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COM Outlook March 2001

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

COM

OUTLOOK

MARCH 2001

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

Guatemala Revisited

Despite a severe earthquake that rocked the region within a day of their arrival, the participants of Medical Mission 2001 to Guatemala were able to successfully administer health care to over 800 Mayan villagers.

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications

When the participants of Medical Mission 2001 to Guatemala arrived at Lake Atitlan in Soloja, they soon discovered that their 10-day humanitarian effort would be a profoundly moving experience -- for a number of reasons. On the afternoon of January 13, a massive earthquake that caused catastrophic damage in nearby El Salvador rumbled through sections of Guatemala, eliciting fear from both the villagers and the American mission contingent.

"We were sightseeing in Antigua on our first day there, and as I was walking down the street I happened to notice that I felt a little queasy and lightheaded," recalled Camille Bentley, D.O., the interim chair of NSU-COM's Department of Family Medicine who coordinated the medical excursion. "At first I thought it was the altitude and that I hadn't adjusted to it yet, but then the hustle and bustle of the town became overwhelming and it suddenly seemed so noisy. And then I realized that everything was moving with me. When you looked up at the plants, lights, and signs that were hanging, everything was swaying. It seemed to last a long time, but it was probably less than a minute. It was quite an experience, but it wasn't what I thought it would be. It was more like a sliding or wavy motion."

Because the mission participants were

Continued on page 14



DEAN'S MESSAGE



What an exciting time to be a part of Nova Southeastern University. Most of you are aware of the numerous accomplishments that have made NSU a world leader in higher education and project its promise for the future. All of this is the result of people -- not computers, bricks, and mortar. All of us play an integral role in creating the achievements and the future promise.

As dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, I have reflected on our school and the people who made the college's rich history and exciting future possible. None of what we enjoy and are building upon would exist without the vision and commitment of Chancellor Morton Terry, D.O. His dream, which was achieved after years of untiring efforts, created an osteopathic medical school that is a leader in medical education, innovation, and community service. It is with a mixture of humility and pride that I serve as the fourth dean of our school.

Each dean who preceded me made permanent contributions to the profession and to the professional evolution of our educational institution. The growth of the college with Arnold Melnick, D.O. (1980-1989), the national integration with Joseph Namey, D.O. (1989-1991), and the development of an interdisciplinary and contemporary

education model with Matthew Terry, D.O. (1991-1997) were the results of the total effort and dedication of every member of the institution during their tenures.

Now it is our turn to carry the NSU-COM tradition of quality medical education, innovation, and community service into the new millennium. It is from this perspective that I personally thank each and every one of you -- alumni, administration, faculty, students, and staff -- for your commitment and effort over the past three years.

I invite each of you to enter the 21st century with the college as a team, with a renewed commitment to continue to give each of our students the highest quality education possible. Through dedication, research, and creative growth, we can each reach our potential knowing that we are part of a team helping us to perform at our personal best.

May the new millennium bring each of you and your loved ones good health, happiness, and rewards both personally and professionally. I look forward to our future together intertwined with the College of Osteopathic Medicine and all it represents.

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

Dean

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- EMS Department Sets Standard in Emergency Medicine Instruction**.....27
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With its focus firmly on the future, the Division of Geriatrics is launching a geriatric fellowship/residency program at two NSU-COM affiliated sites: the North Broward Hospital District in Fort Lauderdale and Columbia Hospital West Palm Beach in association with the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center.

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The Simulation Laboratory is currently expanding from 8 to 12 examination rooms. When construction is completed, all 12 rooms will be fully functioning electronic teaching and testing quarters with capabilities to record comprehensive patient interviews and examinations.

Maureen Campbell, D.O., Class of 1989, was appointed as medical director for the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) programs conducted through NSU-COM's Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education, and Training.

Shoib Myint, D.O., Class of 1991, recently co-authored a book entitled Ophthalmic and Facial Plastic Surgery: A Compendium of Reconstructive and Aesthetic Techniques. The tome is a comprehensive reference guide to performing established and cutting edge ophthalmic plastic surgery procedures.

In January, the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center became the latest organization to join NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME).



Pictured at the signing ceremony are (from l): Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., NSU-COM dean; Morton Terry, D.O., chancellor, Health Professions Division; Edward Seiler, director, and John Vara, M.D., chief of staff, West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Council on Continuing Medical Education recently compiled a comprehensive speaker's bureau database that was distributed in hard-copy format to all AOA-accredited CME sponsors. A number of NSU-COM faculty members are listed in the database, including:

Edgar Bolton, D.O.

Stanley Skopit, D.O.

A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

Joel Stein, D.O.

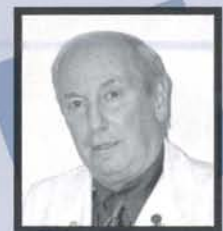
Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

Elaine Wallace, D.O.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.



Elaine Wallace, D.O.



A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

April Halaychik, who served as secretary for the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC) Program since June 1998, was recently promoted to the position of coordinator of continuing medical education. In her new role, Ms. Halaychik provides key support to Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., vice chancellor and deputy provost of the Health Professions Division, and Scott Colton, NSU-COM director of education communications.

Rita Silverman, M.P.S., director of clinical research, was recently awarded the National Association of Women's Business Owners, Broward County Chapter VISTA Award, which honors women who unselfishly volunteer their time toward furthering the goals of their respective organizations. The Women's Healthcare Executive Network nominated Ms. Silverman for this well-deserved honor.



April Halaychik



Rita Silverman, M.P.S.

NSU-COM to Participate in Palm Beach Asthma Research Program

Thanks to the efforts of James Howell, M.D., Chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, and Jean Malecki, M.D., Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, NSU-COM will be participating in a grant program entitled "Comprehensive Approach to Asthma Management". The project is aimed at children from birth to 17 years of age in western Palm Beach County. The American Lung Association of Southeast Florida will serve as primary grantee for the two-year, \$450,000 project, which was funded through Quantum Foundation and the Children's Services Counsel of Palm Beach County. NSU-COM and the Palm Beach County Health Department are subcontracted for \$20,000 annually to assist in epidemiology, identification of optimal prevention, environmental abatement, education, and treatment modalities.

HRSA Grant Funds Preventive Medicine Residency Training Program

The acquisition of a three-year, \$429,788 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant has paved the way for NSU-COM to implement the osteopathic profession's only preventive medicine residency training program. The HRSA project initiates on July 1, 2001, and will conclude on June 30, 2004. The Department of Health and Human Services Preventive Medicine Residency Training Grant Program is based at the Palm Beach County Health Department and will support three residency positions by July 1, 2003, that will be integrated with an existing allopathic preventive medicine residency.

Jean Malecki, M.D., who chairs NSU-COM's Department of Preventive Medicine and functions as director of the Palm Beach County Health Department, will serve as project director while Robert Trenchel, D.O., will head the osteopathic preventive medicine residency. The program aims to provide osteopathic physicians with advanced education and training in administration, epidemiology, preventive medicine, contagious disease control, environmental health, and medical care organization.

The educational experience will ensure that the residents possess mature judgment, familiarity, and interest in health care trends and display a willingness to develop their investigative skills. Upon completion of the program, the residents will be qualified to become board certified in the specialty of public health/preventive medicine.

On February 8, NSU-COM faculty had the chance to view a videoconference presentation by Robert A. Sandhaus, M.D., entitled "Alpha One Antitrypsin Deficiency." The presentation was broadcast live via interactive videoconferencing equipment from Broward General Medical Center to the college. Dr. Sandhaus, who has maintained the largest continuously followed cohort of families with alpha one antitrypsin deficiency in the United States, currently runs the Alpha One Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded to support research leading to a cure for this genetic disease.

In January, Michael Patterson, Ph.D., assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, was appointed to the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Subcommittee on Core Principles of Osteopathic History. Both the subcommittee and its parent committee are joint ventures of the AOA and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM).

The subcommittee's charge is to propose a list of 10 to 12 essential concepts on the profession's history that osteopathic medical colleges could easily incorporate into their curricula.

These concepts will be forwarded to the Committee on Osteopathic History, which in turn will encourage the country's 19 osteopathic medical colleges to adopt them.



Michael Patterson, Ph.D.

Mark Sandhouse, D.O., an associate professor in the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices, has completed the requirements to earn board certification in neuromusculoskeletal medicine.



Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

Robert B. Contrucci, D.O., a clinical assistant professor who has been affiliated with NSU-COM since 1985, was recently named as chair of the Department of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Contrucci, who earned his D.O. degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, also was featured on the cover of *Miami Metro* magazine's "Top Docs of South Florida" issue -- the only D.O. featured in the group.

