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COM Outlook Winter 2011

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Winter 2011

COM Outlook

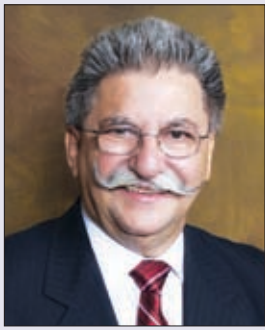
Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Keeping Your Balance!

**NSU Fall
Prevention
Clinic Aims to
Keep People on
Their Feet**



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...Honoring the Unsung Heroes of Medical Education...Psychiatry Department Broadens its Scope...Research Grants Burgeon



Dean's Message

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FCOFP dist.

Because our goal is to continually place ourselves at the forefront when it comes to providing the highest-quality medical education possible, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine is constantly in a state of evolution as it relates to our overall mission. To this end, we instituted a seven-member Dean's Leadership Council in 2010 that consists of a mix of alumni, including the NSU-COM Alumni Association president, as well

as non NSU-affiliated individuals representing various fields such as human resources, accounting, law, and organizational leadership.

In the past, we had coordinated a Dean's Advisory Council comprised strictly of alumni that was definitely successful and productive in a variety of ways. However, because the college continues to branch out into new and exciting areas, I felt it was important to add more depth to the council, thereby broadening its perspective. The individuals who agreed to devote their time and talents to the college have all showcased an interest and willingness to help us adhere to our mission and meet our overarching goals.

The members of the leadership council, which meets quarterly, routinely receive college information on issues ranging from policy changes to programmatic enhancements, which they then have the opportunity to review and comment on. The council, which held its first meeting in August 2010, provides an interactive forum to review activities that have occurred within the college over the past several months and offers an opportunity to solicit input concerning the direction we're headed in and how the council members think we're doing. More importantly, they are helping us formulate our future direction and will be participating with the faculty in regard to strategic planning.

During our inaugural meeting, we discussed several topics, including our international goals and how we're trying to achieve them. As many of you are aware, our current international endeavors provide an opportunity for NSU-COM students to experience health care in other countries while also promoting American Osteopathic Association-accredited osteopathic medical education to other countries. As a result, these initiatives are helping lead the way for American-based osteopathic medicine practitioners to earn licensure to practice in the countries our students visit as part of their selective rural international rotations, elective rotations, and/or in our international medical outreach programs. I'm proud to report that these myriad efforts to globalize osteopathic medicine and grow the profession are already reaping significant dividends.

Another issue we talked about at length was the challenge posed to us due to the increase in the number of medical schools now located in Florida. Because the Dean's Leadership Council members represent various aspects of the business spectrum, I noted their perspectives on how to effectively recruit future applicants in an increasingly competitive environment. As I expected, some extremely good ideas resulted from that discussion.

We also had a serious discourse about our alumni because I wanted to get the council members' impressions on whether they thought we were adequately communicating with the alumni and doing an effective job of maintaining a positive and symbiotic relationship with

them. We believe it's important to have alumni feel engaged with their alma mater. We also want to do a better job tracking our alumni so we can publicize their success stories. Additionally, we want to make sure they realize the college is extremely dependent on external funding to implement new programmatic initiatives and are willing to help direct quality applicants to apply here.

Based on the issues I've just discussed, I'm sure you can understand the positive impact these council members will have on the college from a public relations, legal, human resources, alumni, administrative, and accounting standpoint.



Pictured (standing from left) at a recent meeting are Ronald Tolchin, D.O., Tamer Gozleveli, D.O., Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., and Howard Neer, D.O. Seated are Johneta Goodwin, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Michelle Winn, CAE, CMP. The four council members not in attendance are Robert W. Barron, J.D., Daniel Carney, D.O., Tyler Cymet, D.O., and Donna Horkey.

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In This Issue - Winter 2011

M.P.H. Adventure in Argentina

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In October, fourth-year student Brandon Weeks traveled to Argentina to complete his Master of Public Health field experience at Fundación H. A. Barceló medical school, becoming the first NSU-COM student to do an international M.P.H. field experience.

NSU-COM Acquires Grants Totaling Over \$4.1 Million

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The college recently received three grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration to fund programs related to interprofessional education, training students to meet the health care needs of the homeless, and patient simulation.

Clinical Faculty: Honoring the Unsung Heroes

24

Thanks to the college's clinical/adjunct faculty, NSU-COM students are able to learn from and tap into the well of knowledge provided by nearly 1,000 physician mentors who volunteer their time to give back to the profession and support the college.

Fall Prevention Clinic Aims to Keep People on Their Feet

27

The NSU Fall Prevention Clinic has proven to be a valuable community service resource that allows adults of all ages to receive a comprehensive health assessment from an accomplished and interdisciplinary team of NSU experts.

Psychiatry Department Broadens its Scope

30

When Dr. Raymond Ownby became chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, he approached the challenge with a specific agenda in mind that focused on addressing three particular academic pillars: education, clinical activity, and research.

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

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ADVENTURE IN ARGENTINA

Master of Public Health Field Experience Proves Educationally Enriching

“Dr. Blavo, is there any possibility I could complete my M.P.H. field experience in an international location?”

This was the topic of a phone conversation in the spring of 2010 that left me excited about the opportunity to travel to a new place. After a few months of planning and coordination, mostly through email and in Spanish, I found myself in arid La Rioja, Argentina. Besides the challenge of conducting all affairs in a foreign language and with people I had never met before, I was the first student from NSU-COM to venture into the international scene for the M.P.H. field experience. I was able to do this because of a new partnership with the medical school of Fundación H. A. Barceló, which has already fostered exchanges of medical students from both schools who have completed a month or more of clinical rotations.

My focus in the province of La Rioja was to study the public health system and gauge its strengths and weaknesses. Throughout the month, I worked closely in person with faculty members of Barceló including, but not limited to, Dr. Hugo Arce, Dr. Adolfo Vega, Dr. Elio Diaz-Moreno, and Nélica Romero as well as with my NSU-COM mentor, Alina Perez, via email. Much of my work involved interviewing officials, physicians, health work-

ers, students, and citizens to get an idea of the health status. I also had the opportunity to work in and visit various primary health centers and hospitals in the province to see the situation firsthand.

Among the perceived strengths was a solid understanding and pursuit of preventive health care through a network of primary health centers. Many of these centers have maps of their respective catchment area divided up between health workers who make home visits so they can know who is in the community and whether they need vaccinations or preventive health interventions. Weaknesses include a lack of medical human resources in more rural areas of the province, uncontrolled population of street dogs, and substandard housing in certain areas predisposing the residents to water-borne diseases or vector diseases such as dengue or Chagas.

Over the month of October, many of the teachings I learned during my M.P.H. training at NSU-COM were reaffirmed. It takes a complete understanding of the culture, history, economy, and geography to approach an understanding of the health of a people. In that sense, a month was too short but to get a glimpse. My hope is that more M.P.H. students with a grip on the Spanish language can follow up and focus on a specific topic to investigate for their field experience.

In respect to equilibrium in life, I strove to maintain a healthy balance of work and play while in Argentina. I took advantage of the weekends to travel to Mendoza as well as the surrounding areas in La Rioja.

The people of Argentina and Fundación Barceló were very hospitable and made my educational/cultural experience very worthwhile. As a result, I will be returning to La Rioja in February to do my rural medicine rotation.

By OMS-IV Brandon Weeks

Student Advocate Association Offers Unique Benefits to Students, Spouses

By Scott Colton

Director of Medical Communications

Exams...health fairs...intensive studying...clinical rotations...international medical outreach endeavors...academical societies...family commitments.

These are just some of the myriad responsibilities medical students face when they embark on the challenging but ultimately rewarding journey to become an osteopathic physician. However, it's not just the students who suffer through the enormous stress that accompanies a medical school education. Just ask the spouses and significant others of a medical student, who frequently find the medical school experience to be equally as overwhelming for them as it is for their osteopathic physicians in training.

To address these concerns, NSU-COM students launched a local chapter of the **Student Advocate Association (SAA)** a number of years ago, which comprises spouses, family members, and significant others of student doctors as well as students who are single but looking for mentorship opportunities.

Because the college's SAA chapter has undergone some significant transition over the past several years, a revised mission statement was drafted to truly describe the organization's focus: "The Student Advocate Association is a charitable organization whose mission is to promote and support osteopathic medicine by educating the community about public health and educational programs surrounding osteopathic medicine and encouraging young physicians by providing social events and project collaboration with the AAOA and AOA. Benefits of SAA membership include a sense of autonomy and understanding, nationwide networking opportunities, participation and involvement opportunities with national committees, conventions, and the family of osteopathic medical professionals who know and understand the trials associated with medical school, internship, and residency."

OMS-I Carisa Lippmann, who serves as president of the college's SAA chapter, has experienced the club's benefits firsthand since her husband, Benjamin, is a third-year NSU-COM student who began his medical school odyssey two years before she started hers. "When we moved here from North Florida in 2008 right after we got married, I received an email from a woman I didn't know who had learned that I was a spouse of an incoming medical student at NSU-COM," Lippmann explained. "She invited Ben and me to meet some of the other students and spouses at an informal gathering, so we went and were then invited to attend an SAA function. What being involved with the organization has instilled in me is an appreciation of just how much of a community the D.O. profession is. For me, it was a way of getting connected to my husband's world. For him, it was a way of being mentored that he wouldn't have otherwise received."

The SAA, which costs \$10 to join and currently comprises about 70 members, has coordinated a number of social and educational events throughout the academic year such as a debt-in-medical



school discussion and an ice-cream social. In October 2010, the SAA partnered with other NSU-COM clubs such as the American Medical Women's Association, the Pediatric Club, and the Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy to participate in the Stop Child Trafficking Now Walk in Miami as well as spread awareness about the osteopathic medical profession.

One of the club's most popular events occurred last September when the college's dean, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and his wife Dianna, who serves as the SAA's adviser, hosted about 50 members at their condo's clubhouse for a festive dinner gathering. Although she's a lawyer with her own thriving career, Dianna can certainly relate to the demands placed on the spouse of a medical school student or practicing osteopathic physician, which is why she is so involved with the SAA. "I am there to give guidance when asked, impart a better understanding of osteopathic medicine, provide advocacy for the profession and the osteopathic family, serve as a historian for what SAAs have done in the past, and work with the college's SAA board to plan and organize social, fund-raising, and community service events.

"My enjoyment comes from meeting the students, spouses, and significant others and getting to know them as they progress through the challenges of the medical school process," added Dianna, who has been an SAA adviser since 1992 when she and Dr. Silvagni lived in Kansas City, Missouri. "It is truly my pleasure to work with them during this time. If I can be of any assistance in making the process easier, that is really my reward."

Thanks to the SAA's existence, the road to osteopathic fulfillment has been less rocky for many students as well as their spouses and significant others. "You want a forum where the spouses can meet together with their partners attending medical school so they can share their stresses and frustrations and help relate to each other," Lippmann explained. "You have to have a team mentality; unfortunately, that mentality tends to crumble during the medical school years because there's bitterness that's fostered, which helps explain why the highest grad school divorce rate is among medical students. I tried to understand for two years what Ben was going through, but it wasn't until I became a student myself that I truly got it. That's why it's monumentally pivotal to be involved in each other's lives, which is an opportunity the SAA provides its members."

STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: A Semester in Review

By OMS-II Jaime Baynes, OMS-I Charee Howard, OMS-I John Ogunlade, OMS-I Francesca Okolie, OMS-II Ashley Startzman, and OMS-II Naimah Wajid

The executive board and members of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) were busy in the summer/fall semester providing health services to the underserved, teaching high school students about a variety of health care fields, fostering new relationships with undergraduate programs, and fund-raising for a Haiti orphanage as well as the Jamaica medical outreach trips.

Medical Explorers

Over the past several months, members from the SNMA and the college's Sigma Sigma Phi student chapter were busy ensuring that future generations of health care professionals received a head start on their journey into the health care field. Through the Medical Explorers Program, high school students from various Broward County schools meet at NSU-COM to participate in hands-on medical workshops. Organized by NSU-COM students, the program provides high school students with the opportunity to interact with medical students and expert NSU clinicians in an intimate setting. Through a wide range of collaborations with other Health Professions Division (HPD) programs, the high school students are exposed to as many aspects of health care as possible.

Our newest partnership has been with the Anesthesiology Assistant (AA) program. In that clinic, AA students prepared a mock operating room demonstration as well as taught the participants how to insert IV lines and manage a person's airway. In conjunction with the College of Dental Medicine, dental and medical students taught the attendees how to make dental impressions. While collaborations with other medical disciplines continue to extend the scope of the Medical Explorers Program, NSU-COM professors' and clinicians' diligent support of the program has been a key factor behind the program's success.



Last fall's program lineup included a vital signs clinic using I-Stan (patient simulation) mannequins hosted by Drs. Heidi Lane and Marti Echols, an athletic taping clinic taught by Dr. Eric Shamus, a suturing clinic with Dr. David Thomas, and an osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) clinic with Dr. David Boesler. A program highlight, the OMM clinics provide a unique platform to increase the awareness of osteopathic medicine among high school students. In addition to medical workshops, the program holds an annual College Night seminar for both children and parents where students from the various HPD programs are invited to discuss their path to professional school with the explorers. The ultimate goal of the Medical Explorers Program is to reveal to teens from all backgrounds that their dreams of being a health care professional can be a future reality.

Fostering New Relationships

Most recently the SNMA fostered a partnership with Lutheran Services, a nonprofit organization that provides temporary shelter to homeless at-risk youth ranging in age from 10 to 17. The children come from various socioeconomic backgrounds but are predominately from lower-income homes and possess behavioral issues. Sadly, many have been involved in sex trafficking. The shelter has many areas of concentration that the SNMA, as an organization that focuses on minority outreach initiatives, can tackle.

First, there is a distinct and stated need for general health education for these youths, which could be implemented either one-on-one with medical student mentors speaking to individual youths or by the mentors speaking with groups of youths. While we're unable to provide medical examinations as students, if we are able to secure preceptors, we can assist by taking patient histories and vitals, as well as open up discussion regarding differential diagnosis based on cases.



They also need exposure to the many health care careers open to them, including medicine. The SNMA will present the youths with medical field career options and work on goal-setting, which provides a perfect opportunity for mentoring. In addition, shelter supplies are needed, specifically clothing and toiletries, which is why we have organized several drives in recent months to collect these items.

Fundraising for Haiti Orphanage

In October, we joined forces with students from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York to raise money for an orphanage in Haiti called Hands Together to Defend the Children, which is located in Port-au-Prince and is home to 47 beautiful children in desperate need of clothing, medical supplies, and furniture. Thus, for two days, our members sold Boo-Grams, which are fun Halloween messages first- and second-year students sent to their friends during class. Choosing to give either candy bags or dirt, we used lecture break times to deliver the Boo-Grams and surprise many people with either tricks or treats. It certainly put the “fun” in fund-raiser.

