

Winter 1-1-2005

# COM Outlook Winter 2005

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# COM Outlook

*College of Osteopathic Medicine*

*COM Outlook named Best Magazine of 2004 by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine*

Winter 2005

Volume 6, Number 1



*Dr. Fred Lippman*

*Sylvia Ulrich*

*Marla Frohlinger*

## Osteopathic Advocacy Extends Far Beyond D.O. Community

# Dean's Message



*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.*

In 1910, the Carnegie Foundation published a revolutionary document, prepared by Abraham Flexnor (1866-1959), called The Flexnor Report. The paper basically established the current educational paradigm all allopathic and osteopathic medical schools follow, which is the model of two plus two—two years of didactic study in school and two years of clinical education in hospital settings.

Since this concept was implemented nearly a century ago, the medical education landscape has changed dramatically. Back in the early 1900s, postgraduate programs such as internships, fellowships, and residencies didn't even exist; consequently, once medical students graduated, they immediately began practicing. However, as that educational archetype has evolved, physicians now spend a minimum of five years obtaining clinical experience—including the first six months of their PGY-1 year when they essentially possess the same authority as a medical student.

It's no surprise that as medical knowledge has exploded and teaching techniques have diversified over the decades, the demands on our students have increased exponentially as well—especially during the first two years of the medical school experience. Consequently, the level of expertise that's expected, factored in with the balancing of passive and active learning modules and early clinical experiences, has resulted in a jam-packed curriculum that threatens to overwhelm even the most assiduous students.

Because of the escalating emphasis on clinical over classroom learning, are we at risk of overemphasizing the technical and procedural skills of medicine and underemphasizing the scientific foundation needed to ensure quality, lifelong learning and sound decision-making?

Similarly, are we also taking away scientific knowledge and scientific discrimination from physicians by overloading them with memorization volume in order to obtain more clinical experience when there are already vast clinical requirements in place? To address this issue, we have been investigating

alternatives that could lessen student stress by judiciously incorporating didactic learning throughout the four-year medical school curriculum.

Since scientific and medical knowledge are increasing at a lightning-fast pace, there is much more information to learn in order to practice quality medicine. In addition, what students learn in their first year can very easily be outdated by their fourth year—or at the very minimum, be somewhat different than what they were initially taught. However, we cannot increase the time students spend in class during their first two years because they are already overloaded.

As a result, we have established a curriculum subcommittee that is looking at ways to extend the actual volume of didactic learning into the third and fourth years of a community hospital-based clinical education model. This could be accomplished by implementing lectures via one of the distance-learning delivery systems in the clinical environment, thereby eliminating the need for students to travel back and forth between the college and their clinical training sites.

As we all know, medical education is an ever-changing enterprise, so is it wise to steadfastly adhere to a curricular paradigm implemented nearly a century ago? Or is it time to introduce a new curricular model that could reduce the amount of time students spend in class during their first two years and provide them with additional opportunities to study and integrate other learning possibilities?

Our curriculum covers virtually every medical topic imaginable, but are our student doctors really getting enough information about topics such as preventive medicine and how to care for the elderly? These issues are currently discussed, but are they covered in enough detail for students to skillfully incorporate and expand upon their broad-based knowledge once they are in the clinical environment?

As we explore the next chapter of medical education here at NSU-COM, we are committed to maintaining our reverence for the past while diligently pursuing a pathway that provides our students with the most comprehensive, cutting-edge, and humanistic learning experience possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.". The signature is written over a circular blue seal of the North Carolina Central University School of Osteopathic Medicine. The seal features a caduceus and the text "NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE".





Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.  
Chancellor

# Health Professions Division Executive Administration Communiqué



Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A.  
Vice Chancellor and Provost

October 27, 2004, was a truly remarkable day for the state of health care in Broward County, for it marked the next historic step in NSU's long-term relationship with the North Broward Hospital District. During a press conference held in our Chancellor's Dining Room, we proudly unveiled our plans for The Medical Village at NSU—which is discussed at length in this issue of *COM Outlook*.

The Medical Village at NSU, which will allow for the expansion of our programs, mission, and vision, will bring a host of new opportunities for our students and staff and allow for innovation that will surpass what NSU and the North Broward Hospital District could achieve alone. It will also serve as an invaluable opportunity for students to take what they learn in the classroom and immediately put it into practice in an on-campus, 150-bed teaching hospital.

Without question, this is an exciting time for NSU, the North Broward Hospital District, and for all of Broward County. Just think of the possibilities that will arise from creating a world-class hospital that can take advantage of all the best new technology available—and has the possibility of becoming a high-tech, digital environment.

Just think of the benefits of having a community hospital woven into our vibrant academic medical

community bustling with new ideas, research, and technological advances.

The people who really win as a result of this milestone project are the South Florida residents who depend on NSU's many community clinics. The often culturally tailored care we're able to provide our patients is something that is currently unmatched in the area. To be able to see a medical professional who speaks the same language and understands the cultural nuances involved in many of the decisions being made is very valuable in providing quality health care.

It's the patients who will benefit most from the continuity of care provided by an onsite hospital that is tied, in turn, into the entire North Broward Hospital District network and to NSU's own Health Care Centers. The strong synergy that has been the hallmark of the North Broward Hospital District/NSU relationship will only continue to grow, and the real winners will be those residents who come to us for care and, ultimately, make us the community's choice for health care services.

The Medical Village at NSU will be conveniently connected to the building that is named for the visionary Dr. Mort Terry, who founded NSU's Health Professions Division—and who would be so exceptionally proud of this monumental venture.



Health Professions Division

*Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.*  
Chancellor

*Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A.*  
Vice Chancellor and Provost

College of Osteopathic Medicine

*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.*  
Dean

*Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.*  
Vice Dean

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# FEATURES

**13** Sports Medicine Subspecialty Residency Takes Flight  
In the summer of 2003, NSU-COM reached another academic milestone with the establishment of its Subspecialty Residency in Sports Medicine Program, which aims to comprehensively train sports medicine physicians who are competent and comfortable in delivering the highest quality of care to athletes of all skill levels.

**18** NSU Medical Village Moves One Step Closer to Fruition  
The future just keeps getting brighter for Nova Southeastern University, which recently unveiled plans to partner with the North Broward Hospital District to build a cutting-edge, \$210 million teaching hospital on property adjacent to the Health Professions Division campus.

**20** Osteopathic Advocacy Extends Far Beyond D.O. Community  
Over the years, the osteopathic profession has been enriched by a countless number of non D.O.s who have—and continue to—champion the osteopathic cause in a range of educational, legislative, and medically related arenas. Featured in this article are four distinguished non D.O.s who have cultivated productive long-term ties with the profession and NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine: Marla Frohlinger, Dr. Fred Lippman, Sylvia Urlich, and Steve Winn.

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In his role as vice chancellor and provost of NSU's Health Professions Division, Dr. Irv Rosenbaum usually finds himself in a perpetual state of motion—which is exactly how he likes it.

**30** Senior Services Team Aims to Create Geriatric Health Care Mecca  
In today's ultra-competitive marketplace, where the best defense is a great offense, the university's primary players in geriatrics have joined forces to create the Senior Services Team, which aims to integrate NSU's existing resources in geriatric care and training, create additional linkages and collaborations, and seek external funding sources.

**37** Dr. Michael Gervasi Represents NSU-COM with Distinction  
Since graduating from NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1987, Dr. Michael Gervasi has carved out a noteworthy career that encompasses a range of professional achievements and civic contributions.

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# News Briefs...News Briefs



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

On October 30, HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., added another accolade to his growing list of achievements when he received the Spirit of Family Award from Jewish Family Service of Broward County. Dr. Lippman was selected for this prestigious award in recognition of his tireless efforts to improve the health, education, and well-being of Florida citizens.



*Rita Silverman and Dr. Ken Johnson.*

In September, Rita Silverman, M.P.S., who serves as the college's director of clinical research, was presented with a special Woman of the Year Award for her ongoing support of the mission of NSU's Women's Health Center.

Silverman received the award from Kenneth Johnson, D.O., director of the Women's Health Center and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. Silverman also made a presentation on the topic "Industry Sponsored Clinical Trials" at the BioFlorida Seventh Annual Conference held October 17-18 in Boca Raton, Florida.



*Pictured at the APHA symposium are (from left) Drs. Edna Brooks, Raul Cuadrado, and Lina Vega.*

M.P.H. students Lina Vega, D.D.S., and Edna Brooks, D.D.S., and their adviser Raul R. Cuadrado, Dr.P.H., Ph.D., M.P.H., clinical professor of public health and dean emeritus of the College of Allied Health and Nursing, presented two papers at the

November 2004 American Public Health Association (APHA) 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting held in Washington, D.C. One paper described the studies done with children of migrant families and the dental care provided at the Redlands Christian Migrant Association-Charter School. The other paper analyzed the importance of community-supported agriculture and the role of adequate environmental methods and practices used for better public health outcomes.



*Scott Colton and Radio X Community Director Hayley Pierre.*

On December 3, Scott Colton, who serves as director of medical communications, was a featured guest on NSU's Radio X 88.5 FM station. During the interview, Colton discussed a range of subjects pertaining to the college. Topics addressed included an overview of what potential students can expect to experience if they are accepted into the program, the laudable work ethic exhibited by the students and faculty, and the cutting-edge approach the college employs concerning medical education.



*AOA President George Thomas (left) and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.*

George Thomas, D.O., who currently serves as president of the American Osteopathic Association, paid a special visit to NSU-COM on November 29 to discuss his "Year of the Patient—Patient-Centered Quality Care" philosophy and field

questions from the M1 and M2 students. Dr. Thomas also addressed the faculty at a special luncheon meeting, which included thoughtful discussion on everything from OPTI issues to preventive medicine.



*Dr. Fred Lippman (left) accepts an Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment plaque from FOMA Executive Director Steve Winn.*

On October 13, Steve Winn, executive director of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA), spoke to members of the M1 and M2 classes at a luncheon presentation that provided the students with an informative summary of what the organization does.

During his discussion, which included the importance of political activism relating to the profession, Winn presented Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment plaques to Drs. Fred Lippman and Morton Morris and participated in a lively question-and-answer session.

# News Briefs...News Briefs



NSU-COM held its annual Track Day event on October 15, which allows M2 students to meet with representatives from the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) and other hospitals to discuss third- and fourth-year

rotation possibilities. Track Day has evolved into an extremely beneficial event for the students, who learn what type of programs each participating hospital has to offer and the way each hospital conducts its clinical training.



## Hoop Dreams Become Reality

Attending the game are potential basketball superstars (from left) Daron Olmsted, Brian McGrath, Omar Al-Nouri, Donnell Bowen, and Leo Lopez.

On November 11, members from the college's Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (AMOPS) club cheered on the Miami Heat as the team took on the Dallas Mavericks. A number of M2 students were afforded the opportunity to play in a 10-minute, full-court game prior to

tip off, proving to several thousand Miami Heat fans that NSU-COM students can get the job done not only in the classroom and clinics, but on the basketball floor as well.



## Pre D.O.ctor Program Enlightens High School Students

The college's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter spent much of the past few months coordinating a diverse array of ongoing community service activities such as the Pre D.O.ctor Program. In September, Sigma Sigma Phi members visited the

medical magnet program at Stranahan High School to provide a Pre D.O.ctor session for the students. During the educational event, participating high school students were shown the proper techniques for how to use various types of medical equipment and were given an opportunity to test them out on each other. They were also introduced to osteopathic manipulative medicine and given an opportunity to ask questions about getting into medical school and being a medical student.



Don Simmons received a humorous yet heartfelt sendoff from Chancellor Lippman and about 100 other Health Professions Division faculty and staff.

Don Simmons, who served as director of facilities administration for the Health Professions Division, retired on November 29 after a prolific 41-year affiliation with Morton Terry, D.O., the founder and former chancellor of the Health Professions Division who passed away in January 2004.

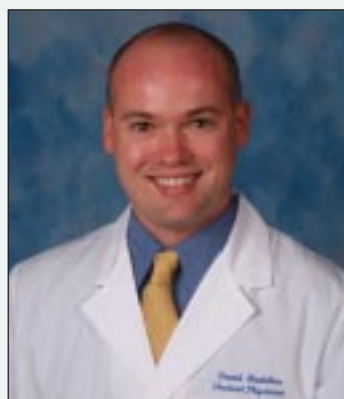
Over the past four-plus decades, Simmons showcased his gracious manner and peerless work ethic during his tenures at Osteopathic General Hospital, Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences—and at NSU's Health Professions Division.