James Cox, Jr., D.O., an instructor in the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, served as a reviewer for the Kaplan Medical COMLEX Level 1 Qbook. Dr. Cox, a 1995 NSU-COM alumnus, became a full-time faculty member last year.

Stanley Simpson, D.O., associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine, was appointed as a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBOME) Level Two Standard Setting Committee.

The committee, which met January 12-14 in Chicago, sets the passing standard for fourth-year osteopathic students. The standards set at the January meeting will remain in place through 2005.



Stanley Simpson, D.O.

Anjali Noble, D.O., an assistant professor in the Department of General Internal Medicine, has maintained an active agenda since she joined the NSU-COM faculty last year. Over the past several months, Dr. Noble has:

- Addressed the Class of 2004 on the topic "Internal Medicine and the Field for You."
- Represented NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center at the Geriatric Health Fair in North Miami Beach, where students and interns/residents from Miami Heart Institute provided health information and blood pressure checks to the elderly.
- Helped establish an active inpatient hospital teaching service at Memorial Regional Hospital.
- Expanded the Miami Heart Institute's internal medicine intern/residents clinical experience to include the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center.
- Participated in the Memorial Speakers Bureau and served as a speaker on the topic "Preventive Health Care for the Adult" at the Hallandale Cultural Center.
- Submitted a successful grant application that involves working with women in the Florida prison system.



Anjali Noble, D.O.

Alumni Association Executive Committee

2001-2002 Officers

Isidro Pujol, D.O., President - Class of 1994
 Jeffrey Grove, D.O., President Elect - Class of 1990
 Kenneth Johnson, D.O., Vice President - Class of 1991
 Robert Klein, D.O., Secretary - Class of 1991
 Glenn Moran, D.O., Treasurer - Class of 1988

Past Presidents

John Geake, D.O., President - Class of 1993
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. - Class of 1987
 Michael Gervasi, D.O. - Class of 1987
 Orlando Garcia, D.O. - Class of 1994
 Daniel McBath, D.O. - Class of 1990

Committee Chairmen

Jeffrey Grove, D.O. - Program Chair
 Daniel McBath, D.O. - Fundraising Chair
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. - Webmaster
 Michael Gervasi, D.O. - Editor

Upcoming Events

(For additional NSU-COM related information regarding the following events, please call (954) 262-1029 or e-mail immacula@nova.edu.)

ACOFP Annual Convention

March 27-April 1, 2001

Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia

An alumni reception will be held at this event, so please refer to the program for specific time and place. For hotel and convention information, call (800) 323-0794.

Florida Society ACOFP Annual Convention

July 25-28, 2001

Hyatt Grand Cypress in Orlando, Florida

An alumni reception will be held at this event, so please refer to the program for specific time and place. For hotel and convention information, call the FSACOFP.

The FOMA 2001 Mid-Year Seminar

September 14-16, 2001

Hyatt Regency Westshore in Tampa, Florida

An alumni reception will be held at this event. Please refer to the program for specific time and place.

106th Annual AOA Convention and Scientific Seminar

October 21-25, 2001

San Diego Convention Center in California

An alumni reception will be held at this event. Please refer to the program for specific time and place.



Alumni Web Page: <http://medicine.nova.edu>

Join our Listserv! (listserv@list.nova.edu or nsucom_alumni@list.nova.edu)

We are encouraging all alumni to post their addresses on Listserv to build an Internet directory.

You may also access Listserv at the Alumni Web Page by clicking on the "Join Our Listserv" link.

Alumni Spotlight

Daniel McBath, D.O. - Class of 1990

Fundraising Chair, Alumni Association Executive Committee

In the world of osteopathic medicine, greatness frequently begets greatness. Following in the footsteps of his legendary father, the late Donald McBath, D.O., who served as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) and the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FSACOF), Daniel McBath, D.O., has established himself as a popular and respected osteopathic trendsetter. In January, Dr. McBath's innumerable contributions to the profession were recognized during Nova Southeastern University's Celebration of Excellence ceremony when he received the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

"Dan McBath epitomizes everything that is good about the osteopathic profession and the graduates of NSU-COM," said Howard Neer, D.O., associate dean and professor in the Office of Alumni Affairs. "He is a family practitioner in a small rural community, which fulfills the mission of NSU, and he is dedicated to his family and to our profession. Being raised in an osteopathic family, he had the opportunity to see all of the achievements of his father, who was a dedicated and devoted leader of our profession."

Dr. McBath, who was born in Gainesville, Florida, in 1962 and raised in Dade City, graduated from NSU-COM in 1990. Over the ensuing decade, he has immersed himself in a range of osteopathic activities and amassed an array of laudable achievements. In addition to serving as an NSU-COM clinical assistant professor in family medicine, Dr. McBath is the owner and medical director of the McBath Division of the Florida Medical Clinic, P.A., in Dade City, Florida. He also maintains staff privileges at Pasco Community Hospital in Dade City and the East Pasco Medical

Center in Zephyrhills.

On the professional level, Dr. McBath is a member and past president of the Pasco County Osteopathic Medical Association, a FOMA trustee, and a member and past president of the FSACOF. In addition to his leadership roles with the aforementioned associations, Dr. McBath has served on numerous organizational committees, including a stint as chairman of the ACOFP's Young Physicians Committee. He is the medical director of several nursing homes and rehabilitation centers in the Pasco County area and serves as head coach of the Dixie Youth Soccer League. Dr. McBath, who is an ACOFP Fellow, also acts as the sports teams physician of the Pasco Middle School and the Pasco Comprehensive High School.



Daniel McBath, D.O.

His devotion to his alma mater has been equally impressive. In 1995, Dr. McBath became the inaugural president of the NSU-COM Alumni Association and continues to serve with distinction as chairman of the association's fundraising committee. "As the first president of the Alumni Association, Dan worked tirelessly to stimulate the interest of our alumni in this brand new relationship with their college," said Dr. Neer. "He initiated the fundraising process and has been quite successful with his endeavors."

A devoted family man, Dr. McBath and his wife Brenda are the proud parents of three children -- Brandon, 15, Brooke, 12, and Brittney, 10. "Dan has followed the sterling example of his role model father," said Dr. Neer. "Over time, he will prove to be just as valuable to the profession as his dad."

Office of Alumni Affairs Outreaches to Graduates

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications

Before an organization can build a strong and effective bridge to the future, it must examine the past and reflect on the many triumphs -- and unforeseen missteps -- that helped shaped its history. When the Office of Alumni Affairs was established in 1994, nine years after the College of Osteopathic Medicine graduated its charter class of 35 osteopathic physicians, the initial goal was fairly clear-cut: To develop and foster a symbiotic relationship between the alumni and the college.

Today, the Office of Alumni Affairs serves as a multipurpose hub that provides a broad range of services and grants graduates a genuine voice in shaping the college's future. "When we initially promoted our office to the alumni, one great concern to those interested in serving on the Alumni Association Executive Committee was that they would have significant input as to how this office operated," explained Immacula Hamilton, who has functioned as the office's administrative secretary since its inception. "They also wanted to have a say in the direction the Executive Committee would move in order to help change the mentality of some graduates who had ill feelings or misconceptions about the college."

"The Alumni Association Executive Committee plays a key role in setting the agenda for our office," said Howard Neer, D.O., associate dean and professor in the Office of Alumni Affairs. "The officers, who are elected by the alumni, serve as a sounding board for information pertaining to the college. They assist in training our students during their rotations and also help raise funds to support the college."

To instill a sense of good will and camaraderie among the alumni and the NSU-COM administration, an annual alumni reunion was established in 1996. In the ensuing years, other communication techniques were implemented to provide the alumni with easy access to information -- and each other. "Right now, through the NSU-COM alumni Web page, we are offering an opportunity for the graduates to link up with their classmates through our Listserv," said Hamilton. "We also provide a way for them to stay informed by publishing an annual alumni directory."

Still, in this age of impersonal e-mail and detached cyberchat, Dr. Neer continues to pay homage to the tried-and-true means of communication. "Dr. Neer has an open-door policy," stressed Hamilton. "Whenever graduates call or happen to be here on campus, Dr. Neer is always available to direct them in their career choices or assist them with personal matters. He is a wealth of wisdom and guidance for the alumni, which you won't find elsewhere."

Indeed, Dr. Neer is far more than just a respected member of the NSU-COM faculty. Over the years, he has established himself as a true osteopathic leader who has played a pivotal role in promoting the profession at all levels, culminating with his productive stint as president of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) in 1995-96. "Because of my vast AOA experience, the students and graduates will

frequently contact me with questions about residency and practice openings, state associations, and examining license laws," he explained. "Our office also serves as an information center regarding job opportunities. In addition to providing information over the phone, we also have knowledge regarding Web sites that aren't affiliated with us at all but have ads for physicians posted. We compile a record of those so we can pass the information on to our alumni."

