

Summer 7-1-2013

# COM Outlook Summer 2013

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Summer 2013

# COM Outlook

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Remembering  
Dr. A. Alvin Greber**

**Graduation  
2013**



IN THIS ISSUE...Goodwin Snares a STUEY...Medical Outreach in Ecuador...Research/Scholarly Activity...Spotlight Shines on Dr. Emily Young





## Dean's Message

By Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOPP dist.

In 1985, we saluted our first group of graduates. Now, as we celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> graduating class, I would like to thank the alumni as well as our faculty and staff members for their role in the university's growth and leadership in contemporary medical education, research, and community service.

Our reputation in health care education is acclaimed throughout the medical community, as illustrated by the number of students who are accepted and decide to study with us, the number of residents selected as the chief resident in their program, and the success of our alumni. These accomplishments show the value of an NSU-COM diploma.

As I watched the class of 2013 celebrate with family and loved ones, I was pleased to know most of you have been able to find residencies in your top choices of specialties. The awards and certificates garnered by so many graduates highlight your prowess. Additionally, your excellent performances contribute significantly to the reputation of our college. You, the graduating Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics, Master of Public Health, and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine classes of 2013 are our ambassadors in the medical and private communities.

You are prepared to meet the challenge to improve the quality of health care deserved by everyone in this nation. There have been many changes in our country over the past four years—especially in health care. You have sacrificed and have achieved your dream.

Do not run from the challenges. Instead, think of them as opportunities and bask in the joys and successes of your profession. NSU-COM is working constantly to improve the education of our future graduates and to provide opportunities in quality medical and continuing education.

We will strive to make you prouder each year of your new diploma and all it represents. As much as you valued an NSU-COM diploma when you applied to the college, it has an even greater value now. I personally thank each of you and, more importantly, share in your joy as you take this major step in your careers.

My best wishes to you all. I look forward to following you as you build one success after another and urge you to stay in touch with your alma mater.



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### MANAGING EDITOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Scott Colton, B.A., APR**  
COM/HPD Director of Medical  
Communications and Public Relations

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**Debra R. Gibbs, B.A.**  
Medical Communications Coordinator

### EDITORIAL CONTACT

**Scott Colton**  
(954) 262-5147 (phone)  
(954) 262-3887 (fax)  
[scottc@nova.edu](mailto:scottc@nova.edu)

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**NOVA SOUTHEASTERN  
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College of Osteopathic Medicine

## In This Issue - Summer 2013



### Goodwin Grabs Glory with Golden STUEY Triumph **5**

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### Remembering the Inimitable Dr. A. Alvin Greber **20**

On April 6, the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Health Professions Division lost a treasured and longtime colleague, administrator, and friend when Dr. A. Alvin Greber, who served as executive dean for professional affairs and professor of internal medicine, passed away.



### Crusader for Care: Dr. Emily Young **36**

Many view commencement as an ending, but it actually is much more of a beginning. As some graduates revel in the relief of finishing their medical degrees, many others are already moving toward promising futures. Dr. Emily Young is one of those successful graduates poised to bring health care to those in need.

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## HPD Chancellor's Communique

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

The conclusion of another academic year always brings my thoughts to graduation, which involves students from our seven Health Professions Division (HPD) colleges making their rites of passage as they confidently progress to the next phase of their careers.

I think the graduation process has taken on a greater significance for me this year due to the public's knowledge that the country is in the midst of a dramatic shortage of health care professionals. Although many articles, columns, and TV news programs have addressed the dilemma of a growing shortfall of physicians, nursing professionals, and pharmacists, it's really the entire compendium of health care professionals we're talking about.

As the shortage grows, the general public increasingly will be seeking the availability and expertise of qualified health care professionals to obtain the medical services needed to sustain and prolong life. In addition, patients are realizing that issues related to wellness and prevention need to be dealt with through discussions and interactions with qualified and educated professionals.

What you have now is a U.S. population keenly attentive to the ongoing debates and discussions about the Affordable Care Act. As a result, people care about one central issue: "Who is going to take care of me?" People are living longer due to science, research, and technology. Similarly, their ability to access medical information through the Internet and various social media platforms has made them more aware of topics related to their health and well-being. As much as I'm an old-fashioned individual who still reads newspapers and books, the bottom line is the bulk of our community now receives information from a range of sources that were not available to earlier generations.

As a result, people are becoming more acutely aware that they need health care professionals to help them maintain healthy and active lifestyles. With all due respect to the numerous nursing homes and assisted living facilities that exist, most people don't even want to contemplate the idea of residing in a long-term care facility or being cared for by strangers. They simply want to be independent individuals living in their traditional environments.