Alberto Caban, Jr., M.P.H.

M1 student Alberto Caban, Jr., M.P.H., had his review article titled "A Pediatrician's Personal Digital Assistant: Ubiquitous Computing" published in the November 2004 issue of the *Journal of International Pediatrics*. Caban's article was

featured on the journal's front cover and was selected for CME credit for physicians. He was also the only osteopathic medical student selected by the Center for Disease Control's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for a travel award, which allowed him to present his obesity research last November at the Steps to a Healthier U.S. Workforce Symposium in Washington, D.C.



David Hedelius

M1 student David Hedelius coauthored an article that will appear in a soon-to-be published book titled *Immunogenetics of Autoimmune Disease*. Hedelius helped pen the chapter on "Hematologic Diseases: Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia and Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura."



# News Briefs...News Briefs



Chris Piromalli

Despite the imminent approach of Hurricane Jeanne, several Rural Medicine Club members traveled to Clewiston, Florida, on September 25 to participate in the Harlem Health Clinic. The event, which offered attendees a range of health screenings and educational information, was geared toward the rural underserved

migrant population that works in the area's sugarcane fields. Participating in the Harlem Health Clinic were Chris Piromalli, Barbara Piromalli, Steve Turner, and Omar Shami.

On December 15, NSU held its annual Employee Anniversary Luncheon at the Signature Grand in Davie to recognize administration, staff, and faculty members who have reached significant employment milestones. Following are the HPD administration and College of Osteopathic Medicine honorees:

#### 20 Years of Service

Dr. Stanley Cohen  
Dr. Arthur Snyder

#### 15 Years of Service

Lynne Cawley  
Dr. A. Alvin Greber

#### 10 Years of Service

Dr. Myint Myint Aye  
Linda Speiser  
Randy Sweeting

#### 5 Years of Service

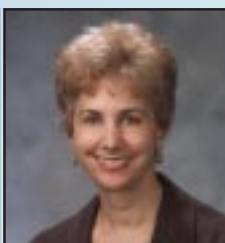
Dr. Daniel Barkus  
Scott Colton  
Dr. Joseph DeGaetano  
Dr. Patrick Hardigan  
Liane Hess  
Dr. James Howell  
Dr. Leonard Levy  
Dr. Gary Merlino  
Ilene Ordower  
Rita Silverman



Dr. Stanley Cohen - 20 Years



Lynne Cawley - 15 Years



Linda Speiser - 10 Years

## COMmunications

NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division were resurveyed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and granted full accreditation from November 2004 through November 2008 as a provider of continuing medical education for physicians. ACCME accreditation seeks to assure both physicians and the public that continuing medical education activities provided by NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division meet the high standards of the Essential Areas, Elements, and Policies for Accreditation as specified by the ACCME.

The Florida Hospital East Orlando Osteopathic and Podiatric Foundation for Healthcare and Education recently established an annual academic scholarship program for third-year NSU-COM core students. The recipient(s) will receive a \$5,000 cash award, which will be awarded in February during the 102nd Annual FOMA Convention. Criteria for this award are based on academic performance as well as leadership qualities.

Over 200 older adults participated in the Senior Health Fair held November 3 at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in Pembroke Pines. Throughout the day, participants from the NSU disciplines of osteopathic medicine, optometry, psychology, and dental medicine provided a host of health screenings. NSU-COM students showcased their altruism by screening seniors for diabetes, evaluating their general cardiovascular health, and assessing them for osteoporosis risk.

M1 student Dan Gold recently coauthored an article titled "Dynamic Estimation of Hand Position Is Abnormal in Parkinson's Disease" that appeared in the December 2004 issue of *Parkinsonism and Related Disorders*.

In October, M1 student Farhoud Khosravi had his research article titled "Impaired Motor Performance and Learning in Glia Maturation Factor-knock Out Mice" published in the *Journal of Brain Research*.

M2 student Sherry Turner was recently elected to serve as convention cochair for the national meeting of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

According to FOMA, Florida currently ranks third in number of active D.O.s (3,346) in the nation.



# Girl Scouts of Broward County Visit NSU-COM

By Sandra Williams, M2 Student and AMSA President



Sandra Williams

On October 6, NSU-COM hosted a medical career fair for high school students from Girl Scouts of Broward County. Sponsored by AMSA (American Medical Student Association) and AMWA (American Medical Women's Association), this event introduced the attendees to many of the medical career opportunities available to them. In addition, students from the Health Professions Division programs of osteopathic medicine, physician assistant, audiology, and occupational therapy discussed a range of topics with the participants. Lecture subjects included an overview of what each discipline does, information on how to apply to a specific program, what courses should be taken while in college, and what types of jobs are available in each field.

Following the lectures, the girls were given a tour of the many laboratories on campus. First up was a visit to the Occupational Therapy Lab, where the girls were able to test their sensory perception and see what it might feel like to have lost sensation in an extremity. Next was a demonstration of osteopathic manipulative medicine in the OPP Lab by OPP fellows Jim Hunt and Jen Parsons. Both the girls and their parents were very interested and impressed by the demonstrations. In fact, many of the girls were overheard saying, "I want to be a D.O." upon leaving the lab.

Subsequent stops were the physical therapy, optometry, and pharmacy laboratories, where the girls were able to see some of the equipment and supplies that are used by those professions. The last stop on their tour was a visit to the Harvey Lab, which allowed the girls and their parents to listen to both normal heart sounds as well as abnormal heart murmurs. Overall, this event was a huge success as more than 20 girls were able to visit a health professions campus and learn about a variety of health professions from an enthusiastic contingent of female students.

## Student Synergy at SOMA Symposium

By Jennifer Diamond, M2 Student and SOMA President



Soaking in the SOMA experience are (from left) Jill Scarlett (M2 class president), Ally Schmidt (national liaison officer), Mark Beard (vice president), Jennifer Diamond (president), and Bryan Currie (national public relations coordinator).

On November 5-6, 2004, a number of NSU-COM Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) members participated in the annual SOMA Fall Convention in San Francisco, California. Eighteen M1 and M2 students attended the convention, including SOMA chapter officers Jennifer Diamond, Ally Schmidt, Mark Beard, and Theresa Hess. Also in attendance were M3's Bryan Currie, Alicia Czander, and Brooke Sliger, who are national SOMA board members.

Sliger, the SOMA convention coordinator, put together a fantastic and enjoyable weekend for the students, while Czander, SOMA director of preventative medicine, led a service project at a local high school to promote osteopathic medicine and the Yellow Ribbon Campaign for teenage suicide prevention. A special congratulation goes to Currie, the current SOMA public relations coordinator, who was elected vice president of the national SOMA branch for the 2005-2006 academic year.

During the convention, NBOME provided an update regarding the COMLEX and COMLEX-PE exams, while the Auxiliary to the AOA shared its "Women and Heart Disease" program with the students. In addition, the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California presented information about health care and liability reform to the students. AOA President Dr. George Thomas and President-Elect Dr. Phillip Shettle also visited the convention to offer their words of wisdom about the osteopathic profession. Our students did a great job representing our school, and we are all looking forward to the upcoming D.O. Day on the Hill and the Spring SOMA Convention in Washington, D.C.

# Heroic Ross Rescues Drowning Man from Coral Springs Canal



Ethan Ross

M1 student Ethan Ross got a crash course in emergency medicine on Sunday, October 17 when he courageously dove into a Coral Springs canal to pull a drowning man out of a sinking car.

Ross, who was on his way to study at a nearby bookstore, suddenly

spotted a group of people standing beside the road, waving frantically. When he pulled over and saw the vehicle almost fully submerged in the canal, Ross reacted instinctively by diving in to save the driver. "The car started to nosedive," said Ross in an interview with a reporter from *The Herald*, "and the water went up and around his head and face."

Ross, who received assistance from several onlookers, quickly reached in, grabbed the driver, and pulled him to safety. Once the accident victim was safely ashore, Ross checked his pulse, examined him for wounds, and asked about his medical history. The victim, who was in serious but stable condition when paramedics took him to North Broward Medical Center, was expected to make a complete recovery.

"As a medical student, I've always been the one observing doctors and paramedics saving people," said Ross, who received heartfelt words of thanks when he visited the accident victim in the hospital later that day. "This is the first time I've ever led the effort, so maybe this will earn me some bonus points on my next test."

## Did You Know?

NSU has been identified as the eighth-largest independent not-for-profit post-secondary institution in the United States based on enrollment of 23,522 students for the fall 2003 term. The data was collected by the Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System and was recently published in the *2004 Higher Education Directory*.

# NSU-COM Receives Four AACOM Communication Awards



Scott Colton and Dr. Silvagni celebrate the AACOM accolades.

On November 3, NSU-COM received four national awards—including three first-place prizes—in the 2004 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Communication Awards Competition.

Scott Colton, who serves as the college's director of medical communications, earned multiple first-place honors in the competition as *COM Outlook* swept the Best Magazine category, while an article featured in the magazine titled "Last Breath: How Doctors Deal with Death" earned Colton the Best Article or Feature Story award.

The college also captured first place in the Best Community Service Program category for its annual AHEC Florida Rural Mission for Health/REACH Fair, which provides essential medical education and services to thousands of children and adults from the migrant farm worker population in Belle Glade and surrounding South Florida communities.

In addition, NSU-COM students earned second-place honors in the Best Public Education Program category for their Sigma Sigma Phi DOctor's Bag Program, which alleviates children's fears as they relate to seeking health care and helps them form a better understanding of basic pediatric medical equipment.

AACOM represents each of the nation's 20 colleges of osteopathic medicine and serves the administration, faculty, and students of osteopathic medical schools through its centralized application service, government relations, finance, communications, and research/information departments.



## Students Support La Caridad Clinic



*NSU-COM students showcase their altruism at La Caridad Clinic Health Fair.*

Despite their numerous academic demands, NSU-COM students continue to demonstrate their humanitarianism by participating in health fairs like the one held on October 23 at La Caridad Health Clinic/Migrant Association of South Florida. Various student organizations such as ACOFP, HOMSA, and UAAO participated in the successful undertaking, which provided a tremendous learning experience for the students. Throughout the day, the participating migrant workers were able to take advantage of a host of health screenings, osteopathic manipulative medicine treatment, and educational outreach opportunities.

"There was an overwhelming appreciation by the migrant workers for the NSU-COM students volunteering their time," said M2 student Irene Kuizon, who serves as the college's ACOFP vice president. "Special thanks go to Dr. Larry Jensen and Dr. Judith Schaffer for their supervision and student support and to James Hunt, an OPP fellow, who guided the students on the appropriate manipulative techniques to be applied on the patients."

The following students were instrumental in the health fair's success: Lauren Abratt, Melissa Anglero-Carter, Marlene Aramburu, Cindy Benson, Allison Bloom, Nadine Chipon, Jacqueline David, Sahar Faghih, Liv Fina, Caecilia Garcia, Aditi Gupta, Shanna Hampton, Irene Kuizon, Max Mayrink, Melchiorra Mangiaracina, Emily McDevitt, Viet Nguyen, Penelope Paredes, Anna Pevzner, Ray Romano, Alexandra Titone, Ryan Toney, Stephen Turner, Karen Valledor, and Michael Waters.

## Primary Care Week Attracts Student Interest

*By Sandra Williams, M2 Student and AMSA President*



National Primary Care Week (NPCW) is an annual event that emphasizes the importance of primary care and brings health care professionals together to discuss and learn about generalist and interdisciplinary health care—particularly their impact on and importance to underserved populations. To commemorate the occasion, NSU-COM's American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine Association (SOIMA) coordinated several beneficial activities during the week of October 18-22, 2004.

AMSA hosted a luncheon featuring NSU-COM alumnus Dr. Tamer Gozleveli, who gave a very useful presentation on how to open and maintain a practice. During his discussion, Dr. Gozleveli provided financial planning suggestions and offered tips and pointers on starting the process while still in medical school. SOIMA also hosted a luncheon meeting with Dr. Gary Merlino, who heads up the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Miami's Mount Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Merlino spoke on lecture topics such as the different residencies available in the field of internal medicine, the qualities he seeks when hiring a resident, and what we as students can do to be more competitive.

