveled the globe to conduct studies published in top scientific journals like *Nature*, *Science*, and *Coral Reefs*.

The center also houses NSU’s National Coral Reef Institute, the Guy Harvey Research Institute (GHRI), and the Save Our Seas Shark Center. Artwork by renowned marine artist Guy Harvey, Ph.D., who also donated \$200,000 to GHRI, is prominently featured in the building’s interior. On September 27, NSU held a grand opening for the Center of Excellence featuring speeches by former Vice President and Nobel Prize winner Al Gore and other dignitaries.

“Having this innovative center filled with our best researchers and their students will help NSU and the world take a giant step forward in coral reef research,” said Richard E. Dodge, Ph.D., dean of NSU’s Oceanographic Center and executive director of NSU’s National Coral Reef Institute.

BUILDING’S BEGINNINGS

The center would not have happened without the vision of NSU leaders Hanbury and Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D. (NSU chancellor); the support of the NSU Board of Trustees and the Oceanographic Center’s Development Council; and the scientific prowess of Dodge.

In 2010, NSU submitted a comprehensive proposal to secure a competitive grant of \$15 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NSU contributed an additional \$35 million to build and furnish the center, as well as revamping the adjacent research vessel marina.

NSU’s grant was one of 12 awarded by NIST as a result of the nationwide competition that attracted 165 schools. Funding for the research facility grants was made available in part through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. NSU was one of two institutions to receive the largest amount awarded, and it was the only ecologically oriented project awarded funding.

Receiving the largest grant in NSU’s history to build this center is recognition of the tremendous value of coral reefs to the United States and the considerable threats and stressors now impinging upon them, Dodge said. The center aims to develop solid research products and information that will lead to better management and conservation solutions.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) considers NSU’s National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI) an important partner. In turn, NCRI has long supported NOAA’s mission by providing outstanding scientific research to support federal, state, and local managers in addressing local solutions to global oceanographic crises.

“NSU’s new Center of Excellence fits perfectly within NOAA’s mission and provides both urgently needed physical facilities and expanded scientific capacity regionally, nationally, and globally,” Dodge said.

The center’s location is ideal as NOAA’s own study recognized that 84 percent of the nation’s reefs are located in Florida.

REEFS IN PERIL

Coral reef ecosystems throughout the world are living creatures that have been in existence for more than 215 million years.

Reefs provide a host of environmental and economic services including employment, food, recreation, and coastal

protection. Roughly 25 percent of the ocean’s fish species emanate from coral reef habitats. Millions of tourists and residents enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling, and fishing on the reefs—activities that provide a major source of income and employment for communities around the world, including the Sunshine State’s coastal communities.

Dodge notes that reefs have been ravaged by a number of stressors, including global threats such as rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification, and local threats such as pollution, overfishing, and coastal development. Rising ocean temperatures are causing coral bleaching, which

can lead to loss of coral tissue, disease, and ultimately, death. Increasing ocean acid content, even by small amounts, causes corals to make skeletons, so the very structure of reefs can be endangered.

Local businesses like dive shops, restaurants, hotels, gift shops, boat tours, cruises, and big and small business owners are being affected. Business owners like Frank Gernert, who operates a popular Fort Lauderdale waterfront restaurant, heavily depend on the tourists who come to Florida for recreation on the reefs and the fresh fish provided by the reefs.

“The coral reef industry is invaluable environmentally and economically,” Gernert said.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AT THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Researchers at NSU’s Center of Excellence generate information to help understand, conserve, and protect coral reef ecosystems. Research (at a local, national, and international level) includes

- Coral reef health—assessing the health of coral reefs and their ability to recover from injury and damage
- Climate change and its effects on coral reefs
- Cultivating baby reefs—cultivating species of corals in nurseries for reintroduction to the ocean
- Mapping coral reefs throughout the world
- Studying coral growth rings and the history of reefs
- Learning the molecular biology of reef animals—gaining an understanding of the connection between reef animals and coral reefs

GOOD NEWS FOR REEF POSTERITY

In addition to laboratories with sophisticated equipment, the center has space for research collaboration, training and fieldwork staging, a marine science library, and an 85-seat auditorium. The design promotes research by current and new faculty members, researchers, visiting scientists, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students.

One of those labs is the Systems Biology and Geology Lab, led by Bernhard Riegl, Ph.D., Oceanographic Center professor and associate director of NSU’s National Coral Reef Institute. Riegl uses an interdisciplinary approach to the systems biology of coral reefs to learn how past and future ocean changes impact reef ecosystems.

“Climate change has adversely impacted coral reefs in a variety of ways,” Riegl said. “Our research investigates coral

(continued on page 22)





Richard E. Dodge, dean of the Oceanographic Center; Abigail Renegar, doctoral candidate; Al Gore, former Vice President; George L. Hanbury II, NSU president and chief executive officer; and students Keri O'Neil and Gwilym Rowlands at the land-based coral nursery during the center's grand opening.

(continued from page 19)

stress and resilience to identify the best pathways to reef survivorship in an uncertain future.”

Another lab is used by doctoral candidate, D. Abigail Renegar. The Coral Histology Lab studies the microscopic structure of coral tissues and cells to diagnose diseases, predict reproductive cycles, and investigate the effects of environmental stress on coral reefs.

“Histological research is a key component in the assessment of coral health and resilience, allowing the evaluation of the effects of environmental change on coral tissue structure, composition, and function,” she said.

Renegar and the other OC researchers are working diligently on coral reef restoration by observing coral reproduction, better known as spawning. Reef restoration is a tool in the reef preservation toolbox. This includes raising corals in places where larvae and juveniles are grown in a relatively safe lab environment before being moved to coastal locations to restore damaged coral populations.

NSU has coral nurseries on the reefs off the coast of Fort Lauderdale. These are nurtured and stocked by assistant professor Dave Gilliam, Ph.D., his graduate student Liz Larson, and additional student researchers. The Center of Excellence also contains a land-based coral

nursery where corals are cultured in large tanks. When the young specimens reach an appropriate size and age, these corals can be transplanted to reefs.

One way to grow corals in the lab is to collect babies from the ocean. Each August, in synchronicity with moon cycles, many species of corals release millions of sperm and eggs all at once into the ocean. These form fertilized baby corals called larvae. The larvae swim for a while, but soon settle to the reef surface to grow a stout skeleton and contribute to the reef structure and ecology. That's when an NSU science team collects fertilized eggs in the wild to raise the larvae in the laboratory's controlled setting.

Coral nurseries can play a significant role in restoration. NSU has tripled the size of its land-based nursery by building the Center of Excellence. In addition, NSU's off-shore coral nursery now contains thousands of corals.