In addition to Boo-Grams, SNMA members helped raise money by selling NSU medicine sweatshirts, with the profits being donated to the American Red Cross Haiti relief fund.

Delray Beach Health Fair

The annual Delray Beach Health Fair took place on Saturday, November 6 at the Village Academy School in Delray Beach, Florida. For the past 10 years, Dr. Wiener Leblanc, with the help of his wife and other local physicians, have organized the health fair to ensure health awareness in an underserved community that has limited access to health care and where many residents lack medical insurance coverage. Many attendees make this health fair their annual—and only—doctor visit. Over 30 NSU-COM students volunteered to coordinate the health fair by draping off patient rooms, hanging signs, and setting up stations for the patients to be seen the next day.

On Saturday, local doctors and volunteers saw people of all ages. During the day, the participating NSU-COM students



were separated into different exam areas that provided vital-sign screenings, female exams, male exams, breast exams, dental exams, eye exams, urinalysis, and HIV testing. Primary screenings were completed and preventative information was shared with patients. Student doctors and local physicians not only performed physical exams but also educated patients on a healthy life routine, from eating the right foods and taking daily walks to how to take medications properly. The population in Delray Beach, as well as the NSU-COM students, benefited from the health fair that outreached to over 300 people in six hours.

Upcoming SNMA Events

In the winter semester, The SNMA will resume building a partnership with the Ban-AIDS Team, which is a peer-to-peer organization at Blanche Ely High School that aims to educate the youth (and community) about HIV/AIDS. The SNMA is expected to play a role in mentoring and guiding these students to help educate other middle and high school students, as well as support establishing efforts to help the youth gain control of a potential epidemic.

Student Clubs Commemorate World AIDS Day

By OMS-II Calvin C. Krom III

World AIDS Day, which is commemorated annually on December 1, unites people across the globe to wear the color red, including a red ribbon, in support of those infected with HIV and to raise awareness about this pandemic. This year, the theme of World AIDS Day was *Universal Access* and was aimed at ensuring that everyone across the globe receives treatment, testing, and prevention services. Three NSU-COM student groups got involved in this year's efforts—the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA), and the Public Health Student Association (PHSA)—to bring attention to World AIDS Day at NSU's Davie campus.

On November 30, GLMA and PHSA kicked off World AIDS Day by hosting a free dinner in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room that featured speakers Cathy Robinson-Pickett and Marie Carre, D.O., M.P.H. Robinson-Pickett has been associated with NSU-COM for many years and not only speaks about her life experiences, but also runs a not-for-profit organization called Friends Together that hosts weekend camps for HIV+ children and their families at no cost. Dr. Carre, who is a 2004 NSU-COM alumna, spoke about remembering to keep in mind how HIV+ patients can present and also how problematic the HIV pandemic is, especially in South Florida.

On December 1, a bake sale was hosted by GLMA and SOMA to benefit Friends Together. With additional help from PHSA members, condoms, red ribbons, and information regarding HIV and the HIV testing center on campus was distributed to students at HPD as well as the University Center. Overall, the bake sale was a success, raising \$252, which is enough money to send three HIV+ children and their families to camp for the weekend.

NEWS BRIEFS

According to figures listed in the 2010 AOA *Osteopathic Medical Profession Report*, the number of D.O.s has increased to a record 70,480 as of May 31, 2010, with the estimated number of D.O.s in active practice totaling 63,121. At the current rate of growth, it is estimated that more than 100,000 osteopathic physicians will be in active medical practice by the year 2020.



Scott Colton, who serves as director of medical communications, was elected programming vice chair of the Public Relations Society of America Gulfstream (Broward County) Chapter and secretary of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Marketing and Communications Advisory Council. Colton will begin serving in these volunteer positions in early 2011. He also acts as chair of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics Publications Committee.

NSU-COM was awarded full reaccreditation for the next three years from the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) as a Category 1 Sponsor of continuing medical education (CME) credits. After surveying the college's CME programs, the independent accrediting agency granted NSU-COM a perfect score of 100 points. Overseen by the NSU Health Professions Division Office of Continuing Medical Education, the college's CME program aims to facilitate the growth of knowledge, the refinement of skills, and a deepening understanding of the osteopathic medical profession. "We are very proud to be recognized for not only meeting but exceeding the rigorous standards of the AOA," said Susan Gonzalez, manager of the Office of Continuing Medical Education. "This achievement is an indication of NSU's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the physician's continued education." In addition, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) reviewed The Health Professions Division's continuing medical education program files and upgraded the HPD's status to full accreditation through November 30, 2012.



On November 26, **Judy Lippman**, the beloved wife of Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of the Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division, passed away following a sudden illness. Over the past several decades, Mrs. Lippman played an instrumental role in ensuring the success of the annual HPD Bal Fantastique fund-raiser.

On October 13, members from **NSU-COM's Florida Osteopathic Medical Association student chapter** participated in the Adopt-A Meal Program at Ronald McDonald House in Fort Lauderdale. "It is heartwarming that despite their hectic schedules, these students still find time to give back to the community," said Flora Nwalupue, director of house operations for Ronald McDonald House. "It is truly a blessing for the families here when wonderful people, like the students of NSU, come together to provide a healthy and nourishing meal for the families."

International Outreach Opportunities Attract Denisha Shah to NSU-COM



Through a rich and varied tapestry of life experience, the medical journey of transfer student Denisha Shah began in India before taking an interesting detour through rural West Virginia and metropolitan Cleveland in Ohio before finally arriving at NSU-COM.

Shah, who is an All-American Scholar, a National Science Merit recipient, and an International Service Award recipient as a Global Volunteers medical volunteer, says her desire to expand horizons in medicine on an international level has been an unwavering pursuit. "The Global Volunteers program

took me to Rarotonga, Cook Islands, where I learned under the tutelage of the chief island surgeon that all patients, regardless of the severity of their condition, deserved careful attention," she said. "His training was a lesson in humility and humanity. That's why I transferred to NSU-COM, because, to me, it is the perfect institution that displays similar humanistic ideals on an international level for D.O.s.

"Osteopathic medicine, which has been a longstanding fixture on the U.S. medical landscape and is still a predominantly American-based profession, has had positive spillover effects in over 47 other countries around the world," added Shah, who graduated magna cum laude from Case Western Reserve University, where she majored in premed psychology and minored in chemistry and theater. "This is a tribute to the many D.O.s, including NSU-COM's dean, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, who desire to internationalize this prestigious field of holistic medicine. For me personally, it is an absolute honor to be a part of NSU-COM and join Dr. Silvagni's international mission of popularizing osteopathic medicine globally."

Because NSU-COM has become an international diversity leader, its students have the opportunity to rotate with many physicians from diverse backgrounds from different countries around the world. "Before I came to NSU-COM, I had served Bhaktivedanta Hospital in India, where patient care was implemented with a deep integration of mind, body, and soul," Shah explained. "I served in multiple departments, one of which was with Dr. Neela Wagle, an expert in ophthalmology who was involved in free eye camps in rural parts of India. I also received a chance to serve numerous physicians at the world-famous Chopra Center for integrative and Ayurvedic medicine and becoming a Perfect Health instructor—and now NSU-COM has truly expanded my vision with infinite possibilities."



Currently, there are numerous options available for NSU-COM students to pursue clerkships internationally in countries such as Africa, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Italy, Jamaica, Nepal, Pakistan, New Zealand, and Taiwan. "I have always been fascinated with the osteopathic philosophy of treating the patient as a whole and having alternate tools to treat our patients utilizing OMM techniques," she stated. "It is a dream come true for me to be in a place where diversity is not only appreciated with empathy and compassion, but is easily welcomed for the betterment of humanity on an international level for D.O.s."

Altruism on Display in San Francisco



Prior to the start of the American Osteopathic Association's 115th Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in San Francisco, California, a number of **NSU-COM students visited the San Francisco Rescue Mission** on Saturday, October 23 to provide health screenings to over 500 clients, including 50 or so children.

To ensure the event's success, NSU-COM partnered with Heart to Heart, the National Osteopathic Medical Association, and the American Osteopathic Foundation as well as osteopathic medical students from the Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine-California, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

During the four-hour outreach endeavor, children received screening histories and physical exams, while the adults were screened for diabetes, cholesterol, HIV, hepatitis C, body-mass index, obesity, and hypertension. The participating adults also received osteopathic manipulative medicine exams and free flu vaccinations.

"The participating osteopathic medical students learned the value of giving back to the underserved, how to partner with other organizations and allied health professionals, and how to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of those we are serving," said Bruce Peters, D.O., FACOP, FAAP, professor of pediatrics and medical director of the NSU medical clinics. "They also learned how to prepare in advance for health fairs and what it takes to make such an event a success despite the circumstances around you. We also served lunch to the clients, with each person receiving a goody bag filled with health items, health education material, snacks, and last but not least, a clean new pair of socks. I think the last item was most appreciated as it brought the biggest smiles."

AMA-MSS Student Chapter Earn Kudos

The College of Osteopathic Medicine's **American Medical Association (AMA)–Medical Student Service (MSS) Club** is proud to announce that its recruitment efforts have been recognized nationally as one of the top 10 chapters with the largest recruitment classes in 2010, with over 70 members.

The AMA-MSS Club, which is the newest NSU-COM student organization, is a direct branch of the AMA that is dedicated to representing medical students, improving medical education, developing leadership, and promoting activism for health care among medical students at all medical schools across the country—osteopathic and allopathic alike. NSU-COM's chapter strives to be the leading voice of medical students in advocating for the future of medicine. The AMA Executive Board is as follows:

- Co President – **Elias Fakhoury (OMS-II)**
- Co President – **Trisha Sterlicchi (OMS-II)**
- Vice President – **Alsia Honeygan (OMS-II)**
- Treasurer – **Aaron Cohen (OMS-II)**
- Secretary – **Jonathan Nguyen (OMS-I)**
- OMS-I Representative – **Mike Jones (OMS-I)**
- OMS-I Representative – **Payal Patel (OMS-I)**
- Social Chair – **John Ogunlade (OMS-I)**

NEWS BRIEFS

On November 10, the college coordinated its **Second Annual Cadaver Appreciation Ceremony** to demonstrate the students' appreciation to the individuals who selflessly donated their bodies to benefit future generations of physicians and mankind in general.

On November 13, **Palm Beach County Medical Society Services (PBCMS)** presented a \$1,000 donation, to be used for NSU-COM student scholarships, to James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor of public health and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine. The check was presented by Brent Schillinger M.D., president of Palm Beach County Medical Society Services and NSU-COM clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, at the 2010 PBCMS Annual Gala – Cirque de Medecine.

During the **American Osteopathic Association's 115th Annual Medical Conference and Exposition** held in San Francisco, California, in late October, a number of NSU-COM students were actively involved in an array of activities and events presented by the participating medical specialties. For example, during the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology welcoming reception held at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, students were able to meet with dermatology residents, physicians, and other students from around the country and discuss research and residency program opportunities.



Pictured (from left) are OMS-II Emmanuel Sakla, OMS-II Matt Uhde, OMS-III Miglena Dzhupanova, and OMS-III Andrew Sakla.

Dateline Health, NSU's award-winning public service TV program, celebrated its 300th episode on December 27, which focused on equine therapy—hands-on therapy sessions in which horses assist clients with life and relationship challenges. "We are extremely proud of this significant achievement," said Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D, host of *Dateline Health* and chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division. "This would not have been possible without the hard work of the NSU team." *Dateline Health* is a 30-minute service program dedicated to promoting the community's overall health and quality of life, covering a wide range of contemporary health care issues through interviews with health care experts, researchers, and policymakers. The show airs on BECON, Comcast, and AT&T U-verse cable channels and Direct TV and Dish Network seven days a week throughout the tri-county area, reaching over five million viewers in the community. *Dateline Health* is produced by the Health Professions Division and is taped on NSU's main campus under the production and technical expertise of the Office of Information Technologies and Digital Media.

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Coordinates Spirit Day



On October 20, people across the nation wore the color purple (symbolic of spirit on the rainbow gay pride flag) to raise awareness about teenage suicide. Over the past several months, there has been a string of teenage suicides due to homophobia and bullying. In the most chilling example, Tyler

Clementi, a Rutgers University student who was just 18 years old, took his own life by jumping off the George Washington Bridge shortly after his roommate used a hidden camera to stream a sexual encounter he had with another male in his dorm room.

Reaction to these suicides has received national attention, which is why grassroots movements to bring these tragedies to light are the impetus for **National Spirit Day**. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) chapter at NSU-COM felt it was necessary to enlighten those training to become health care providers to recognize that these patients are at increased risk for suicide.

Second-year NSU-COM students Calvin Krom, Karen Téllez-Jacques, and Lauren Westafer organized the event for all of HPD to partake in. They gained permission from Dr. Silvagni for students to wear a purple shirt with their white coat in order to participate in this worthy cause and made over 400 purple ribbons to be distributed. Tremendous support from the students and faculty was garnered from all HPD departments. Posters were

also made displaying statistics regarding teenage bullying. For instance, according to *Internal Medicine News*, a 2009 survey of 7,261 middle and high school students found that 9 out of 10 experience some sort of harassment at school, while two-thirds of those surveyed said they felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation.

With help from NSU College of Pharmacy students Carmen Ziss and Anllel Alfonso, the group was also able to set up a table by the Hull Auditorium and distribute the purple ribbons while informing fellow HPD students of the cause. Many students were thankful they were given the opportunity to participate. The group even received an email from an NSU nursing student, Yairene Rivera, expressing her gratitude and encouragement to continue the hard work.

Anyone with questions regarding GLMA or any of our events should contact Lauren Westafer (president) at lw567@nova.edu or Calvin Krom (treasurer) at ck410@nova.edu.

By OMS-II Calvin C. Krom III

AMWA to Commemorate V-Day with Vagina Monologues Performance

V-Day is a global activist initiative geared at increasing awareness about violence against women and girls. Serving this purpose, annual events are held during the months of February through April with the additional aim of raising money for local anti-violence organizations.

Annually, NSU-COM's American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) student chapter coordinates a self-directed production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. Written in the 1990s following interviews with 200 women, the play consists of a series of monologues—both comical and heartbreaking—that address topics such as sex, relationships, and violence against women and girls. Every year, the production features a different spotlight, with the 2011 focus monologue centering on the women and girls of Haiti.

This year's production will take place on Saturday, March 5 at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center at NSU's Davie campus. The

21-member cast will comprise female students from NSU-COM, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Pharmacy, and the Shepard Broad Law Center.

The production, which is attended by faculty members, students, and the community, annually garners an audience near 500

and consistently raises over \$5,000, with 90 percent of the proceeds donated to Women in Distress of Broward County. The remaining 10 percent is donated to City of Joy—a community for Congolese women survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Pictured (from left) are Tara Nowakhtar, Regina Ragasa, Kristen Gonter, Karen Téllez-Jacques, Rachel Goldstein, and Kobi Hano.