## SOIMA Earns ACP Recognition



The college's Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine Association (SOIMA) chapter was the proud recipient of an American College of Physicians' (ACP) 40 Percent Medical School Award. Certificates of merit were presented to all schools—12 in total—whose student membership met or exceeded 40 percent of the total student body for the membership year, which began July 1, 2003 and ended June 30, 2004. NSU-COM's SOIMA chapter placed third in the country, with 72.2 percent student body participation. "We tried very hard to get our membership up last year because the previous officers also received the award, so we were very excited to be honored for the second year in a row," said M3 student Elizabeth Arena, who served as SOIMA secretary in 2003-04. Pictured (clockwise from left) are 2003-2004 SOIMA officers Elizabeth Arena (secretary), Parham Eftekhari (vice president), Delcine Abraham (president), and Sara Ansari (treasurer).

## Mini Medical School Enlightens Elders



*Mini Medical School graduates proudly display their certificates.*

In October 2004, NSU-COM launched the latest of its community-based initiatives with the implementation of its Mini Medical School, which aims to educate various segments of the public about the medical school environment and provide information about timely health topics.

The eight-week pilot program, which was initially marketed to senior citizens free of charge, attracted several dozen elders each week and featured afternoon lectures from various NSU-COM faculty members. Following are the topics that were discussed and the medical experts that shared their expertise with the attendees:

*Becoming a Physician: The Long Road to Practice*  
David Thomas, M.D., J.D.

*Bedroom Stories: Sleepless in South Florida*  
Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP  
Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD

*We All Have Some Nerve/Bioterrorism Issues*  
James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.  
Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.

*The Epidemic of Skin Cancer*  
Brian Portnoy, D.O., FAOCD

*Feeling Out of Joint*  
Michael Patterson, Ph.D.

*Tales of the Heart/A Breath of Fresh Air*  
A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI

*Looking After the Grandkids*  
Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP

*Ask the Doctor: What Every Senior Needs to Know*  
Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.  
Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD  
David Thomas, M.D., J.D.

## Dr. Venk Mentors Student Researchers

Thanks to the mentoring expertise of K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry in the College of Medical Sciences, a number of osteopathic medicine and other Health Professions Division students are actively participating in a range of on-campus research projects.

Dr. Venk also serves as a faculty adviser to NSU-COM's newly formed Student Osteopathic Association of Research. Current student research-oriented ventures being conducted in Dr. Venk's lab include:

*The Levels of Estrogen and Testosterone in  
the Aging Population*  
(in conjunction with Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD)  
Rishi Kumar (M2)  
Rita Murkherjee (M1)  
Jordan Radigan (M1)

*Role of Cholesterol/Cholesterol-Sol4  
in Wound Healing*  
Duncan Smith (OD-2)  
John Coppola (M4)  
Karthik Krishnamurthy (M4)

*Acetyl CoA Carboxylase Activity  
in Relation to Hunger*  
Kristophe Karami (M3)

*Natural Products from E. coli  
Against Candida Infection*  
Dana Block (M2)

Students interested in participating in Dr. Venk's research projects should contact him at [venk@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:venk@nsu.nova.edu) or access his Web site at [www.nova.edu/~venk](http://www.nova.edu/~venk).



*In December, Jordan Radigan (left) and Rishi Kumar (right) presented their research projects to Dr. Venk (center) and Dr. Leonard Levy (not pictured). Radigan, Kumar, and several other students are in the running to receive 2005 Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards.*



# Dr. Arnold Melnick Pens Poignant Farewell Letter



Arnold Melnick, D.O.

Saying goodbye is never an easy thing to do, especially when someone is bidding farewell to a portion of his life that represents nearly 25 years worth of memories and milestones. But in October 2004, Arnold Melnick, D.O., who served as the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) in 1980-88 and executive vice chancellor and provost of NSU's Health Professions Division until 1998, did just that.

Dr. Melnick, who will turn 85 later this year, expressed his gratitude to his colleagues via a poignant letter he sent to members of the NSU Board of Trustees and Health Professions Division Board of Governors that read as follows:

*I thank you for the board resolution honoring me and for the beautifully framed certificate. Unfortunately, I could not be at the meeting and thus did not have an opportunity to express my appreciation. If I had been there, I probably would have said something like this:*

*I WAS THERE...*

*in 1979 when Mort Terry came to my home and asked me to join him and become the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine.*

*I WAS THERE...*

*(with Mort Terry) when we organized, established, and operated SECOM.*

*I WAS THERE...*

*(with Mort Terry) when we established and operated each of the additional four health professions colleges and became Southeastern University of the Health Sciences.*

*I WAS THERE...*

*(with Mort Terry) when we negotiated and organized the merger with Nova University, and established and operated the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University, and added the first new dental school in the United States in 25 years.*

*I WAS THERE...*

*(with Mort Terry) until I retired in 1998.*

*To you, the members of both boards, to the many devoted colleagues and coworkers (high and low) who worked with me, and to the thousands of students who we trained, I say, "Thank*

*you for providing me the opportunity to spend 24 of the most wonderful, interesting, productive, and stimulating years of my professional career, my second career."*

*You might paraphrase and say, "You can take the man out of the university, but you can't take the university out of the man." I will always carry with me a love for Nova Southeastern University, and particularly the Health Professions Division—both a paternal and fraternal love. I wish all of you and the university continued great success. I retain my strong paternal love, as did Mort Terry, for the six colleges I was a part of. So, as an era ends, I request just one thing: Please be good to my "children!"*

*(Editor's Note: Although he has stepped down from his NSU board positions, Dr. Melnick remains an active presence on the medical scene. The prolific writer, who formerly served as president of the American Medical Writers Association, recently added another feather to his journalistic cap when he was tapped to pen a monthly column on effective medical communication for *The DO* magazine.)*

## NSU-COM, Jacksonville University Sign Medical School Agreement

Under a new articulation agreement with NSU-COM, premed students at Jacksonville University (JU) now have a leg up in the graduate school admissions process. The agreement establishes a dual admission 4+4 program for students who want to pursue their undergraduate degree at JU and seamlessly enter NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"This strategic relationship with Jacksonville University will help to strengthen the higher education environment throughout our entire state," said HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman. "The agreement will provide Florida students with enhanced access to NSU's outstanding medical school and be instrumental in producing a number of tomorrow's compassionate, caring physicians."

NSU will reserve up to five slots annually for JU graduates who have completed undergraduate degrees and premed prerequisites. High school seniors seeking dual admission to the 4+4 program will need to notify both JU and NSU-COM of their intent and complete interviews at NSU. Students must also meet GPA standards, take the MCAT, and complete an application before being admitted to NSU-COM.

The college currently has similar articulation agreements with three other strategically placed Florida institutions—Florida Memorial College in Miami, NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences in Fort Lauderdale, and Saint Leo University in Saint Leo.

# Osteopathic Sports Medicine Subspecialty Residency Program Takes Flight



*Drs. Judy Brasier and Andrew Kusienski are the inaugural participants in the Subspecialty Residency in Sports Medicine Program.*

In the summer of 2003, NSU-COM reached another academic milestone with the establishment of its Subspecialty Residency in Sports Medicine Program, which aims to comprehensively train sports medicine physicians who are competent and comfortable in delivering the highest quality of care to athletes of all skill levels.

To be eligible for acceptance into this subspecialty residency, applicants must be graduates from an AOA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine. The other primary requirement is the successful completion of an AOA-approved residency program in family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, emergency medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation, occupational/preventive medicine, orthopedics, psychiatry, or neuromusculoskeletal medicine.

The postgraduate program, which was granted AOA approval to accept three residents annually, officially commenced on July 1, 2004, when Judy Brasier, D.O., and Andrew Kusienski, D.O., became the first physicians to participate in the one-year program that includes exposure to a host of clinical and didactic components.

"Once we complete the sports medicine fellowship, we will be properly trained to take care of all exercise-related issues and any type of non-surgical orthopedic problems," said Dr. Brasier, who earned her D.O. degree from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. "The majority of athletic injuries don't require surgery, but even when they do, you need to try conservative methods first. Even an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament)

tear, which is clearly a surgical issue, needs to be rehabilitated before surgery to enhance range of motion for a better surgical result. In a primary care sports medicine role, we complement our orthopedic surgeon colleagues."

"It's a very comprehensive program," stated Dr. Kusienski, who received his D.O. degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania and graduated from the NSU-COM/North Broward Hospital District Family Medicine Residency Program. "We each spend five half days every week in the Sports Medicine Clinic here on campus and also get to work with local physicians in areas such as orthopedic surgery, physical medicine and rehab, pain management, and cardiology. In addition, we get to spend an additional half-day each week in our primary care field of interest, which is family practice for me and internal medicine for Dr. Brasier."

Drs. Brasier's and Kusienski's myriad responsibilities also include assisting in the provision of comprehensive, continuing care for the 200-plus undergraduate athletes who compete on NSU's various NCAA Division II sports teams. "We take care of all the NSU athletes who play on our soccer, basketball, softball, baseball, volleyball, golf, and tennis teams," Kusienski stated. "We also provide medical coverage at two local high school football teams in Coconut Creek and Pompano Beach during their home games."

In September, they also had an opportunity to spend several days interacting with and treating world-class tennis players at the Millennium International Tennis Championships in Delray Beach. The experience proved to be quite enriching since it allowed Drs. Brasier and Kusienski to utilize their sports medicine skills to successfully treat an array of shoulder, back, and upper-extremity ailments.

"It's exciting to be paving the way for the next group of fellows that will follow in our footsteps," Dr. Brasier concluded. "Every corner we turn is an opportunity for us to learn something new."

If you would like to receive additional information about the NSU-COM Sports Medicine Subspecialty Residency, please contact the program's director, Dr. Elaine Wallace, at (954) 262-1457 or [ewallace@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:ewallace@nsu.nova.edu). Applications must be submitted by March 2005, and selections will be made by May.



# Student Government Association News and Notes

By Dana Block, SGA President



Attendees at the AOA Convention included (standing from left): Michael Dekker; Allison Bloom; Mike Krick; Joe Perkins; Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni; Steve Paredes; and Matt Sarb. Seated (from left) are: Patrick Kenney; Dana Block; Jeremy Ingram; Erica Takimoto; and Brooke Sliger.

## National Osteopathic Month

September was National Osteopathic Month, so we designated one specific week (September 20-24) to coordinate most of our affiliated activities, which included

- Contacting all local TV news stations as well as *The Herald* and *Sun-Sentinel* to inform them about osteopathic medicine, NOM Month, and the activities we had planned for the month in hopes of receiving press coverage.

- A national letter-writing campaign called "See D.O.s on TV Shows," which involved signing preprinted postcards addressed to four TV shows—*ER*, *Everwood*, *Strong Medicine*, and *The Young and the Restless*—to encourage the producers of these shows to introduce a new character who is a D.O. or to announce that one of their doctors is a D.O.

- SOMA and UAAO sponsoring lectures given by Dr. Elaine Wallace on topics including the rewards of being an osteopathic physician and low back pain: an osteopathic approach. The UAAO also organized a Lunch Treat event, where students, faculty, and staff from other programs within the Health Professions Division received osteopathic manipulative medicine treatments from first- and second-year D.O. students in an effort to increase osteopathic awareness. Students also promoted the profession by wearing "Ask Me What a D.O. Is" pins.

## AOA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar/COSGP Meeting

- The AOA Bureau of Interns and Residents has been working on a survival guide for all medical students that

will include information on all four years of undergraduate medical education as well as postgraduate training.

- The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) composed resolutions to bring before the Board of Deans, the Board of Trustees, and the AOA. The resolutions addressed topics such as student insurance, mandatory attendance, joint match, postgraduate medical education locations and positions, mandatory reporting of COMLEX scores, branch campuses, COMLEX and USMLE equivalency scores, funding for students to attend COSGP meetings, a seat on the AOA House of Delegates floor for COSGP, and standardization of AOA internship state requirements.

- During the convention, COSGP was responsible for coordinating a student seminar entitled "Osteopathic Medicine Beyond Borders." The seminar covered three broad topics of interest to students:

- Where U.S. Trained D.O.s Can Practice Outside of the United States
- How Osteopathic Students Can Get Involved with Humanitarian Aid Medicine
- How Non-Physician Osteopaths Overseas Learn and Practice Osteopathy

- The COMLEX-PE will consist of 12 cases lasting 14 minutes each, followed by 9 minutes to allow the participants to write SOAP notes. Twenty-five percent of the exam is OMT, and grading is pass/fail. There are two grading portions: biomed/biomechanics and humanistic areas. All cases are common clinical scenarios. Registration is available online at [www.nbome.org](http://www.nbome.org), and the payment of \$965 is due at the time of registration. The registration help desk can be reached at (866) 479-6828.