Like the Amazonian rainforest that's facing extreme degradation, coral reefs are disappearing at an alarming rate. Eliminating, or at least minimizing, the stresses on reefs is paramount. With the Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research, NSU is embarking on a critical mission to understand and restore reef ecosystems. It's a mission that must be accomplished. ■

Photos from pages 20–21

1. Students Jennifer Lash and Dusty Marshall measure coral. 2. Research scientist Brian Walker, Ph.D., investigates seascape ecology with graduate student Amanda Costaregni. 3. Graduate students confer before class. 4. Students Kimberly Atwater and Teagen Gray study shark behavior and genetics. 5. Ph.D. candidate Mark Rogers updates students during a class. 6. Student Dana Fisco studies an aquarium with a lionfish in it. 7–8. Researchers store diving equipment at the center where they have easy access to a marina. 9. Master's degree candidates Keri O'Neil and Ari Halperin monitor the land-based coral nursery. 10. Keri O'Neil follows up with an experiment in one of the many labs. 11. Sails flank the outside of the center's break room where Charles Fine, left, and Eric Burdett talk over lunch.

AROUND NSU

Students Hone Job-Hunting Skills Through Office of Career Development

BY ANDRA PARRISH LIWAG

Landing a hot job in a competitive market may seem daunting, but NSU students who frequent the university's two Office of Career Development locations know they'll have a head start when it comes to postgraduation professional life.

That's because the Office of Career Development makes a point of helping NSU undergraduate and graduate students learn the skills necessary for successful career planning through free workshops, one-on-one advisement, mock interviewing, and more.

“Students who take advantage of our office learn how to make the best first impression and how to turn the skills they've learned in class into a rewarding career,” said Shari Saperstein, director of NSU's Office of Career Development. “Students who have used our services have gotten great jobs with ExxonMobil, Warner Bros. Entertainment, and TechnoMarine, as well as internships with MTV Latin America, among others.”

Saperstein said students find the mock interview program especially helpful to prepare for a big interview. Through this program, students can create a cover letter and resume and work with a career adviser to hone these items before participating in a videotaped mock interview. The career adviser can then provide instant feedback, and students keep their recording to study further.

Other popular Career Development services include employer-hosted workshops and information sessions, on-campus interviews, career fairs, networking events, Skype or phone interactive advising for distance students, and drop-in advisement for main campus students.

“We want our students to be as prepared as possible when they graduate,” Saperstein said. “Our goal is to provide a one-stop career spot for student success.”

For more information about NSU's Office of Career Development, please visit www.nova.edu/career. ■



Career-Boosting Tool Kit

- **Career Advisement**—Through daily drop-in advisement hours or by individual appointment, students receive one-on-one career advice on resume writing, interviewing, graduate school planning, job searching, and more.
- **CAREERShark** (www.nova.edu/careershark)—This site features jobs and internships posted exclusively for NSU students and alumni and updates users on all career development events.
- **On-Campus Recruitment Season**—During the first three months of each semester, employers recruit for positions at employer-hosted workshops and information sessions, on-campus interviews, career fairs, and networking events.

FACULTY PROFILE

Bringing Hope and Healing to Haiti

BY NANCY MCVICAR

Physical therapist Keiba Shaw and a crew of volunteers arrived in Haiti a few months after the devastating 2010 earthquake and immediately got to work helping survivors recovering from severe orthopedic injuries.

That first 10-day visit began a commitment to the Haitian people that Shaw, PT, Ed.D., continues to honor. Since then, she has traveled back to Haiti several times, volunteering her services to help those still recovering from amputations, broken bones, and other injuries.

Shaw's volunteer service stems from her first night in Haiti. After working for hours at the MASH-type unit set up next to the airport in Port-au-Prince, she finally fell asleep on a cot under mosquito-netting. She was awoken by surgeons who had been sleeping nearby and was asked to assist with an emergency case.

"The doctor was working, doing whatever he could, to save this little child, but [the injuries] were too severe. Everyone just started crying because we knew that probably, in the United States, this little boy, around five or six, could have been saved. It was just heartbreaking," said Shaw, an associate professor in physical therapy in NSU's Hybrid Entry-Level Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) program in Tampa.

On that initial trip, when the devastation was so unimaginable, Shaw wondered, "How are they ever going to recover from this—the amount of debris, the buildings that were down? The people had lost everything but the clothes on their backs, and were still walking around looking for relatives."

During Shaw's visit in March 2012, she survived a 4.6 earthquake and a lockdown at the Project Medishare/Bernard Mevs Hospital because of some "political unrest," but says the situation there is greatly improved.

"Now, people have been moved out of tents by the airport and the Presidential Palace, traffic lights are working, and people are going about their daily business," said Shaw, who travels with other volunteers. "I'm amazed at the fortitude of the people and their resiliency. They're making it work, doing what they have to do. But things are still pretty hard just for daily survival."

The people she helps now have different needs than in those early days after the earthquake.

"It's more what you would see typically—heart attacks, broken legs, motor vehicle accidents," she said.



Physical therapist Keiba Shaw often volunteers her time in Haiti.

NSU Colleagues, Students Donate Supplies

Each time she travels back to Haiti, she loads up bags of supplies donated by NSU colleagues and students, including clothing, shoes, diapers, toys, towels, toiletries, and infant formula. Doctoral students in the Hybrid Entry-Level Doctor of Physical Therapy program (class of 2015) at the Tampa SEC recently held a karaoke night to raise money to buy supplies. "I continue to be amazed and humbled by everyone's generosity of spirit," Shaw said.

Shaw's efforts have been recognized by NSU. She was awarded the first Altruism Award for the Hybrid Entry-Level D.P.T. program during the white coat ceremony last October.

She and her colleagues plan to join NSU's Health Professions Division Medical Mission to Jamaica in June 2013.

"Dr. Shaw embodies the values we espouse both at Nova Southeastern and in the PT profession, including altruism, excellence, compassion, and community engagement," said Mary Blackinton, PT, Ed.D., GCS, associate director of the Hybrid Entry-Level D.P.T. program at NSU in Tampa. "Her work has positively impacted not only those in Haiti, but our entire NSU community."

New Hybrid Program Is One-of-a-Kind

Shaw, a New York City native, received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Syracuse University and a master's degree in physical therapy from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. After working in Baltimore, she returned to school at West Virginia University, earning an additional master's degree in counseling and her doctoral degree in sport psychology. Her first teaching job was at the University of South Florida, where she stayed for more than eight years, before moving to Denver to teach at Regis University.

When she heard about a new hybrid PT program—part online, part hands-on community experience, and part campus experience—starting up at NSU in Tampa, she wanted to be involved. The program allows students with geographical limitations or family concerns to combine online learning with four days a month on campus for practice and feedback from instructors about their hands-on skills.

The hybrid program takes four years instead of the traditional three, but costs the same, and the fourth year is devoted to full-time internships in all areas of physical therapy practice.

"It is unique for physical therapy programs," Shaw said, "and I think it will become a model."