Article by OMS-II Karen Téllez-Jacques



Pictured (from left) are Sarah Moran, Jaya Jagmohan, Courtney Allen, Dr. Packer, Dr. Tanis, Tanya Raffi, Nalina Singh, and Elizabeth Oommen.

Dr. Arnold Tanis Honored with Arnold Melnick Child Advocacy Award

By OMS-II Jennie Berkovich

On October 13, the NSU-COM Pediatric Club honored **Arnold Tanis, M.D.**, with the Arnold Melnick Child Advocacy Award. Named after Arnold Melnick, D.O., a pediatrician and the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, the annual award honors individuals who serve as child advocates and promote the advancement of pediatric care. Previous recipients include Dr. Deborah Mulligan, Dr. Roni Leiderman, and Dr. Cyril Blavo.

During his 56 years as a pediatrician, Dr. Tanis founded Pediatric Associates—an established pediatric group practice in Broward. He also served as a member of the Florida Pediatric Society, president of the Broward County Pediatrics Society, and president of the American Academy of Pediatricians. Although he is planning to retire in February 2011, Dr. Tanis currently serves as the director for the Annual Pediatric Symposium hosted by Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital.

HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman opened the award ceremony with kind words about Dr. Tanis, who was his children’s pediatrician. He praised Dr. Tanis’ approachability and soothing nature when it came to taking care of sick children. Dr. Edward Packer, chair of NSU-COM’s Department of Pediatrics and Pediatric Club faculty adviser, gave a history of the Melnick Award, while OMS-II Sarah Moran spoke of her experience learning from Dr. Tanis during her IGC preceptorship.

As he took the stage to accept the award, Dr. Tanis thanked his colleagues and family and offered advice to the group of future pediatricians sitting before him. “Have a passion. Learn as much

as you can about it. And don’t be nervous,” he said. “You’re going to be great doctors. And children will love you. And when children love you, there’s nothing to be nervous about.”



NSU Division of Clinical Operations Maintains Activity-Laden Agenda

Aging Stakeholders Luncheon and Networking Session

On November 15, the Division of Clinical Operations hosted its inaugural **Aging Stakeholders Luncheon and Networking Session**. The meeting brought together organizations that serve older adults, including NSU's Senior Services Team, Walgreens, the Town of Davie, the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County, 2-1-1 Broward, the Alzheimer's Association, Memorial Healthcare, the American Parkinson's Disease Association, Classic Residence, and several others to discuss aging services and needs in the South Florida community.

Participants learned of the variety of clinical services NSU has to offer older adults, including medical, optometric, dental, psychological, rehabilitation, and pharmacy care. Each organization outside of NSU had an opportunity to share its services with the attendees. The program also included discussion of elder needs and service gaps, with the focus on generating ideas for collaboration between organizations to better serve local elders. The session concluded with a tour of several NSU clinics, which allowed the NSU Division of Clinical Operations to showcase the cutting-edge facilities and depth of services available to the senior community.

A Day for Children



Ronnie Oller, Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Robert Oller, D.O., chief executive officer of the university's Division of Clinical Operations, enjoying the activities during the Day for Children event.

On September 12, NSU hosted its **Eighth Annual A Day for Children** health fair, which featured free health care and education for children up to the age of 15. During the health fair, which has received national attention for being one of the largest events for children of its kind, about 15,000 children and their families participated.

Activities included screenings for vision, medical, speech, behavior, dental, physical, and occupational therapy, all of which are provided by NSU's Health Care Centers. The event also showcased 12 of the university's programs and featured more than 150 booths representing different disciplines of the university, community service centers, and Broward County organizations. In addition to the health screenings, there were a variety of activities for children, including a bounce house, face painting, storybook characters, supervised sports activities, arts and crafts, games, and food. The event also featured free haircuts for children provided by Jig Saw and a teddy bear clinic sponsored by the Chris Evert Children's Hospital and the Teddy Bear Society.

NSU Recognized as Start! Fit-Friendly Company

NSU was once again honored with the **American Heart Association's Start! Fit Friendly Gold Award**, which is presented to companies that demonstrate progressive leadership by making the health and wellness of their employees a priority. NSU accomplishes this goal by offering all personnel physical activity support at the worksite, increasing the number of available healthy eating options, promoting a wellness culture, and embracing at least nine criteria as outlined by the American Heart Association in the areas of physical activity, nutrition, and culture.

NSU-COM Faculty, Staff Celebrate Significant Employment Milestones

Congratulations to the following College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty and staff members who reached employment milestones for their years of service in 2010:

25 Years

Dr. Steven B. Zucker

20 Years

*Dr. Judith P. Schaffer
Shelley Warshaw*

15 Years

*Barbara J. Coulton-Brown
Dr. Lawrence Jacobson
Sharon A. Schmidt*

10 Years

*Stephen E. Bronsburg
Carol P. Siu
Dr. Jon H. Dodds
Dr. Elaine M. Wallace*

5 Years

*Dr. Stephen Bowen
Dr. Maria I. Fernandez
Marie E. Filias
Dr. Janet K. Hamstra
Dr. Robert T. Hasty
Nilda Hernandez
Ronald B. Lodge
Yamil Martinez
Marina E. Melendez
Dr. Sam K. Snyder*



Celebrating 25 years! Dr. Zucker (right) shares a collegial moment with Dr. Silvagni during a recent meeting.

Biomedical Informatics Program: Impacting the Profession at All Levels

M.S.B.I. Student and Alumni Network (SAN)



Inception of this network has been supported by the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) Program national and international students. The network's mission draws upon the varied experience of its members to advance professional goals while recognizing the indispensable role the network holds in the growth and development of its students. The network's purpose is to engage and challenge each student to advance professionally and to grow individually as a student mentor. The network's goals are established through input and consensus among its members, as recommended by committee leaders such as Josean Malcolm, Rahel Abay, Bryan Cook, and Mark Carnemolla.

In addition, the network alliance with Jim Mckeen, president of the South Florida Chapter of the Health Information and Management Systems Society (SFL-HIMSS) has fostered the development of various student initiatives such as question-and-answer sessions, conferences, activities/meetings, internships, and jobs. The network's ongoing goal is to provide relevant information for students to continue to advance in their professional careers. To access the SFL-HIMSS Web site, please visit <http://www.sflhimss.org/abouthimss/abouthimss.html>.

South Florida Healthcare Trade Faire and Regional Conference

In October, M.S.B.I. students attended the South Florida Healthcare Trade Faire and Regional Conference at the Signature Grand in Davie, which is an event that brings the nation's leading health care solutions companies face to face with the region's leading health care executives and professionals. The M.S.B.I. Program had a booth for student and faculty recruitment, which provided a great opportunity for current students to meet and greet keynote speakers, presenters, and the professionals from the health information technology fields.

AMIA Conference



In November, M.S.B.I. Program leadership, students, alumni, and faculty members attended the American Medical Informatics Association's (AMIA) annual conference held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. The conference, which is touted as the world's most comprehensive annual meeting on biomedical and health informatics, included paper and poster presentations, demonstrations, panels, keynote addresses, tutorials, and

workshops. The M.S.B.I. Program had a booth set up for student and faculty recruitment and even held a raffle for an iPad.



M.S.B.I. Student Participates in NSU Biggest Loser Contest

In an effort to embark on a journey to a healthier lifestyle, M.S.B.I. student Mark Carnemolla has been accepted into NSU's 2011 Biggest Loser weight loss contest. Carnemolla will participate in a program that requires a significant time commitment to allow for blood draws, physical and fitness assessments, team workouts, nutrition workshops, food journals, team challenges, and regular weigh-ins.

Employment News

Thanks to the training they have or are currently receiving in the college's M.S.B.I. Program, the following students and graduates have procured a number of prestigious professional positions:

Patrick Casimir, clinical application analyst III at Kingman Regional Medical Center in Kingman, Arizona.

Bryan Cook, implementation consultant at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mohammed "Monty" Islam, principal solution architect in health information technology at AAJ Technologies in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Mohammed Jobran, RA systems supervisor in the Saudi Food and Drug Authority Regulatory Affairs Department in Saudi Arabia.

Vidya Prakasam, demonstrations project officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Office of Research, Development, and Information in Baltimore, Maryland.

Luz Rodriguez, clinical analyst at Orlando Health Systems in Orlando, Florida.

Darnell Smith, R.N., nurse educator/clinical informatics at Veterans Health Administration in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

NSU-COM ACQUIRES GRANTS TOTALING OVER \$4.1 MILLION



In September, the college was awarded several grants totaling over \$4.1 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund programs related to interprofessional education, training students to meet the health care needs of the homeless, and patient simulation.

\$2.3 Million Interprofessional Education Grant

To help address the shortage of primary care physicians and the challenges they face working in an interprofessional health care environment, NSU-COM was awarded a five-year, **\$2.3 million** grant to build upon the college's mission to "train primary care health practitioners in an interdisciplinary setting with an emphasis on medically underserved areas." The grant will help the college, working in collaboration with the other health programs in the NSU Health Professions Division, to assemble an interprofessional curriculum for medical students and other health professions students that will include many of the components of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPAFC) of 2010. These include public health services and advocacy, biomedical informatics and electronic health records, health disparities and cultural competency, health promotion and disease prevention in primary care delivery, and development of the medical home.

"This grant will enable NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division to provide the leadership in interprofessional education that is so critically needed in the second decade of the 21st century," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., who serves as the grant's principal investigator and executive director of education, planning, and research. "The concept of interprofessional practice can help both

patients and practitioners to better communicate with each other. Now more than ever, health practitioners need to practice interprofessional, also called interdisciplinary care, by working hand in hand with other practitioners and health professionals to coordinate care and avoid duplication of care and services.

"Given the paucity of underrepresented minorities and those from educationally and economically disadvantaged groups in primary care practice, targeted efforts will be directed at recruitment and retention of these groups into health professions programs with the added focus on interprofessional care," she stressed. "Osteopathic medical students who complete this program will be enrolled in both the D.O. and M.P.H. programs. As a result, this initiative will also allow us to investigate more closely the science and practice of interprofessional/interdisciplinary practice."

Much of the work in interprofessional practice has occurred outside of the United States, meaning this opportunity is a unique one for NSU. Thanks to the organizational structure and close proximity of each of the colleges in the Health Professions Division, NSU-COM is well positioned to carry out this project and contribute significantly to interprofessional education and research.

\$1.6 Million Predoctoral Training Grant to Assist the Homeless

An ongoing and growing deficit in the current medical school curriculum revolves around providing adequate training to meet the health care needs of the homeless, which is one of the United States' most at-risk populations. The U.S. homeless population comprises over three million people, with over 930,000 of them having no place to sleep or go at night.

To help address this issue, NSU-COM was awarded a five-year, **\$1.6 million** grant to provide medical students with the necessary knowledge and skills to become practitioners that are

prepared to care for homeless individuals of all ages. "This is such an incredibly important grant for our students and for the unique primary education they will obtain at NSU COM," said Dr. Rokusek. "This grant is a perfect fit for our mission that focuses on primary care with an emphasis on serving in medically underserved areas." Kristi Messer, M.S.W., M.P.H., assistant project director of the college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness and assistant professor of public health, will serve as the grant's principal investigator.

The training will be integrated throughout the curriculum and will be highlighted in the fourth-year rural clerkship the students do in urban and rural areas. Program objectives include improving student attitudes regarding the homeless, providing primary health care to the homeless, ensuring patient safety, and minimizing patient errors in caring for the homeless. As a result of this project, a curricular template will be developed that can be used by other medical schools throughout the United States to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate primary care health services for the homeless. The fourth-year clerkship will place students in homeless centers throughout Florida to enable them to interact with homeless men, women, and children.

"In addition, this initiative will help our students become more culturally competent practitioners by providing for them the clinical environment to interact with persons from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds," stated Dr. Rokusek. "Health disparities remain a huge challenge in this country, and the homeless are certainly included in that group. As the College of Osteopathic Medicine helps to prepare future primary care leaders, this grant is a wonderful opportunity to help strengthen the education of those future leaders."

Health Information Technology Grant

This one-year, **\$247,500** grant will be utilized to establish a culture of utilizing human simulators to enhance medical education and to concurrently integrate and expand the use of electronic medical records in case scenarios with the simulators/robotic mannequins within the college and other NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) programs. Cross-training of health professionals will take place, including physician assistants, physician assistant students, nurses, and nursing students who will be scheduled to utilize the mannequins several times yearly. Second-year medical students also will be cross-trained by being assigned to work with their HPD student cohorts. In this way, each of the professions will learn its potential roles and how to function as part of a team.

The grant, which will be overseen by principal investigator and project director Leonard Levy, D.M.D., M.P.H., who serves as associate dean of education, planning, and research, will significantly increase the number of human simulators available to medical and other NSU health professional students. Presently, there are three simulators available to 960 medical students. As a result of this funding, five additional simulators will be purchased, and a new position will be created addressing the American Recovery and Reinvest Act of 2009 priorities.

CEME Coordinates Second Annual Research Poster Competition

Simultaneous to the NSU-COM Residency Fair, which was held on October 8, the college's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) held its **Second Annual Intern/Resident Scientific Research Poster Competition**. Numerous individuals from the various CEME affiliates located throughout Florida and the southeastern United States submitted posters, which were judged on their originality, content, and design in the case presentation category. Cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 were awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place finishers. Following are the poster competition winners:

First Place

Family Medicine Residency, Palmetto General Hospital

"Dissecting Thoracic Aneurysm: A Case Report"

Anna Pevzner-Kalika, D.O. (resident) and Victor Jaffe, D.O. (former resident and current NSU-COM instructor of family medicine)

Second Place

Internal Medicine Residency, Columbia Hospital

"Autonomic/Neurologic Manifestations of Hereditary Hemochromatosis"

Juliana Rodrigues, D.O. (resident) and Steven Kanner, D.O. (NSU-COM clinical associate professor of internal medicine)

Third Place

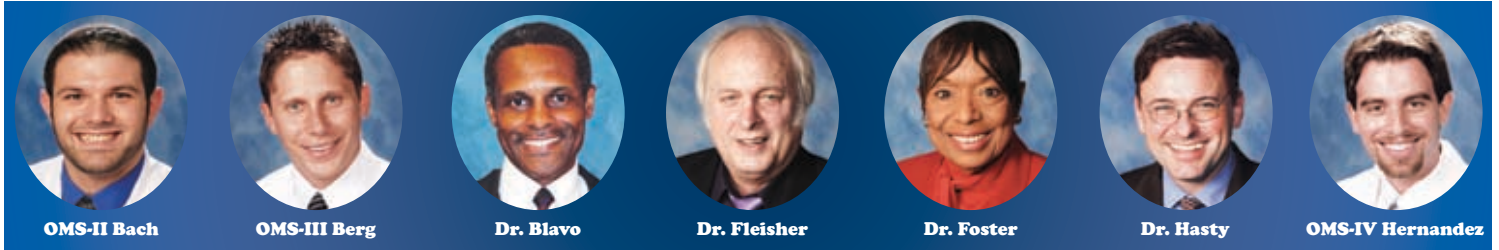
Dermatology Residency, Broward General Medical Center

"Pyoderma Gangrenosum Following Breast Reconstructive Surgery"

Rupa Reddy, D.O. (resident), Tracy Favreau D.O. (NSU-COM assistant professor of internal medicine), and Tracey Stokes, M.D. (Broward General Medical Center physician)



Pictured at the awards ceremony (from left) are: Janet Hamstra, Ed.D. (judge), assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist; Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACP dist., NSU-COM dean; Juliana Rodrigues, D.O., internal medicine resident at Columbia Hospital in West Palm Beach; Anna Pevzner-Kalika, D.O., family medicine resident at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah; Rupa Reddy, D.O., dermatology resident at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale; Tye Barber, D.O., Ph.D. (judge), assistant professor of family medicine; Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A. (judge), professor of psychiatry/public health and chair of the Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences; and Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S. Ed, FAFP, FACP, associate professor of family medicine and associate dean of clinical curriculum and GME.