## NSU-COM Launches Medical Informatics Program

The College of Osteopathic Medicine has collaborated with the NSU Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences and the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center to create a course of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Medical Informatics. It is designed to educate future managers in the development, dissemination, and evaluation of information technology as it relates to the health care environment. To obtain additional information about the program, please contact Dr. Leonard Levy at (954) 262-1469 or [levyleon@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:levyleon@nsu.nova.edu).

# Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



*Robert Klein, D.O.*

On October 31, the College of Osteopathic Medicine lost a treasured alumnus and faculty member when Robert Klein, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, passed away. Dr. Klein, who graduated from NSU-COM with highest honors in 1991, had spent over a decade serving as a valued faculty member. To commemorate his

contributions to the college and the profession, the Standardized Patient Lab will be officially renamed the Robert M. Klein, D.O., Standardized Patient Lab. A commemorative bronze plaque has also been commissioned that will read, "In memory of Robert M. Klein, D.O., respected physician, alumnus, and faculty member, for his steadfast dedication to educating our students, enhancing our college, and representing the osteopathic profession with distinction."



*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.*

On November 6, Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., FACOFP, was one of 12 individuals who were celebrated as Leading Men of 2004 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at an elegant black-tie event at the Design Center of the Americas in Dania Beach, Florida. The event honored outstanding community leaders in Miami-

Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Dr. Silvagni was also elected treasurer of the newly formed Executive Committee of the Florida Patient Safety Corporation.



*Gary Hill, D.O.*

Gary Hill, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was recently named the principal investigator for the JUPITER clinical research project titled "A Study of an Investigational Medication in Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Events Among Subjects with Low Levels of LDL-Cholesterol and Elevated Levels of C-reactive Protein."

Dr. Hill will collaborate with Rita Silverman, M.P.S., who serves as the college's director of clinical research, on the four-year study.



*James Howell, M.D.*

In September, James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, and Jean Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, were appointed to serve on the Florida Medical Association's Council on Public Health. Dr. Howell also made a

presentation on "Interrelationships Between Public Policy and Preventive Medicine/Private Practice" at the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine meeting, which was held last November in conjunction with the AOA Convention. In addition, he received a plaque of appreciation for his outstanding service as a member of the Palm Beach County Medical Society Services Board of Trustees.



*Hilda DeGaetano, D.O.*

On November 19 and December 9, Hilda DeGaetano D.O., FAAP, FACOP, clinical associate professor of pediatrics, was a guest speaker at Cypress Bay High School in Weston, Florida. During her visit with three classes of anatomy and physiology students, Dr. DeGaetano provided an overview of osteopathic medicine and

discussed the timely topics of obesity and puberty.



*Jean M. Malecki, M.D.*

Jean M. Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, was one of 25 individuals profiled in a new book called *The Faces of Public Health*, which made its debut in November at the American Public Health Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

The book serves as a comprehensive tribute to the more than 400,000 people who work in public health in the United States. Dr. Malecki, who also acts as director of the Palm Beach County Health Department, was chosen as one of the 25 featured individuals who exemplify the best of public health and work tirelessly in their communities to make a difference.



# Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.

On October 1, Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who serves as HPD vice chancellor for professional affairs, was presented with the Orel F. Martin Medal from the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons at its Annual Ceremonial Conclave held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, California. The accolade, which

is the organization's highest honor, was presented to Dr. Morris in recognition of his "outstanding career as an osteopathic surgeon, educator, and leader." Dr. Morris and his wife, Marie, also received the 2004 Knotty Cane Award from the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics (AOAO). The award is presented annually to an individual the AOAO president felt helped him most during his administration. Dr. Morris previously received the Knotty Cane Award in 1989 and 2000.



Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of NSU's Women's Health Center, was quoted in the September issue of *Pregnancy* magazine. In the article, Dr. Johnson shared his insights concerning "Embarrassing Pregnancy Questions." He also discussed "Menopause and Alternatives to

Hormone Replacement Therapy" at the Speaking of Women's Health 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, which was hosted by WPBT Channel 2 on November 20 at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida.



Ronald Tolchin, D.O.

Ronald Tolchin, D.O., clinical associate professor and chair of the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, recently added two new board certifications in pain medicine and spinal cord injury to his existing one in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Dr. Tolchin, who is a 1989 NSU-COM alumnus, has spent the

past 10 years practicing physical medicine and rehabilitation in South Florida.



Naushira Pandya, M.D.

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor of internal medicine and chair of the Division of Geriatrics, recently served as a presenter at several national symposiums. Her lecture agenda included participating in a panel discussion on the "Long-term Care Medical Directors Report" at the November 4 meeting of

the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists in San Francisco, California, and providing a session on "Update in Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome in Long-term Care" on November 17 at the American Medical Directors Association Advanced Course in Medical Direction in Houston, Texas. Dr. Pandya, who was named a member of the Bioethics Committee at Broward General Medical Center, also lectured at the Southwest Florida Osteopathic Association conference in Sanibel, Florida, on the subject "From Metabolic Syndrome to Diabetes." She also played an instrumental role in developing a survey instrument that will be circulated nationally to medical directors and attending physicians of long-term care facilities.



Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D.

Patrick C. Hardigan, Ph.D., M.B.A., associate professor of public health and HPD executive director of assessment, evaluation, and faculty development, has been elected to a three-year term on the American Association for Behavioral Science and Medical Education (ABSAME) Board of Directors. He is one of only 12 people in the United States

elected to serve on this board. The organization's purpose is to promote the application of social and behavioral science, knowledge, skill, and perspectives in the education and training of health professionals. ABSAME has become the most important national group in America to influence the behavioral science component of medical school curricula.

Robert Trenchel, D.O., M.P.H., clinical assistant professor and program director of the Preventive Medicine Residency Program, had his article titled "Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection in a Rural Community in the United States" published in the September 15, 2004, issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

# Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Ronnie Martin, D.O.

Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean for academic affairs and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, maintained a busy agenda throughout the fall that included co-chairing the Osteopathic Medical Education Conference in Chicago from September 29 through October 1, which centered on the theme Patient

Safety and Quality. In addition, he chaired the Committee on College Accreditation Training Evaluator Workshop for the AOA's October 2004 Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation meeting in Tempe, Arizona, and presented a CME session on "Patient Safety" at the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual AOA Convention/Scientific Seminar held in San Francisco, California, in November.



Eric Shamus, Ph.D.

On November 9, Eric Shamus, Ph.D., assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, presented a crowd-pleasing seminar on "How to Fix Your Back" that was open to any interested NSU employees. The bring-your-own-lunch lecture was sponsored through the university's Office of Recreation and Wellness and held at the

Mailman-Hollywood Building.



Cyril Blavo, D.O.

In October, Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., & T.M., FACOP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was invited to serve as a member of the Schools of Wellness Initiative (SWI) Steering Committee. The SWI promotes lifelong wellness skills, emphasizing physical activity and nutrition, with the ultimate

goals of improving the health, academic performance, and attendance of elementary school children. Dr. Blavo, who gave a poster presentation at the recent AOA Convention on "Duane's Syndrome and Agenesis of the Gall Bladder," will also be going to Ghana in West Africa to establish a hypertension outreach program through his not-for profit company, International Health Initiative, Inc.



Jennie Q. Lou, M.D.

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., associate professor of public health, recently coauthored an article on "Performance Capabilities and Their Impact on Occupational Performance" in the publication *Occupational Therapy: Enabling Function and Well-Being*. She also co-presented two posters at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Public

Health Association held last November in Washington, D.C. and represented NSU-COM at the Seventh Annual BioFlorida Conference in Boca Raton, Florida, last October, where she discussed "Opportunities and Benefits of Forming an Industrial/Academic Partnership: Clinical Research Opportunities."



Alina Perez, J.D.

Alina Perez, J.D., assistant professor of public health, played a pivotal role in the Miami Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC) Ethno-Geriatrics Conference, which was held in October at the Doubletree Grand Hotel-Biscayne Bay in Miami, Florida. Dr. Perez presented a seminar on "Medicare/Medicaid and Long-term Care" and served

as a panelist during the "Planning Ahead for Medical, Financial, and Legal Decisions" session. Dr. Perez also joined Representative Peter Deutsch and other health care experts to discuss the future of Medicare at a town hall meeting held at NSU's Institute for Learning and Retirement.



Edward Packer, D.O.

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, helped organize a program to screen and educate children in Broward County homeless shelters for nutritional disorders. He also participated in NSU's A Day for Children event on October 31, where several hundred children were

provided health screenings and education with the assistance of the college's Pediatrics Club. Dr. Packer also published an article on "Pediatric Education at NSU-COM" in the *Florida Pediatrician* and an editorial on "The Pocket Digital Age" in the *Journal of International Pediatrics*.





# NSU Medical Village Moves One Step Closer to Fruition

**T**he future just keeps getting brighter for Nova Southeastern University, which recently unveiled plans to partner with the North Broward Hospital District (NBHD) to build a cutting-edge, \$210 million teaching hospital on property adjacent to the Health Professions Division campus.

In October 2004, the hospital—described as “the next step” in a longstanding educational affiliation between NSU and the North Broward Hospital District—received an enthusiastic stamp of approval from the NBHD Board of Commissioners.

If the project—dubbed The Medical Village at NSU—wins state approval, the high-tech academic medical center will consist of 150 acute-care beds that would be transferred from other NBHD facilities. The hospital, which has a targeted opening date for sometime in 2008, would focus on the areas of education, research, and innovation and provide culturally sensitive care that would be unsurpassed in Broward County.

“This is an exciting and unique opportunity for NSU and the hospital district to work collaboratively,” said Wil Trower,

president and chief executive officer of the North Broward Hospital District. “We are honored that NSU invited the district to operate the Medical Village, and that this project will create new health care resources for the entire community. Together, we are taking the next step forward in our quest to bring leading-edge health care practices and medical advances to all citizens of Broward County. The new hospital will be integrated with multiple specialties based at Broward General Medical Center, further increasing community access to district specialty services and programs.”

Under the current plan, NSU would build the 150-bed facility and lease it to the North Broward Hospital District, which would run its day-to-day operations. The Medical Village will serve as a complementary component to NSU’s planned \$350 million Academical Village project, which is a mixed-use academic and retail development.

“NSU has a special mission as a leader in biomedical research and outreach to the community through our health centers,” said HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman. “This hospital and the collaboration with the North Broward Hospital District



will create an unbeatable opportunity for everyone. This project will allow NSU to expand its internal medicine, emergency medicine, and other health-related residencies and internships. Students will be able to seamlessly apply the latest medical protocols they are learning at NSU's classrooms at the hospital—without missing a beat."

## Medical Village Q&A

### *How will this hospital differ from others?*

The plan is to create a world-class facility that offers local physicians cutting-edge technology and access to the latest research, protocols, and services beyond those traditionally found in a hospital setting. Patients and their families will receive superior care that is highly responsive to their needs. The result of all these factors derived from the synergy between NSU and NBHD will create better patient care and better patient outcomes.

### *Besides medicine, what other synergies might there be between NSU's curricula and North Broward Hospital District's new hospital?*

NSU has a full complement of health professions that can provide services to local residents through the new hospital. They include nursing, pharmacy, optometry, and dentistry, to name a few.

### *What is a medical village?*

A medical village is a hub for medical research and superior medical care. This hospital will be a part of NSU's vision for an academical village and be supported by medical offices and research facilities designed to provide the highest level of care to patients and their families.

### *What is an academical village?*

The academical village is Thomas Jefferson's concept for the University of Virginia. Jefferson coined an "academical village" as a place in which students and faculty would live and work together, fostering a sense of community among scholars. NSU has rezoned its campus to create just that—an academical village.

### *Will this be a teaching hospital?*

The Medical Village at NSU will be an academic medical center where students will learn from some of the best medical professionals in the area. This hospital will be unique in that it is not a stand-alone hospital; instead, it will be integrated into NSU's entire campus.

### *What is the next step in the approval process?*

The North Broward Hospital District has already submitted a Letter of Intent to Florida's Agency for Health Care



*The historic Medical Village at NSU press conference was conducted by (from left): Dr. Fred Lippman; Luis Rodriguez, chairman of the NBHD Board of Commissioners; Wil Trower, NBHD president and CEO; NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr.; and Dr. George Hanbury, NSU executive vice president for administration.*

Administration. In March 2005, the district will begin the process of obtaining a Certificate of Need from the state.

### *Who will the hospital serve?*

This public hospital will serve an area in the heart of Broward County with a diverse population of nearly 1.2 million people that is expected to grow to approximately 1.5 million people by 2013.

### *What services will be available?*

The hospital will offer a unique configuration of services that will be a result of its proximity to the medical school. The involved parties are currently evaluating what services are most urgently needed within the surrounding community to address those needs in the plans for this facility.