One of the highlights of Shaw's most recent trip to Haiti was working with a young Haitian physical therapist, Fedora Sylvain, PT, D.P.T., employed full-time by the hospital there. Sylvain earned her doctorate in physical therapy at NSU.

Shaw emailed colleagues when she returned to Florida and told them, "Our Sharks are definitely in the water doing great things all over the world." ■

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY HOSTS FLORIDA SENATORIAL DEBATE

Nova Southeastern University hosted Decision 2012: Before You Vote, the live, televised debate between candidates for one of Florida's U.S. Senate seats. It was held on October 17 in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on the main campus and streamed live for students to watch on campus at the Knight auditorium and at each of NSU's Student Educational Centers in Florida.

Considered by many political observers to be one of the most hotly watched U.S. Senate races in the country, incumbent Senator Bill Nelson (D) is pitted against Congressman Connie Mack IV (R). The debate featured WPTV's news anchor Michael Williams as moderator and a three-member panel.

"Nova Southeastern University continues to perform an important convening role on vital issues by promoting healthy dialogue about how best to build a better future for our state and country," said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of NSU.

The Senate race has drawn extensive media coverage about Mack—a U.S. Representative from Fort Myers and the son of former Florida Senator Connie Mack III—and Nelson, an incumbent Democrat who has been popular among Republicans as well as Democrats in the state through the years. The debate focused on issues such as education, oil drilling, health care, the economy, and the environment.

Decision 2012: Before You Vote is a project created by Leadership Florida in partnership with the Florida Press Association. In addition to Nova Southeastern University, the debate sponsors included Florida Blue, AARP, the Claude Pepper Foundation, and NBC affiliate WPTV-Channel 5 of West Palm Beach, which broadcast the debate statewide in all 11 media markets. NSU also partnered with Leadership Florida and the Florida Press Association to host the 2006 and 2010 debates for governor and U.S. Senate. ■

FACULTY PROFILE

Guiding the Next Generation of Computer Scientists

BY ELLEN WOLFSON VALLADARES

NSU's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (GSCIS) professor Gertrude (Trudy) Abramson, Ed.D., blazed a trail for computer education when most people did not own a computer. She was a pioneer during the 1980s, creating the first community college computer studies program in the United States, teaching one of the first Internet courses for teachers, and building dozens of original college computer courses and study programs.

Abramson, GSCIS's Professor of the Year, is dedicated to her students and has formed strong bonds with the doctoral candidates she has mentored since she came to NSU in 1994.

"She is brilliant, always accessible, passionate, respectful, kind, helpful, caring, compassionate, and the epitome of what every teacher should be. She is an inspiration to all of her students," wrote her student, Sergio Parra, in his letter of support for Abramson's Professor of the Year nomination.

The bookcase in her office—jammed with blue, bound dissertations—is a testament to the students she has helped, including many who, at some point, wanted to give up, but were spurred on by Abramson.

"The amazing thing is that if the students will work with me, I can help them reach heights they never thought possible," she said.

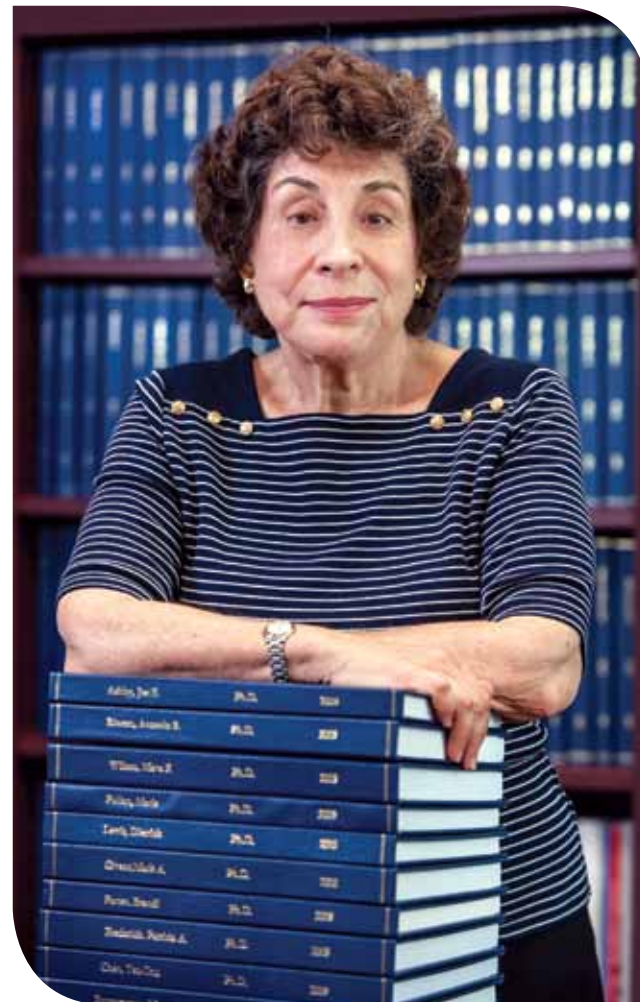
Currently, 99 completed doctoral dissertations are stacked on her shelves, an accomplishment in which Abramson takes great pride.

"There will be a big announcement when the number hits 100," she said.

One doctoral graduate, Wayne Brown, Ph.D., was so grateful for her assistance that he created the Trudy Abramson Scholarship Fund to honor her. The scholarship is specifically for students in the Computing Technology in Education (CTE) doctoral program who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance and a promising career.

"Dr. Abramson had an enormous impact on my doctoral work and dissertation, and therefore, my life," Brown said. "I am convinced that if it weren't for her, I would not have finished. She is a great teacher, mentor, and person, and I owe her a great deal. The endowment is the least I can do."

Taking on so many doctoral students means working long hours, not taking lunch breaks, and being accessible to students at all times. "As much as I give the job, it gives me. I am just so grateful to the university for allowing me to do what I do," she said.



Professor Gertrude Abramson takes great pride in her students' bound dissertations kept in her office.

The university is thankful to her, too, says Eric S. Ackerman, Ph.D., interim dean of the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.

"Dr. Abramson excels as a scholar and educator," said Ackerman. "She exhibits many of the university's core values, none more so than a student-centered approach and promoting scholarship and research. And she continues to deal with the rapidly changing technologies by publishing and presenting in the field of educational technology."

Abramson has always loved to teach and learn. She grew up in a family of academics; married Theodore Abramson, a professor of educational psychology and ordained rabbi; and passed on her love for education to her three children and



Professor Abramson updates her bulletin board filled with photographs, letters, and invitations from her students.

five grandchildren. She became a public school teacher in New York, but stayed home when her children were young.

In 1974, when her brother, a professor of philosophy, died prematurely, she turned again to learning to help distract her from her grief. She went to the local community college to sign up for a class. They told her the only course available was Introduction to Computers.