Students

OMS-II Austin Bach, M.P.H., coauthored a response letter titled “The Perfect Electronic Medical Record System” that appeared in the October 2010 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA)*.

OMS-III Joshua Berg received a \$5,000 Health Professions Division grant in October to help fund his research project entitled “Nicotine and the P300 Event-Related Brain Potential.”

OMS-IV Marlow Hernandez, M.P.H., received first-place honors in the Clinical Poster Competition at the Florida Chapter American College of Physicians (ACP) Scientific Meeting held November 4-6 at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six Resort in Fort Lauderdale for his coauthored poster entitled “Development of the ‘Health Index’ (HI) Statistical Equation as an Alternative Clinical Parameter to Body Mass Index (BMI) in the Prediction and Progression of Metabolic Syndrome and its Cardiovascular, Cerebrovascular, and Endocrine Complications.” He also presented two additional coauthored posters entitled “Awareness of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and the HPV Vaccine Among at-Risk African American Women” and “Comparison of Cervical Block to General Anesthesia for Carotid Endarterectomy.” In addition, he received a \$5,000 Health Professions Division grant to fund his aforementioned research project entitled “Development of

the ‘Health Index’ (HI) Statistical Equation as an Alternative Clinical Parameter to Body Mass Index (BMI).”

OMS-III and predoctoral research fellow Jaclynn Moskow received a \$5,000 Health Professions Division grant in November to aid in her research project entitled “The Relationship Between Motor Function, Endocrine Function, Inflammation, Mood, and Cognition in the Geriatric Population.”

OMS-III Jackie Railsback had her coauthored research article entitled “Antiangiogenic Activity of 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose” published on the PLoS ONE Web site, which is an interactive, open-access journal for the communication of all peer-reviewed scientific and medical research.

OMS-II Ashley Startzman earned first-place honors in the Student Poster Award category at the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics Annual Meeting, which was held in conjunction with the American Osteopathic Association’s 115th Medical Conference and Exposition last October in San Francisco, California. Startzman’s winning poster was entitled “Management of Nonunions with Allograft Cellular Matrix Containing Viable Mesenchymal Stem Cells.”

Michael Wolwa, M.D., who is pursuing his M.P.H. degree at NSU-COM, presented his coauthored poster entitled “The Role of Education and Income in Maternal Acceptance of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

Vaccination of Their Child” at the 3rd Annual International African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium Conference held November 11-12 in Miami, Florida. Dr. Wolwa coauthored the abstract with **Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H.** and **T.M., FACOP, OMS-IV Marlow Hernandez, M.P.H.**, and **Edward Stephenson, M.P.H., M.S.W.**

Faculty

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and **T.M., FACOP**, professor of public health/pediatrics and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was awarded a \$5,000 Health Professions Division grant to fund his research project entitled “Evaluation of Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum Impact on Medical Student Clinical Performance and Primary Care Preference.”

Stephen J. Cina, M.D., clinical professor of surgery, coauthored an article with **2008 alumnus Bob Cambridge, D.O.**, entitled “The Accuracy of Death Certificate Completion in a Suburban Community” that appeared in the September 2010 edition of the *American Journal of Forensic Medicine & Pathology*.

Jay Fleisher, Ph.D., associate professor of public health, had his coauthored article entitled “Evaluation of Conventional and Alternative Monitoring Methods for a Recreational Marine Beach with Nonpoint Source of Fecal Contamination” accepted for publication in *Environmental Science and Technology*.

Rosebud L. Foster, Ed.D., M.S.N., special assistant to the HPD chancellor and professor of public health and family medicine, made an oral presentation on “Implementation of a Regional Tobacco Cessation Model and Strategies with the Focus on Prevention in Rural and Underserved Communities in Florida” at the 138th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) held November 6-10 in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Foster has been consistently invited to present research on numerous health-related topics over the years at the APHA’s Annual Meeting. Dr. Foster’s presentation included key contributions from **Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.**, **Steve E. Bronsberg, M.S., M.H.S.A., CTTS**, **Steven B. Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.**, and **Gustavo A. Saldias, M.P.H.**

Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program, appeared on a half-hour public affairs radio program in November to discuss various health care issues. The program was broadcast on three South Florida radio stations—Majic 102.7, Lite 101.5, and 790 AM-the Ticket. He also made a number of presentations at various conferences on topics such as “Professional and Medical Ethics,” “Prevention of Medical Errors,” “Electronic Health Records: Threats and/or Opportunities,” “HIV/AIDS Update,” and “Obesity Update 2010.” He also participated in the NSU Pre-Medical Society’s



Dr. Johnson



OMS-III Moskow



Dr. Pandya



Dr. Pellosie



Dr. Rokusek



OMS-II Startzman



Dr. Wolwa

annual M.D. vs. D.O. discussion in November.

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor and chair of the Department of OB/GYN and director of the NSU Women's Health Center, presented a lecture on "The Role of the Pharmacist in Women's Health Issues" at the NSU College of Pharmacy Fall Classic Conference held in early November. He also was a featured speaker at Inspiration University's Inspiration for Women Weekend held November 6-7 at NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, coauthored an article entitled "Children, Adolescents, Substance Abuse, and the Media" that was published in the October 2010 issue of *Pediatrics*, which is the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She also presented her coauthored research poster entitled "Health Care's Role in Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking" at the American Public Health Association 138th Annual Meeting held November 6-10 in Denver, Colorado, and was tasked with writing a formal report and making recommendations during the National Summit on Youth Preparedness held September 15 in Washington, D.C.

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics,

maintained a busy fall agenda that included presenting a lecture on "Anemia and Inflammatory Disease" at the American College of Osteopathic Internists Convention held October 23-27 in San Francisco, California and discussing "Urinary Incontinence" and "Pain Management in Long-Term Care" at the Life Care Centers of America national meeting in Cleveland, Tennessee, on October 19. In November, she presented lectures on "Current Issues in the Management of Diabetes in the Elderly" at the Naples Community Hospital Geriatrics Symposium and "Diabetes Management Strategies in the Long-Term Care Setting" at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists annual meeting in Orlando. She also was appointed to the National Training and Coordinating Council Advisory Panel to represent the various U.S. Geriatric Education Centers as a diabetes resource and content expert at Case Western University and authored a chapter called "Common Clinical Conditions in Long-Term Care" in the recently published book *Long-Term Care Medicine: A Pocket Guide*. In addition, she presented lectures on "A Practical Approach to Managing Diabetes in the Long-Term Care Setting" at the 21st Annual Brevard County Long-Term Care Symposium in Melbourne, Florida, and "Constipation" at the Vi at Lakeside Village in Lantana, Florida.

John Pellosie, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM, chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, was invited to participate with the American

A mix of students and faculty members collaborated on a research project entitled "Physician Familiarity with the Most Common Misdiagnoses: Implications for Clinical Practice and Continuing Medical Education" that was published in a recent issue of *The Internet Journal of Medical Education*. The coauthors were **OMS-IV Marlow Hernandez, M.P.H., OMS-IV Chad McDonald, OMS-IV Yana Gofman, OMS-IV Robinson Trevil, OMS-III Nitin Wadhwa, Natasha Bray D.O., Robert Hasty, D.O., Jorge Cabrera, D.O. (class of 2010 graduate)**, and **Patrick Hardigan Ph.D.**

Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to serve on the Task Force on Integrating Preventive Medicine into Medical and Health Professions Curricula.

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D. R.D., executive director of education, planning, and research, presented a seminar on the "Healthy Brain" initiative in September during the annual meeting of the Florida Council on Aging in Orlando. She also judged the student research competition at the American Osteopathic Association's 115th Medical Conference and Exposition last October in

San Francisco, California, and earned her Council on Accreditation certification in November during the annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, Dr. Rokusek was appointed by Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to a three-year term of service on the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages to the U.S. Secretary of HHS, which provides advice and recommendations on a range of issues dealing with programs and activities authorized under Section 756 of the Public Health Service Act.

Recently Submitted Grant Proposals

"Healthier Opportunities for People Through Extension (HOPE)3: Schools as 'Hubs' of Community-Based, Land Grant-Led Obesity Prevention Efforts"

Submitted by **T. Lucas Hollar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Requested amount: \$152,016

"Online Training Module for Alternative Medical Treatment Sites"

Submitted by **Kristi Messer, M.S.W., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of public health and assistant project director of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, to the Florida Department of Health

Requested amount: \$268,231



Melnick Memories: Looking Back...at Rural Medicine

Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, FACOS

I can't remember who originally proposed that rural medicine be an important part of the new college—Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. Maybe it wasn't even one person's idea but more like an accumulation of many thoughts and ideas.

However it arose, it has been a mainstay of our college from just about the first day. An 18-hour didactic course in rural medicine is listed in our earliest catalogues. And in 1984, it was joined by an official formal rotation in rural medicine.

While evaluating applicants in 1981 for our second class (the class of 1986), we interviewed a candidate named **Harriet Fellows**, who was accepted and did graduate with that class. She explained that she was associate director of health services for Florida Community Health Services and detailed the organization's work in rural medicine in Central Florida. She then set up appointments with the administrators involved, and before she had even graduated, a relationship was established for rotations in rural medicine.

Around the same time, **Dr. Mort Terry** and I were serendipitously visited by an old classmate from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine: **Dr. Martin Goldstein**. Marty had spent much of his practice life in rural upstate New York, with great success, and had retired to Palm Beach County. Marty asked the question that impelled many D.O.s to come in and ask, "Can I do anything to help this new college?" Here was the perfect person to supervise rural rotations—a competent physician who possessed great clinical experience and years of rural practice.

An early catalogue recounts the rural rotation: "Rural medicine rotations are served in five health care facilities, three of which are located in Belle Glade,

Clewiston, and Indiantown. These clinics ring the eastern shoreline of Lake Okeechobee, about 100 miles from the college. Operated by the Florida Community Health Centers, the clinics serve a large population of migrant farm workers. Two other clinics in the general area joined the training program in late 1984. They are located in La Belle and Immokalee." Isolated from almost anything constructive, they were the primary source of medical care for the poor, impoverished farm workers.

Marty joined our faculty as assistant professor in charge of rural rotations. That meant an almost daily commute from Palm Beach or North Miami Beach. Many times, for efficiency, he flew (yes, he was a pilot) in a chartered plane—and did not charge the rental to the college. His mentoring was phenomenal, and the clinical experience for the students was beyond belief.

Marty's duties were more than the usual clinical supervision of students. He secured living quarters for the visiting students, saw that the quarters were maintained, acted as liaison between the students and the school, and was mentor to all—a sort of *in loco parentis*. But there were lessons other than clinical to be learned, like dealing with almost 100 percent poverty, seeing people living underneath their cars, and dealing with individuals who were unable to afford prescriptions—social lessons never to be forgotten.

Early on, **Dr. Joel Rush** ('85) and two other charter classmates went to the area for their rural rotation. Joel was somewhat of a gourmet cook, so the three of them went shopping. While looking around the store, they saw a poor lady trying to eke out sufficient low-cost foods to feed her family, while counting out her pennies. The three students looked at each other, pooled their money, and bought a full order of food for this lady's family. Was that a part of the learning experience? It

certainly was—and worth all the efforts the school had put forth.

Other values in addition to medicine appeared. On an early visit to one of the clinics, Dr. Goldstein was called aside by the senior, educated, and experienced physician who headed the clinic. "I hate your students," he said to Marty. Startled, Marty asked, "Why?" The physician answered, "Because they make me go home and read," and both laughed.

A few years later, in cooperation with AHEC, we ran a Professional Opportunities Program (POP), which is a summer health-oriented camp for rural high school students. I was invited to address their first graduation. I was almost overwhelmed with their presentations, and I was so greatly impressed with the quality efforts of these students. Sensing that some might be potential SECOM students, I turned to **Dr. Kenneth Johnson** ('91), who at the time was a camp counselor and SECOM student rotating in rural medicine, and recommended that we give these students some contact with us for the future. Ken replied, "I've already given them all information on how to contact me at any time in the future." Ultimately, several of them did become students at SECOM, and some went into other health fields at comparable health institutions.

Many of our medical students who rotated through our rural clinics enjoyed it so much that they settled in rural or semi-rural areas. Some have gone on to become medical leaders for the underserved communities. Among them are: **Dr. Robert Trenchel** ('89), who became medical director of a community health center; **Dr. Michael Gervasi** ('87), who is now medical director of Florida Community Health Centers; and **Dr. Leslie Smith** ('97), who serves as medical director of the Central Florida Family Health Centers. On their rural rotations, they all learned community service, in addition to medicine.

After years of distinguished service, Dr. Goldstein retired and was succeeded by **Dr. Robert Perraud**, who had been an active staff member and administrator at Doctors' Hospital in Plantation, Florida, which was one of our teaching hospitals. He joined our faculty and became director of rural medicine.

Early on, when we were starting the rural medicine program, we encountered **Dr. James Howell**, an allopathic physician who was then deputy director of the Palm Beach County Health Department. He cooperated with us and helped in many ways. Ultimately, he moved on to become deputy secretary of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and our relationships grew even stronger. When Dr. Perraud left us, Jim Howell joined our faculty and took over the Department of Rural Medicine, where he serves so successfully to this day.

Rural medicine was with us at the beginning because we were successful in obtaining financial support for it through a Florida funding program. A couple of years later when we became an Area Health Education Center (AHEC), a perfect hand-in-glove cooperation between the two was created. While AHEC covers a lot more territory, it also supports both administratively and financially some parts of our rural medicine program. They work together in several areas to support rural community service and medical education.