### *Will NSU students continue to engage in residencies at other NBHD facilities?*

Yes, NSU students are engaged in residencies throughout South Florida. They will continue to serve at other NBHD facilities, as well as other hospitals in the region. The new hospital will expand and enhance their opportunities to participate in hands on education and clinical care in a unique environment.

### *Will any doctor in Broward County be able to practice at the Medical Village?*

Yes. Talented M.D.s and D.O.s will be recruited to practice at this hospital, alongside NSU researchers and residents.

### *How can individuals help make this project a reality?*

Individuals can contact local and state officials, letting them know that they support locating a hospital on NSU's campus and recognize the benefits to the community.



# Celebrating Osteopathic Advocacy



## Support Extends Far Beyond D.O. Community

By Scott Colton  
Director of Medical Communications

Over the past 130 years, the osteopathic profession has gained in popularity and acceptance thanks to the dogged pursuits of individuals such as Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, a frontier physician who first articulated the basic principles of osteopathic medicine in 1874, and the late Morton Terry, D.O., who founded what came to be known as NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division.

Through the exhaustive efforts of countless other D.O.s, who dedicated their lives to earning respect for a profession that was habitually mocked and dismissed by its allopathic counterparts and the medical community, osteopathic

medicine has become an integral and well-respected component of the health care landscape.

However, the profession also owes a huge debt of gratitude to the countless number of non D.O.s who have—and continue to—champion the osteopathic cause in a range of educational, legislative, and medically related arenas. While there are numerous individuals who merit recognition for their altruistic contributions, *COM Outlook* has chosen four distinguished non D.O.s who have cultivated productive long-term ties with the profession and NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.  
Chancellor  
NSU Health Professions Division**



Throughout his diverse and storied career, Dr. Fred Lippman has served as a community pharmacist, state representative, health care educator, Florida AHEC founder, and resourceful NSU Health Professions Division administrator. The roles may have changed over the years, but one aspect that has never wavered is his commitment to NSU-COM and the osteopathic profession.

When Dr. Lippman initially formed a friendship with the legendary Dr. Terry in the early 1970s, there was no way he could have foreseen the vast impact the relationship would eventually have on his life. "I was an active leader in organizational pharmacy, and Dr. Terry was an influential leader in organizational osteopathic medicine, so we got to know each other as our paths crossed over the years," said Dr. Lippman, who served an assiduous 20-year term as a Florida House of Representatives member from 1978 through 1998.

Because Dr. Lippman owned a number of successful pharmacies in South Florida during the 1960s and 70s, he gradually gained exposure to the osteopathic profession through his numerous dealings with D.O.s. However, Dr. Lippman's true period of osteopathic enlightenment occurred a few years later when Dr. Terry was launching what turned out to be an unsuccessful bid to petition the state to establish a college of osteopathic medicine in South Florida.

"Although I had known Dr. Terry in professional circles in the early 1970s, from 1975 through 1981 I knew him more as someone who was on a journey to create a college of osteopathic medicine," said Dr. Lippman, who assisted Dr. Terry in that initial failed attempt and remained in close touch with the osteopathic icon.

A few years later, Dr. Terry masterminded the establishment of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) in North Miami Beach, which welcomed its inaugural class in 1981—and the rest, as they say, is history.

Throughout the next two decades, Dr. Lippman played an ever-increasing role in the evolution of SECOM and the rapidly expanding educational mecca Dr. Terry was creating, which culminated with the formation of the NSU Health Professions Division in 1994. However, even when he became the first administrative officer of the College of Pharmacy in 1987 or HPD executive vice chancellor and provost in 1998, Dr. Lippman never stopped advocating for osteopathic medicine.

In fact, during his tenure in the Florida Legislature, Dr. Lippman earned quite a reputation amongst his political peers for his unrelenting support and protection of the osteopathic profession. "Many times we would be analyzing a bill that wasn't specific to the osteopathic profession but was relative to the standards and care and regulation of physicians in general," he explained. "Quite often, when a statutory section would cite physicians or the practice of medicine, it related to only one chapter, Chapter 458, which refers to allopathic physicians. Since many of these bills frequently excluded Chapter 459, which relates to osteopathic physicians, I became known as the "459-amendment legislator" over a period of years because I constantly addressed the oversight whenever it occurred."

In 2001, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Governors wisely recognized Dr. Lippman for his "significant and public contributions to the advancement of osteopathic medicine and osteopathic medical education" by presenting him with its prestigious William D. Miller Award.

In his current role as HPD chancellor, Dr. Lippman's proverbial plate may be overflowing with the demands that come from overseeing six thriving colleges. Still, no matter how harried his days may be, Dr. Lippman can always be counted on to focus on issues that have the potential to impact and enrich both NSU-COM and the overall osteopathic community.

**Sylvia Urlich, M.A.  
President and Chairman of the Board  
Westchester General Hospital**

It definitely wouldn't be an exaggeration to suggest that Sylvia Urlich and her husband, Morry Fox, D.O., had a significant influence on their offspring's lives.

Urlich, who currently serves on both the NSU Board of Trustees and the Health Professions Division Board of Governors, has seven children, all of whom are intricately involved in the medical profession. In fact—in the true embodiment of every Jewish mother's dream—five of her



children became osteopathic physicians, while another, who strayed from the D.O. fold to become an allopathic practitioner, made amends by marrying a D.O. Her youngest daughter, who prevented a full physician sweep, did uphold the family tradition to some extent by becoming president and CEO of a health care plan.

"I guess you could say medicine is in our blood," stated Ulrich, who serves as president and chairman of the board of both Westchester General and Southern Winds Hospital in Miami, Florida. Westchester General, which Ulrich and her husband established in 1965, is a 100-bed acute care osteopathic hospital, while Southern Winds serves as a 72-bed psychiatric facility. Currently, 25 additional beds are under construction at Westchester General, as is an entirely new service wing.

Interestingly, Ulrich and her husband's initial intention was to establish a nursing home in Miami, but those plans soon changed courtesy of a desperate plea from local osteopathic physicians. "In the mid 1960s, when we were building a nursing home, the osteopathic physicians in the area had no place to take their patients in South Dade County," she explained. "So they came to us and asked if we would be willing to convert the facilities into a hospital. We started as a nursing home and then added a service wing, so it actually became the first hospital that was ever a swing-bed hospital. For a while we were part nursing home and part acute care facility, but by 1966 it was thoroughly an acute care facility."

Despite the inherent challenges that came with raising seven children and serving as a hospital administrator, Ulrich also found time to become a staunch osteopathic advocate. "Once we started the hospital, I immediately became active in all the pertinent health care organizations," said Ulrich, who also returned to college to earn her M.A. degree from Florida International University's Health Care Management School of Business in 1974. "I was always interested in working with the various legislative committees to further the osteopathic cause because we were always a minority that had to continually fight for everything we did get."

Her advocacy efforts certainly didn't go unnoticed by her friend Dr. Morton Terry, who asked Ulrich to serve on the inaugural SECOM board and assist him in his mission to enhance osteopathic medical education opportunities in the community. Over the years, Ulrich did just that by opening her hospital's doors to the college's students, interns, and residents and providing them with a range of clinical rotation and postgraduate training opportunities.



According to Ulrich, working with the students and helping them fulfill their dreams is one of the most gratifying aspects of her enduring affiliation with NSU-COM, the Health Professions Division, and the university. "Over the years I've mentored many young people who wanted to become physicians and

helped them with their studies," said Ulrich, who has served as trustee and vice president of the Federation of American Hospitals and trustee of the American College of Osteopathic Hospital Administrators. "It's a great joy working with young people in education and helping them get ahead. I also derive such great pleasure each year when one or two of them graduate from one of the colleges and I am privileged enough to be there to present them with their diplomas.

"It's really been a labor of love," added Ulrich, who received the Distinguished Service Award from NSU's Health Professions Division in 2001. "I frequently get letters from graduates telling me about their careers and thanking me for getting them started and encouraging them. Knowing I've helped them in some way is a true joy."

Her interaction with NSU through its Board of Trustees and HPD Board of Governors has also brought her much satisfaction. "I have a real love affair with Nova Southeastern University," admitted Ulrich, who is the proud grandmother of 20 grandchildren. "I think it's just a phenomenal university due to the vision of Dr. Morton Terry and President Ray Ferrero, Jr., the capable leadership of Dr. Fred Lippman, and the support of two very fine boards that consist of individuals who are both multitalented and philanthropic."

Apparently, the feeling is quite mutual. "Sylvia Ulrich is one of the most unique human beings you'll ever meet," said Dr. Lippman of his two-decade plus comradeship with the longtime osteopathic advocate. "She's very beneficent, exceedingly knowledgeable, extremely capable, extraordinarily intuitive, tremendously entrepreneurial, and incredibly loyal. In addition to being one of the premier activists in the nation for efficient health care delivery, she has been a valued supporter of this institution from its very beginning, for which we are very grateful."

**Stephen Winn**  
**Executive Director**  
**Florida Osteopathic Medical Association**



When Stephen Winn first started working as a lobbyist in Tallahassee for the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) in 1974, his knowledge base regarding the profession bordered somewhere between the ranges of infinitesimal and nonexistent.

Thirty years later—and armed with a considerably more expansive experiential and informational pool of wisdom to pull from—Winn now stands as one of the profession's foremost leaders and most effective legislative allies.

As a child growing up in North Miami Beach, Winn knew he wanted to emulate his father, Sherman, who was a well-known hotelier and South Florida political figure. So after graduating from Florida State University with a B.S. degree in hotel and restaurant management and completing a two-year tour of active duty in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant, Winn returned to South Florida to become director of sales at the Balmoral Hotel in Bal Harbor, Florida.

However, by 1974, after rising to the position of manager at the Balmoral, Winn decided to forego his hotel management vocation and pursue a career that combined his interests in government and the political process. "I always had a strong interest in government because of my dad, who was formerly a state senator and president pro tem of the Florida Senate," said Winn, who had already dabbled in politics by serving as former Florida Governor Reuben Askew's Dade County campaign coordinator in 1970 and 1974.

Winn, who also organized and coordinated the 1972 National Democratic Convention when it was held in Miami Beach, officially left the hotel business in 1974 when he was retained by the City of Miami to be its governmental liaison in Tallahassee. After Winn and his family—which includes wife Judy and children Michelle, Leslie, and Jason—relocated to Tallahassee, he established Stephen R. Winn & Associates—a public relations and governmental consulting firm.

With his reputation on the rise, Winn was blithely unaware that a 30-year career with FOMA would soon be beckoning. But that was about to change. "Not long after we moved to Tallahassee, there was an untimely passing of FOMA's lobbyist," he explained. "So I was recommended to help the organization in that capacity during the final two weeks of that year's legislative session. After I represented FOMA, they asked me to give them a formal proposal to become their governmental liaison, which was a part-time position."

Over the next decade, Winn focused on building his consulting business—which included such clients as Goldman Sachs and Company and Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals—and serving as FOMA's governmental liaison. Not surprisingly, when the organization asked him to assume the executive director's position in 1984, it proved to be an offer too enticing to resist.

In addition to his FOMA duties, Winn maintains an eclectic extracurricular agenda that includes serving as a member of the Florida Health Insurance Study Advisory Council and the Republican Presidential Task Force.

The past 20 years have been fulfilling ones for Winn, who considers his greatest FOMA achievements to be the role he played in helping ensure that D.O.s became recognized and accepted as equal to their allopathic counterparts and improving overall patient care for Floridians. "My father's political philosophy was to always represent those who had no representation," said Winn, whose daughter, Michelle, serves as FOMA's associate executive director. "In medicine, that's what you're doing all the time—representing the patients who really do not have a voice."



*During a recent visit to NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, FOMA Executive Director Steve Winn presented Dr. Morton Morris, HPD vice chancellor for professional affairs, with an Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment plaque.*



**Marla Frohlinger, M.H.S.A.  
Vice Chancellor for Student Services and  
Professional Coordination  
NSU Health Professions Division**



More than two decades after she began working in the osteopathic field, Marla Frohlinger vividly recalls the surprising prejudice that existed about—and within—the profession as recently as 1982 when she first applied for the director of admissions position at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. Because she knew nothing

about the profession, Frohlinger decided to do some investigative research and call a local D.O.'s office to help prepare for the upcoming interview. What she heard, however, caught her totally off guard.