"I said, 'I'll take it. What is that?'" Abramson said.

That turned out to be the beginning of her second and current career. When she finished the course, the community college offered her a job. She continued to learn and teach, and in 1985, earned her doctoral degree from

Columbia University. Before joining NSU, she was an assistant professor at Baruch College in New York City and an associate professor at William Paterson College in New Jersey.

Abramson has played a major role in building a successful and sought-after computing technology in education doctoral program at NSU and has kept pace with the changes and developments in computer education. She is

the executive editor of the *Journal of Applied Learning Technology* and continues to make presentations and keynote speeches around the world.

She shows no signs of slowing down, even after an especially challenging year in which her husband suddenly passed away just short of their 50th anniversary. It was not surprising to her friends and family when Abramson returned to work quickly after her husband's death.

"My job sustains me," she said. "I have made so many close friends through this job." And after all, this Professor of the Year will tell you humbly, "This is what I do." ■

AROUND NSU

Computer Science School Debuts Business Intelligence/Analytics Program

The rapidly changing field of information technology (IT) requires a fresh and unique curriculum, and Nova Southeastern University's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences is again on the cutting edge of technology education and research. The computer school is now offering a graduate certificate and M.B.A. concentration in Business Intelligence/Analytics, a field the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics identifies as a "Bright Outlook" occupation. Bright Outlook occupations are those fields expected to grow rap-

idly, have many job openings, or emerge as new occupations.

Analytics and Business Intelligence professionals are in high demand. The field was listed as a top 10 technology priority for chief information officers (CIOs), according to a 2012 Gartner Group survey. Additionally, data mining, which is analysis devoted to large datasets, has been identified as one of five IT focus areas by the federal government—which is sure to bring job growth. These days, as more business and personal interactions are computer-

mediated, an enormous amount of data is being collected. This makes data mining even more crucial.

A recent report by McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm, predicts a shortage of 150,000 analysts with "big data" expertise by 2018, and more severely, they predict a shortage of 1.5 million "data-savvy" managers. This makes a certificate or a concentration in business analytics a wise career option for IT or M.B.A. students.

For information, call 800-986-2247 or visit www.nova.edu/scis. ■



VALUING OUR VETS

NSU OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

Fred Roger joined the U.S. Marine Corps at age 19 because he “needed some direction in life.” Honorably discharged as a sergeant from his military service at age 27, Roger was ready to attend college. He chose Nova Southeastern University because “NSU is veteran friendly. They offered quite a few benefits for veterans, plus they had a great curriculum,” said Roger, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration in three years and then completed his M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

By the time Bobby Simeone was 21 years old, he had been to more places around the world than people three times his age because he was attached to a Navy SEAL unit. Now, at age 42, he is pursuing his Ed.D. in Educational Organization Management with a minor in

Conflict Resolution. A deputy for the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s office, he plans to go into politics with dreams of becoming a state representative. “Being in the military taught me so much. My time at NSU has educated me in many ways, too, especially helping me to know what I want to do in the future—where I want to go.”

Natalie Gutzman joined the Army immediately after high school. Now 27, the undergraduate psychology major will finish her degree by the end of the fall 2012 semester. She’ll pursue her master’s degree and Ph.D. from NSU with a very definite goal in mind. She believes that the Center for Psychological Studies has the right resources to help her fulfill her dream of becoming an Army psychologist specializing in post-traumatic therapy. This goal stems from Gutzman’s conversations with several active-duty soldiers who

were suffering after returning from deployment. “They told me that they felt many people didn’t understand what they had gone through,” she said.

From student veterans to community outreach programs to research to concern for veterans’ health and well-being, NSU has a long-standing history of working with veterans. The university currently has more than 1,000 students either actively serving in the military or who are veterans. The university’s location in South Florida positions it as a veritable hub for veterans. According to a 2009 report issued by the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, by 2020, Florida is projected to be home to the largest population of veterans in the nation. Today, Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation with 120,000 veterans in Broward County alone.



Jake Connolly, who is working on his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology, talks with a couple through the Center for Veterans Assistance's counseling sessions held at the Mailman Segal Center.



Bobby Simeone (right) pursues his Ed.D. in Educational Organization Management with a minor in Conflict Resolution.

NSU has a “large arsenal of resources for veterans,” said Dena Hale, Ph.D., an assistant professor of marketing at NSU. Hale retired from the U.S. Army after serving five years of active duty, two years in the Army Reserves, and four years with the Illinois Army National Guard. She frequently speaks with organizations about veterans groups, such as the New Opportunities Workshop, hosted

by the International Institute for Franchise Education at NSU.

“We spoke with area franchise owners regarding the opportunities available for veterans. Our discussion was the first step to developing relationships to help network our area veterans for future opportunities,” said Hale.

Roger said his career has taken off because of this commitment to veterans and the mentorship he received from Cheryl Babcock, director of the International Institute for Franchise Education.

“She quickly saw, because of my military background, that the franchise world was the right fit for me,” said Roger, currently director of training for an international, medically supervised weight loss company, Mr. G’s Weight Loss and Wellness Program.

Robert Hill, Ed.D., is on the committee of the NSU Salute to Veterans and Service Members, now in its fourth year and set for November 19. Hill, program professor in the Higher Education Leadership doctoral program at the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education, believes that this kind of special attention is important because veterans have specific needs as an “emerging special population.”

FINANCIAL AID

Since the signing into law of the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2009—which covers the full cost of an undergraduate education at any public university or college in the country, and many private schools, for the nation’s newest generation of veterans—the Department of Veterans Affairs said more than 600,000 veterans have taken advantage of the GI Bill.

“We provide a number of financial aid opportunities for veterans,” said Carl Coleman, NSU Veterans Benefits administrator and senior financial aid counselor. “For veterans, it’s critical that they know about what’s available to them.” That includes the Yellow Ribbon Scholarship that provides additional assistance to cover tuition and fees not covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Roger, who also was a recipient of the Yellow Ribbon Scholarship, said the aid available took him through his entire undergraduate degree and paid 80 percent of his graduate degree. “And I still had money for school supplies,” he added. “NSU is exceptional when it comes to this kind of assistance. They have special financial advisers who know what’s available, which is a major advantage.”

COMMUNITY AT THE CORE

While student veterans find numerous opportunities within NSU, there are outreach programs that the university provides as a community partner. In his 2011 Investiture Speech, NSU President and Chief Executive Officer George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., stressed the importance of community as one of the eight core values of the university. “NSU will increasingly involve the broader university community in outreach programs that respond to the changing needs of the people and students we serve.”

The Shepard Broad Law Center is currently planning to create South



Student veterans find numerous opportunities at NSU.