Consequently, our rural medicine program has been running successfully for almost 30 years, increasing in strength and power all the time. And from it, we have learned lessons not soon to be forgotten, lessons beyond clinical medicine, lessons of life and humanity—all of it good for all parties.

(Dr. Melnick is the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (now NSU-COM). His insightful columns serve as a humorous and important bridge to the past and remind us of how far our college has come in a relatively short period of time.)

Faculty Presentations at FOMA Seminar

In October, a number of full-time and adjunct/clinical faculty members made insightful presentations at the Southwest Florida Osteopathic Medical Society 35th Annual Seminars in Family Practice, which were held in Sanibel. NSU-COM presenters discussed the following topics:

"Preoperative Education of Cataract Surgery Patients"
E. Trevor Elmquist, D.O., FFAO

"Prevention of Medical Errors 2010"
Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI

"Abnormal Pap Smears and HPV"
Kenneth E. Johnson, D.O., FACOOG

"Influenza: What We Are Learning from H1N1"
John C. Pellosie, D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM

"Professional and Medical Ethics"
Joel B. Rose, D.O., FAADEP

Faculty Focus (Non-Research)



Dr. Howell



Dr. Peters



Dr. Snyder

Winston Alexis, M.D., FACOOG, who received his M.D. degree from Howard University College of Medicine, recently joined the NSU-COM faculty in the role of assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. Prior to joining NSU-COM, Dr. Alexis, who is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was in private practice in Plantation, Florida.

James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor of public health and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, was appointed to the Florida Department of Health's Physician Workforce Advisory Council by Ana Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., who serves as Florida's surgeon general. In addition to Dr. Howell, several other NSU-COM faculty members were appointed to the state's Physician Workforce Advisory Council. They are: **Joanna Drowos, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.**, clinical assistant professor of preventive medicine and adjunct assistant professor of public health; **Mark Gabay, D.O.**, assistant professor of pediatrics; **Paul Seltzer, D.O.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery; and **Nicole Sirchio, D.O., M.B.A.**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine.

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division, was appointed to serve on Florida Governor Rick Scott's Education Transition Team. Dr. Lippman was one of 18 people selected statewide to join the team, which will help the new governor find innovative ways to create a new education system for a new economy.

Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor of family medicine and associate dean of alumni affairs, was awarded the Ward Perrin, D.O. Distinguished Service Award from his alma mater—Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University—in recognition of his devotion and loyalty to the advancement of the college.

Robert Oller, D.O., professor of family medicine/public health and chief executive officer of NSU's Division of Clinical Operations, was appointed to CIGNA Health Plan's Physician Advisory Board in September.

Bruce Peters, D.O., FACOP, FAAP, professor of pediatrics and medical director of the NSU medical clinics, returned to Haiti in November to help treat victims of the cholera outbreak that has wreaked additional havoc on the downtrodden island nation. During his stay, Dr. Peters provided follow-up care to various orphanages and tent cities he visited in late June that do not have access to health care of any type.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP dist., NSU-COM dean, was appointed to serve a three-year term on the board of trustees at Westside Regional Medical Center located in Plantation, Florida. His term commenced on November 18, 2010, and will conclude in December 2013.

Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was reelected to a full term on the American College of Osteopathic Internists' Board of Directors.

NSU Overview: A Tradition

H. Wayne Huizenga Makes Major Gift to Business School's New Sales Institute



Pictured are Michael Fields, Ph.D., dean of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, businessman and philanthropist H. Wayne Huizenga, and George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief operating officer.

Thanks to a major financial gift provided by renowned businessman and philanthropist H. Wayne Huizenga to the new Sales Institute at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, the institute has been renamed the **Huizenga Sales Institute**. The announcement was made during the October 13 grand opening celebration to unveil the nation's foremost university-based sales training center.

The Huizenga Sales Institute is an 8,200-square-foot state-of-the-art teaching facility and corporate meeting venue comprising the entire north wing of the third floor of the Carl DeSantis Building on NSU's main campus. It is the centerpiece of the new NSU Sales Program—an innovative business curriculum developed in exclusive collaboration with Sandler Training® to deliver sales-centric degrees and certificates for collegians and working professionals. NSU created the Sales Program in answer to corporations' demands for highly qualified and well-prepared sales professionals to help drive their businesses.

Inaugural AcademicFest Promotes Information Sharing

More than 500 NSU faculty and staff members participated in the university's inaugural **AcademicFest** on October 29 at the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies. Hosted by the Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies (DAIS), attendees enjoyed a complimentary lunch and live music, chatted with colleagues, and had an opportunity to increase their NSU IQ.

The concept of the AcademicFest originated from the university's Communications Task Force, feedback from the Gallup surveys, and the Chancellor's Town Hall meetings. Results from each revealed that NSU's faculty and staff desired to learn more about centers within the university. DAIS, a newly formed division that includes the Center for Psychological Studies, Criminal Justice Institute, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Human Services Unit, and the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies, presented an outstanding array of poster presentations, research efforts, and community outreach programs from each center.



Seated is Meg Malmberg, Ph.D., associate provost, Division of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies. Standing (left to right) are: Honggang Yang, Ph.D., dean and professor of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Tommie V. Boyd, Ph.D. chair, Department of Family Therapy and associate professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Roni Leiderman, Ph.D., dean of the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies; Kimberly Durham, Psy.D., executive dean for Administration and Human Services; Tammy Kushner, Psy.D., executive associate dean, Criminal Justice Institute; Susanne Marshall, Ph.D., senior associate dean, Division of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies; and John E. Lewis, Ph.D., acting dean and professor of the Center for Psychological Studies.

of Growth and Achievement

NSU Launches South Florida's First Ph.D. Program in Pharmacy



The College of Pharmacy recently launched **South Florida's first Ph.D. program in pharmacy**, which aims to produce graduates that will help make new drug discoveries and develop different ways of delivering drugs to patients to improve the lives of millions and further scientific knowledge about pharmaceutical products and medications.

Lasting between four and five-and-a-half years, the program was launched with four students. Led by Hugh M. McLean, Pharm.D., Ph.D., the College of Pharmacy's associate dean for research and graduate education, the program focuses on graduate study and research in drug development, determinants of drug use, and drug discovery.

The drug development sequence emphasizes coursework, laboratory and literature skills, and research that will help prepare graduates for careers in making new drug dosage forms, which is the use of different ways to deliver drugs to a person. As an example, dosage forms include pills, capsules, syrups, aerosols, and patches.

The determinants of drug-use sequence focus on coursework and research skills to address how pharmaceuticals are used and distributed, as well as how pharmacy services can be improved. The drug discovery sequence emphasizes coursework, laboratory and literature skills, and research that are critical to explaining the actions and characteristics of drugs.

University Chancellor Receives Cervantes Educator Award

More than two dozen Miami-Dade County students and educators, including **NSU Chancellor Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.**, were recently honored at the 13th Annual Cervantes Awards for Outstanding Hispanic Education, hosted by NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services and its Hispanic Advisory Board.

The awards recognize those who have made a significant contribution in the education of Hispanic students in Miami-Dade County. The 2010 awards ceremony took place October 27 at the Hilton Miami Airport Hotel, where more than 450 educators and parents gathered to honor this year's award recipients, who included student writers, outstanding educators, up-and-coming scholars, and community leaders.

Ferrero, who was the evening's keynote speaker, received the prestigious Cervantes Outstanding Educator Award for his tireless commitment to students, as evidenced by NSU's outstanding achievement of ranking first in the nation for the number of doctorate degrees and first professional degrees awarded to Hispanics in fields such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, and law.

Because of its large Hispanic student enrollment, NSU has also been designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. As a result, the university has been awarded four separate Title V grants from the Department of Education, which are designed to increase both retention and graduation rates of Hispanic students.





NSU Overview (continued)

NSU Offers Three New Degree Programs Unique to South Florida

[Psy.D. in School Psychology \(Fall 2011\)](#)

Ranked as one of *U.S. News & World Report's* 50 Best Careers of 2010, degrees in school psychology prepare students to meet the psychological and educational needs of our children and youth. Beginning in the fall of 2011, the Center for Psychological Studies will launch a doctoral program in school psychology. The program will be designed for students with an undergraduate degree in psychology or a specialist degree in school psychology. NSU is the only university in South Florida offering a doctoral program in school psychology and the only university in the Southeast providing the **Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)** program in school psychology.

[M.S. in National Security Affairs \(January 2011\)](#)

National security affairs is one of the fastest growing professions, with positions open in the public sector, federal, state, and local government, and in the private sector. NSU's new 33-credit **M.S. in National Security Affairs**, offered through NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is designed to provide students with a core understanding of critical issues inherent in the field of national security today, including the assessment and analysis of the threat of terrorism in the United States and beyond and the analysis of intelligence collection. Specializations will include Cyberterrorism and Security, Criminal Justice, International Relations and Global Affairs, and Homeland Security.

[B.A. in Musical Theatre \(Fall 2011\)](#)

In the fall of 2011, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences will offer a **B.A. in Musical Theatre** degree program. With the addition of this new major, NSU becomes the first university in Broward County to offer this degree program, which is designed to develop students' fundamental knowledge of musical theatre. The program is multidisciplinary with focused coursework in theatre, dance, and music. Students learn performance skills in

class and through participating in multiple productions on campus and throughout South Florida. Musical theatre professionals will serve as guest artists and provide valuable feedback for aspiring performers in a creative, dynamic environment. Students will also have the opportunity to intern and assist with The Prometheus Theatre—NSU's Carbonell Award-winning professional theatre company in residence.-

NSU Researcher Makes Breakthrough Discovery to Curb Heart Failure



Anastasios Lympelopoulos, Ph.D., assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy, has discovered a novel method using gene therapy to block the actions of a gene-encoded protein that can contribute to heart failure. His discovery will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

The protein, known as beta-arrestin 1, causes an increase of aldosterone production from the body's adrenal glands into the blood. Aldosterone, which is a hormone, increases the reabsorption of sodium and water into the kidneys, causing high blood volume and blood pressure. It also has several direct damaging effects on the heart, such as fibrosis, hypertrophy, and inflammation. An increase in blood volume causes high blood pressure. This in turn decreases the pumping action of the heart and is one of the causes of heart failure.

By finding a way to block beta-arrestin 1 through this gene-therapy approach, Dr. Lympelopoulos hopes it will lead to the reduction of the severity of heart failure. He is now testing new and existing heart failure medications such as Cozaar, Diovan, and Atacand to see how effective they are at blocking this damaging effect of beta-arrestin on the heart.



DUKE Southern REGIONAL AHEC Program

The Duke/Southern Regional AHEC program, which began its affiliation with NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education in July 2002, is an unopposed community-based family medicine residency affiliated with Duke University Medical Center and Nova Southeastern University. The program, established in 1976, is fully accredited by both the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the American Osteopathic Association and is based at the Southern Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The family medicine residency program, which is based at the Family Medicine Center, is a modern outpatient clinic that offers residents extensive resources and personal support while operating on a team approach. The multifaceted faculty holds appointments through Duke, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Campbell University.

In addition, the diverse patient population combined with onsite radiology, pharmacology, and laboratory services as well as practice management and behavioral

sciences provide residents with a complete multidisciplinary approach to the ambulatory setting. In addition to residents, typically four or five NSU-COM students rotate through the program annually to do their family medicine clinical rotations.

The residency program also is affiliated with the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, which is an 800-plus-bed hospital directly across from the Family Medicine Center. The Duke/Southern Regional AHEC Family Medicine Residency Program is the only program at the hospital; therefore, there is ample opportunity to gain experience dealing with a variety of situations and procedures from internal medicine and pediatrics to obstetrics and gynecology. From providing inpatient care at the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center to caring for outpatients in the Family Medicine Center, residents learn to master a variety of situations.

The Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, which serves all Southern Regional AHEC inpatients, provides services that include neonatal pediatrics, cardiac, medical and surgical intensive care, obstetrical and gynecological care, emergency department services, and radiation therapy. Both a cancer treatment center and rehabilitation center also are located onsite.

While participating in the program, most of the residents' educational experiences take place at the Family Medicine Center and Cape Fear Valley Medical Center; however, they may participate in rotations at Womack Army Medical Center, Southeastern Regional Medical Center, and Scotland Memorial Hospital as well as at numerous private practices both locally and rurally.

Since 2005, COM Outlook has featured informative spotlights on the various organizations that comprise the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME). The accomplishments and contributions of this interactive network are indeed merit worthy because each participating institution provides exceptional postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.





Clinical FACULTY

Honoring the Unsung Heroes of Medical Education

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*

Today's occupational environment is fraught with a slew of stress-inducing challenges, many of which have been caused by the three-year-old global economic slump that has driven up unemployment rates, forced companies out of business, and required many individuals to work harder than ever before with less resources at their disposal.

No industry has been immune from the economic downturn's negative ramifications, including major universities such as Nova Southeastern University. Fortunately, lost amid the morass of economic woes is a significant bright spot for NSU-COM, which comes in the form of its large cadre of clinical faculty members that provide vital education and training to the college's students throughout their four-year medical school process.

Whether it's through their first- and second-year Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC) Program activities, on-campus didactic lectures, or in their third- and fourth-year core and elective rotations, NSU-COM students are able to learn from and tap into the well of knowledge provided by nearly 1,000 physician mentors who volunteer their time to give back to the profession and support the college.

According to Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., assistant professor of family medicine/public health and administrative director of the IGC Program, there are about 190 physician mentors in the tri-county area (Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties) that teach anywhere from one to eight students in the IGC's various components. These include the IGC Physician Mentor Program, the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Community Service (COM²Serve) Program, and the IGC Business of Medicine Program.

Because these physician mentors are essentially donating their time to help educate NSU-COM students, Steinkohl makes sure her physicians in training are both appreciative and polite in their student/mentor interactions. "The students are there to learn, but it's also important for them to develop a good relationship with these physicians since they are going to be taken under their wings and personally mentored in their practices," she explained. "When it's a good fit, the physicians and their staff become like family to the students."

The concept of giving back to the profession is a fundamental one for osteopathic medicine, says Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S. Ed, FAAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and associate dean of clinical and graduate medical education. "The biggest difference between an M.D. and D.O. school is volunteer faculty," he stated. "Osteopathic medicine was founded on the concept of volunteers giving back to the profession to train future D.O.s. Most medical schools still train their students at an academic medical center that is affiliated with the medical school. For example, the University of Miami still predominantly trains its students at Jackson Memorial Hospital, whose physicians are considered the college's faculty and are compensated for working with the students.