Although the Office of Alumni Affairs has effected a significant amount of constructive change since its establishment in 1994, both Hamilton and Dr. Neer feel there are many more milestones to achieve in the coming years. "I want to keep increasing the interest of our alumni in teaching our students because it brings them closer to the college and provides them with an intimate view of what we are doing," said Dr. Neer. "The alumni should serve as role models for the students by allowing them to see firsthand what life is like when you're a successful practicing osteopathic physician."

In addition, Dr. Neer is adamant about rallying support for the college's future growth. "The alumni should be interested in building the school and raising funds because the bigger the college gets and the more recognition it receives, the more valuable their degree is," he stressed. "As the school's prestige grows, so does the alumni's." Hamilton has already detected a subtle shift in that direction thanks to the growing list of accolades the college has collected in recent years.

"The momentum for the attitude change began in 1997 when the college received the American Medical Student Association's (AMSA) Paul R. Wright Excellence in Medical Education Award," said Hamilton. The honor was especially noteworthy because it marked the first time an osteopathic medical school had received the prestigious AMSA Award, allowing NSU-COM to join the ranks of Harvard, Dartmouth, and Baylor medical schools.

In March 1999, U.S. News and World Report studied 144 medical schools utilizing 10 parameters on emphasizing reputation and commitment to primary care. NSU-COM was ranked 38th in the nation, third in the osteopathic profession, first among private osteopathic colleges, and first among Florida's medical schools. "Coming on the heels of the AMSA Award, the U.S. News and World Report study really started this whole snowball effect in terms of the alumni saying, 'We graduated from NSU,'" explained Hamilton. "No longer are they distinguishing SECOM (Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine) from NSU as they used to in the past. The school spirit is growing, and the alumni are very responsive to us when we call, so the shift has taken place."

Based on the growing number of graduates who are making contributions to the Alumni Association Fund, which was established in 1999, it's clear the alumni are becoming increasingly attuned to the needs of their osteopathic alma mater. "Response is picking up, and every new donation is exciting," admitted Hamilton. "In terms of our growth and direction, I know that Dean Silvagni wants us to expand the profession internationally. That's also a major goal for many of our alumni who are from other countries because they'd like to see their osteopathic degree recognized outside the United States.

“If we market this in a way that helps make our alumni aware that giving back to the school is helping to pave the way internationally, those who have international interests or want to take their degrees overseas will be able to embrace the concept,” she added. “So by having our medical missions and relationships in the Caribbean belt and elsewhere, it really would be another incentive for them to contribute to the alumni fund.”

Creating an interactive and ongoing communications link with the graduates is another essential Office of Alumni Affairs objective. “Our alumni are still very young as a group because the first class graduated in 1985,” stressed Dr. Neer. “At the most, some of them have been in practice for 12 years. But a number of our graduates are beginning to distinguish themselves by achievement in the medical profession, and we want to publicize this fact to the rest of the alumni so they stay informed about their classmates and develop additional pride in the college.”

Office of Alumni Affairs Objectives

- To promote, strengthen, and support the osteopathic medical profession
- To provide and promote continuing medical education for alumni
- To hyperlink to other professional and educational Web sites
- To share expertise and knowledge concerning colleagues
- To maintain close contact with the alumni
- To facilitate interaction between the alumni members
- To network across the globe in a relatively inexpensive way
- To provide new graduating alumni with information about practice opportunities



Immacula Hamilton, B.S., administrative secretary, and Howard Neer, D.O., associate dean and professor

Alumni Reunion Attracts Record Attendance

The NSU-COM Fifth Annual Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program proved to be a resounding success, attracting record attendance at all educational and entertainment-oriented functions. CME activities were held at the NSU Health Professions Division complex, while all evening festivities were coordinated at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale.

“I was overwhelmed by the response we received to this year’s alumni reunion,” said Immacula Hamilton, administrative secretary for the Office of Alumni Affairs. “It really seemed like a proud homecoming for many of the attendees, who flew in from places like New York, Michigan, and California. Everyone seemed to have a great time based on the genuine smiles I saw on display throughout the weekend.”

Ronnie Oller, owner of Party Land at the Tower Shops in Davie, earned kudos for creating a festive Mardi Gras theme for the Friday night reception and Saturday evening banquet, both of which attracted approximately 150 attendees. Over 70 physicians participated in the CME portion of the alumni weekend, which featured diverse topics such as:

- *Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*
- *Millennium Bugs*
- *Nonsurgical Management of Chronic Pain*
- *Emergency Management of Acute Coronary Syndromes*
- *Breast Cancer Prevention*
- *Spinal Cord Injury*
- *OB/GYN Update*
- *OMT for Fun*



Class of 1990

Another event highlight included the presentation of 10-Year Distinguished Service Certificates to attendees from the Class of 1990 and the Class of 1991. The Sunday morning Alumni Annual Meeting featured surprise appearances from NSU-COM Dean Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., and William Silverman, D.O., who serves as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Silvagni enlightened the attendees with a “State of the College” address, while Dr. Silverman fielded questions from the Florida-based physicians on topics of concern regarding the osteopathic industry.

During the meeting, general elections also were held to select the 2001-2002 Alumni Association Executive Committee. The officers are as follows:

President: Isidro Pujol, D.O.
 President Elect: Jeffrey Grove, D.O.
 Vice President: Kenneth Johnson, D.O.
 Secretary: Robert Klein, D.O.
 Treasurer: Glenn Moran, D.O.



Class of 1991

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.

If you would like to learn more about the Alumni Association Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029.

Following are the altruistic individuals who have contributed to NSU-COM's Alumni Association Fund since its inception:

Heritage Circle

represents donors who will make a significant deferred gift to the college via life-insurance policies, inheritances, or trusts. Additionally, friends of the osteopathic profession may choose to honor a D.O. by contributing to the fund. When this occurs, the contributors and the honoree will be appropriately acknowledged in the honor roll.

Chancellor's Council

(\$5,000 or more)

Dean's Council

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

\$2,000 Contributors

John Geake, Jr., D.O.
Jeffrey Grove, D.O.

\$1,000 Contributors

Tamer Gozleveli, D.O.
Gregory James, D.O.

500 Club

(\$500-\$999)

Kenneth Johnson, D.O.
Isidro Pujol, D.O.
Stanley S. Zimmelman, D.O.

250 Club

(\$250-\$499)

Joseph Corcoran, D.O.
Tyler Cymet, D.O.
Armando L. Hassun, D.O.
Robert Klein, D.O.
Gregory Serfer, D.O.

Century Club

(\$100-\$249)

Michael Baron, D.O.
Kenneth E. Bresky, D.O.
Doug Bushell, D.O.
Charles Chodorow, D.O.
Richard Cottrell, D.O.
Alan David, D.O.
Bruce David, D.O.
John Gordon, D.O.
Thomas Green, D.O.
Jennifer Hayes, D.O.
Sharon Johnston, D.O.
Frances M. Mally, D.O.
Merideth Norris, D.O.
Mitchell Pace, D.O.
Robert Sammartino, D.O.
Theodore A. Spevack, D.O.
Donald Teplitz, D.O.

Friends

(\$99 or less)

John G. Allred, D.O.
Deirdra Bergman, D.O.
Andrew Biondo, D.O.
Alice F. Blavo, D.O.
David Brown, D.O.
Douglas Bushell, D.O.
Nai-li Chen, D.O.
Christopher Davis, D.O.
Maria Ruiz Harris, D.O.
Joseph Hodge, D.O.
James D. Landreau, D.O.
Steven and Carolyn Newman, D.O.
Hue Nguyen-Ngo, D.O.
Sheryl Pearlman Mousas, D.O.
Lourdes Pelaez-Echevarria, D.O.
Marcos Rejtman, D.O.
Susan Sager, D.O.
Patrick Sayavong, D.O.
Lawrence Schwartz, D.O.
Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O.
Stuart Shalit, D.O.
Cindy S. Marika Srebnick, D.O.
Richard Thacker, D.O.
Linda Tripodis-Murray, D.O.
Todd Trites, D.O.

"Becoming a physician is the greatest thing that ever happened to me. I owe it all to NSU-COM and will be forever grateful. I look forward to donating lots more when my residency is over in June 2002."

Doug Bushell
Class of 1998

Continued from page 1 - Guatemala Revisited

not situated near the earthquake's epicenter, the experience proved to be more frightening than life threatening. "I grew up in Los Angeles, so I've lived through about six earthquakes. They're all different," explained Christa Ambrose, an M-2 student who was making her inaugural trip to Guatemala. "This was a slow-rolling earthquake. Many of them can be a lot scarier because they jar you all over the place."