Florida’s first Veterans Law Clinic to assist veterans and their families with landlord-tenant cases, consumer matters, domestic relations, and state/federal misdemeanors, among other issues. Once established, the clinic will serve as a much-needed pro bono resource to the thousands of U.S. veterans and military personnel in South Florida, said Athornia Steele, dean of the Law Center. The Law Center is seeking commitments from South Florida law firms, private foundations, and individuals to create the clinic. It also will seek grant funding from the federal government.

“We are committed to giving back to our community through service, community engagement, and promotion of academic excellence—all of which are embodied with this exciting endeavor,” said Steele.

When the clinic is opened, NSU law students will gain real-world experience in aiding veterans and their families, Steele added. The clinic will work with community partners such as Legal Aid, the Public Defender’s

Offices, and various military service agencies, and will team with NSU’s already established Center for Veterans Assistance, as needed.

“The Law Clinic fits in well with the Center for Veterans Assistance by offering yet another service to what we provide,” said Kimberly Durham, Psy.D., executive dean for administration and human services and NSU Clinics community liaison.

The Center for Veterans Assistance grew out of a research project entitled, “A Mixed Method Study on Returning Veterans Experiencing a Holistic Therapeutic Program.” The co-principal investigator for the study was Angela Yehl, Psy.D., director of clinical operations and an assistant professor at the Center for Assessment and Intervention, Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice.

“We found that post-traumatic stress, sexual abuse, and many mental health issues were standing in the way of successful outcomes for these veterans. They needed other assistance to help get them reintegrated into civilian life,” said Yehl.

The Center for Veterans Assistance, inside the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, provides free individual therapy, family therapy, psychological/psycho-educational testing, and vocational assessment services to active duty service members, veterans, and their family members. Funded by the United Way of Broward County, the center is part of a larger, community-based network of services addressing financial, legal, employment, health, and mental health needs of veterans and their families. The center also acts in partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8195, Stone of Hope Project.

“We have many veterans who need help in assessing how their time in the military and reintegration into civilian life has affected them and

those around them. The Center for Veterans Assistance is one of the most valuable resources that we have to offer,” said Bobby White, commander of VFW Post 8195 and executive director of the Stone of Hope project.

Durham’s hope is that the center’s holistic model reaches beyond Broward County. “We have plans to go to Washington, D.C., to address members of the Department of Defense about what we are doing here at Nova Southeastern University.”

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

Veterans face many stumbling blocks upon their return to civilian life. In 2008, an extensive federal report concluded that roughly one in four of the 697,000 U.S. veterans of the 1990–1991 Gulf War suffer from Gulf War Illness. The illness is a condition now identified as the likely consequence of exposure to toxic chemicals, including pesticides and a drug administered to protect troops against nerve gas. The 452-page report states that “scientific evidence leaves no question that Gulf War Illness is a real condition with real causes and serious consequences for affected veterans.”

One of the most respected and recognized scientists in the research and study of Gulf War Illness is Nancy Klimas, M.D., who joined the College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty in December 2011. An expert in immune disorders, Klimas is establishing the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, which will conduct cutting-edge research and treat patients suffering from Gulf War Illness. Klimas is also the director of research for the Gulf War Illness research program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which serves as a valuable partner for the research she will be conducting at NSU.

“The new institute will offer a place, a core resource, to groups of



Carlos Garcia, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years, is working on his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology.

people who are doing this type of research,” said Klimas. “We are developing consortiums of experts to help address the question of how do we prevent, treat, and cure these illnesses. We are developing quite a team through these resources.”

Klimas said the new institute, expected to open in December 2012, already has partners at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and is collaborating with researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wayne State University, Boston University, Yale, and Columbia University in New York City.

“I think our institute at NSU can solve the problems of Gulf War Illness. I know that is a grandiose thing to say, but we have the tools, we have the enthusiasm, and the innovative way we are approaching the problem makes this all very promising,” said Klimas.

Research being done at the Center for Psychological Studies (CPS) by Stephen Messer, M.A., Ph.D., and his team of eight doctoral students, is focusing on veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Messer and his group are evaluating psychological treatment versus pharmacotherapy for those affected by PTSD.

Messer believes that the research he and his team are conducting could yield interdisciplinary studies across a number of the health profession divisions. “Our longer-term research program has the potential to improve the quality of life for veterans with PTSD and their families, and could also serve to develop NSU programs as a state-of-the-art training ground for highly specialized skilled therapists in the field,” said Messer, who worked in research for the U.S. Department of Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury and was director of the Psychiatry Research Section at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., before coming to NSU.

STUDENT GROUPS AID VETERANS

Messer also serves as faculty adviser for the CPS graduate student organization Students United for Returning Veterans (SURV). The organization was founded in 2008 to help veterans returning from combat who require mental health services and acts as a foundation of support for their families. The members also serve as a liaison to NSU on behalf of all veteran students and students continuing to serve in military branches.

“My 10 years of working for different Department of Defense agencies, all mental health related, help me in my role as faculty adviser. I can share what I learned about military personnel, their trials and tribulations, and their transitions. Also, a major focus of the group is how

they can serve as support for active-duty military, which is very familiar to me,” said Messer.

This past year, the nearly 60 members of SURV volunteered at Operation Stand Down, where they helped to feed more than 1,400 homeless veterans. They have also created the Voice for Veterans Lecture Series, which enlists guest speakers to discuss issues facing veterans.

Carlos Garcia, a veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years, is the group’s former president, but he remains actively involved. “I am so motivated to have SURV make a positive impact for veterans because I am a veteran myself. We also have been successful in reaching out to other NSU colleges that work with veterans,” said Garcia, who is currently working on his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology.

When Sharks with a Purpose, a new student group at NSU’s Jacksonville Student Educational Center (SEC), was looking for community outreach projects, the veterans’ assistance program K9s for Warriors got the unanimous thumbs up from members. Located in Ponte Vedra Beach, K9s for Warriors trains rescue dogs to aid veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Sharks with a Purpose members volunteer as the “extra set of hands” for the organization and help feed, groom, and care for the dogs at the Warriors’ on-site facility.

“Our members thought that helping veterans unite with animals would help them live better lives and would be a wonderful way to raise awareness of our school, our organization, and K9s for Warriors,” said Samantha Gaulden, faculty chair for the student group and assistant director at the Jacksonville SEC.

“It’s our way of giving back to veterans who, as K9s for Warriors says, ‘sacrificed their tomorrows for our todays.’” ■

ASSISTING VETERANS AT A GLANCE AT NSU

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CENTER FOR VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Also provides information for Shepard Broad Law Center Pro Bono Law Clinic for Veterans.
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STUDENTS UNITED FOR RETURNING VETERANS

Web: <http://cps.nova.edu/students/surv/>

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Alumna Finds a Place in Space

BY LIZ ATWOOD

Thanks to Nova Southeastern University, Gale Allen, a NASA research administrator, has found her wings.