As many of you may already know, Florida is the epicenter for what I would call the new paradigm of life and culture continuance. The state has the largest percentage of residents over the age of 75 of any state in the union. However, if these individuals would look at their original lifespan tables when they first bought insurance when they were 20 years old, the charts predicted the average American would live to be about 62. But that's certainly not the case anymore.

Based on what I have just discussed, you can understand why I'm so proud of our graduates, many of whom already received their hard-earned diplomas on May 19 at the HPD Commencement Ceremony held at the BB&T Center in Sunrise.

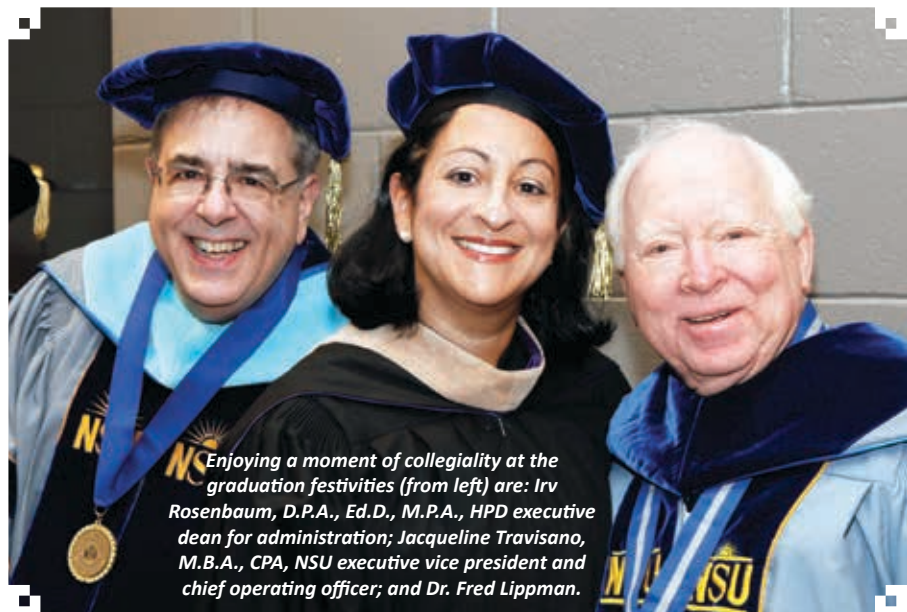
We witnessed 216 qualified osteopathic medical students make the successful transition

from students to physicians, who will now build on their NSU education during their residency training experiences.

We also graduated knowledgeable pharmacists that are immediately impacting not only the distribution but the knowledge base of pharmaceutical information and cooperation with the various health care professions. The same goes for our graduating optometrists, who are now the primary care interveners in eye care, and our highly skilled dental graduates, who will be making a positive impact on dental health care locally, nationally, and internationally. You're also going to see many other qualified individuals, such as our physician assistant, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and audiology students, positively impact their future patients once they graduate in August.

As I previously mentioned, graduation season always makes me feel very warm inside. I am proud that I have the honor to provide assistance to our deans as well as the faculty and staff members who provide exemplary education and able assistance to the students and graduates who will in turn provide their patients with compassionate and comprehensive medical care.

When you think of it from a pure numbers perspective, NSU's Health Professions Division is enhancing the quality of life for the people of Florida—and the nation—due to the large number of health care professionals that have or soon will be receiving their diplomas.



Enjoying a moment of collegiality at the graduation festivities (from left) are: Irv Rosenbaum, D.P.A., Ed.D., M.P.A., HPD executive dean for administration; Jacqueline Travisano, M.B.A., CPA, NSU executive vice president and chief operating officer; and Dr. Fred Lippman.

# Goodwin Grabs Glory with STUEY Win as NSU Administrator of the Year

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR  
COM/HPD Director of Medical Communications and Public Relations



**Johneta Goodwin**, who has served as the college's director of administrative services for 15 years, was named Administrator of the Year at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual NSU Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYS) held April 16 in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on the NSU Davie campus.

"Winning the Administrator of the Year award reflects that others recognize my hard work and dedication to NSU and the College of Osteopathic Medicine," Goodwin said. "I attempt, on a daily basis, to exemplify the eight core values of the university, and being recognized in this capacity makes me realize that everything I do touches one individual or another – hopefully in a positive way. I truly enjoy working at NSU-COM and being referred to as the 'unofficial den mother' of the COM."