Dr. Bentley took a moment out of her hectic schedule to chat with one of the American patients who showed up at the makeshift clinic in San Antonio.

Once the earthquake excitement subsided and a sense of normalcy returned, the medical team refocused its attention on providing health care to the region that was originally visited by NSU-COM in January 2000. The humanitarian partnership between the college and DOCARE International, a nonprofit organization composed of health care professionals representing many disciplines, comprised 19 Florida-based specialists, 24 NSU-COM students, and 3 community volunteers. Approximately 800 patients were examined and treated for assorted ailments, including parasitic and skin disorders, eye and dental diseases, oozing sores, and various musculoskeletal injuries at 3 sites.

Improved Health Environment Excites Mission Participants

The success of the 2000 mission set the stage for this year's enriching return, which allowed the participants to conduct research studies and branch out into new regions of Guatemala in conjunction with their follow-up visits to the towns of San Antonio and Santa Catarina. "The reason we went back is because we had established a relationship with the people of the two towns we went to last year," said Dr. Bentley. "We had promised them that we would come back. That's basically the bottom line. As it turns out, we discovered that we were the only medical team that had been to these two towns to provide any health care. There are a lot of mission groups that go to these countries, but when you're dealing with five million Mayan Indians, it's easy for them to be lost in the shuffle. That personally made it more significant, that we did return and keep our promise."



WPLG/Cbannel 10 reporter Marybel Rodriguez interviews Dr. Ginter while Dr. Bentley's mother, Carmella Zampino, watches on.

Jessica Brown, an M-2 student who participated in the previous year's mission, noticed several marked improvements in the towns they revisited. "We had heard that it was such a self-esteem raiser for them because they knew we had traveled so far and raised our own money and brought supplies just to care for them. It gave them some sense of hope. I also found that some of the complaints weren't as severe as last year, especially the skin conditions. The overall medical condition of the towns we had visited previously had improved perceptibly, so it was nice to know we played a role in that."

Unlike last year's mission, which featured a sense of uncertainty, the 2001 expedition epitomized efficiency and order. "The facility was even better prepared than it was last year as far as having the meeting hall sectioned off in San



Medical Mission 2001 to Guatemala participants pose for a group shot before embarking on their humanitarian effort.

Antonio,” explained Dr. Bentley. “They used tarps last year and this year they actually had wooden walls that they built with doors. It was a cooperative effort from both ends, which I think is important. In addition, we were much more efficiently packed this time. We knew how to divvy things up right away and set up our suitcases for the trip. This time, we also distributed family health packs that contained items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand cream, shampoo, combs, and brushes.”

The student physicians who participated in Medical Mission 2001 to Guatemala marveled at the consummate coordination skills exhibited by Dr. Bentley, who seemed to be thinking a step ahead on every conceivable issue that arose. “I was amazed at how well organized the trip was,” said M-2 student Kasey Nelson, who serves as president of the NSU-COM chapter of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association. “Only by going on a mission trip like this can you understand the amount of planning that has to go into it.” Ambrose, who has participated in missions to other countries, echoed that opinion. “I’ve been fortunate enough to go on a lot of medical missions, and this one was so well organized,” she stated. “Every patient was seen by both a physician and a student, and there was such a dedication to the continuity of care.”

“We did manage to see a lot of the same patients again,” said Dr. Bentley. “We provided acute primary care to all the patients who needed it, but this year we were also able to gather data for two ongoing research projects. One project involves developing height and weight growth charts for the Guatemalan children, while the second targets a study of the parasitic infections and the prevalence of those infections and how we can best treat the people. Not only were we able to still treat the over 800 patients that we did last year, but we also gathered data that we will hopefully be able to use on future trips. I was really ecstatic about that.”

Destination: Santa Cruz

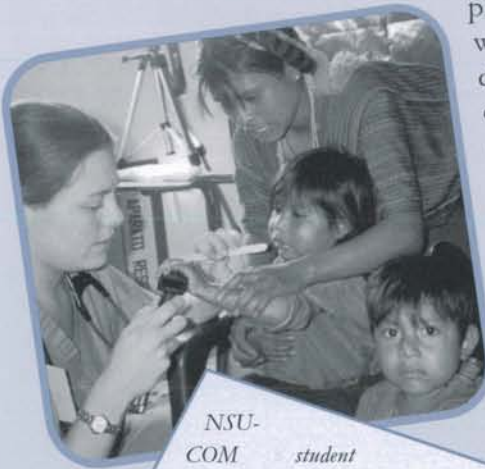
Because this year’s mission contingent was significantly larger than last year’s, Dr. Bentley was able to deploy two scout groups that were responsible for targeting future mission sites. “When we got down there, our contact at the lake, Father John from the Archdiocese of Michigan, said there were other towns on the lake’s periphery that heard we were coming and wanted us to help them as well,” she explained. “So we sent a group to a neighboring town called Santa Cruz. Fortunately, we were able to get through the first two sites in three days and send a full network of health care workers to Santa Cruz.”

Within 24 hours, a municipal building in the town was converted into a makeshift clinic. However,



Dr. Bentley bonds with some of the Guatemalans who swarmed to the schoolhouse clinic in San Antonio.

because the mayor of Santa Cruz was devoutly religious, a second, smaller building was utilized to examine the female patients. “When they found out we had female physicians in the group, they were anxious for us to come treat the women because they are very shy and would not undress for the male doctors,” Dr. Bentley explained. “We were also restricted in what we could talk about. Because of their religious beliefs, we could not discuss birth control because it’s considered taboo.”



*NSU-
COM student
Jennifer Berger prepares to
examine one of the pediatric
patients.*

During their stay in Santa Cruz, the physicians were able to diagnose an array of medical conditions, some of which are rarely seen in the United States. One particularly haunting case involved a middle-aged woman who was diagnosed with Huntington’s Chorea, an incurable adult onset genetic disorder that causes uncontrollable flailing of the arms and legs and progressive intellectual deterioration. “It’s an autosomal dominant disease, so every child this woman gives birth to has a 50 percent chance of getting it,” explained Ambrose. “You only see this disease in very isolated places. Her family came to us, hoping we could curb the problem, but there is no medical cure beyond heavily sedating the person. It’s very sad because we’re talking about a condition where the hands start to shake to the point where they have absolutely no control over their extremities.”

Although no magic elixir exists to cure the disease, Ambrose stressed that the medical mission’s objective was to provide education as well as medication. “One of our jobs was not just to distribute medicine but to provide education about the fact that this woman is going to need support because she’s no longer going to be able to bathe or feed herself. Santa Cruz is the one place I think we should go back to because unless they have genetic counseling, a dominant gene like that can spread very easily. Communication is such an essential element of teaching or gathering information.

“The young daughter who brought in her mother was probably 18 or 20. And we didn’t tell her at that time about her risk of getting the disease because you can’t just drop that bomb on someone,” explained Ambrose. “In addition, there are many ethical issues about whether someone has to be told about such risks and whether revealing this sort of information will negatively affect their quality of life. In many cultures like this, your position in society is based on your ability to produce a healthy family. So the worst thing that could happen is that a person could get ostracized simply because we tried to do the right thing. That’s why it’s very important for us to think about that beforehand.”

Dr. Bentley, who concurred with Ambrose’s assessment, added that, “What’s helpful in this particular situation is that we kept notes on all these patients. We have the woman’s name and a way to contact the mayor. We have a way of keeping in communication with this individual to follow her progress, which makes it easier for Christa or any of us to look her up when we go back on future missions and continue to provide the necessary counseling.”



*NSU-
COM student Tae
Yu checks the
heartbeat of one of the
children.*

Indelible Images Lead to Humanitarian Deeds



Dr. Ginter utilizes osteopathic manipulative medicine techniques to ease the distress of a Guatemalan villager.

Beyond the obvious objective of providing health care, many of the mission participants felt compelled to supply a non-medical brand of altruism. Elisa Ginter, D.O., an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine who had participated in last year's humanitarian effort, was struck by a particularly poignant scene that caught her attention one evening when the medical team was enjoying a snack and a gallo, the traditional beer of the region. "We were sitting at a table by the front door when this little girl around three years old walked in," recalled Dr. Ginter. "She said something to the waitress, who soon returned with a small plate of food. The girl took it and quickly disappeared into the street."

Her curiosity piqued, Dr. Ginter decided to go after the young girl to see where she had disappeared with the food. A few moments later, she stumbled upon a truly heartrending scenario. "I noticed that she had gone to the side of the road where there's a small amount of cement on the sidewalk," stated Dr. Ginter. "She was basically sleeping up against the wall with her brother, who was younger than her, and her mom. They were just crouched up against the wall, huddled together to keep warm as they slept. I realized at that point that they did not have a home, so I decided I would go back the next night and bring them some gifts."