In the 1960s, the space agency sought daring pilots to fly its missions. But today's NASA heroes often must navigate the uncertain terrain of lean budgets and public-private partnerships. Allen (D.B.A., 2002) says the courses she studied at NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship gave her the marketing and communications acumen she needed.

"The skills I learned at NSU were invaluable in those areas," said Allen, who is the associate chief scientist for life and microgravity sciences at the space agency.

Growing up on Virginia's eastern shore, Allen always dreamed of being an astronaut. She applied to the astronaut program several times, but her skills did not match NASA's needs.

She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Norfolk State University in 1981. She worked for a Portsmouth, Virginia, paint company before heading back to school for a master's degree in chemistry at Old Dominion University. Her thesis on thermal protection systems (tiles) for the space shuttle helped her land a job working with the U.S. Navy in Yorktown, Virginia.

Her next big business venture came when she moved to Georgia to set up a chemistry lab for the Navy's new Ohio-class Trident ballistic missile submarine base. While in Georgia, she earned another master's degree, this time in business administration, from Brenau University. Today, she is a trustee of that institution.

By 1991, the adventurous Allen grew restless and again set her sights on NASA. This time, she decided she wouldn't apply to be an astronaut, but to work as a scientist and administrator.

"We call ourselves the space cadet wannabes," she joked. "If you can't be there flying, you find something to do that allows the others to fly."

For many years, NASA's engineering environment was dominated by men, but gradually, it started to offer more opportunities for women. Allen began her NASA career at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. She worked as chief of the materials and chemistry branch, applying her knowledge of submarines to spacecrafts. She later took a position in the agency overseeing the development of technologies to support human space flight on missions to Mars and the moon. In that position, she helped develop a radiation detection project that is part of the new Curiosity mission on Mars.

As she moved up the ranks in NASA, she contemplated more graduate study. With master's degrees in both chemistry and business, she weighed which direction to go. She decided to pursue a doctoral degree in business at NSU.

"I started thinking about what I could best give back to NASA," she said. "We have tremendous scientists and engineers, but the business side isn't something that was a big focus at that time. Our financial side—our business side—really needed to be strengthened."

Allen says she was attracted by the quality of NSU's program and the flexibility it offered to take courses on weekends and online.

"The courses I took and the support I got from the professors and instructors were not only in the theory, but the application that extended beyond the theory. I'm still using it to this day," she said.

She also credits NSU's faculty members with encouraging her to stay with her studies when she felt overwhelmed balancing work and school.



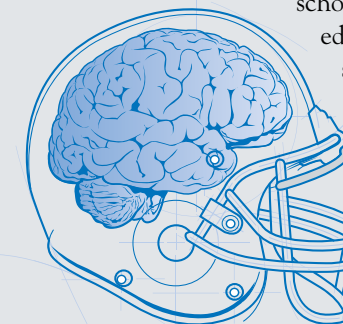
NASA research administrator Gale Allen credits NSU courses with giving her the skills to soar in her career.

AROUND NSU

Protecting the Brain: NSU Joins Community in Concussion Screening Initiative

BY FELECIA HENDERSON

More than 9,200 Broward County high school student-athletes have received education, screening, and post-injury services because of an initiative championed by NSU and community leaders.



Of those student-athletes, more than 5,100 have been tested since the Broward County School Board adopted, in March 2012, mandatory baseline (pre-injury) concussion testing for all student-athletes attending its high schools.

The initiative was led by Stephen Russo, Ph.D., director of NSU's Sports Medicine Clinic and assistant professor at the Center for Psychological Studies, and Andrew Kusinski, D.O., department chair of Sports Medicine at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. NSU partnered with the Broward County Athletic Association and School Board, which also included collaboration with Broward Health and the Memorial Healthcare System.

The student athletes in a number of sports—including football, volleyball, and cross country—take the 20-minute neurocognitive test called ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing). The computerized test uses words, shapes, colors, and patterns to measure an athlete's symptoms, reaction times, and the speed at which he or she processes information. If a concussion is suspected, the test is given a second time to gauge if the athlete is ready to return to play. The screenings are performed at NSU in the Sports Medicine Clinic by the university's professional staff.

In addition, Russo and Kusinski are using funds made possible by an NSU President's Faculty Research and Development Grant to document the physiological changes that occur in athletes as a result of brain injury.

According to the Brain Injury Research Institute's 2012 statistics, an estimated 1.6 to 3.8 million sports and recreation-related concussions are believed to occur annually in the United States, with football being responsible for more than 250,000 head injuries. ■



BY JODI NODING

ALUMNI PROFILE

Education Key to Magic Kingdom— NSU Alumnus Discovers Dreams Really Do Come True

Being in the right learning environment can make dreams come true. Just ask Joe Schott (B.S., 2000), Disneyland Paris chief operating officer.

His first lesson came when a new company arrived in his hometown. “In 1971, my mom took me to one of the preview nights at Disney World,” remembered Schott, who grew up in Orlando. “Some of my first memories were of the monorail and the castle. It all made such a big impression at that age.”

That first visit led to many others, and after a childhood of enjoying the theme parks, it made sense to Schott to go behind the scenes. So he packed up and left to take up residency in the Magic Kingdom. As part of his training, he enrolled at Disney University, an intensive employee training program that all Disney employees attend. The program helps employees become steeped in the history of Walt Disney and the company, details of the park, and their individual role in the organization.

But more learning was to follow. The Disney employment team had matched him up with an unexpected role. “I was a Jungle Cruise captain,” Schott said. “One thing leads to another, and you start to get more responsibility. I grew in the ranks.”

Other jobs quickly followed in Orlando. He was the opening manager for Asia in Animal Kingdom, helped open Wide World of Sports, and was a manager in Liberty Square. From 1991 to 1992, he worked a six-month stint opening Disneyland Paris,

which gave him his first international experience. That same year, he also helped open up California Adventure in Anaheim.

Then came another life-changing opportunity—this one from a partnership between Disney and Nova Southeastern University. “In the late 1990s, I realized I’m not going to be able to achieve what I’m after without [more] education,” said Schott, who had started working full-time at Disney right out of high school. This is where the NSU program comes in. “It was a distance-learning program at the time. The professors came to Disney University and rotated in and out based on the course. At the time, there was nothing else like it.”

So for several nights a week, after putting in a full day of creating magical memories for guests, Schott took management courses through NSU. He found NSU classes instrumental to creating and expanding his thinking about work, particularly the role of ethics and understanding the moral challenges of the environment, as well as “what is happening with corporate society and how the workforce is changing. The outside perspective is important,” he said.

And practical. “I thought the NSU professors did a really good job connecting the coursework back to the jobs we were doing. But it was also the philosophy I developed through the curriculum, learning macro thoughts about the economy. Business law was fascinating for me. I was a very

“[Professors] cared that I was getting a good experience...I don’t think I would have made it to Japan and Paris without my NSU college education.”