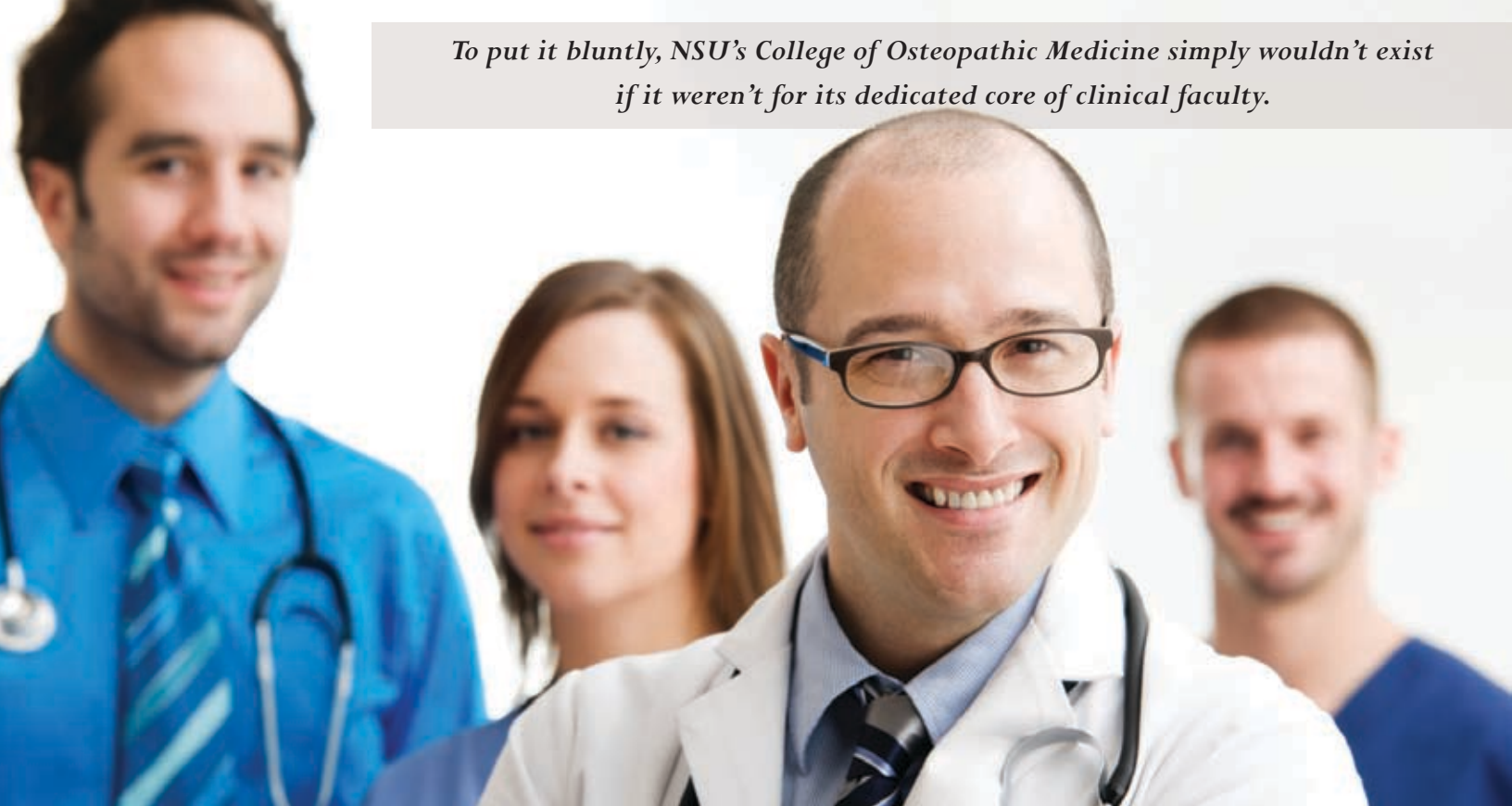
"Osteopathic medical schools are founded and exist based upon the volunteer efforts of those who have gone before," he added. "That's an important concept and one that should be highlighted from a positive perspective in the sense that we're able to still identify large numbers of physicians that are willing to do this for gratis. Debbi and I sometimes feel as if we are the best used car salespeople in the world because our job is to sell our program with not much other than a handshake and a smile to offer. And that's becoming more and more difficult every day for us to deliver."

Dr. De Gaetano, who oversees the Office of Clinical Education and Graduate Medical Education, has a similar yet in some ways paradoxically different task since he is in charge of directing the students' third- and fourth-year core clinical rotations that occur at 15 clinical campuses stretching geographically from Miami-Dade County and the southeastern United States to Long Island, New York. "The nine medical schools in Florida, as well as out-of-state schools, are making it more competitive than ever to recruit clinical faculty to train our students in the third- and fourth-year clinical rotations we run," he said. "The faculty members that train our students are on staff at each of these core facilities, and then there is a director of medical education that coordinates the students' activities."

Fortunately, the reciprocal relationships that develop between the students and their physician mentors go a long way toward explaining the success of this vital educational process, which is exemplified by the following stories relayed by Steinkohl. "There was a doctor that called me the other day and said, 'Are you going to tell me about the students I'll be working with early this year so when I do my orientation, I'll know who are the vegans and who might keep kosher so I can treat them to lunch?' When Thanksgiving comes around, we have what I call Thanksgiving orphans, which are students who stay local and don't go home for the holidays," she explained. "Consequently, many of our clinical faculty members will invite them to their homes for dinner. One of our volunteer preceptors takes students to baseball games, while another took a student out on his family boat on weekends to help tutor him for his board exams."

The students, who repay their clinical faculty preceptors with their own acts of kindness such as crafting personal and thoughtful gifts, truly appreciate what these physician mentors provide them. As a result, the clinical faculty members are often willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. "Some of them even try to line up patients that parallel the systems courses the students are studying at that time," Steinkohl added. "When you consider the cost of running a medical practice, the physician's major goal is to get the patient in and out to increase volume and enhance revenue. Working with first- and second-year students increases the time spent with each patient. So when you get a physician who calls and says he's having withdrawals and misses his IGC students, that speaks to the quality of our student doctors here at NSU. In fact, many of our clinical

To put it bluntly, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine simply wouldn't exist if it weren't for its dedicated core of clinical faculty.



faculty members tell me that working with our students actually keeps them on their toes and revitalizes them from a professional standpoint.”

This mutually beneficial educational experience helps explain why some NSU-COM graduates actually decide to go back and work with their original IGC physician preceptors after they complete their NSU education and begin their residency training.

Dr. De Gaetano, who helps train NSU-COM students in the Family Medicine Clinic at NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center, concurs with Steinkohl's assessment. "Speaking as a doctor, I can tell you it does keep you energized. The most enjoyable thing I do personally is go see patients with our students because it's the thing we were really trained to do," he explained. "It's exciting to watch them grow. That's why most of these docs want to work with our students. The volunteer faculty makes all the difference in the world. They are the reason our students go on to do great things. Medicine is an art, so no matter how much you read a textbook, you're never going to be a competent doctor until you see the art role-modeled.

"They are truly the ones who are honing our students' clinical skills, which are what are going to be demonstrated when they go on their interview electives and demonstrate the skills they've learned as third-year students, which will then encourage a residency program director to bring them on as residents," he continued. "So, while we like to pride ourselves on the merits of our first- and second-year curriculum, the truth is this: When our third-year students begin the third year of medical school education, they are no closer to being a competent clinician than the day they arrived at medical school, for the most part. They need to see the art role-modeled every day

to then become competent first-year residents."

Elaine Lefkowitz, who has assisted Dr. De Gaetano in the coordination of third- and fourth-year clinical rotations in her role as director of clinical education for many years, says the success the college has had in both recruiting and retaining clinical faculty members can be traced to several factors. "Many of our clinical faculty members remember what it was like to be a student and how important it was to have a mentor," she stated. "It also keeps them abreast of what's happening and keeps them sharp because there's no one who's going to ask more questions than a student, so it teaches them to continue to educate themselves along with the students."

Another noteworthy reason is the alumni factor, which is significant when you consider that about 30 percent of the college's clinical faculty comprises NSU-COM alumni. "The reason our graduates are so willing to participate is because they have good feelings for their alma mater," Lefkowitz explained. "The majority of our alumni remember how they got where they are today, which explains why they want to give back to future generations of physicians."

To put it bluntly, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine simply wouldn't exist if it weren't for its dedicated core of clinical faculty. "We would not have a program without these docs because they are our third- and fourth-year faculty," Lefkowitz explained. "We send our students to three of the NSU medical clinics to rotate part of the time; however, we only have two students a month rotating in our Internal Medicine Clinic. The same is true for our Family Medicine Clinic. But we have 240 students to educate, so where would they be if it weren't for the efforts of our clinical faculty members? Thanks to them, we are turning out some very fine physicians."



KEEPING Your BALANCE!

Pictured (back row from right) are: Charlene Antonacci, first-year Master's in Occupational Therapy student; Karli Rohde, first-year Master's in Occupational Therapy student; Michelle Gagnon Blodgett, Psy.D., coordinator of geriatric clinical services for the Health Professions Division and clinical assistant professor in the NSU-COM Department of Geriatrics; Debra Stern, P.T., M.S.M., D.B.A., associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy; Marlene Aramburu, D.O., NSU-COM geriatric fellow; Edye Groseclose, Ph.D., Professor of biochemistry in the College of Medical Sciences; Nicole Patterson, O.D., assistant professor and chief of geriatrics and low vision in the College of Optometry; Darren Kurtzer, third-year year Doctor of Audiology student; Patricia Gaffney, Au.D., assistant professor in the Department of Audiology; Nasreen Naitah, third-year Doctor of Audiology student; and Ashely Simmons, M.S., Doctor of Psychology student. Front row (standing from right) are Kenya Rivas, M.D., NSU-COM assistant professor of geriatrics; Pam Oliver, O.D., associate professor in the College of Optometry; Rachelle Dorne, Ed.D., OTR/L, associate professor of occupational therapy and Master of Occupational Therapy Program director; Sabra Rosen, Doctor of Psychology student; and Tatiana Rodriguez, Broward College student and future physical therapist. Seated (from right) are: Madison Reda, Doctor of Physical Therapy student; Jennifer Miano, Doctor of Physical Therapy student; Samuel Colton; and Sandra Colton.

NSU Fall Prevention Clinic Aims to Keep People on Their Feet

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*

One of the hallmarks of the education students receive at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and throughout the other NSU Health Professions Division programs is the much-lauded interdisciplinary aspect that offers them opportunities to interact and work side-by-side with their student peers from other health professions' disciplines. Fortunately, that same interdisciplinary approach applies to patients who visit the university's Interdisciplinary Fall Prevention Clinic, which is located in the NSU Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center.

The clinic, which began as a pilot program in 2004, has proven to be a valuable community service resource that allows adults of all ages to receive a one-time compre-

hensive—and complimentary—health assessment from an accomplished team of NSU experts representing various health care disciplines such as audiology, geriatric medicine, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and psychology. In addition to being a free service to South Florida residents, the Fall Prevention Clinic serves as a vital educational tool for a diverse array of NSU students, who get to witness the patient/team-approach assessment process firsthand.

In its current incarnation, the clinic sees about six patients per month, with each patient receiving well over two hours of assessment time during an individual session. Because the clinic is only open several afternoons a month,



a copious amount of prescreening is done to provide patients with maximum benefit.

"The Fall Prevention Clinic is open to anybody, including people who haven't had a fall yet but are perhaps showing some warning signs they might, as well as those who have fallen once and only had minor falls, or people who had a major fall and are still having residual balance issues and falls," said Michelle Gagnon Blodgett, Psy.D., coordinator of geriatric clinical services for the Health Professions Division and clinical assistant professor in the NSU-COM Department of Geriatrics. "We screen potential patients on the phone ahead of time and collect some preliminary health information, such as medications being taken, which allows us to be fairly well-prepared during the actual in-person meeting."

Unique Approach Benefits Patients

Because the NSU assessment team is an interdisciplinary unit trained to provide patients with an inclusive overview of their overall health status, participants are afforded a unique opportunity seldom seen in today's normal health care practice setting where less and less patient time is actually spent with a physician. "Our goal is to evaluate overall function and prevent falls, so we assess mental

health, cognitive, occupational, physical, and leisure function," Dr. Gagnon Blodgett explained. "We also analyze the patient's overall health history and address any sensory or vestibular dysfunctions. It's a very fluid and dynamic process, with the patient being very much part of the whole team process.

"When patients come in, we use various objective screening tools while also utilizing our clinical skills," she added. "For example, if during an assessment certain issues are starting to emerge, then different disciplines will take a more dominant role in the process depending on what's going on. If we've got somebody who is very medically complex, the geriatric medicine physicians will usually spend more time with that person. Similarly, if the patient is showcasing vestibular or inner-ear symptoms, the audiology experts will likely spend a little bit more time with the patient."

To obtain an overview of the patient's overall health, each member of the assessment team meets individually with the patient to perform various physical, cognitive, mental health, muscle strength, sensory, and auditory examinations. Once completed, the assessment team and patient reconvene in a private conference where both verbal and written feedback and

recommendations are provided. "We'll discuss what we found during our individual assessments, offer recommendations, and provide the patient with two copies of a comprehensive multi-page report, which we urge the patient to share with his or her primary care physician," said Dr. Gagnon Blodgett. "Normally we don't provide any sort of treatment, but I've occasionally seen the audiology experts do a little bit of head and neck maneuvering when people have what is called benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, which is caused when the crystals in the inner ear are misplaced and irritate the fluid. By performing some simple head-positioning techniques, it can help alleviate a patient's dizziness—and prevent damaging falls."

Although the clinic's primary purpose is to help prevent falls, it occasionally takes on a much more imperative role in the form of saving a person's life. In May 2010, during a routine onsite assessment, a patient's blood-pressure reading was clocked at a precipitously high 250 over 150, causing immediate alarm. "We immediately referred her to the emergency room, and since her daughter's boyfriend had accompanied her to the appointment, he took her straight there," Dr. Gagnon Blodgett explained.

When the patient returned to the Fall Prevention Clinic in October to continue her delayed assessment with the NSU health care team, much was revealed. "As we soon discovered, she wasn't taking her medicine regularly," she added. "It turned out her husband had passed away at the beginning of the year and was depressed as a result. She was not eating well, was not taking good care of herself, and had lost about 30 pounds. She was really becoming a very frail elder. Her daughter, who is a caregiver and a nurse, didn't realize that although she was laying out the medicine for her mom, she simply wasn't taking it. It turned out there were some cognitive issues going on as well, which helped explain why the patient thought her blood pressure was okay and why she didn't think she needed the medicine."

Thanks to the interdisciplinary scope of the assessment process, the patient is provided with a concise compendium of information a care provider could use to enhance that person's overall health. "That's why we might put things in the report like 'Person could benefit from some physical therapy to build up calf and hip-flexor strength' or 'Patient could benefit from a walking exercise using a cane and increased water intake.'"