"I had brought a personal stash of items with me to distribute, so the next night I walked back by myself to see if the little girl and her family were still there," she added. "Sure enough, they were resting in the same place. I reached into my backpack and pulled out a Raggedy Ann doll. Suddenly, a big smile flashed across the girl's face, and she grabbed it and hugged it real tight. And then I gave her brother a toy and some cereal. The mother just looked at me and smiled, as if she instinctively knew I was friendly and was there to help them and do something nice."

The symbiotic success of the past two missions will continue as Dr. Bentley has already scheduled two return dates: June 2001 and January 2002. Clearly, the consensus of those who participated is that future visits will only serve to enhance the overall health of the region's population. "We are laying the foundation for a long-term health care system there," stressed Nelson. "There's even talk of trying to keep records of these people so we can follow their health problems over a period of time. Consequently, we can do more than just take care of acute problems. Along those same lines is the research we are doing. This is a long-term health care approach, which is something that can really improve the lives of these people. Maybe not immediately, but over time it will make the children healthier, create a stronger village, and make the population happier and healthier. That's what it's all about."



Severe cases of eczema were one of the most frequently diagnosed ailments during the 10-day medical mission.

Health Care Providers

Dr. Aisy Armero - Pharmacist
 Dr. Camille Bentley - Family Medicine
 Dr. Steve Blythe - Family Medicine
 Dr. Cesar De Leon - Family Medicine
 Dr. Lisa DeWitt - Emergency Medicine
 Dr. Kerry Earlywine - Pharmacist
 Dr. Jarrod Frydman - Family Medicine
 Dr. Rashondia Gaines - Dentist
 Dr. Elisa Ginter - Family Medicine
 Dr. Daniel Kesden - Internal Medicine
 Dr. Harold Laubach - Microbiologist
 Dr. Eugene Manuel - Internal Medicine
 Dr. Richard Milkvy - Family Medicine
 Heidi Smith - Registered Nurse
 Dr. Scott Smith - Emergency Medicine
 Dr. Joel Spalter - Internal Medicine
 Dr. Cliff Stephens - Optometrist
 Dr. Jason Zannis - Family Medicine

NSU-COM Students

Christa Ambrose	Erin Martin
Jennifer Berger	Keri Mullen
Jonathan Bratter	Kasey Nelson
Jessica Brown	Nadia Pellet
Bradley Eisenberg	James Raniolo
Matt Elias	Rayan Rouhizad
Ilya Fonarov	Deeptaz Sibia
Lilia Gorodinsky	John Sheppard
Kevin Horde	Marielis Triana
Violet Lagari	Mark Valente
Susan Lee	Joseph Whitley
Joe Maides	Tae Yu

Community Volunteers

Victoria Laubach
 Carmella Zampino
 Salvatore Zampino

Mission Donors

NSU-COM extends its heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for supporting Medical Mission 2001 to Guatemala:

- Albertson's
- Bayer Pharmaceuticals
- Dynasty Apparel (Miami)
- Iberia Airlines
- McNeal Labs
- NSU Health Professions Division Foundation
- Pfizer Pharmaceuticals
- Shering Keys Pharmaceuticals
- Student Osteopathic Medical Association
- Smithkline Beecham
- Springline Corporation (Orlando)
- St. Gregory's Catholic Church
- Wal-Mart
- Wendy's
- Whitehall Robbins
- Wyeth-Ayerst
- Dr. Steve Blythe
- Joseph Breman
- Robert Perraud, D.O.
- Clifford White

Sigma Sigma Phi Xi Chapter

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications



Joanna Greenblatt, Jeffrey Lebensburger, Chirag Shah, and Joseph Maides

The life of a medical student is a harried mix of exams, anxiety, and sleep deprivation that traditionally leaves little time to enjoy life's simple pleasures. So why do so many students forego a much-needed nap to join extracurricular clubs like NSU-COM's Sigma Sigma Phi Xi Chapter? "I feel it's important to be a well-rounded individual," said Chirag Shah, who serves as vice president of the college's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter. "I always like to get involved in community service and help people. It's all about balance, and I know many of my classmates feel the same way."

Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity that was established in October 1921 in Kirksville, Missouri, by seven students of the American School of Osteopathic Medicine. Its objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice, fostering allegiance to the American Osteopathic Association, and improving the scholastic standing as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students.

Sigma Sigma Phi associates are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent, but membership selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. The Xi Chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi at Nova Southeastern

University College of Osteopathic Medicine is dedicated to serving and educating the community about the osteopathic profession. The fraternity presently consists of 82 second and third-year medical students who are active in many osteopathic student organizations, community service projects, and medical missions.

The fraternity's commitment to community service is evidenced by the numerous programs that have been initiated since the

NSU-COM chapter was reestablished in 1999, most notably the Osteopathic Doctor's Bag Program, which was developed by Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter. The NSU-COM initiative, which is funded by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, was

NSU-COM Sigma Sigma Phi Xi Chapter Officers

President - Jeffrey Lebensburger

Vice President - Chirag Shah

Secretary - Joanna Greenblatt

Treasurer - Joseph Maides

designed to:

- Alleviate fears of underserved children as they relate to seeking health care.
- Foster positive role models for children.
- Create a better understanding of pediatric medical equipment.
- Create strong relationships between doctors and underserved children.

The program consists of five different stations, each of which provides children with an opportunity to learn about specific medical equipment such as stethoscopes, otoscopes, and funduscopes. The youngsters also learn about x-rays by playing a creative identification game and are shown how to elicit reflexes. The program proved so successful that Family Central, a leading family service provider, asked Sigma Sigma Phi to continue the project at all their day care centers in Broward and Miami-Dade County.

“The DDoctor’s Bag Program has become a tremendous hit,” Shah stated. “We’ve been taking the children to basketball games and showing them how to listen to their heartbeats and take blood pressure readings. Now they all aspire to become doctors.” The Our Favorite Book Program is another ongoing activity that seeks to create a friendly relationship between doctors and underserved children in order to better alleviate this problem. Through this educational program, Sigma Sigma Phi hopes that underserved children find both a love of reading and foster a friendship with medical professionals.

Last November, in yet another show of selflessness, Sigma Sigma Phi members were able to raise over \$950 from their medical school peers. The money was donated so 42 needy Broward County families could enjoy a complete and traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The fraternity also visited nursing patients on Valentine’s Day, arriving with armfuls of flowers in an effort to inject a dose of cheer to the residents.

“Sigma Sigma Phi has given me the opportunity to further the cause of osteopathic medicine,” stressed Shah, who hopes to implement the DDoctor’s Bag Program at all student rotation sites. “The organization represents the best in service and dedication to osteopathic medicine and the community, and it has also provided me with a way to make a positive difference in people’s lives.”

DDoctor’s Bag Program



STAFF SNAPSHOT

Getting to Know

Larry Newbree, M.S.

Director, Office of Student Services

Date of hire:

Launched NSU career at the Shepard Broad Law Center in November 1996; began working for the College of Osteopathic Medicine on July 5, 1999.

Official NSU-COM responsibilities:

- Dean's Letters
- Orientation for M-1 and M-3 Transfer Students
- White Coat Ceremony
- Student Handbook Annual Editing
- Senior Week
- Student Clubs and Organizations
- Yearbook
- Admission/Interviewing of Students
- SREB Coordination and Development
- ADA Coordination for COM
- Dean's Hour Coordination
- Proctoring Coordination
- Maintain M-1 and M-2 Student Records
- Maintain Office Budget
- Coordinate Documentation for M.P.H. Program
- Act as Ombudsman for Student Concerns and Problems
- Special Registrar and Bursar Functions

I enjoy working with the students because:

They have a wonderful sense of life and an energy and spirit that inspires me as a person. I also believe that everyone finds a niche which gives them a sense of purpose, and the relationships developed between me and the students provides that sense within me.

Future goals for the Office of Student Services:

To provide greater support to our student organizations, which would include leadership development training and greater involvement by M-3 and M-4 students. I also want to establish greater recognition of the activities our student organizations are involved in and improve upon the existing services we provide to our students.



Larry Newbree, M.S.

How I first became involved with NSU-COM:

I applied for the director of student services position and the rest is history!

The most memorable moment of my life:

At the hour I was to be married at the Sunset Pier in Key West, the sky darkened, the wind started to blow, and rain threatened to push the ceremony inside. Suddenly, just as the ceremony was halfway complete, the wind died down and the clouds separated, permitting the ceremony to end in bright sunshine and leaving a rainbow where the clouds had parted.