"When I called, his staff said, 'Yes, he is an osteopath, but he also has an M.D. degree—so don't worry.' I thought that was a strange remark to make, and after I got the position here, I always remembered that story," said Frohlinger, who relocated from New Jersey to Miami Beach with her husband, Stanley, in 1982. "Since then, I've always felt it was important to make sure that people bring osteopathic medicine to the forefront rather than brush it aside. Instead of saying, 'Well, he's got an M.D. degree, too,' stand up and be proud of what osteopathic medicine is all about."

Frohlinger, who previously served as assistant director of admissions at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women in New York, has been a dogged osteopathic proponent ever since she started at SECOM in October 1982. However, she freely admits to feeling a bit overwhelmed when she first stepped foot in her new workplace. "When I first came, I was told there was an assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, Dr. Albert Weiner, who had suffered a massive heart attack but was expected to be back in the office in several months. His desk was piled three-feet high in papers. I kind of swallowed hard and thought, 'What am I getting into?'"

Within a few days, Frohlinger overcame her apprehension and soon became one of the college's most invaluable assets as the institution grew to include additional schools and eventually merge with Nova University in 1994. "To say my job has increased in scope over the years is an understatement," said Frohlinger, who received her master's

degree in health services administration from Florida International University in 1996. "What we did was set up a prototype within the College of Osteopathic Medicine that we utilized when we opened new colleges. We always made certain we were following the accreditation regulations of each particular institution and adding additional staff to help with recruiting and processing.

"Today I oversee the process for all six Health Professions Division colleges, but I do have associate and assistant admissions' counselors who are responsible for the different areas," added the mother of four, who organizes all HPD commencement ceremonies. "My job has also changed in the sense that when I initially came on board, I was just doing admissions, but then we added student services to the position. So now I serve as a liaison between the students and the HPD student services officers, student financial aid, the registrar's office, etc., to make sure the total process runs smoothly."

Although her job responsibilities have expanded exponentially over the years, Frohlinger remains tightly linked to the osteopathic profession via her myriad affiliations with the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). In addition to serving as a member of the Board of Governors Task Force Committee and an accreditation evaluator for AACOM's Application Service, she expertly chairs the organization's Traffic Rules Committee.

"I've led the team in developing the traffic rules, which were established to make sure all osteopathic colleges followed the same procedures," said Frohlinger, who received Yeshiva University's Alumni of the Year Award in 1993. "By implementing these guidelines, students know what is expected of them when they apply to an osteopathic institution. Similarly, there are standardized procedures the colleges must follow in order to be fair to all students. These standards were put in place six years ago, and AACOM has asked me to serve again as the chair of that group to review and possibly revise those rules."

Frohlinger's contributions to SECOM, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, and NSU's Health Professions Division have brought her much satisfaction over the past 22 years. However, she says the most gratifying aspect of her employment is "seeing the students go through the overall process, from coming in for the initial interview, becoming a student, graduating, and going into practice to actually coming back to help us with the interview process or teach here. They'll frequently stop by the office to give me a hug or simply touch base. That to me is the most gratifying thing."

# Staff Snapshot

## Getting to Know: Scott Colton

Director of Medical Communications

**Date of Hire:** November 22, 1999

**Official NSU-COM responsibilities:** First and foremost is my undying devotion to *COM Outlook*. In addition to serving as the primary writer, editor, photographer, and creative force, I am responsible for producing the periodical's overall graphic design. I also assist with all publication materials that are produced by or about our college and serve as a communications resource for the collective NSU community. This year, I have also taken on the challenging task of designing the student yearbook.

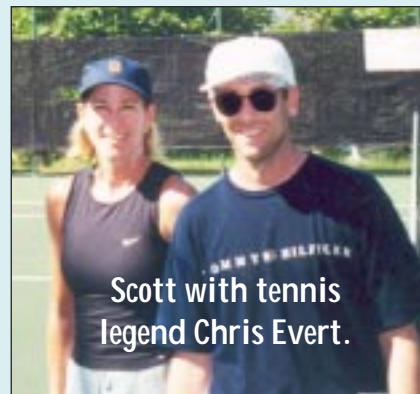
**Reasons I enjoy working at NSU-COM:** I can honestly say that no professional experience has ever brought more satisfaction to my life. Because I work with someone as supportive as Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, I have been allowed to utilize my talents in an environment that fosters creativity and encourages me to expand my expertise. Another key to my contentment can be traced to the enriching relationships I have formed with so many of the college's and the university's faculty and staff.

**What did you do professionally before joining NSU-COM?** Before becoming part of the NSU-COM family, I spent seven years as the community relations manager for a nonprofit organization called the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County. I also spent many years working as a freelance writer for various nationwide business- and tennis-related publications.



**Greatest achievement in life:** It may sound like a simplistic answer, but my greatest achievement is feeling fulfilled both personally and professionally. It took me an extremely long time to achieve

this harmony, so I make a conscious attempt to appreciate and not take it for granted. Money and material possessions are great, and I certainly wouldn't decline a fraction of Oprah Winfrey's fortune if she offered it to me. But no amount of



money could ever replace the sense of contentment I feel from being in a committed, loving relationship and working in an enriching, rewarding environment like the one found here at NSU-COM.

**Favorite way to unwind when not at work:** Because I'm a physical fitness aficionado, you can usually find me working out at the gym or swatting tennis balls at various tennis courts throughout Broward County.

**My coworkers would be surprised to know this about me:** I am a compulsive clean freak. If any of you have ever seen the comically tragic portrayal of Joan Crawford in the film *Mommie Dearest*, well...need I say more?

**The most amazing thing that ever happened to me:** In 2000, I had the opportunity to fly to a resort in St. Martin in the French West Indies and participate in an all-expense-paid press junket with tennis legend Chris Evert. For four awe-inducing days, I reveled in my *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* incarnation, which included a bungalow on the beach, lavish meals, therapeutic massages, sightseeing excursions—and surreal encounters with Chris. I even had the chance to play a set of doubles with the tennis icon, which was like achieving nirvana for a diehard tennis fan like me.

**The most frightening thing that ever happened to me:** In 1997, after several months of losing weight and not feeling well, I was diagnosed with type II diabetes. The most frightening aspect of the diagnosis was having my doctor tell me I would have lapsed into a coma and possibly died within three days if I hadn't been immediately hospitalized and placed on an insulin drip.

**When I retire I plan to:** Write an insightful book that will reveal all the secrets of life.

**Three words that best describe me:** Humorous, creative, and loyal.





## Dr. Irv Rosenbaum Exudes Energy, Enthusiasm in HPD Leadership Role

*By Scott Colton  
Director of Medical Communications*

In his role as vice chancellor and provost of NSU's Health Professions Division, Irv Rosenbaum, D.P.A., usually finds himself in a perpetual state of motion—which is exactly how he likes it. “The last thing I want for myself is a nine-to-five job where you do the same thing every day,” he explained. “I’m always looking for something new to learn.”

Fortunately for Dr. Rosenbaum, who has been affiliated with NSU in various capacities since he relocated from New York to Florida in 1975, boredom is an unknown entity for this self-described multi-tasker who successfully juggles a dizzying array of professional, personal, and civic responsibilities. In addition to a host of university-related meetings, his typical schedule might include a summit of the Broward County Higher Education Facilities Authority,

a board meeting at Regent Bank, or onsite discussions with the Davie Economic Development Council and the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center.

Throughout his multifaceted career, which has encompassed everything from lengthy stints in public service to lucrative forays into the world of entrepreneurship, Dr. Rosenbaum has followed the impeccable paradigm set by his parents, who overcame imposing personal hardships to immigrate to Mount Vernon, New York, in 1946.

### **Parental Influence Foreshadows Future**

There can be little doubt that Dr. Rosenbaum's intense drive and innate zest for life were traits passed down to him by his proud Czechoslovakian parents, who summoned deep reserves of strength to survive the horrors and indignities of



*Pictured at the groundbreaking of the Miami Dolphins Training Camp are former Davie Mayor Joan Kovac, Dr. Rosenbaum, coaching legend Don Shula, and former Miami Dolphin Earl Morrall, who served as mayor of Davie in the early 1990s.*

Nazi concentration camp internment. "My father, who was a housepainter, was always interested in making the world better," he explained. "He loved talking about politics, public affairs, and our responsibility to improve our community. He wanted to make the world more beautiful, and we often made

trips to the Bronx Botanical Gardens. He also made our small rock-infested backyard into a beautiful garden, which made a very strong impression on me."

His father's dual passions would eventually play a pivotal role in Dr. Rosenbaum's future career choices—and the decisions he made in his various professional incarnations. However, it wasn't until he began pursuing a business degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo that Dr. Rosenbaum first experienced the internal stirrings that would eventually lead him to South Florida and a career at Nova Southeastern University.

"I was on track to become an accountant, but my life changed forever when I spent several months in Washington, D.C., to participate in a very select program called the Washington Semester Program," Dr. Rosenbaum explained. "It was an extremely eye-opening experience, and by the time I returned from Washington, I had already shifted my major from business to political science."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in political science in 1971, Dr. Rosenbaum entered the governmental field by accepting a position in former New York City Mayor John Lindsay's administration. "I viewed my work as public service, not politics," he stated. "And the people I worked with had a similar outlook."

### **Broward County, Public Service Career Beckon**

In 1975, two years after he attained his master's degree in public administration at City University of New York's Baruch College, Dr. Rosenbaum left his native New Yorker status behind to make his mark in booming Broward County, Florida. "I was interested in local government," he stated. "Because national government is so large, it's

hard to accomplish anything."

Acting as a man of action was something Dr. Rosenbaum quickly showcased once he relocated to South Florida. He served for four years as assistant to the mayor in the then-booming City of Lauderhill, which served as the convivial host of the popular Inverrary Golf Classic. In 1979, Dr. Rosenbaum left Lauderhill to become town administrator of a bucolic—albeit somewhat backwater—municipality in western Broward County called Davie. At the time, Davie was an innocuous town best known for its rural charms and annual rodeos, which was certainly a major shift from Dr. Rosenbaum's big-city experiences in New York. "I was reluctant at first about taking the job," he admitted. "But I took another look at the town—and saw opportunity."

Prior to his arrival, Davie had been an agricultural township with no property taxes, few paved roads, and meager municipal resources. However, over the next decade, Dr. Rosenbaum coordinated the establishment of a full range of municipal services that included the construction of a police station, parks, fire stations, water and sewer plants, and roads. He also utilized his managerial savvy to assemble a professional staff at Town Hall that became the envy of municipalities throughout the state.

During his tenure, Dr. Rosenbaum built a multi-billion dollar tax base for Davie by annexing large tracks of land into the town and attracting business to the once-sleepy outpost. His numerous accomplishments included leading a successful effort to annex the City of Hacienda Village—a reputed speed trap with a valuable industrial tax base. Dr. Rosenbaum also helped orchestrate another triumph when he, along with the town's mayor and former Miami Dolphin Earl Morrall, brought the Miami Dolphins Training Camp to the NSU campus in the early 1990s.



*Dr. Rosenbaum delivers a crowd-pleasing body blow to "The Executioner" during an exhibition wrestling match.*

However, all those achievements were trumped by Dr. Rosenbaum's successful bid to create an open-space program in Davie. "That was my biggest challenge," said Dr. Rosenbaum of his triumphant battle to balance urban growth with abundant tracts of open green space.



"Initially, it was so difficult to get people to accept the concept of setting aside open spaces because it had not been done up until that point. We created a different style of development. If you look at Davie today, it's very distinct. It's vibrant and does not look like neighboring cities."

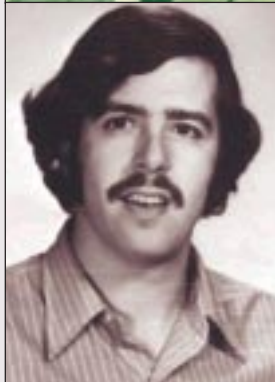
In addition to ensuring its future as a quaint yet progressive town, Dr. Rosenbaum was always willing to go that proverbial "extra mile" to promote the municipality—even if it meant agreeing to get in the ring with a 500-pound professional wrestler named "Big Daddy" Steve DeBlasio for an exhibition match at the Davie Rodeo Arena. "I used to boast about what a great wrestler I was in high school," he recalled. "So some of my cohorts in Davie decided to have some fun and book me for the exhibition match." The wrestling bout was an immediate hit and became an annual event benefiting local charities, with "Awful Irv," taking on a villainous opponent each year for the next decade.