For those who are unfamiliar with the STUEY Awards, the event was created in 2000 to honor the people

and organizations that best exemplify the core values of academic excellence, student centered, opportunity, scholarship/research, integrity, diversity, innovation, and community within the university community.

In addition, **Pizza Loft**, which was nominated by NSU-COM's Student Government Association, was named Corporate Partner of the Year.

Excerpts from Goodwin's nomination entry clearly exemplify why she was selected as NSU's Administrator of the Year. "When it comes to loyalty

*and integrity, Johneta Goodwin is a living definition of the words. Since 1998, Johneta has selflessly served as director of administrative operations for the College of Osteopathic Medicine and right-hand person to the dean of our school. When Dr. Silvagni accepted his position at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1998, Johneta agreed to relocate to South Florida from Kansas City to continue their professional affiliation. She has proven to be a great asset to the administration and students and has made a huge overall impact at the school.*

*Johneta always has the college's best interests at heart and is extremely dedicated behind the scenes. When she first came on board, Johneta jumped right in and began assisting with the organization of various student events such as orientation and the graduation awards banquet because the college did not have a student services director at the time. She also helped formalize many of the school's policies and procedures in regard*

*to organizing the staff positions and systemizing financial protocols. These and many other activities allowed the college to move forward very quickly to new levels of efficiency and achievement that the college epitomizes today.*

*Although Johneta is responsible for handling and overseeing a mindboggling array of responsibilities in the Office of the Dean, her approach to her job never wavers. If something is wrong, she fixes it. If a situation requires her to work nights and weekends, she is in her office burning the proverbial midnight oil. Because Johneta is involved with so many facets of the NSU-COM operational structure (e.g., human resources, budgetary matters, student progress), everyone in the college seems to go to her to solicit advice, voice concerns – or just share a friendly greeting. Without question, Johneta is the pillar that helps keep our college functioning as a cohesive unit on a daily basis."*

Other nominees representing NSU-COM with distinction were

## **Executive of the Year**

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

## **Professor of the Year**

Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.

## **Staff Person of the Year**

Jordan Mathis

## **Student of the Year**

Elizabeth Phung

## **Student Government of the Year**

NSU-COM SGA

## **Co-Curricular Adviser of the Year**

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H.





# Treasured Time: Students Relish Lessons Learned in Ecuador

By Sofia A. Funes (OMS-I), Romana Popara (OMS-I), and Alexander Gonzalez-Jacobo (OMS-I)

*In March, a group of first-year students and 10 volunteers/preceptors traveled to Ecuador to conduct a medical outreach program in medically underserved communities.*

An opportunity for first-year medical students to travel abroad and get hands-on experience in the field is truly invaluable. No matter what the additional interests were—the opportunity to practice Spanish, see a new continent, or experience a new culture—the united purpose of wanting to help people who do not often get medical care inspired 25 NSU-COM students to leave their regular, lecture-led lives and immerse themselves in an entirely different world.

The group travelled to the outskirts of Quito, followed by the tropical valley of Tandayapa, and ending in Milpe before our flight back out of Quito. Each location clinic setup was unique and provided us with valuable knowledge. The clinic setups included

- a family and internal medicine station led by Dr. Joby James, Dr. Franciso Leiva, Dr. Naresh Pathak, and Dr. Rhea Ramlal
- an OB-GYN station led by Dr. Hussain Rawji, a pediatric station led by Dr. Mercedes Rodriguez, an osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) station led by Dr. Jill Wallace-Ross, a dental station led by Dr. Shirin Rawji, and a pharmacy station run by Cynthia Eiring, NP. Dr. Risa Reina, a radiologist, worked triage

Upon arrival at a site, there were usually some leaders from the town there to help set up and explain what to expect, although some leaders often needed medical care themselves. Small children waited eagerly in long lines with their parents, obedient even when knowing more often than not they could leave that day with fewer teeth. And then, as soon as we stepped off the bus, all expectations of a typical shadowing experience fell away as we were thrown headfirst into organizing stations, communicating with people, and learning how to help them with our own hands.

Starting at the triage station, everyone was expected to use what Spanish we knew, alongside translators, to figure out where to send the incoming people. Often entire families would come together, and with each brief history, a clearer picture of what the family's daily life looked like started to become clear. While taking people's temperatures, we learned about why exactly they needed attention and more about the important little details of their lives. Some were teachers, some were farmers, but all were open and grateful they were receiving medical attention that would not require travel, funds, or time. Others were simply happy to have someone to listen to their stories.