Greatest achievement:

The completion of my class work and orals for my doctorate, leaving me currently ABD (All but Dissertation).

My coworkers would be surprised to know that:

I have a B.S. degree in accounting and enjoy working in a garden.

Favorite way to unwind when not at work:

I enjoy playing golf, softball, or just about any other sport. Having a "cold one" down at Fort Lauderdale Beach always does the trick, too.

Three words that best describe me:

Real, patient, and feeling.

Commitment to Building Academic and Community Partnerships Drives Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

By Scott Colton

Director of Education Communications

Persistence pays dividends. Just ask Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., who serves as associate dean for community affairs, professor of family medicine, and director of NSU-COM's much praised Area Health Education and Training Centers (AHEC) Program.

In 1984, during a trip to South Florida, Dr. Zucker had the good fortune to meet with Chancellor Morton Terry, D.O., about pursuing a career in medical education at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "I immediately felt an affinity with Dr. Terry because he projected such vision, commitment, dedication, and excitement," recalled Dr. Zucker. "He shared his dreams for the new institution with me, and I knew right then that I wanted to be a part of its development and growth. I told Dr. Terry how I felt, and he said 'Thanks for coming but we don't have any openings right now.' I said, 'Okay, but when I come down here in the future, I'll drop by and see you again.'"

When Dr. Zucker paid a return visit a number of months later, Dr. Terry greeted him warmly but stated, "I don't know why you keep coming back. I told you we don't have any openings right now." Without hesitating, Dr. Zucker wisely replied, "Because I want you to remember me. This institution is growing and going to be very special, and someday you will have the right opportunity for me." A brief period later, Dr. Zucker's resoluteness was rewarded when he received a phone call from Stanley Cohen, Ed.D, the current vice provost of the Health Professions Division, asking him if he was interested in establishing an AHEC program at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Zucker, who already had significant experience in building an AHEC project at a medical school in Virginia, accepted the gracious offer and officially joined the trailblazing osteopathic institution in September 1985.

In the ensuing 16 years, Dr. Zucker's administrative

abilities helped transform a fledgling program with an initial \$180,000 annual budget into an acclaimed and comprehensive one that has to-date received approximately \$30 million in external funding from federal and state sources. Conceptualizing and implementing successful programs that benefit humanity is a talent that comes naturally to Dr. Zucker; in fact, his desire to help his fellow man is a characteristic that defined Dr. Zucker even when he was a child growing up in Mount Vernon, New York, in the 1950's.

Genesis of an AHEC Advocate

"I was always interested in the sciences, health care, education, and helping people," said Dr. Zucker, who was also a star athlete in tennis and table tennis throughout high school and college. "And I knew that a career in health care was where my destiny lay." After graduating with a B.A. in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1969, Dr. Zucker attended the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Connecticut, earning his D.M.D. degree in 1973. Since he also possessed a strong interest in higher education, while Dr. Zucker was matriculating at the University of Connecticut, he also decided to pursue a concurrent master's degree in that discipline at the University of Hartford. In 1974, Dr. Zucker completed his educational odyssey, earning a postdoctoral fellowship in dental education, evaluation, and instructional design at the University of Florida.

In 1975, Dr. Zucker moved to Richmond, Virginia, where he joined the faculty of the School of Dentistry at the Medical College of Virginia Campus at Virginia Commonwealth University. His responsibilities included serving as an assistant professor in the Department of Community Dentistry, acting as director of community services, and coordinating the freshmen curriculum in community and preventive dentistry. He also helped develop the university's Center for Community Health, which was designed to utilize interdisciplinary teams of medical, dental, and other health professions students and faculty to deliver health care to indigent patients in the inner-city areas of Richmond.

It was during his five-year stint at the dental college that Dr. Zucker first became acquainted with the AHEC concept. "The Eastern Virginia Medical School (now known as the Medical College of Hampton Roads) in Norfolk, Virginia, was establishing an AHEC program,"

he explained. "Since federal requirements mandated that an AHEC program had to work with a dental school if there was one in the state, and our dental school was the only one in Virginia, we were actively recruited to become part of this developing AHEC program. Because of my interest in academic and community linkages, I was designated by my dean to serve as the representative from our college."

The administrators at Eastern Virginia Medical School were immediately impressed by Dr. Zucker's ability to plan programs, solve problems, provide advocacy in the community, solicit grants, coordinate committees, and balance budgets. So it came as no surprise when he was recruited by the institution to play a key role in overseeing the development of the Eastern Virginia AHEC Program on a full-time basis. At first, Dr. Zucker was hesitant about accepting the new position, mainly because he wasn't sure how his dental background would mesh with a medical school mentality. However, he soon realized that an opportunity to work with a community-minded institution was too enticing to pass up. In 1980, Dr. Zucker shed his apprehension and joined the Eastern Virginia team in his new role as executive associate director of AHEC.

During the formative stages of the Eastern Virginia AHEC Program, Dr. Zucker forged a close friendship with the late Dr. Eugene Mayer, who was widely regarded throughout the nation as the true "guru" of AHEC programs. "When we were trying to get our program established, the neighboring state of North Carolina housed the model AHEC system in the United States," said Dr. Zucker. "Dr. Mayer had built the North Carolina program into one which was renowned throughout the U.S., so we contacted him and he came up and helped us develop our program."

From 1980 through 1985, Dr. Zucker enjoyed a fruitful period of professional achievement and collaboration as he brought in over \$5 million in federal funding to expand AHEC throughout the entire eastern Virginia region. He also established a number of innovative initiatives, including a National Model Demonstration Program, which linked medical school and other health professions training programs with migrant and community health centers.

Nevertheless, although Dr. Zucker was thriving professionally in Virginia, he yearned to be closer to his family, who had relocated to Miami from New York. It



Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

was that familial fondness that led him to explore career opportunities in South Florida -- and his fortuitous encounter with Dr. Terry.

AHEC Zest Creates Progressive NSU Program

Since joining the College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty in 1985, Dr. Zucker -- with able assistance from his superior staff -- has played a pivotal role in creating an AHEC program that ranks as one of the nation's finest. "The NSU AHEC Program brings together academic groups that train health professionals at various medical, dental, nursing, and pharmacy schools," he explained. "Essentially, it unites them with community groups that provide health care services in underserved rural and inner-city areas. Our primary goal is to improve access to care in those areas. We accomplish that through a variety of strategies that generally relate to improving the distribution of health professionals in rural and inner-city areas.

"Another objective is to improve the quality of the health care workforce in those areas where people have a harder time staying up-to-date in their fields because they are situated in smaller practices and don't have a chance to participate in as many continuing education programs," he added. "Because they are not near medical schools where they can participate in study clubs, we offer continuing education and library services. We also seek diversity by trying to recruit more minorities into the health field from underserved areas."

The NSU AHEC Program, which currently serves 19 Florida counties, has developed into a multidisciplinary unit that utilizes the various resources that exist in the health sciences centers, the health professions schools at NSU, and in all neighboring institutions like Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and the University of Central Florida. "Within each AHEC program exists a large number of partners," said Dr.

Zucker. "We have over 20 different colleges and university training programs that are part of our NSU AHEC Program. Currently, faculty and students from these training programs are working with us to bring health care services to underserved rural and inner-city areas. So, in a way, it kind of fits the original dream I had, which was to build systems of academic and community partnerships to improve health care access in underserved and needy communities throughout the region and the state."

In 1992, Dr. Zucker realized one of his greatest achievements when he played a lead role in the establishment of the Florida AHEC Network, which unified Florida's four medical schools and formed a statewide system for health professional education and support founded upon 10 regional community-based AHEC Centers. "I do take great pride in having played a key leadership role in putting together the Florida AHEC Network, because until that time we were all individual programs," he stated. In 1997, the statewide system he worked so tirelessly to develop earned national recognition when it received the Eugene S. Mayer Award for Most Outstanding AHEC System in the nation.

In 1993, when a related program called the Florida Border Health Education and Training Centers (HETC) Program was established collaboratively by Florida's four medical schools, the associate deans from the state's three other medical schools elected Dr. Zucker to serve as director of the project - a designation he has maintained for almost a decade. "The AHEC and its spin-off HETC Program are among the most successful ventures that Florida's four medical schools have ever worked on together," stressed Dr. Zucker. "The College of Osteopathic Medicine emerged as a leader in these efforts because we recognized that as an osteopathic medical school working with all allopathic medical school partners, we would have to work that much harder and be better than everyone else just to get equal treatment. So we always made sure we were very prepared -- and very successful."