With only six patient slots available on an average month, recruiting participants is not a major issue. Nevertheless, in an attempt to publicize the Fall Prevention Clinic to appropriate publics, NSU markets the clinic internally and teams with social service agencies such as the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County and Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services to get the word out. "We've also become part of the South Florida Fall Prevention Coalition, which is an initiative that's aimed at increasing fall prevention awareness and strategies, because one in three seniors fall every year," Dr. Gagnon Blodgett stated.

Benefits of Fall Prevention

NSU's commitment to community service helps explain why the Fall Prevention Clinic has remained a free health care perk since its inception in 2004. However, in addition to providing a needed community service, the clinic provides ancillary benefits by enhancing a patient's well-being and cutting health care costs. From a patient perspective, a bad fall can oftentimes precipitate an unwanted cascade of other health-related problems, which is why preventing damaging falls is so pivotal. From a cost-cutting standpoint, the upside is equally as advantageous.

"In Broward County alone, the dollar cost to insurance companies due to falls runs into the millions every year," Dr. Gagnon Blodgett explained. "Several years ago, Dr. Naushira Pandya, who heads the College of Osteopathic Medicine's geriatrics department, and I participated in a South Florida fall



prevention summit on WPBT2 public television. One of the other participants was a representative from a local hospital, who revealed that fall-related injuries treated at his hospital alone had cost the facility several millions of dollars in the prior fiscal year alone, so imagine the cost countywide. If you think about the financial costs related to falls, not to mention the psychological, emotional, and physical consequences, it's easy to see why preventing falls is such an important issue. As you can imagine, many seniors report fear of falling being their number one fear, not so much the fear of the fall itself but the consequences of the fall, such as losing function and quality of life."

The success of NSU's Fall Prevention Clinic can be attributed to several factors, especially the willingness of the health care assessment team members to tackle this community service endeavor without compromising their myriad other academic and clinical responsibilities. Dr. Gagnon Blodgett also is quick to commend the various sectors of NSU leadership for their steadfast support. "From Dr. Robert Oller, to the HPD deans, to Dr. Fred Lippman, we have received nothing but a total buy-in to this clinic pro-

gram because they see it as a beneficial community service as well as a great opportunity for the students not just to learn about how their own discipline functions, but to learn how different disciplines function and how to be part of a cohesive health care team."

When talk turned toward the future, Dr. Gagnon Blodgett said she envisions a day when the clinic can expand its services, which will of course require some form of external funding. "Ideally, it would be great if the clinic could become financially sustainable to the point where we could actually have a full-time clinic that isn't open just one afternoon a week," she said. "We have discussed several ideas, including the possibility of applying for a grant as well as how we can deal with the billing issue. We don't want to disrupt the model we have because it's working so well. That's why we're thinking of investigating an idea where insurance companies could purchase this kind of service from us to help prevent falls, which would in turn save them from incurring high costs related to fall-related hospital billings and rehab stays."

When Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A., became chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine in May 2009, he approached the challenge with a specific agenda in mind that focused on addressing three particular academic pillars: education, clinical activity, and research.

INTUITIVE,
REASONING, REFLECTIVE,
FACULTIES.

THREE-PILLAR APPROACH: Psychiatry Department Broadens its Scope

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*

When Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A., became chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine in May 2009, he approached the challenge with a specific agenda in mind that focused on addressing three particular academic pillars: education, clinical activity, and research.

Prior to joining the NSU-COM faculty, Dr. Ownby served as a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where he directed the Memory Disorders Program in the Center on Aging. In addition to being board certified in adult psychiatry and in the subspecialty of psychosomatic medicine, he has the distinction of possessing board certification as a clinical neuropsychologist.

Clinical Pillar

Because of his esteemed and extensive background, Dr. Ownby was ready to hit the ground running once he joined the NSU team. On the clinical front, he quickly established a general psychiatry clinic located on the first floor of NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center that is open one afternoon a week and geared toward people who are at least 18 years old. "I usually see about six or seven patients a week," said Dr. Ownby, who was listed in *South Florida Super Doctors* and *America's Best Doctors* in recent years. "The referrals I receive are usually internal, meaning they are being referred to me through other NSU clinics.

"I've always had a special interest in geriatric psychiatry," he added. "So I collaborated with NSU-COM faculty members as well as with several from the NSU Center for Psychological Studies to establish a memory disorders clinic, which is currently accepting patients. However, these sessions are significantly longer than a general psychiatry appointment because of the time involved to conduct an effective memory disorder evaluation, which takes at least two or three hours. Often these persons are those who may have Alzheimer's disease, but may also include other neurological or psychiatric disorders. An important service of this clinic is to help clarify whether persons or clinicians concerned about someone's memory are, in fact, suffering from a treatable disorder."

On a similar note, Dr. Ownby has been committed to establishing research programs in brain fitness for elders over the years, which explains why he formed a vital relationship with NSU's Lifelong Learning Institute to provide brain fitness and brain health classes to its geriatric members. "There's an enormous interest in people maintaining their cognitive fitness as they get older, which is why I developed the Miami Brain Fitness Program when I worked at the University of Miami," explained Dr. Ownby, who has already taught several such classes at the institute.

Based on information gleaned from the Miami Brain Fitness Program Web site, the program provides a detailed and practical approach to keeping the brain fit after age 50 and offers an evidence-based approach to maintaining mental abilities as people age. Cutting through the hype about



expensive dietary supplements and computer software programs, Dr. Ownby lays out a concrete plan to get the brain back in shape. The program includes sensible exercise and dietary advice, provides information to help people make choices about dietary supplements, and puts the usefulness of computer-based training programs in perspective.

Education Pillar

Providing its students with top-notch training has always been a hallmark of the college's curricular composition, whether it's through the implementation of new technologies or the incorporation of problem-based learning opportunities.

"Since I've been here, I think we've made major strides in strengthening the educational focus in psychiatry and behavioral medicine—and there is a slight difference between the two," said Dr. Ownby, who also is working to expand collaborations across different specialties within the university. "Psychiatry is thought of as a profession where prescriptions are written and people lie on a couch. Behavioral medicine is much broader and includes health promo-



tion. I see our mission broadly, which involves fostering an understanding of the rural behavior in health care, which I think is extraordinarily important in reducing health care costs. As a result, we added a new first-year course in the curriculum called Behavioral Medicine that incorporates content previously taught in the second-year Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine course while adding new elements."

As described in the latest edition of the *Health Professions Division Catalog*, "Behavioral Medicine is designed to introduce medical students to the behavioral sciences, particularly those aspects that influence, shape, and/or operate in medical practice. The course covers fundamental concepts and research findings in the biological, intrapsychic, interpersonal, and sociocultural aspects of human behavior that permeate all areas of medical practice."

Similarly, the now-defunct second-year Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine course has morphed into a new curricular component called NeuroPsychiatry that is completely team-taught and includes over 70 content areas such as

- *Communicating Bad News*
- *Disorders of Cognitive Impairment*
- *Foundations of Psychiatry*
- *Geriatric Psychology*
- *Mood Disorders*
- *Neurology of Sleep Disorders*
- *Psychiatric Emergencies*
- *Psychopharmacological Treatment of Anxiety/Phobias*
- *Psychotherapy*
- *Substance Abuse*

Both courses are coordinated and overseen by Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., who serves as associate professor of psychiatry and biomedical informatics.

According to Dr. Ownby, who worked closely with NSU-COM clinical faculty members in Orlando and Miami to establish new psychiatric residency programs, another significant educational enhancement has been the introduction of an eight-hour didactic psychiatry module in the third year. "A didactic course in psychiatry during the third year had never been offered before, so I authored a module that is accessible through WebCT and is a requirement of the psychiatry clerkship," he said. "It comprises a mini-lecture, reading assignments, a review of their second-year psychiatry course, and a quiz. The feedback we've received has been quite positive, so we're obviously doing a good job in terms of filling in the gaps."

Research Pillar

In terms of psychiatric and behavioral medicine research, Dr. Ownby definitely upped the ante in this regard, procuring two significant grants in 2010 that require about 50 percent of his time to administer, both of which are beginning to produce tangible statistical outcomes. The first, a two-year, \$362,577 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, is being used to fund his research project entitled "An Automated, Tailored Information Application for Medication Health Literacy."

The project's goal is to create a computer-based and automated application that will provide individually-tailored health literacy education to persons with HIV infection. This application is being tested on 100 people currently on antiretroviral treatment, who were recruited from a local clinic and are participating in three sessions at four-week intervals during the study. The project's effectiveness will be assessed by examining participants' medication and disease-related knowledge and awareness of problem-solving skills before and after the training intervention. Self-report and electronically monitored adherence in the four weeks before and after the intervention also will be assessed. The anticipated outcome will be an automated tailored information application to improve health literacy in those coping with HIV infection.

The second is a four-year, \$1.35 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute entitled "Development and Validation of a Computer-Administered Health Literacy Measure" that is being used to create innovative methods to evaluate patients' health literacy.

Research has shown that as many as half of all patients may not have the basic skills to understand their health care. Low health literacy has been linked to poor health and is especially problematic among Hispanics, African Americans, and the elderly. The project's goal is to develop better assessment methods, which is the first step to creating new ways to help patients understand their health care and become more active participants in their care.

The health literacy measure will be administered to par-

ticipants on touch-screen computers, allowing physicians to better understand how to communicate with their patients, and will include questions about reading and video simulations of patients interacting with physicians. To ensure maximum efficiency regarding usefulness to most patients, the study is being conducted in both English and Spanish.

In the future, this process can be used in physicians' offices to determine the best ways to provide patients with pertinent information about their medical care. Other studies have shown that information tailored to the needs of individual patients is more helpful to them, which is why this new measure will be an important first step in developing computer-based applications that can improve a physician's ability to care for patients.

Future Goals

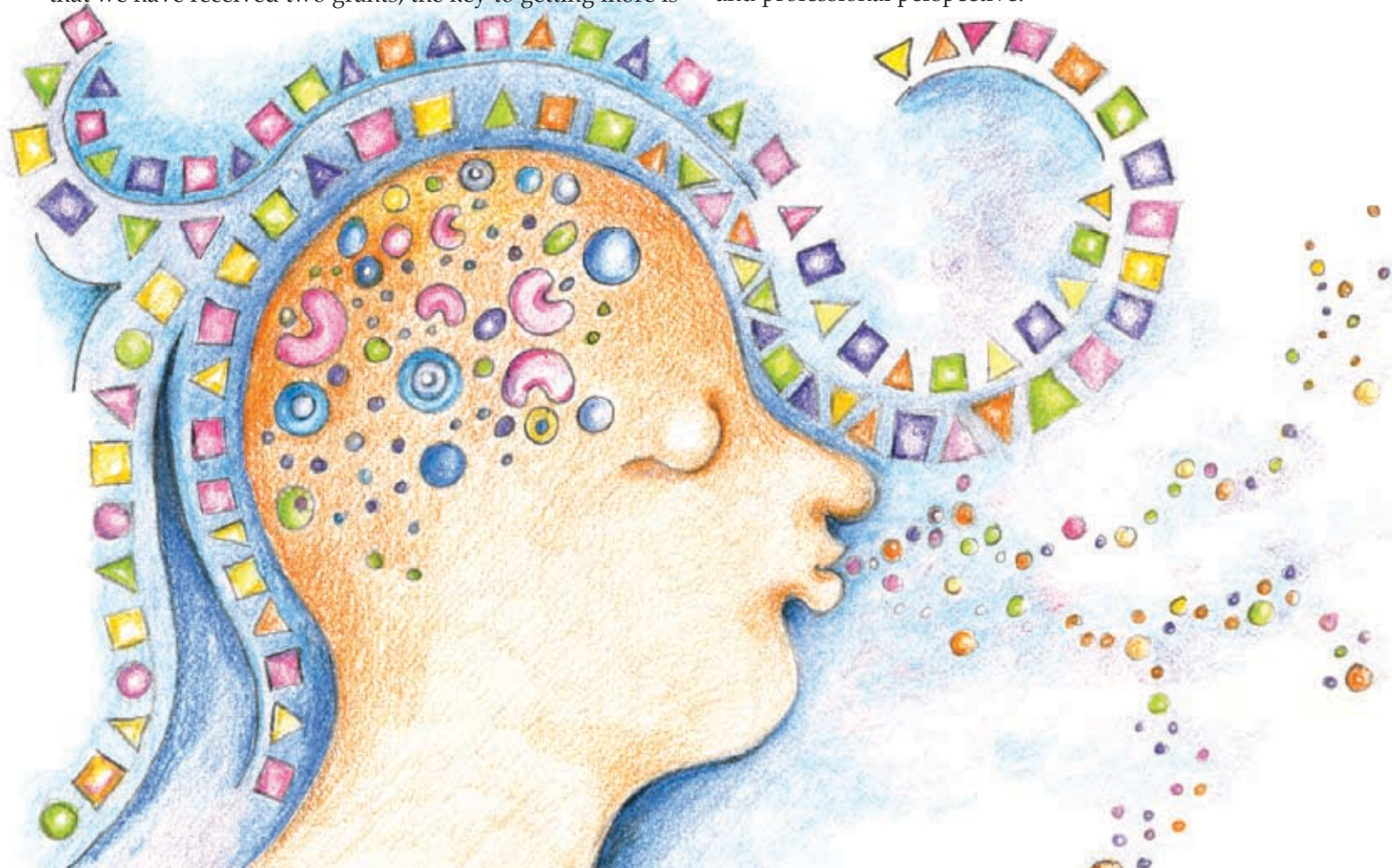
Although the college has made huge strides in terms of enhancing aspects of its educational, clinical, and research-related psychiatric and behavioral medicine components, Dr. Ownby sees additional room for augmentation. "From an educational standpoint, I see enormous opportunities for us to continue to expand vertically from the first-year class all the way to creating a specialty fellowship in psychiatry," he explained. "I also anticipate continued expansion of our research program; in fact, I'm currently working with Dr. Robin Jacobs on submitting another grant application. Now that we have received two grants, the key to getting more is

producing results, which we are beginning to accomplish."

On a recent episode of the *Today Show* concerning the five best-paid jobs in the country, a certain medical specialty—psychiatry—made the list at number five. Combine that information with a research study published in the fall of 2009 that stated there's a shortage of 45,000 psychiatrists in the country, and you get a compelling argument for producing more medical school graduates who specialize in the field.

"Part of my role as an educator and clinician is to help grow the profession," Dr. Ownby stated. "That's why we've worked so hard to make the courses more relevant to the students and promote the profession as an attractive option to them. I certainly wouldn't try to sell a student on psychiatry if no interest was indicated. However, if a student was on the fence about it, I would recommend that he or she gets maximum exposure to the kinds of experiences a psychiatrist deals with daily. As a psychiatrist, sometimes you're going to deal with some patients that are very hostile and nasty. By and large, though, most patients are very rewarding to work with. You've also got to have a strong grounding in psychopharmacology, which is a big chunk of our practice these days."