In both the family and internal medicine sections, and more with each subsequent day, students were expected to do some aspects of physical exams and were expected to ask more detailed and relevant questions, specifically discussing with the preceptors what the right course of action was and why. While each patient received personalized care, we were put in the role of what a medical professional does every day. There was never a moment to get truly comfortable because the limits of what was expected of us always grew and the locations quickly changed.

We recalled the moment when our first patient came in and we realized we were expected, with our own hands, to examine an actual patient—something that had only





been theory moments before. Dr. Hussain Rawji communicated with a Socratic style of teaching that stimulated our critical thinking. We were amazed by his wealth of knowledge as he treated every patient, and we learned and experienced many techniques that were completely novel to us. He used various techniques with the patients, from *poor man's tests* for bacterial vaginosis testing to calculating the approximate gestational age of a fetus merely by palpation. Every case was interesting.

Children were an unforgettable part of the trip. Dr. Rodriguez was a favorite with the children, who trusted her enough to also let us perform physicals on them and still leave with a smile on their faces. The dental station run by Dr. Shirin Rawji was also key, and while there was not much that could be done immediately outside of teeth pulling, unfortunately many patients needed just that – and in a great amount. The children were especially brave, often having just seen a sibling leave with a tear-soaked face. This was also a new experience for us, as dentistry was the last thing thought to be experienced as medical students.

We were able to comfort the children and ease their fears of having their teeth pulled. Even with tears running down their cheeks and still hyperventilating from the experience, they always agreed that they were happy. They gave us the brightest smiles they could despite the anesthesia and gauze in their mouths and promised to brush their teeth after every meal. Those smiles made every second of scream-induced tinnitus worth it. It was through these experiences that many of us also learned how to comfort children, making some of us even reconsider working with them as a career.

Many people in Tandayapa had very physical jobs. Consequently, the OMM station was especially helpful and gave immediate relief to numerous people complaining of both recent and long-term pain they did not previously know how to manage. Nothing, however, compares to the experiences the whole group had in Tandayapa after

the clinic concluded. It was the craziest rainforest hiking adventure, which started out as a nice walk enjoying the amazing views adorned with an immense diversity of flora and fauna. In Milpe, we slept in the clouds. Or at least that is how it felt every morning from looking out of the second-story window to see the tranquil sight of tree tops, clouds and toucans.

Alongside patient care, we conducted surveys to continue the ongoing research study developed by Dr. Robin J. Jacobs, associate professor and director of international medicine. This interaction enabled us to get to know the Ecuadorian people on a one-to-one basis. We explained the purpose of the survey to the patients as they waited to be called for triage. We also clarified how it would help us further our research, explaining that the analysis of our findings about musculoskeletal pains that afflict them would allow us to better serve them.

We have never seen a group of people so excited about answering a survey. They were so happy they could help us with our research that some of them came to us even after seeing the physicians and said they would like to





do the survey, too. I found out many of them had pain in their hands. Most of the patients worked in farms, and dairy was one of their main sources of income. The etiology of conditions such as carpal tunnel syndrome was mostly likely the daily milking of cows.

One of the patients commented that he did not even milk that many cows. "I don't even have many cows, only 20," he said. He told us the name of the medication that had relieved his pain in the past, but explained that he had run out of it. Luckily, we had the medication and were able to provide him with some relief. This type of impact on the daily lives of the people we serve provides a better quality of life that makes a world of difference for these hard-working people.

The final stop for most patients was the pharmacies, which were run seamlessly by our volunteer nurse practitioner, Cynthia Eiring, which allowed us to provide so much necessary medications and vitamins. The students learned the importance of carefully labeling the various pills, paired with the necessity of knowing how to explain the dosage and method of taking each medication to various people, including those who could not read. Surprisingly, patients were proactive about their health. In fact, many of them asked us to make sure to write everything in big letters so they could read it and do everything exactly as we said.

The hospitality exhibited in Ecuador was extraordinary. Alongside three square meals and translators doubling as tour guides, we enjoyed various field trips. From visiting the equator and the artisanal villages to tours of Quito, the long and beautifully woven history of the region was thoroughly highlighted. The nature itself was its own attraction, inspiring long hikes through one tropical valley or another to see many of the town's waterfalls.



Yet, even on the bus rides to these various locations and numerous adventures, the medicine that brought the group together was never forgotten, as Dr. Pathek kindly offered to lecture on the bus on relevant topics related to what we had recently learned on campus, and how it applied in a clinical setting.



From talking to people, translators, and each other, the Ecuador experience was positive not only for all of us who visited, but also for the people who expected a good level of care. They were able to address questions, heal acute pain, and get instructions for care of chronic pain. Just as importantly, these people who placed so much trust in us

also helped us in innumerable ways. We were able to see the end game to all of our studying. We were inspired to keep going, to keep trekking through whatever the next couple of years brings, be it board exams or downpours of rain during a night hike.