Versatility Leads to Visionary Projects

Although AHEC and NSU-COM issues comprise the bulk of his time and talent, Dr. Zucker also serves as a central figure in numerous Health Professions Division programs. "Through AHEC, we provided the seed money to explore the development of the Physician Assistant Program and the Master of Public Health Program at the College of Allied Health," explained Dr. Zucker. "I also worked closely with Dr. Rosebud Foster,

who acts as our special projects consultant, to do an early feasibility study about the need for a dental school in South Florida, which played a role in gaining support for the establishment of NSU's College of Dental Medicine." His myriad contributions to NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division also include:

- Working closely with the NSU-COM Rural Medicine Program administrators and faculty to build the unit into an extensive and nationally recognized entity for the training of both osteopathic medical students and family medicine residents.
- Assisting the College of Dental Medicine in the development of clinical community-based services through training experiences targeting underserved communities and populations.
- Aiding the College of Pharmacy in establishing rural clerkships that provide patient services and education in rural and migrant communities such as Sumterville, Immokalee, Sanford, and Ft. Myers.
- Collaborating with the College of Allied Health's Physician Assistant Program in the development of primary care/public health training in medically needy communities throughout the region.
- Playing a key role in the founding/development of NSU-COM courses in ethnocultural medicine, family violence, abuse, and HIV/AIDS as well as a medical spanish training program for NSU-COM and HPD students.
- Establishing the Practice Opportunities Program, which provides NSU-COM students with unique experiential field training in assessing primary care needs, challenges, and practice opportunities in rural communities throughout the state.
- Leading a current NSU-COM Tobacco Cessation Training Initiative designed to instruct students in tobacco cessation techniques and to provide opportunities for community education and service.
- Serving as project director (1993-96) of NSU-COM's Special Initiative Project on Child Abuse. Through this initiative, a model medical school curriculum and videotape were developed and distributed to medical schools throughout the nation.
- Serving for ten years as NSU-COM's co-project director on the statewide Florida AIDS Education and

Florida AHEC Network

Nova Southeastern University

Central Florida AHEC

Everglades AHEC

University of Florida

West Florida AHEC

Big Bend AHEC

Suwanee River AHEC

Northeast Florida AHEC

University of Miami

Miami-Dade County AHEC

Florida Keys AHEC

University of South Florida

Gulfcoast North AHEC

Gulfcoast South AHEC

providing services to underserved rural and inner-city areas in affiliation with our AHEC Program.

“Many programs throughout the HPD have been touched by AHEC,” added Dr. Zucker. “A number of the faculty and students are out serving in shortage areas. Additionally, a great number of our graduates have gone into practice in those areas and are providing care where there was none available before. There seems to be a wonderful sense of understanding of the need to serve the community, and AHEC has been a key component of that whole philosophy. We’ve engendered a great deal of respect towards us from Florida’s other medical schools because of our leadership role with AHEC, which has helped assure our leadership role with them on other projects. We’ve also helped build great respect for this institution in governmental circles on both the state and national level.”

Training Center Project.

- Founding the NSU-COM Library Without Walls Program, which enhances the quality of primary care and public health services at over 80 clinics in South and Central Florida’s underserved rural areas through a broad array of library/information services and provision of computers, technical assistance, and clearinghouse services.
- Designing the AHEC Summer Health Careers Camps, which focus on recruitment of children from underserved rural and inner-city areas (with an emphasis on minority recruitment) by providing them with an early introduction to health-related careers.

When Dr. Zucker was asked to select what NSU achievement he was proudest of, he reflected for a moment before responding. “It’s basically a macroscopic view, having the privilege of working with Dr. Terry, Fred Lippman, the leadership of the Health Professions Division, Dr. Silvagni, and the other deans to really build a sense of community service and community outreach responsibility within each of the HPD programs,” he said. “It started through AHEC with the College of Osteopathic Medicine, where we have the three-month rotations at rural sites. We also helped get our affiliated residency programs at Palmetto General Hospital and the North Broward Hospital District involved in rural medicine. In addition, the colleges of pharmacy and dentistry as well as the College of Allied Health’s Physician Assistant Program are now also actively

Since its inception, NSU’s AHEC Program has mushroomed into a multidimensional entity that has positively impacted the health care system in numerous remote regions throughout Florida. The collaborative AHEC approach, which has resulted in vast and profound contributions to underserved communities, also serves as a source of much pride to Dr. Zucker. Nevertheless, he is aware there are many more health care vistas to conquer as the program marches into the new millennium, including assisting graduates in identifying and procuring positions in underserved areas.

“I want to continue to strive for ways that we can use the AHEC system to increase access to care in our communities,” stressed Dr. Zucker. “We have a wonderful system, and most of the schools training health professionals in the region are part of our team. We’ll continue to expand our base and look for opportunities to maximize the use of this AHEC system -- this foundation we have of academic and community partnerships -- to best serve our college, the Health Professions Division, and the underserved communities and populations throughout the state.”

Dr. Zucker, who modestly downplays his role in the program’s success, credits his peers for steadfastly supporting the NSU AHEC Program. “Dean Silvagni has been especially accommodating of the program. He’s extremely bright and energetic and visionary and has a real love in his heart for rural medicine. He has continued a tradition of supporting the AHEC Program

and providing resources that have allowed us to enhance its visibility. We've really been blessed with deans that have been in tune with what our program is all about. And for that I am extremely grateful."

On the HPD level, Dr. Zucker targets his praise for two individuals who have stood behind him in all his AHEC endeavors. "Mr. Lippman is the true father of AHEC in Florida," he stated. "His ongoing leadership, support, and brilliant stewardship of the program in governmental and legislative areas have been of enormous importance to all of us working in the AHEC area. We never would have accomplished what we have without his efforts. And Dr. Terry's vision, dedication, and commitment to our institution and to our AHEC efforts continues to inspire me today just as much as that day back in 1985 when I first listened to him share his dreams for the institution as a center of educational excellence.

"It has been a great journey being part of the unbelievable growth of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Health Professions Division," added Dr. Zucker. "I've enjoyed having the opportunity to play a part in their growth and success. It's just as exciting today as when I started here in the fall of 1985."

Highlights of Dr. Zucker's Career in Medical and Dental Education

- Obtaining approximately \$35 million in external grant and contract funding support from federal and state sources
- 1999 National Honorable Mention Awardee, Ernest A. Lynton Award for Faculty Professional Service and Academic Outreach, New England Resource Center for Higher Education/American Association for Higher Education
- 1993 - President's Outstanding Leadership Award, Florida Statewide AHEC Network
- 1991 - Distinguished Service Award, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences
- 1985 - Distinguished Service Award, Eastern Virginia Medical School



The AHEC team comprises (from l): Steve Bronsburg, M.H.S.A., assistant director for programs and services; Jesse Legros, M.P.H., HETC statewide administrator; Dr. Foster; Christy Brigman, AHEC secretary; Dr. Zucker; Nancy May, community affairs coordinator; Liane Hess, AHEC data coordinator; Irene Borges, support services coordinator; and Errol Levin, M.Sc., associate director.



Dr. Zucker and Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., AHEC special projects consultant, play a pivotal role in the success of the NSU AHEC Program.

Department of EMS Education and Training Sets the Standard in Emergency Medicine Instruction

By Scott Colton

Director of Education Communications

The past year has been a productive one for the Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education and Training, which is responsible for providing emergency medicine instruction to all students who enter an NSU Health Professions Division college. "We are defining the future of emergency medical education," said Kevin Nugent, EMT-P, who serves as the department's director.

Since joining the NSU-COM team in March 1998, Nugent has established himself as a leader in the emergency medicine realm by crafting a department that provides cutting-edge education to NSU-HPD students, emergency medicine professionals, and citizens throughout the community.

"We provide cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) first-aid training to all HPD students," said Nugent. "We also do the ACLS's (advanced cardiac life support) and PALS (pediatric advanced life support) for the second-year and fourth-year osteopathic medicine students, as well as for physician assistant students and NSU clinic physicians and residents."

Additionally, NSU-COM's Emergency Medicine Club, which is predominantly comprised of M-1 students, recently asked Nugent to coordinate a special seminar

that provided members with additional hands-on experience. He gladly obliged by organizing a four-hour emergency advanced airway clinic, complete with the utilization of pig tracheas that anatomically simulate the human adult trachea.

On the community level, the EMS Department has been involved in a spectrum of activities, including the coordination of a CPR training seminar for the wives of Miami Dolphins players and coaches last November. "I was contacted by Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale to coordinate the training because our EMS division is a community-training center for the American Heart Association (AHA) disciplines of CPR, ACLS, and PALS," explained Nugent.

Twelve spouses, including those of popular players Trace Armstrong, Damon Huard, Olindo Mare and coaches Dave Wannstedt and Mike Shula, participated in the training, which targeted techniques for resuscitating adults, infants, and children.