In 1988, Dr. Rosenbaum left the cozy confines of Davie to become city manager of a more populous municipality called Hollywood, located southeast of Davie. For the next three years, Dr. Rosenbaum oversaw a city with a population of 120,000 and 1,500 employees and focused on the municipality's redevelopment and neighborhood improvement projects. However, in 1991, Dr. Rosenbaum left the City of Hollywood to return as Davie's town administrator. "Davie is the kind of place that grows on you," he admitted. "I feel like I've always been here."

In addition to his political accomplishments, Dr. Rosenbaum also embarked on a series of successful entrepreneurial endeavors that included serving as an organizer of Regent Bank—a successful commercial enterprise based in Davie with branches in Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Boca Raton. He also showcased his business and real estate acumen by accumulating a number of condominiums and other residential properties in Broward County, establishing a successful computer company, and serving as the original owner of Davie's first bagel shop.

#### **NSU Looms in Dr. Rosenbaum's Future**

In 1994, Dr. Rosenbaum, who served on the board of one of Florida's early HMOs—Healthcare of



Broward—left the governmental realm to accept a position as director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at NSU's School of Business and Entrepreneurship. In this role, Dr. Rosenbaum administered programs and taught courses in managerial economics, public finance, and entrepreneurship. "Even though I spent more than two decades in city government, I was also an educator during that time," said Dr. Rosenbaum, who earned his doctor of public administration degree from NSU in 1984. "In fact, I have been teaching courses part-time at NSU since 1975."

In October 1997, Dr. Rosenbaum shifted his focus to health care when he became assistant vice chancellor for professional affairs at NSU's Health Professions Division. "When I walked into the Terry Building, I could feel the energy and immediately knew I belonged there. It just felt right," he explained. "I always had a tremendous interest in health care dating back to when I was involved with health insurance programs in Florida. And I have been fortunate to have great mentors like Dr. Morton Terry and Dr. Fred Lippman to guide me."

In his role as HPD assistant vice chancellor for professional affairs—a position he held until February 2004—Dr. Rosenbaum was responsible for coordinating all budgetary facets and other financial data such as grants and contracts and special projects. When Dr. Terry, the beloved founder of the Health Professions Division, passed away in January 2004, Dr. Rosenbaum was elevated to the position of vice chancellor and provost. "When I first came to the HPD, I primarily worked on big-picture financial issues," he explained. "My new job leans more toward educationally related issues and brings much more of a people aspect to it because I work more directly with the deans and students. I especially enjoy the student contact and resolving student issues."

Citing recent labor statistics, Dr. Rosenbaum is quick to stress the economic significance of health care education. "More than 10 out of 20 occupations expected to grow in the next 10 years are in health services," he asserted. "More than 3.5 million jobs will be created in health care during this period, which is more than any



*Dr. Rosenbaum (far left), who was a fervent proponent of establishing an open-space program in Davie, celebrates his achievement at the inaugural open-space groundbreaking ceremony.*

other industry. Health care may also change dramatically as government deals with the financial issues associated with it. As the huge population of aging baby boomers reaches retirement age, health care issues will become even more significant."

As if his professional plate wasn't full enough, Dr. Rosenbaum is currently in the process of completing his Ed.D. degree in higher education—which isn't a surprising revelation given his admitted zeal for knowledge. "I earned my first doctoral degree the old way, by going to libraries to hunt through countless books and periodicals," he said. "Now I sit in front of a computer and sort through a vast amount of electronic information."

When a friend asked Dr. Rosenbaum what he planned to do once he completed his dissertation and received his Ed.D. degree, his answer revealed the essence of a man who has never stopped exploring life's infinite possibilities. "I simply told him I was going to find something new to learn."



*In addition to being a savvy administrator and entrepreneur, Dr. Rosenbaum is a devoted family man who relishes spending time with his children and his precocious granddaughter Eva.*

## Professional and Civic Affiliations

Following is a selected listing of Dr. Rosenbaum's educational, professional, and civic involvements throughout his prodigious career:

- Nursing Task Force, NSU Health Professions Division
- Dean's Advisory Council, NSU-COM Master of Public Health Program
- Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee, NSU College of Dental Medicine
- Chairman, South Florida Education Center
- Chairman, Broward County Higher Education Facilities Authority
- Vice Chair, Davie Economic Development Council
- Public Administration Graduate Advisory Board, Florida International University
- Board of Governors, NSU School of Business and Entrepreneurship
- Board of Governors, NSU Maltz Center for Psychological Studies
- Nominating Council, Florida Public Service Commission
- Municipal Code Review Board, Town of Davie
- Criminal Justice Planning Committee, Broward County
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Broward County
- Director, Regent Bank
- Board of Directors, Holocaust Documentation and Education Center
- Advisory Board, TransFlorida Bank
- Board of Directors, Plantation Chamber of Commerce
- Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club of Broward County
- Board of Directors, Jewish Community Center
- Broward County Charter Review Commission





*Senior Services Team members include (standing from left): Dr. Cheryl Luis (Farquhar psychology and biological sciences); Eileen Gonzalez (geriatric medicine); Dr. Diane Ede-Nichols (dental medicine); Martha Wichert (rehabilitation); Dr. Jaimie Pollack (Center for Psychological Studies/neuropsychology); Dr. Barry Freeman (audiology); Fred Di Carlo (speech-language and communication); Dr. Mark Jaffe (Farquhar biological sciences/MST Division). Seated (from left) are: Mary Ellen Mitchell-Rosen (nursing); Dr. Robert Oller (Division of Clinical Operations); Dr. Michelle Gagnon (HPD clinical services); and Dr. Tommie Boyd (Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences).*

# Senior Services Team Aims to Create Health Care Mecca for Geriatric Community

*By Scott Colton  
Director of Medical Communications*

Over the past 40 years, Nova Southeastern University has matured into an educational powerhouse that features 16 colleges and centers as well as dozens of essential health care programs that provide top-notch patient care throughout its vast clinic network. However, because each college in the university structure formerly ascribed to an isolationist approach to administration, opportunities to collaborate on like-minded projects frequently went untapped.

This precept was especially true in regard to the rich geriatric resources for elder care that existed throughout the university and its Health Professions Division. "We had great services for geriatrics, but nobody knew what anybody else did," said Robert Oller, D.O., who serves as chief executive officer of NSU's Division of Clinical Operations. "Each of the colleges did its own thing because

that was the university's philosophy many years ago, but that's no longer the case."

In today's ultra-competitive marketplace, where the best defense is a great offense, the university's primary players in geriatrics have joined forces to create the Senior Services Team, which aims to integrate NSU's existing resources in geriatric care and training, create additional linkages and collaborations, and seek external funding sources.

"We have all these terrific geriatric services here at NSU, but they're a bit fragmented," admitted Michelle Gagnon, Psy.D., who serves as the HPD's coordinator of geriatric clinical services. "Our primary, overarching goal is to learn what each other is doing and start functioning as a team to better integrate our services. In addition, we're looking for methods of collaboration that will allow us to provide unique

training and cross-training opportunities for the students as well as exceptional services for the community. On top of that, we're also trying to create new services and eventually link with other agencies and municipalities to help fill gaps in geriatric health care."

The Senior Services Team, which began holding monthly meetings in August 2004, comprises a mix of NSU disciplines that includes representatives from osteopathic medicine, audiology, psychology, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing, clinic operations, marketing, optometry, family and systems therapy, dental medicine, speech therapy, marketing, library services, and the Institute for Learning in Retirement.

"When we meet, we do a lot of information sharing," said Dr. Gagnon, who previously served as director of the Geriatric Institute at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies. "In addition to becoming more knowledgeable about what each other is doing, we're trying to function better as a unit. Frequently, when elderly patients come in for a specific reason, they have other physical, functional, or psychological issues that are complicating their health. Now that we are becoming better informed about each other's services, our goal is to become a sort of one-stop shop health care haven for seniors."

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor of internal medicine and chair of NSU-COM's Division of Geriatrics, is a strong proponent of this cross-discipline commingling of

resources because it offers patients an opportunity to have all their health care needs addressed in a more efficient manner. "There are numerous instances where patients come to our geriatrics clinic for hypertension, diabetes, or general medical care," she explained. "But then you discover they are experiencing frequent falls or vision problems. Through our new senior network, we can refer them to our on-campus physical therapy and optometry clinics."

The coordination of a university-wide referral system will also help simplify the process for seniors, who frequently find it too confusing and difficult to contend with the range of referral-related issues. "Normally what happens is a person has a primary care provider, who then refers the patient to specialists when the need arises," Dr. Gagnon stated. "Unfortunately, there could be a significant amount of lag time to set up that appointment for myriad reasons, including onerous paperwork, a long wait time for the specialist, transportation issues, and so on."

As a result, many seniors never receive the sort of comprehensive care that's essential to ensuring both their short- and long-term health. "Some elders get lost in the system for a number of reasons," Dr. Pandya explained. "Many never visit the designated specialist's office because it's too far from their home. For others, the appointment system is just too difficult, or they are waiting for a referral that they may not have received, or they don't know what to do once they receive the referral authorization letter. I often see patients

Drs. Michelle Gagnon, Robert Oller, and Naushira Pandya discuss issues relevant to the Senior Services Team.





for a follow-up visit a month or two later—and nothing has happened in the interim as planned during the prior visit.”

Fortunately, once the NSU Senior Services Team streamlines its internal processes through a combination of information sharing and good old-fashioned hard work, many of these inherent obstacles will be ameliorated—and eliminated. “One of the first things we need to do is train people in our call center—which is the port of entry into the NSU health care system—so they are knowledgeable about the concept of interdisciplinary care for elders,” Dr. Gagnon said. “The call center currently has a cluster of individuals who handle all clinic calls, but no one is specialty trained. What we want to do is develop a geriatric-friendly script for older callers so they receive a uniform message. We also want to have each of the disciplines provide an overview of their services, which will allow the call center personnel to put a name with a face, so to speak.”

Another strategic goal involves the pursuit of external funding to support creative and complementary geriatric projects, which include the recently established Interdisciplinary Balance and Fall Prevention Program that involves key NSU health care faculty from geriatric medicine, audiology, and physical therapy. “This interdisciplinary approach serves a dual purpose because it benefits the patients, who receive expert care from three distinct disciplines at the same time,” said Dr. Gagnon of the program, which features a bimonthly clinic on Thursday afternoons. “The other beneficial piece is that each of the team members can bring a student or two with them. As a result, students not only get to see their professors in action, but they get to interact with other health care disciplines and observe what unique knowledge and services each brings to help the patient.”

According to Dr. Gagnon, once all the internal kinks are worked out, a wide range of possibilities exist to grow the NSU Senior Services Team into an even more diverse and dynamic enterprise. “Our intermediate goals are to cultivate new programs within NSU and then collaborate with outside organizations,” she stated. “Taking it a step further, once all that’s in place and running smoothly, we want to incorporate other disciplines that might not be health care specific but can provide first-rate services for seniors. Examples include elder law and elder abuse awareness and prevention.”

“Nobody does what we do or comes close to matching what we have to offer because of the complexity and variety of disciplines we have here at NSU,” Dr. Oller stated. “The Senior Services Team concept presents a great opportunity for the university to coordinate a comprehensive service showcase that has the potential to positively impact countless numbers of senior citizens throughout South Florida.”

## NSU Senior Services Team Components

### Audiology

NSU Audiology Clinic (Davie)

### Dental

NSU Health Centers (Ziff Building and North Miami Beach Clinic)

Special Needs Dentistry (Ziff Building)

### Family Therapy

NSU Brief Therapy Institute (Fort Lauderdale)

### Geriatric Medicine

Alexander Nininger State Veterans Nursing Home

NSU Outpatient Clinic (Ziff Building)

Southwest Focal Point Outpatient Clinic

Interdisciplinary Balance and Fall Prevention Program

NSU Health Center (Ziff Building)

### Optometry and Low Vision

Broward County Lighthouse for the Blind

NSU Health Centers (Davie, Fort Lauderdale, and North Miami Beach)

### Pharmacy

NSU Pharmacy Clinic (Ziff Building)

### Psychology

Neuropsychological Assessment

NSU Counseling Center for Older Adults

### Rehabilitation

Parkinson Support Group

Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

Speech, Language, and Communication

NSU North Miami Beach Clinic

NSU SLC Clinic

## Non Health Care Components

Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center

Health Professions Division Marketing

Institute for Learning in Retirement

Office of Public Affairs

# Alumni Corner...Alumni Corner

## Alumni Association Executive Committee

### Past

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Dr. John Geake (1993)  
Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)  
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)  
Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)  
Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)  
Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)

#### 2004-2005 Officers

Dr. Kenneth Johnson, President (1991)  
Dr. Steven Cimerberg, President Elect (1987)  
Dr. Ronald Renuart, Vice President (1990)  
Dr. Gregory James, Secretary (1988)  
Dr. Robert Blackburn, Treasurer (1986)  
Dr. Glenn Moran, Immediate Past President (1988)

### Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro  
2003 - Dr. Arthur Snyder  
2004 - Dr. Lori Dribin

### Trustees at Large

Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)  
Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)  
Dr. Ronald Tolchin (1989)

### NSU Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni Honorees

**1999** - Dr. Archie H. McLean (1988)    **2000** - Dr. James Turner (1988)    **2001** - Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)  
**2002** - No Ceremony    **2003** - Dr. Joel Rush (1985)    **2004** - Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)

## Alumni in the News

**C**esar Carralero, D.O., class of 1999, was named assistant program director at Miami's Mount Sinai Medical Center.

**M**onte Fox, D.O., class of 1988, has been named chairman of the UHHS Case Western Richmond Heights Hospital Dermatology Residency Program.