OMS-I Kristin Schumann echoed the thoughts of many of us when she said, "I feel so lucky to have gone on the medical outreach trip to Ecuador. The preceptors were so enthusiastic about teaching us, and I learned more about medicine in those nine days than I have in the past year of medical school," she explained. "It really was the opportunity of a lifetime. We worked hard every day and collapsed into bed every night, but we were always ready to get up and do it all over again the next day. Upon returning to the United States, we were happy to be home. Nonetheless, I was already thinking of the next trip and wondering what new things are yet to be seen around the world while helping the underserved."



## HEALTH CARE LEGAL EAGLE

### Governor Rick Scott Signs Tort Reform Law that Favors Physicians

By Fred Segal, Esq.



*In a previous issue of COM Outlook, I wrote about the importance of malpractice insurance and certain issues a young physician may encounter regarding insurance coverage from employers. Unfortunately, there are certain instances where a malpractice claim is unavoidable. A patient may blame an injury on physician incompetence, or sometimes a physician actually makes a mistake.*

If a physician has to defend a malpractice claim, there are certain legal statutes and rules that both the plaintiff and the physician will have to follow.

Many believe these rules make it easier for plaintiffs to bring cases and obtain damages. As a result, lobbyists and private citizens have been fighting for years to tighten rules to make it harder for patients to bring lawsuits against physicians and decrease damages physicians can suffer if they are held liable for malpractice. The practice of loosening rules in this manner is considered a part of something universally referred to as *tort reform*. Lobbying for tort reform has worked sometimes in Florida. Ten years ago, Florida passed a law, which provided that, in most circumstances, the maximum amount of damages a physician can be liable for in a malpractice case is \$500,000.

On June 5, Florida Governor Rick Scott signed another tort reform bill into law, which contains three provisions that favor physicians in defending malpractice cases. They are as follows:

■ Any physician who testifies as an expert against a defendant physician must be the same or similar specialty than the defendant physician. Prior to this rule, a physician who never practiced

the same specialty as the physician defendant could still testify against him or her in a trial.

■ A non-defendant physician can consult with an attorney for legal services if the physician reasonably expects to be deposed, to be called as a witness, or to receive discovery requests in a medical malpractice action. Because of the disclosure of confidential patient information, physicians often questioned whether or not they needed an attorney to represent them if they were serving as a witness in a malpractice case. This bill confirms that the physician can consult an attorney if asked to serve as a witness in another physician’s malpractice case.

■ In a malpractice case, a defendant physician can now speak with the physicians who are treating or treated the plaintiff without the plaintiff’s permission. This is in response to a Florida law that prohibited a physician, who is treating a plaintiff patient in a malpractice case, from disclosing the patient’s medical history without the patient’s consent.

Tort reform laws are significant to all physicians practicing medicine. To ensure you are following the latest rules, please visit the Florida Legislature Web site at [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm?CFID=252496325&CF\\_TOKEN=79582904](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm?CFID=252496325&CF_TOKEN=79582904).



*Fred Segal is an attorney in the Miami office of the statewide law firm Broad and Cassel, where he is a member of the Health Law Practice Group. After earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida, he earned his Juris Doctorate from NSU’s Shepard Broad Law Center and then completed a Master of Law degree in Health Law at Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware, in 2008.*





*Working to enhance employee health and wellness is the talented trio of Drs. Wallace-Ross, Hill, and Moran-Walcutt.*

## Employee Health and Wellness Center Established

NSU's new **Employee Health and Wellness Center**, which officially opened on April 8, is run exclusively by NSU-COM faculty members Jill Wallace-Ross, D.O., who is board certified in family medicine, Pamela Moran-Walcutt, D.O., who is board certified in family medicine, and Gary Hill, D.O., who is board certified in internal medicine. The center's hours are from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The center's purpose is to provide comprehensive primary care services to all NSU employees, their spouses/partners, and adult children on their medical plan. The mornings are being kept open for walk-ins and sick or injured employees, while the afternoons comprise Wellness Made Simple initial exams, scheduled appointments, follow-up visits, chronic disease management, preventive services, and screening examinations.

To make an appointment, please call (954) 262-VIPS (8477). The center is located on the third floor of the Ziff Health Care Center on NSU's main campus.