"The Hallandale Fire Rescue Department also recruited us to train approximately 12 instructors in the use of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), which is a portable electronic device that helps restore the heartbeat of heart-attack victims," said Nugent. "We conducted the training for the instructors and then initiated the program. The intention was to place AED's in police cruisers and strategically located city-owned buildings."

Nugent, who co-chairs NSU's Mass CPR Day program each year, also has established a symbiotic affiliation with the AHA, where he serves as co-chair of the Southeast Florida task force responsible for overseeing all emergency cardiac care programs. "I make sure that all the AHA programs in this area are coordinated correctly," he explained.

"I am a contact person when people have questions about re-certification of instructors, course content, changes in materials, equipment, and pharmacology. The task force also oversees the training centers

throughout the different counties to make sure they are abiding by the contractual agreements that the AHA has set up with them.”

In recognition of his numerous abilities, Nugent currently maintains regional faculty appointment status in three AHA disciplines -- ACLS, PALS and basic life support (CPR). He and his staff also provide emergency medical technician (EMT) continuing education for recertification for the State of Florida with Hallandale Beach Fire Rescue and Cooper City Fire Rescue. Another recent departmental achievement -- providing contact hours for nurses -- underlines Nugent's desire to offer continuing education opportunities to the widest possible audience.

“We just had a two-year agreement ratified by the state nursing board granting us the capability of giving continuing education credits for nurses for any programs that we do,” said Nugent, who also acts as the NSU-HPD advanced trauma life support (ATLS) coordinator. “My goal is to continue defining the future of emergency medicine education here at Nova Southeastern University.”



John Bishop, Margo White, and Kevin Nugent

Fast Facts

The Department of EMS Education and Training was restructured and renamed in October 1999. Over 30 part-time instructors are employed by the department to provide emergency medicine instruction. The department's on-site staff consists of:

- Kevin Nugent, EMT-P, Director
- Margo White, Coordinator
- John Bishop, EMT-P
- Tom McCarthy, EMT-P

NSU-COM Set to Launch Geriatric Residency Program

With its focus firmly on the future, the Division of Geriatrics has proposed a geriatric fellowship/residency program at two NSU-COM affiliated sites. The Family Medicine Subspecialty Training Program in Osteopathic Geriatrics, which is targeting a July 1, 2001, start date, will offer six residency slots - two at the North Broward Hospital District in Fort Lauderdale and four at Columbia Hospital West Palm Beach in association with the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The program has been designed to integrate a longitudinal experience in geriatric ambulatory, acute hospital, and skilled nursing care. Geriatric specialty areas of training will include interdisciplinary geriatric assessment, geriatric neurology and memory disorder evaluation, geriatric rehabilitation, gero-psychiatry, end of life, and palliative care.

Geriatric fellows will receive a high-quality educational experience along with a hands-on approach for providing care to a highly diversified geriatric population. Multiple clinical settings along with a skilled clinical teaching faculty assure the geriatric fellow of a complete and challenging educational experience. As a result of this training, physicians will be prepared to sit for the Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in geriatrics as offered by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians. If desired, physicians also will receive preparation to become certified as palliative care specialists. These certifications will greatly enhance opportunities for employment in the burgeoning field of academic and clinical geriatrics.

In other divisional news, M-3 students who are performing their one-month required geriatric clerkship with Division of Geriatrics Chair Charlotte Paolini, D.O., at various sites throughout Pompano Beach are doing so in a novel way. Utilizing a clever mix of videos, simulated patients -- and a homemade geriatric Jeopardy game -- the students provided an essential program in geriatric assessment to the nursing staff at John Knox Village. As part of their clerkship, students also participated in a flu immunization program, during which they vaccinated over 300 patients.

This spring, Dr. Paolini will be making a presentation at the AAMC Southern Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting, which will be held March 22-24 at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Paolini and other associates will present a poster session on the "Use of Participatory Music Programs in the Medical Student Geriatrics Core Rotation."



M-3 student Michelle Goldman administers a medical screening during her geriatric clerkship.



NSU-COM students pay a frightful visit to patients at the North Broward Rehab and Nursing Center.



Charlotte Paolini, D.O.

West Palm Veterans Administration Joins Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education

In January, the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center became the latest organization to join NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME), which was formed in 1999 to increase opportunities for postdoctoral medical training, including internships, residencies, fellowships, and continuing education programs.

The consortium has evolved into a unified medical education system comprising 14 teaching hospitals and hospital systems spanning across Florida and Georgia that includes ambulatory centers, county health departments, and social service agencies. The consortium uses distance learning systems to strengthen teaching, research, and community health collaborations while also nurturing a shared commitment to excellence in the education of tomorrow's physicians.

CEME partners are working to provide continuing education for community-based practitioners, faculty development, and community health initiatives as well as public health and preventive medicine programs that benefit Florida's elderly, indigent, and minority patient populations.

CEME Affiliated Organizations

Columbia Hospital West Palm Beach
 Florida Hospital - East Orlando
 Georgia Osteopathic Institute
 Memorial Hospital Peninsula
 Miami Children's Hospital
 Miami Heart Institute and Medical Center
 Mount Sinai Medical Center of Greater Miami
 North Broward Hospital District
 Palm Beach County Health Department
 Palmetto General Hospital
 Sun Coast Hospital
 University Community Hospital - Carrollwood
 Westchester General Hospital
 West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center



An array of NSU administration and faculty attended the signing ceremony. Pictured (from l) are: Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., president, Nova Southeastern University; John Vara, M.D., chief of staff, and Edward Seiler, director, West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center; Morton Terry, D.O., chancellor, Health Professions Division; Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., NSU-COM dean; and Fred Lippman, B.Sc., R.Ph., executive vice chancellor and provost, Health Professions Division.

OPP Lab Receives Audiovisual Upgrade

The teaching of osteopathic palpatory and manipulative skills is an art that requires students to be able to clearly observe demonstrations being given by the instructor. There must also be sufficient numbers of tables, stools, and anatomical models available for the students to practice their developing skills and to visualize the anatomical relationships with which they are dealing.

The Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP) Laboratory had always been well equipped with tables and had adequate space for the teaching of palpation and manipulation. However, because new methods of presenting materials and viewing demonstrations -- along with the advent of high quality, relatively inexpensive anatomical models -- had become available, the college committed funds to provide the needed OPP teaching facility upgrades.

The OPP department purchased new treatment stools, ensuring there would be at least one seat per treatment table in the laboratory room. New skeleton models were acquired, as were enough spine/pelvis prototypes so there could be one spine model for every four tables. Special treatment pillows also were purchased to make it easier to position patients for treatment and examination.

However, the most profound improvement has been the acquisition of new audiovisual equipment. Previously, the laboratory had been equipped with five 28-inch, ceiling-mounted TV monitors, two along one wall and three along the other. The new plan called for a total of 16 high-resolution ceiling-mounted TV monitors, four along each wall and a double row of eight down the middle of the laboratory. A new AV control room was added in the rear of the lab, complete with a large window to provide the AV technician with an unobstructed view of the proceedings.

To facilitate faculty/student interaction, a large raised stage was placed in the front of the room to afford students a better view of the demonstrations. In addition, three ceiling-mounted pan/tilt and auto-focus zoom cameras were installed to provide the faculty with a range of viewing options. The cameras can be manipulated from the control booth or from controls near the stage. The system, which allows for simultaneous AV recording of all demonstrations, also provides the students with a birds-eye view of all classroom presentations.

These upgrades clearly position the OPP teaching laboratory at the forefront of teaching facilities in the osteopathic profession. Future plans include the purchase of additional anatomical models and further enhancements to the AV system.



High-resolution TV screens provide students with an up-close view of manipulative techniques.

Student Organization Outreaches to the Homeless

On Saturday, November 11, the NSU-COM chapter of the Christian Medical Association (CMA) showcased its community commitment by providing free medical screenings at the 20th Annual Feast of Plenty, which was held at the First Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale. The students, along with Charlotte Paolini, D.O., CMA faculty advisor and chair of the Division of Geriatrics, set up stations for testing glucose and blood pressure levels for many of the homeless individuals who attended the event.



Charlotte Paolini, D.O., chair of the Division of Geriatrics (far left) poses with members of the NSU-COM chapter of the Christian Medical Association.

“It was impressive and heartwarming to see these students give up a Saturday to participate in a program that provided something worthwhile to the homeless community of Fort Lauderdale,” said Dr. Paolini, who lauds the M-1 and M-2 students for taking the initiative to participate in the event. The Christian Medical Association is a national organization that was established in 1931. The NSU-COM chapter is composed of osteopathic medical students who are committed to living out their faith through their profession.

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