**J**ohn Geake, Jr., D.O., class of 1993, is definitely proud to be an osteopathic physician—and an alumnus of NSU-COM. Just witness his NSU license plate featuring the apropos moniker DR DO. His wife, Ellen, also sports an NSU license plate that bears the initials MS DO.

**T**odd Goldberg, D.O., FACOOG, class of 1989, was recently appointed to the position of chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Memorial Hospital West in Pembroke Pines, Florida. The hospital, which is a division of the Memorial Healthcare System, performs about 5,500 deliveries per year.

**A**ndrew Gross, D.O., class of 1993, was recently elected treasurer/secretary-elect of the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society.

**M**ajor James G. Hardigan, D.O., class of 1999, was awarded two bronze star medals for his outstanding U.S. Army medical service. Dr. Hardigan, who was redeployed to the U.S. Army Medical Clinic in Hanau, Germany last July, received bronze stars for his meritorious service as a battalion surgeon participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom and for his achievements as a task force surgeon in support of Operation Iron Sabre.

**K**arol Hendrickson, D.O., class of 1993, is the new medical director at Doctor's Park Family Physicians in Michigan.

**J**oseph Jung, D.O., class of 1998, passed away in October 2004 following a lengthy illness.

**C**arlos Levy, D.O., class of 1987, was featured in a special "Giving to the Community" section of *The Herald* for the volunteer work he has done with Woman in Distress of Broward County. Over the past year, Dr. Levy has seen 20 women from the domestic abuse shelter and donated over \$35,000 in medical care, lab work, mammograms, and other treatments.

**K**ristyna Paradis, D.O., class of 1998, was elected to serve on the Internal Medicine Certification Board.

**T**roy Sterk, D.O., class of 2003, was recently chosen as the 2004-05 FSACFP resident representative.

## Mark Your Calendars!

February 11-13, 2005

**NSU-COM 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program**

Hyatt Regency Pier 66  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

February 24-27, 2005

**102nd Annual FOMA Convention**

Hyatt Regency Pier 66  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

## Submission of Alumni News Items

Have you published a paper, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position? If so, *COM Outlook* wants to know. If you have alumni news of note to report or know of an illustrious fellow graduate who deserves to be featured in a future Alumni Spotlight, please contact Scott Colton at (954) 262-5147 or submit the information via email to [scottc@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:scottc@nsu.nova.edu).



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising 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 in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter.

## 1999-2004 Cumulative Donor List

### Heritage Circle

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

Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove (1990)  
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)

Dr. Albert Whitehead  
(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)

### Chancellor's Council (\$5,000+)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. (1993)

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)

\*Dr. Stanley Zimmelman (1991)  
(\$1,000 donation in 2004 made in honor of  
Dr. A. Alvin Greber)

### Dean's Council (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Robert Blackburn (1986)

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Dr. Donald C. Howard (1985)

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Drs. Kenneth/Michelle Johnson (1991)

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Dr. Judith Fitzgerald (1990)

Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)

Dr. Brad Glick (1989)

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Dr. John Gordon (1992)

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Dr. Jennifer Hayes (1986)

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Dr. Lee L. Gibson (1985)

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Dr. Thomas Green (1998)

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Dr. Stephen MacDonald (1990)

Dr. Henry Malczak (1990)

Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin

Dr. Glenn Moran (1988)

NSU-COM Class of 1994

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John Potomski

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Dr. Ronald Renuart (1990)

Dr. Michael Ross (1988)

Dr. Lawrence Schwartz (1990)

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Louise Todaro

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### Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

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# Alumni Spotlight

## Dr. Michael Gervasi - Class of 1987



*Dr. Michael Gervasi and his wife Caroline.*

Since graduating from NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1987, Michael Gervasi, D.O., has carved out a noteworthy career that encompasses a range of professional achievements and civic contributions.

In his current role as chief medical officer and vice president of clinical operations of Florida Community Health Centers, Inc. in West Palm Beach, Dr. Gervasi oversees a number of AHEC-affiliated clinics in Okeechobee, Port St. Lucie, Clewiston, Indiantown, and Fort Pierce. He also organized an obstetrical practice at the Port St. Lucie site, which was a particularly significant achievement since it established a much-needed venue where OB/GYN physicians could practice their specialty without the increasing specter of medical malpractice repercussions.

Providing top-notch patient care and creating vital practice opportunities for his fellow physicians were career paths Dr. Gervasi was destined to blaze—a fact evidenced in 1987 when he was awarded the Samuel J. Salman Award for Excellence in Family Medicine immediately prior to graduating from NSU-COM. The accolade, which is presented by the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, is awarded annually to a student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician.

Following graduation, the New York native went on to complete a rotating internship at Universal Medical Center—an osteopathic hospital in Plantation, Florida. It was during this time that Dr. Gervasi formed a friendship with Dr. Carmen Paolucci, an osteopathic physician who had a thriving practice in Plantation. Recognizing Dr. Gervasi's innate medical abilities, Dr. Paolucci hired the recent osteopathic graduate to join his practice. In fact, the symbiotic partnership would endure until Dr. Paolucci's retirement a number of years later.

Dr. Gervasi, who is board certified by the National Board

of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians, also maintained a close link with Florida Medical Center South in Plantation. For almost a decade, he served in a variety of capacities, including stints as chief of the Department of Family Practice and secretary/treasurer of the hospital's Executive Committee. Dr. Gervasi, who received the hospital's Physician of the Year Award in 1996 and served as NSU-COM Alumni Association president in 1997-98, also spent a decade on the hospital's Postgraduate Training Committee, which provided key oversight for the NSU-COM students who conducted their clinical rotations at the hospital.

In 1998, while he was president-elect of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association, Dr. Gervasi relocated to Palm City, Florida, to accept the position at Florida Community Health Centers, Inc. Without skipping a beat, Dr. Gervasi continued his medically oriented activism, which is illustrated by his current role as president-elect of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and as chairman of the Medical Directors Committee of the Community Health Center Alliance.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Dr. Gervasi also adheres to a civic-minded approach to life that is reflected in past and present extracurricular activities such as serving as coach and medical advisor to the Sunrise Youth Athletic Club, volunteering as a team doctor for Saint Thomas Aquinas High School, and devoting his time and expertise to the Martin County Bioterrorism Task Force.

Dr. Gervasi, who serves as an NSU-COM associate clinical professor, also relishes his role as a devoted family man to his wife Caroline (also known as Cookie), son Mark, and daughter Heather, who is a 2001 NSU-COM graduate. With an eye toward the future, Dr. Gervasi and his wife recently purchased a home in the picturesque foothills of the Appalachian Mountains near Haysville, North Carolina, which is where they plan to live when he eventually retires from the osteopathic profession.

According to Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs, "Mike is liked and respected by everybody not only for his dedicated pursuit of practicing quality osteopathic medicine, but also for his outgoing personality and sincere friendship."



# Student Organization of the Month

## *Student Osteopathic Association of Research (SOAR)*



Leading the way in student research at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine are (from left) SOAR officers Martin Quiroga (secretary), Sumana Reddy (vice president), Shanna Hampton (co-president), Melissa Morgan (basic science chair), Elena Timoshkin (clinical/OMM chair), and Kristophe J. Karami (co-president). Not pictured is David Fisher, SOAR treasurer.

Over the past several years, both student and faculty-driven research efforts have increased significantly at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is a trend that will continue to gain momentum once a proposed \$8 million research facility is constructed on the Health Professions Division campus.

Because of this heightened interest in research, M3 student Kristophe Karami led the charge to form an on-campus organization that would serve as a key resource for students looking to gain new or continued exposure to overall research activities. "When I first interviewed here at NSU, I took a tour of the research labs and saw that a lot appeared to be going on," Karami explained. "I think that's a major reason why some students choose a particular medical school. They want to know if they can continue research they had initiated in their undergraduate studies or at a prior job."

That certainly was the case for Karami, who had conducted a significant amount of research during his undergraduate and graduate studies as well as at several pharmaceutical

companies within the research industry. However, once he started matriculating at NSU-COM, he was surprised to learn that a student research organization didn't even exist. "By the start of my second year, I began talking to students at other medical schools to learn what they were doing in regard to student-focused research," Karami said. "Although there was a significant amount of research activity going on here, I initially found it difficult to get my foot in the door because I didn't know what research was going on and which faculty members were actually conducting research.

"I really wanted it to be easier for the students," added Karami, who received a Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Award in March 2004 to continue his research project on the neurobiochemistry of hunger. "I saw there were other classmates who were also interested in research, but they didn't know where to go or what to do. So I started looking into forming an organization and filling out all the appropriate paperwork with the Student Government Association."



In the spring of 2004, Karami's dream came true when he and fellow students Shanna Hampton (M2) and Sumana Reddy (M3) officially launched the Student Osteopathic Association of Research (SOAR). Although the organization's primary purpose is to foster and instill research interest and pursuit of both basic and clinical sciences, students who possess nothing more than a passing interest in research can also benefit. "It's not just for people who want to do research," Karami stated emphatically. "It's also for students who have a general interest in research and learning about the newest medical developments."

SOAR members are already benefiting from the organization's existence through their interaction with key HPD faculty, who are providing lunchtime lectures on topics such as the fundamentals of research methodology, how to initiate a research project, and how to secure key funding. According to Karami, "An ancillary purpose of SOAR is to allow those students who are interested to present their research projects, practice their presentation and public-speaking skills, and speak about any topic in research they feel strongly about." He also hopes club involvement will transcend the College of Osteopathic Medicine to encompass students in other HPD programs such as pharmacy and dental medicine.

In addition to the aforementioned benefits, there is now an official student-initiated resource network for students to tap into when they have research-oriented questions. "It's been great," said Karami, "because students who have an interest or idea can go to a professor who's willing to work with them to explore and develop their ideas."

The creation of a SOAR Web site, which will eventually feature a database listing all faculty that are doing research,

also serves as an information-laden resource for students looking to explore research opportunities both on and off campus. "It's one baby step at a time," Karami admitted. "This organization is something we really felt was needed, especially as NSU moves toward a more research-oriented focus with the eventual research center that's going to be built. That's why we're so excited to have a presence here on campus through SOAR."

If you would like to learn more about SOAR, please check out the organization's Web site at <http://www.alp-online.com/SOAR.htm>.



### SOAR Faculty Advisers

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O. - clinical adviser  
Michael Patterson, Ph.D. - OMT/OMM adviser  
K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D. - basic science adviser



# Dr. Terry Commemorative Plaque Unveiled



*Pictured at the dedication ceremony are (from left): Dr. Lippman; Dr. Terry's grandchildren Patricia and Aaron; President Ferrero; and Dr. Terry's wife, Geraldine.*

On November 5, 2004, NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., joined the university's Board of Trustees and members of the Health Professions Division faculty and staff to dedicate a new memorial to the late Morton Terry, D.O.—the former chancellor and founder of the Health Professions Division.

During the ceremony, President Ferrero and Dr. Lippman unveiled a permanent monument in the Terry Garden, which is located in the courtyard behind the HPD's Terry Building. The plaque sits adjacent to a similar memorial for Matthew A. Terry, D.O., the late dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Chancellor Terry's son.

"They say, 'Great is the person who plants a tree, not knowing if they will ever enjoy its shade,'" remarked President Ferrero as he paid eloquent tribute to his longtime friend. "Thankfully, Mort saw his trees grow and flourish. It's only fitting that his memorial be here in this garden in full view of the institution he built, and among the students and colleagues he loved so dearly. I suspect that our dear friend Mort is finally taking a moment to enjoy the shade."



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