The Sleeping Beauty Castle, part of the Disneyland Paris experience, where Joe Schott is chief operating officer.

tactical thinker. When you start to apply all these other things—accounting, finance, law—these wouldn’t come naturally for an operations guy. It allows you to think differently from the person next to you. You can do what you are doing today even better,” Schott said.

Since his graduation from NSU, Schott has taken on even more challenges, including serving as director of park operations at Disney World. And with the college degree, he was able to spend three years as executive managing director of Walt Disney World attractions in Japan, before returning to Disneyland Paris in December 2009 and assuming his current role of chief operating officer.

In a typical day, Schott deals with everything from the work lives of about 11,500 employees under his watch in operations to what times the parks are open, what services are offered, and when each ride will be refurbished. Any small change (such as later closing times) can have a cascading effect (like increased staffing of shops and eateries) throughout the park that must be considered.

Working overseas in different cultures has a different set of challenges, and what works in Japan won’t necessarily work in France. “The core lesson is that you have to stay true to yourself, but you have to adapt. For example, we don’t open at 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. like other places, because the audience doesn’t arrive until later. We have to deliver the things the guests expect in a way that will culturally adapt to their expectations.”

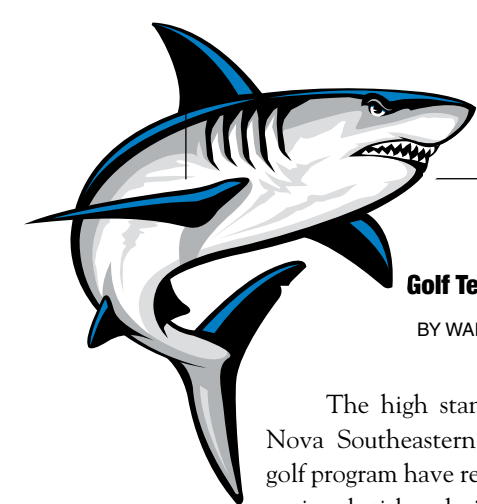
And at Disney, the expectations are huge, both from the guests and from the people creating the experience. “Developing a new attraction can be five years in the making, with many decisions along the way,” Schott explained. And the whole production has many cast members (Disney employees). “I think that people would be surprised at how many jobs are backstage to support the magic,” Schott said. “And how many specialized jobs we have to support the experience. We have people who do stained glass. We have the largest working wardrobes in the world. The shows are very complex to produce and the mathematics involved in bringing together lighting,



music, and video images are phenomenal. You have to have skilled craftsmen and people who are very creative to put it all together.”

And for Schott, an NSU degree helped tie all the pieces of his education together.

“What I appreciated most about the [NSU] environment was that people cared that I was getting a good experience,” Schott said. “I had professors who made sure I was getting the right education. It’s that experience that makes me want to recommend it. It’s been critical in my career. I don’t think I would have made it to Japan and Paris without my NSU college education. The way it was delivered to me was the only way I could get it at the time. And the professors related the curriculum to real-life situations in our business.” ■



ATHLETICS

Golf Teams Excel on the Links and in the Classroom—Five National Titles in Four Years

BY WALTER VILLA

The high standards set by Nova Southeastern University's golf program have resulted in five national titles during the past four years. But the young golfers' commitment to their education is just as important.

A perfect example is Daniela Ortiz, a sophomore from Morelia, Mexico, who was named a first-team Division II All-American and the Sunshine State Conference Freshman of the Year last season. In addition to her obvious golfing talent, Ortiz is a serious student. A communications major, she hopes to attend graduate school at NSU after receiving her bachelor's degree.

"Right now, I'm more into studying than being a pro golfer," Ortiz said.

Ortiz is a key player in NSU's women's team, which will attempt to become the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I or Division II golf program to win five straight national titles this spring. This feat has not been accomplished since Yale's men's team won seven in a row from 1905 to 1911.

NSU's men's program earned its first national title last season, making NSU only the fourth university in NCAA history to win men's and women's national golf championships in the same year. Other universities with this honor include Arizona State (1990, Division I); Florida Southern (2000, Division II); and Methodist (2010, Division III).

In addition, NSU's men's golf team has just earned Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-Academic Team recognition, which

is presented by Farmers Insurance Group. To qualify for GCAA All-Academic Team recognition, a team must earn a combined grade point average of 3.0 for the entire academic year. The Sharks were 1 of only 14 Division II schools to earn All-Academic Team honors. A total of 124 schools were honored by the GCAA this year.

Making NSU's accomplishments even more astonishing is the fact that the titles have occurred under the tutelage of three different head coaches.

Kevin Marsh raised the bar for the program by winning the first three national titles coaching the women. When he resigned to pursue other opportunities, Amanda Brown, who was Marsh's associate head coach, kept the tradition going by winning a women's national title, the program's fourth straight. Brown was a former NSU golfer and All-American.

This year brings more coaching turnover as Ryan Jamison, 30, was promoted to the men's head coaching position.

"I embrace the challenge as a first-time head coach," said Jamison, a native of Garland, Texas. He had served as an assistant coach at NSU from 2006 to 2010 before returning to his alma mater, DePaul University, for the past two years. "Everybody says that since I inherited a national champion team there must be a lot of pressure. But I don't really feel it. The reality is that the structure already was in place at NSU," said Jamison.

Now Jamison will teach a group of young golfers led by junior Ben Taylor, a native of England, who was the SSC Player of the Year and a first-team All-American last season. Taylor, who



Abbey Gittings was named the National Player of the Year by the National Golf Coaches Association.

is majoring in sport and recreation management, was also selected as one of the 2012 Jack Nicklaus Award winners, presented by Jack Nicklaus, and the Golf Coaches Association of America Division II Collegiate Player of the Year.

Three other key returners from last season's men's team are junior Mitch Farrer of England (finance major); junior Richard Celia of Colombia (business administration major); and sophomore Oscar Lengden of Sweden (major undecided), who was the National Freshman of the Year for 2012. Rounding out the men's roster are sophomore James Swan of England (marketing major); sophomore Ian Facey of Miami, Florida (finance major); and freshman Hunter O'Mahony of Tequesta, Florida (major undecided).

Farrer said winning last season was an "amazing experience" that he will never forget, and he expects more great things this time around.

"The fact that we have a new coach isn't going to change a thing," Farrer said. "If we have the same attitude as last season—which we will—I fully believe that there isn't a better team than us."

The same can likely be said about the women's team, which won the national title last season seemingly against the odds. The Sharks opened last season without its two stars, Sandra Changkija and Taylor Collins, both of whom graduated.

Changkija, a four-time National Player of the Year, is now competing on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour. Collins, meanwhile, is playing on the Futures Tour, which is just one level below the LPGA.