While it may not be a suitable career choice for many physicians in training, those who find they have an affinity for psychiatry will be duly rewarded from both a personal and professional perspective.



NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

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Pre 1995 - Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)
1996 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
1997 - Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)
1998 - Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)
1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)
2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)
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Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.
Director, Student and Alumni Services

Living Tribute Honorees

2002 – Mary Smith
2003 – Arthur Snyder, D.O.
2004 – Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
2005 – Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.
2006 – Howard Hada, Ph.D.
2008 – Cyril Blavo, D.O.
2009 – A. Alvin Greber, D.O.
2010 – Harold Laubach, Ph.D.

Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 – Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)
2000 – James Turner, D.O. ('88)
2001 – Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
2003 – Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)
2004 – Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
2005 – Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
2006 – Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
2007 – Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)
2008 – Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)
2009 – Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)
2010 – John Geake, D.O. ('93)

Camaraderie in Full Bloom at NSU-COM/AOA Alumni Reunion



Each year, the NSU-COM Office of Alumni Affairs coordinates an entertaining alumni reunion during the **American Osteopathic Association's Medical Conference and Exposition**, which was held October 23-27 in San Francisco, California.

In recent years, the event has been held in creative locations like the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, the Mirage Hotel and Casino Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat in Las Vegas, and the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum in San Diego. Consequently, the pressure was on Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of student and alumni services, to find an equally enthralling location for the 2010 event.

Fortunately, Cawley was once again up to the challenge as she masterminded an evening of fragrant fun at the Conservatory of

Flowers in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. "It was an absolutely beautiful evening," said Cawley of the event that allowed attendees to view displays of plants and flowers from all over the world. "Each room had a different theme, from tropical foliage to a special exhibit of carnivorous plants. We also coordinated a delicious buffet dinner that included all fresh vegetables, foods, and wines particular to California."

The event's success also was measurable by the enhanced attendance figures. "We continue to increase the number of alumni we see at the AOA conventions," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs. "We had 145 in attendance and had contact with alumni we would not typically see just because of distance alone."

In addition to alumni, a number of students, as well as dignitaries from the AOA and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, attended the reception. "Our students made some great contact with alumni from the West Coast this year," Cawley stated. "I saw many business cards being exchanged during the evening, which was a great sight to see."



CATCHING UP WITH...

Dr. Raymon Priewe (1986 alumnus)



Fast Facts: CAPT (ret) Raymon D. Priewe, D.O., MC(FS), USNR, who graduated from SECOM (the precursor to NSU-COM) in 1986, is married to Sima Priewe from Istanbul, Turkey, who he met before attending medical school.

Why did you decide to become a physician? Initially, I thought about going to law school, but fate intervened while I was in undergraduate school when I had a surfing accident and fractured my cervical spine (C-2). While I was in the hospital, I thought “Why did this happen to me?” The answer that came to me was I should not go to law school but instead attend medical school. It all seemed to be a perfect fit because I could help more people in medicine than law, plus my major interest since childhood was always science. Eventually, I recovered from my injuries and enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman to help pay off my staggering hospital bills. I told my career counseling master chief that I intended to go to medical school, but he laughed at me and assigned me menial tasks. Everyone thought I was crazy as I was willing to take permanent night duty so I could continue my undergraduate degree pursuits during the day.

How did you come to learn about osteopathic medicine, and why did you decide to attend SECOM? Upon departing from my enlistment, I moved to Florida. While I was completing my undergraduate degree at the University of South Florida in Tampa,

I first heard about osteopathic medicine from some of the premed students. It seemed to make sense to me because a holistic approach focused on treating the cause of disease rather than the symptoms. I was accepted at other osteopathic schools but chose to go to SECOM because I saw the staff was exceptional. Dr. Mort Terry was a visionary dreamer, which inspired me. I was a bit nervous because the school was new, but I was able to compare with friends who were going to the allopathic school in Miami, and I saw the education at SECOM was as good, if not better.

What was the most memorable aspect of your osteopathic education at SECOM? Being selected for a U.S. Navy scholarship was exciting. I knew there would be payback time, but I looked at that more as an opportunity. I would use the time to become a flight surgeon, which became a larger pursuit than I ever dreamed it would. I became a staff member at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute in Pensacola, Florida, and later was given an assignment in Key West that gave me the chance to fly many fighter jet aircraft in the navy's post-Top Gun aggressor squadron. I eventually retired after 27 years combined active and reserve time as a captain, just shy of admiral.

What you are doing professionally? I completed a residency in anesthesiology in 1993 and worked as an anesthesiologist. I was very interested and competent in regional anesthesia, or doing anesthesia with nerve blocks, but I began receiving special requests outside the operating room to treat people in pain. Eventually, I would do a fellowship in interventional pain medicine. I have done little to no operating room anesthesia since 2002 and have restricted my practice to pain medicine, which though difficult has great rewards, whether it's giving comfort to somebody dying of cancer or relieving pain in an individual to restore function to return to work and a better life.

What has been the most fulfilling aspect of being a physician? Bringing comfort and aid to people and saving lives despite difficult environments, such as a military exercise above the Arctic Circle or in some third-world country.



What is your proudest professional achievement? My promotion to captain in the U.S. Navy and serving as a flight surgeon and anesthesiologist on the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, which was the last non-nuclear aircraft carrier to be built.

Why did you decide to generously buy a bench in support of the college? My wife and I love to people watch, and we thought about how great it would be for students to be able to stop, take a break, and “smell the roses.” I also have practiced that whatever someone asks for, give twice as much than asked.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

David Bingham, D.O. ('04) has joined the Quincy Medical Group Orthopedic Surgery Department located in Quincy, Illinois. He did his orthopedic surgery residency training at the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey-School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a fellowship in total joint replacement at the University of Pennsylvania in 2010.

Michael Colonna, D.O. ('08) is serving as a lieutenant and flight surgeon in Guam at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam in the fields of family and operational medicine and participates in flight missions with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 at Andersen Air Force Base.

Melinda D. Conroy, D.O. ('04), who completed her internal medicine residency training at Aria Health-Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania, has joined the medical staff of Westlake Dermatology in Central Texas at its Marble Falls location.

Jesse P. DeLuca, D.O. ('06), who is a captain in the U.S. Army, recently completed his residency training in the Dewitt Family Medicine Residency in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and is now working as a member of the Dewitt teaching staff.

Jacqueline M. Kraveka, D.O. ('94), assistant professor of pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina/Hollings Cancer Center in Charleston, recently received a \$100,000 Hope Grant from Hyundai to help fund her research efforts in pediatric neuroblastoma.

Toni Muzzonigro, D.O. ('07), who has a family practice at Millennium Medical Group West in Michigan, has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital. Dr. Muzzonigro, who did her family practice residency training at Botsford Hospital, is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Michigan Osteopathic Association, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Jessica Pate, D.O. ('09), who was an All-American basketball player while she was an NSU undergraduate student, was inducted into the NSU Athletics Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in October at NSU's Don Taft University Center.

Diane Pugh, D.O. ('90) recently joined the family medicine practice of Richard J. Pena-Arietis, M.D., located in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Ronald Renaurt, D.O. ('90), the first D.O. to ever be elected to the Florida Legislature in 2008, was successful in his bid to retain his republican seat in the Florida House of Representatives in District 18 (Jacksonville area) during the November 2010 midterm elections.

Matthew L. Sarb, D.O. ('07), who is doing his orthopedic surgery residency training at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, earned first-place honors in the Scientific Poster Award category at the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics Annual Meeting, which was held in conjunction with the American Osteopathic Association's 115th Medical Conference and Exposition last October in San Francisco, California. Dr. Sarb's winning poster was entitled "A New Algorithmic Approach for Treatment of Hemodynamically Unstable Pelvic Fx."

Mari Viola-Saltzman, D.O. ('04), who completed her residency training in neurology at Loyola University Medical Center and her fellowship in sleep medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine, is an assistant professor of neurology at Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine.

Troy Sterk, D.O., M.PH. ('03), who is board certified by the American Board of Osteopathic Family Physicians, recently joined Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, North Carolina, as a hospitalist.

Frederick J. Trayers III, D.O. ('05), an emergency medicine doctor and a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, passed away in December at the age of 41 as a result of injuries sustained from a brutal stabbing attack. Prior to earning his D.O. degree at NSU-COM, he graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Michael C. Weiss, D.O. ('86), who serves as the chief spine surgeon at the Laser Spine Institute in Scottsdale, Arizona, was named president of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics Spine Surgery Section of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics. He will moderate the section's mid-year meeting in Scottsdale in May 2011.

SAVE THE DATES!

NSU-COM Alumni Reunion CME Weekend

January 28-30, 2011

NSU Campus/Renaissance Hotel-Plantation

Friday, January 28

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. – Welcome Reception at Renaissance Hotel

Saturday, January 29

8:00 a.m. – Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Four hours of CME

7:00 - 11:00 p.m. – Gala Reception, Banquet, and Dance

Sunday, January 30

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. – Alumni Association Meeting

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Three hours of CME



NSU-COM/AOA Alumni Reunion

October 25, 2010
Conservatory of Flowers
San Francisco, California



Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fund-raising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact **Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.** in the Office of Alumni Affairs at **(954) 262-1029** to rectify the matter. For example, the college has received a number of donation cards with credit-card pledges where no name is listed. The Office of Alumni Affairs cannot process the credit-card donation without a name indicated, so if you have not received a letter of thanks from NSU-COM but know you have made a credit-card contribution, please contact Ms. Cawley at the aforementioned phone number.

2010 Donors

NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Dr. James W. Howell ('94)

Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner

Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

*Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
(in honor of the class of 1985)*

Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Abbott Laboratories

**Dr. John and Ellen Geake, Jr. ('93)*

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Dr. William and Rita Levin

Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)

Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)

*Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)
(in honor of Lori Dribin, Ph.D.)*

FOMA District 16

**Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)*

Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)

Dr. Soling Li ('00)

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)

*Drs. George Ramie and Maria
Parris-Ramie ('96)*

Dr. Todd Schwartz ('88)

Dr. David Spight ('99)

Dr. Gregory Whitaker ('01)

*Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)
(donated to the Department of Family Medicine)*

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

**Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)*

(in memory of Robert Klein, D.O.)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

*Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson
(in memory of Robert Klein, D.O.)*

Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)

Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)

Dr. Noellemarie Barrera ('06)

Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)

Dr. Elizabeth Biggers ('06)

Dr. Joel Biggers ('06)

Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)

Dr. Morris S. Bollegraf ('96)

Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

Drs. Bryan ('06) and Jennifer ('07) Currie

**Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)*

**Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)*

*Dr. Ilana Gilderman-Neidenberg ('99)
(in honor of Larry Gilderman)*

Dr. Steven Gillon ('86)

**Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)*

Dr. Melinda Greenfield ('94)

Dr. Amber Gruber ('06)

Dr. Eric Handler ('01)

*Dr. Maureen "Mimi" Houlton ('89)
(in memory of Alice Carney and in honor of
Thomas Carney, D.O.)*

*Dr. And Mrs. Lawrence Jacobson
(in honor of A. Alvin Greber, D.O.)*

Dr. James Liang ('99)

Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)

**Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)*

Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)

Dr. Michael I. Margolis

Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

Dr. Laura E. Michael ('93)

Dr. Lynita Mullins ('06)

Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)

Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)

Dr. David Rabaja ('94)

Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)

Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)

*Ms. Mary Smith
(in memory of Lee Ann Ralph/in honor of Leonard
Brocklesby/in memory of Paul Thomas/in honor
of the James Garrison Family)*

Dr. William H. Stager ('89)

Dr. John H. Stanton ('90)

Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89) and

Susan Yahia ('91)

Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)

Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

Dr. Rebecca Begtrup ('07)

Dana M. Block-Abraham ('07)

**Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)*

Dr. Carla M. Duffoo ('08)

Dr. George Geisler ('98)

Dr. Shanna E. Hampton ('07)

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hand

Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)

Dr. Mark Khorsandi ('99)

Dr. Francis Salazar ('05)

Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)

Dr. Howard Stein ('85)

Dr. Lydia Wallace ('06)

**in honor of 2010 Living Tribute Award recipient Dr. Harold E. Laubach*

Cumulative List (1999-2010)

Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

*Drs. Andrew J. Hanley and
Evangelos G. Poulos*

*David Kimmel Foundation/Mr.
and Mrs. Stephen Mason/
Harry Wendroff, CPA
(in memory of Dr. David Levine)*

Dr. George Linsey

Mr. Howard Spector

Dr. Paul Winner

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

Heritage Circle

(Represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.)

*Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)*

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(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)*

NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Dr. John and Ellen Geake, Jr. ('93)

Dr. James W. Howell ('94)

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni

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Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Abbott Laboratories

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Raymon Priewe ('86)

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. David Adler ('92)

Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)

Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)

Dr. Charles Chase ('89)

Dr. Robert Crook ('88)

Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)

FL Osteopathic Medical Association

FOMA District 16

Florida Society ACOFP

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)

Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)

Dr. William and Rita Levin

Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)

Dr. Soling Li ('00)

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)

Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

Dr. Michael Ross ('88)

Dr. David Spight ('99)

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)

Ms. Geraldine Terry

Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)

Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)

Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

Dr. John Windsor ('89)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)

Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)

Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)

Dr. James Beretta ('88)

Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)

Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)

Broward County Osteopathic Med Assoc.

Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)

Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)

Dr. Bruce David ('88)

Drs. Felix Fernandez/Ravi Mehan ('00)

Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)

Dr. Brad Glick ('89)

Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)

Dr. John Gordon ('92)

Dr. Thomas Green ('98)

Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)

Dr. James T. Howell

Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)

Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)

Dr. Walter J. Kay

Dr. Robert Klein ('91)

Drs. Jared and Susan Lechtenstein ('01)

Dr. James Liang ('99)

Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)

Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)

Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin

Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)

Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)

Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)

Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

Drs. George Ramie and Maria

Parris-Ramie ('96)

Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)

Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)

Dr. Todd Schwartz ('88)

Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)

Ms. Mary Smith

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Drs Theodore Spevack ('85) and

Robyn Zelnick ('87)

Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)

Dr. Aye Unnoppet ('00)

Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)

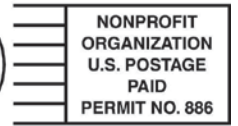
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)

Dr. Gregory Whitaker ('01)

Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)



Health Professions Division
College of Osteopathic Medicine
3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018



2011 Calendar of Events

January 28-30, 2011

NSU-COM Alumni Reunion CME Weekend

NSU Campus/Renaissance Hotel-Plantation

For additional information, please contact **Lynne Cawley** at cawley@nova.edu.

February 24-27, 2011

108th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention

Hyatt Bonaventure, Weston, FL

March 11-12, 2011

Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Symposium

Royal Yacht Club in Fort Myers, Florida

For more information, please contact **Sona Hromulak** at hromulak@nova.edu.