## Students Take Ideas to Capitol Hill for National D.O. Day

*By OMS-I Trevine Albert, Secretary of the NSU-COM Student Government Association Executive Board*



On March 14, NSU-COM joined other osteopathic medical schools from across the nation for the 2013 **D.O. Day on Capitol Hill**. Surrounded by fellow osteopathic students beaming with professional pride, we stormed through Capitol Hill determined to positively

shape the legislative process. As advocates, we met with our members of Congress to make arguments for issues important to our profession.

One such issue we pushed for was to increase the funded full-time equivalent (FTE) residency slots to meet the impending physician shortage in the United States—an estimated shortfall of more than 45,000 primary care physicians by 2020. Discussions focused on the issue of Medicare recipients doubling to 30 million more people eligible for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act by 2014. In addition, people over 65 years of age are estimated to make up greater than 20 percent of our population by 2030, making it incredibly clear that we must continue to encourage our Congress to provide us with more training positions in our country's teaching hospitals.

Indeed, D.O. Day on the Hill was a special time for all of us. It was not only an opportunity to exchange views on future challenges in the osteopathic community, but also served as a vehicle to becoming part of the solution. We were also touched by the sense of family we experienced at the event. We came to Washington, D.C., to advocate for meaningful, career-related issues and left recharged with the knowledge of there being thousands of students just like us who are willing to invest their time to further our profession. *Pictured (from left) are first-year students Neil Gajera, Trevine Albert, Ajaypal Gill, Ricky Patel, and Rosie Amante.*



## Lifelong Learning Institute Reaches Record Enrollment Levels

The college's **Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI)** announced that the 2012-13 academic year resulted in a record enrollment of 196 members. Compared to two years ago, the LLI has almost doubled its enrollment. Additionally, the LLI recently inaugurated its newly renovated classroom in University Park Plaza, which accommodates up to 200 students. Off campus, the LLI currently reaches 12 satellite locations, which include independent living facilities for older adults as well as retirement communities, and is hoping to expand to more locations in the coming academic year.

## AHEC's Tobacco Cessation Efforts Result in Additional Funding



### Tobacco Training and Cessation

In regard to state funding for its Tobacco Training and Cessation Program, the college's **Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program** received \$3.3 million for the first year of its new three-year Florida Department of Health contract to continue providing tobacco prevention education and tobacco cessation services to every county within its service region. Since the program's inception in 2007, nearly 13,000 Floridians have participated in comprehensive tobacco cessation counseling.

In addition, the AHEC Program has continued to work with state and regional health professional organizations to conduct training programs for health providers throughout Florida on effective skills to treat tobacco dependency in the clinical setting. During the current contract year, over 1,000 health professions students were trained by the AHEC Program. More than 100 practicing osteopathic physicians—in partnership with the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association—also received training.

### Tobacco Curriculum

The AHEC Program is continuing to work with nearly 200 faculty members and students from the NSU Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, Health Care Sciences, and Medical Sciences in regard to rural training and outreach efforts. Health fairs, which included the participation of the Palm Beach and Hendry County health departments as well as over 80 community organizations, provided a broad range of health services to residents from these medically underserved communities of South Florida.

The program also launched an initiative to expose youth to careers in public health and established a partnership with faculty members from the NSU-COM Master of Public Health Program and the Stranahan High School Medical Magnet Program in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to provide urban and minority students from Stranahan with a series of educational activities designed to motivate their interests in pursuing a career in public health. These have included presentations at the high school as well as a visit by the students to the Health Professions Division.

## Dr. Tracy Gaudet Discusses New VHA Patient-Centered Paradigm

**Tracy Gaudet, M.D.**, director of the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) newly established Office of Patient-Centered Care and Cultural Transformation, visited NSU-COM on May 14 to introduce the new personalized, proactive, and patient-driven paradigm in medicine at the VHA. Dr. Gaudet's daylong meeting with administrators, faculty members, and students included discussions on NSU-COM's holistic practices that include osteopathic principles and practice, preventive medicine, the new Employee Health and Wellness Center, coaching and advocacy programs, and the recently created complementary and alternative medicine department. The VHA is America's largest integrated health care system and serves 8.3 million veterans each year at 1,700 sites. *Pictured below (from left) are: Dr. Tracy Gaudet; George Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer; Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., executive associate dean; and Lynn Lafferty, Pharm.D., M.B.A., assistant professor of family medicine.*



## MedScapes Physician Compensation Report



According to MedScapes's **2013 Physician Compensation Report**, most specialties reported income increases ranging from modest to significant. Orthopedic surgeons showed the highest annual increase, while endocrinologists and oncologists noted a slight decline. In 2013, orthopedic surgeons topped the list at \$405,000, followed by cardiologists (\$357,000), radiologists (\$349,000), and gastroenterologists (\$342,000). The bottom-earning specialties in the 2013 survey were family medicine (\$175,000), pediatrics (\$173,000), and HIV/AIDS (\$170,000).