Fortunately for NSU, the Sharks had Ortiz, Abbey Gittings of England, and Liliana Cammisa of Argentina. Gittings, a senior majoring in sport and recreation management, was named the National Player of the Year by the National Golf Coaches Association. She won the individual NCAA Division II national title as well. Cammisa, a sophomore with a team-high 3.67 GPA in sport and recreation management, was named the National Freshman of the Year and a first-team All-American.

The NSU women's team, which lacked depth last season, has improved in that regard, adding standout freshman Linnea Johansson of Sweden; junior Rachel Lewis, a native of Wales and a transfer from South Carolina Upstate; and Ana Paula Costa, a freshman from Brazil.

Brown, the women's coach, said this year's team is deeper and better, but she is quick to add that it's not always about winning.

"The most rewarding part of the job is helping the players become better people," Brown said. "To see them go on to play pro golf or take a 2.0 GPA and make it a 3.5 or simply to get married and have kids or get a great job. Those are things that define our program just as much as the national titles." ■



NSU is the fourth university in NCAA history to win both men's and women's national golf championships in the same year. Student-athletes show off their 2012 trophies.

AROUND NSU

BY ELLA GOODEN



An 18-foot sculpture of a Mako shark bursting out of the pavers graces the entrance of NSU's new, state-of-the-art SEC in Palm Beach. The shark, which represents the university's mascot, was crafted by wild-life sculptor Kent Ullberg.

At the SECs

NSU's Student Educational Centers (SECs) respond to the market demands for new programs and to the needs of the community in which they are located.

New Programs for 2012–2013

The **Palm Beach** SEC is offering two new degrees—the Master of Science in Nursing, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Family Nurse Practitioner and the Doctor of Nursing Practice—for the 2012–2013 academic year. The **Tampa** SEC offers bachelor's and master's degrees with a concentration in cardiovascular sonography and a hybrid doctoral degree in occupational therapy.

New educational opportunities at the **Bahamas** SEC include Certified Health Care Manager and Extraordinary Administrative Support, both through the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. The Graduate Teacher Education Program is offering exceptional student education and reading specializations through the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education.

Community Engagement and Volunteerism

The **Miami** SEC staff members have been volunteering for the Kids and the Power of Work (KAPOW) program at the Miami-Dade Public Schools. KAPOW is a national program in which business professionals introduce elementary school students to work-related concepts.

The **Jacksonville** SEC's Sharks with a Purpose Club, composed of students and staff and faculty members, is working with several nonprofit organizations including Mayor's Mentors, which matches adults with children to provide tutoring and mentoring; Elder Source, which provides care to the elderly and their caregivers; North-east Florida Career Frontiers, which teaches baking skills to developmentally disabled adults; and Family Promise, which assists homeless families with children.

The **Orlando** SEC illustrated its community awareness by serving as host for the Florida Diversity Council Young Women's Symposium and the Orange County Government's Neighborhood Centers for Families workshop. Several staff and faculty members also participated in the Orange County Public School's Teach-In initiative, which allowed NSU employees to come into the public schools for one day and teach topics related to their field of expertise. The participating employees worked with students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Heroic Acts of Bravery and Compassion

The **Fort Myers** SEC celebrated two acts of heroism and compassion by its students last summer—one by a nursing student and one by a physician assistant student.

Nursing student Shawna Storozuck saved the life of a choking six-month-old boy by administering CPR. Storozuck rushed to aid the child after hearing the mother screaming.

Physician assistant student Nicole Reynolds was driving back to school after wrapping up her internal medicine training at a hospital in Clewiston when a little girl ran up to her car, shouting that her brother was drowning. Reynolds pulled the six-year-old boy from the deep end of a community pool and administered CPR as emergency crews arrived at the scene. Both children survived.

The **Jacksonville** and **Fort Myers** SECs will team up to send two physician assistant faculty members and seven students to participate in a medical mission in La Ceiba, Honduras. The team will work in a health clinic teaching health education to elementary school students and visiting families. ■

CHANGING LIVES

AND CHANGING THE WORLD



Lesley Viera

I want to change the world by making a difference for those with cancer. I imagine a world without cancer.

Junior, Biology, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences



Travis Moore

I want to change the world by preserving the oceans. I dream of sustainable fisheries for the future.

Master of Science, Marine Biology, Oceanographic Center



Pamela Shelling

I want to change the world by giving everyone a beautiful smile.

Doctor of Dental Medicine, College of Dental Medicine



Laurieann Robinson

I want to change the world by starting a family business. I dream of a world where small businesses thrive.

Sophomore, Business/Legal Studies, H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

EVERY YEAR, generous individuals like you change the lives of thousands of students. Become an agent of change, partner with us and leave your legacy for NSU students. And together, we will change the world.

For a complimentary brochure about legacy planning and the rewards of philanthropic giving, please contact Elaine Blattner at (954) 262-2409 or email elaine@nova.edu.

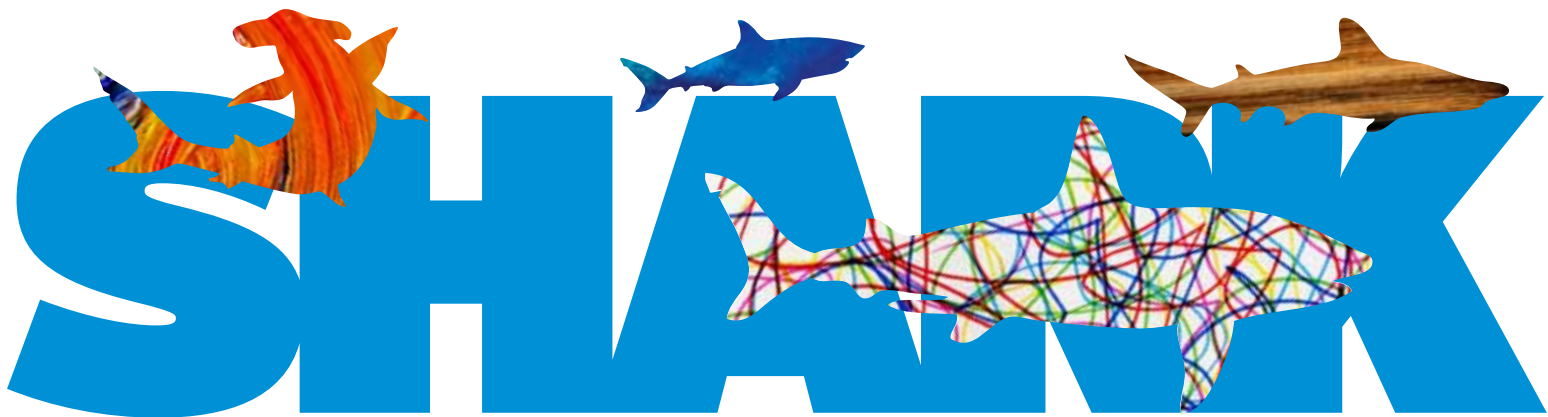


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