**Nova Southeastern University** was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This designation is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.



**OMS-III Britani Martinez** was named national president elect for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and will assume the position of national president and chair of AMSA's Board of Trustees—the organization's highest governing body—in 2014. After graduating

from NSU-COM in May 2014, she will take a year off before beginning her residency to commit to the AMSA presidential role. Martinez will travel the country to represent the nation's medical students on topics such as medical student debt and pharmaceutical influence in medical education. She is the second osteopathic student in AMSA's 63-year history to earn this prestigious honor.

The college's **Pediatrics Club** recently won the national Pediatric Club Student Poster of the Year award from the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians for its poster detailing the activities it accomplished during the past year. The award was presented during the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians Spring Conference held April 25-28 in Columbus, Ohio.

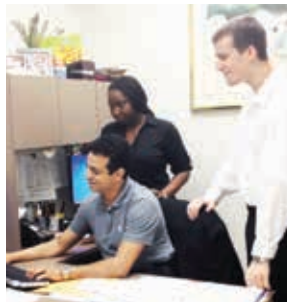


**Larkin Community Hospital (LCH)**, which is a member of the college's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, was named one of the safest hospitals for patients by The Leapfrog Group. LCH achieved an A in the

Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which is the gold standard for comparing the performance of hospitals nationwide based on national standards of safety, quality, and efficiency that are most important to consumers and employers that purchase care. Larkin is one of Florida's 12 statutory teaching hospitals and the largest osteopathic teaching hospital in the nation.

**NSU-COM students and faculty members** volunteered their time and talents to the Indian Physicians of South Florida Eighth Annual Health Fair on March 17, which was held at the South Florida Hindu Temple in Southwest Ranches. More than 100 patients participated in the event where professionals in 14 different specialties offered free health information and screenings.

## Biomedical Informatics Synopsis



Alumnus **Halimat Jinadu, M.S.B.I.**, and student **Anthony Meglino** were the first to secure positions in the Clinical Information Systems (CIS) Internship at NSU's medical clinics. They began their yearlong positions in January 2013 and November 2012, respectively, and are assisting with the implementation of specific

tasks of clinical information solutions in support of NSU Clinical Information Systems. *Pictured (from left) are Halimat Jinadu, Mohamed Aboseada, NextGen template editor for NSU's Clinical Information Systems, and Anthony Meglino.*

Several students and alumni have successfully acquired Next-Gen Certified Professional (NCP) electronic health record certification. They are **Sergio Depres, M.S.**, **Christopher Gaarlandt, Anthony Meglino, Elizabeth Oviawe, M.S., M.S.B.I.**, **Juan Plaza, Troy Rubizovsky, M.I.B.A.**, and **Jenna Shrigley, M.S.B.I.**

Recent graduate **Mark Carnemolla, M.S.B.I.**, completed an evaluation of the Dragon Medical voice recognition software used at Cleveland Clinic Florida (CCF). The following students and alumni have completed or are doing internships at CCF focusing on various projects: **Eduardo Garcia, April Green, and Kaylesh Pandya, D.O., M.S.B.I.**, are currently working on an evaluation of the patient discharge process at CCF. **Alina Parbtani, M.S.B.I.**, completed an evaluation of Workstations on Wheels and iPads used at CCF, while **Troy Rubizovsky, M.I.B.A.**, is developing a system to monitor volunteer activity in the otorhinolaryngology (ENT) department at CCF.

## Julian, Palestro Receive Recognition



On April 11, second-year students **Elyse Julian** (left) and **Andrea Palestro** (right) received awards from NSU's Office of Student Leadership



and Civic Engagement during the Student Leadership Awards Program, which takes place annually during the winter semester and recognizes exceptional achievements and service on the campus and in the community.

Julian won the Rising Star Student of the Year Award for her outstanding contributions to NSU student life, which include being involved in an on-campus research project related to interdisciplinary health professionalism.

Palestro received the Service Shining Star Student Volunteer Award for her numerous community service endeavors, which include volunteering last summer in Mexico at a medical clinic and orphanage as well as in Nicaragua at a children's cancer home.

# Excellence Honored at Student Awards Ceremony

On May 10, a number of awards and scholarships were presented to both students and faculty members at the annual first- and second-year Student Awards Ceremony. Students were honored in areas such as research, academic excellence, and community service, while faculty members were presented with Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching abilities.

## **Bromante, Malczak Receive Dr. Matthew Terry Scholarships**

OMS-I Paul Malczak and OMS-II Stephanie Bromante were the recipients of the Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to NSU-COM students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner. Pictured below at the awards ceremony are Paul Malczak and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.



## **Drs. Boesler, Johnson Take Home Golden Apple Awards**

David Boesler, D.O., associate professor and chair of the Department of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine,

and Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FA-COOG, associate professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, were the recipients of this year's Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching skills. Dr. Boesler received his award from the class of 2016, while Dr. Johnson was honored by the class of 2015. Pictured are OMS-I Paul Malczak and Dr. David Boesler.



## **Kaczmarczyk, Heathcote Earn Morris Public Health Scholarships**

OMS-II students Lauren Kaczmarczyk and Sarah Heathcote were the recipients of two public health scholarships bestowed upon NSU-COM students thanks to the generosity of Marie Morris—the widow of Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who served as executive dean for professional affairs at the NSU Health Professions Division prior to his death in May 2008.

Heathcote received the Judy Morris, M.D., Scholarship in Public Health, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award. To be eligible for the scholarship, nominees must be



NSU-COM students or have already achieved their D.O. degree, showcase high academic achievement, be currently enrolled in the college's Master of Public Health Program, and demonstrate financial need.

Kaczmarczyk was awarded the Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., Scholarship in Public Health, which is accompanied by a \$1,000 cash allocation. Eligibility criteria are similar to the aforementioned scholarship. Pictured in the above photo are Lauren Kaczmarczyk and Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M. The below photo features Sarah Heathcote and Dr. Blavo.





## Student Trio Wins Dr. Bradley I. Silverman Scholarship



OMS-II James Jackson, OMS-II Andrew Garrett, and OMS-III Kacie Bhushan were the recipients of the Eighth Annual Dr. Bradley I. Silverman Memorial Scholarship, which was established in

2006 to honor outstanding NSU-COM students who participate in cancer-related community service and showcase compassion, commitment, and other laudable traits exemplified by Dr. Silverman. In addition to earning well-deserved recognition, the awardees each received \$1,500 cash awards. Pictured (from left) are James Jackson, Marilyn and Stanley Silverman (the parents of Dr. Bradley Silverman – the scholarship's namesake), Andrew Garrett, and Kacie Bhushan.

## TOUCH Community Service Awards



Ten students were honored with TOUCH Community Service Awards for their extensive community service work during their first or second years at NSU-COM. These humanistic individuals were honored for their

hard work and dedication toward improving the NSU, local, national, and international communities. TOUCH (Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health) is a national program designed to encourage and recognize osteopathic medical students to work toward improving the health of others through service.

The awards are based on the following criteria: The platinum honor is presented to the student that logged the greatest number of TOUCH community service hours in the current academic year. Gold status is granted to applicants that logged at least 110 TOUCH community service hours, while silver status is accorded to applicants that logged at least 60 hours. Below are the TOUCH honorees:

**PLATINUM** - Elyse Julian (OMS-II); **GOLD** - Paul Malczak (OMS-I); Anna Nguyen (OMS-II); Logan Huff (OMS-II); Samantha Berr (OMS-II); **SILVER**- Alecia Folkes (OMS-I), Andrea Palestro (OMS-II), Pinal Chokshi (OMS-II), Thomas VerHage (OMS-I), and Stacy Hirota (OMS-I).

## Five Students Honored with Burnell Research Awards



Five NSU-COM students—OMS-III Eric Chung, OMS-II Tania Espinal, OMS-II Nicholas Garrett, OMS-III Carisa Lippmann, and OMS-II Andrea Palestro—were named the winners

of the Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards, which are presented to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science.

All students received credit on their NSU-COM transcripts for having completed a course in research as well as a framed plaque and cash awards ranging from \$250 to \$750. Pictured



(from left) in the top photo are Nicholas Garrett, Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W, Tania Espinal, and Andrea Palestro. Featured in the photo directly above are Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., RD, Eric Chung, Carisa Lippmann, and Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.

## SAAO and PEDS: Clubs of the Year



Due to the numerous achievements they amassed over the past academic year, the **Pediatrics Club (PEDS)** and the **Student American Academy of Osteopathy (SAAO)** shared dual billing as NSU-COM's Club

of the Year recipients. The PEDS Club's mission is to develop osteopathic medical student interest in pediatrics. However, the club is also for students interested in family medicine and other fields in which pediatric patients will be encountered. The SAAO is the college's chapter of the American Academy of Osteopathy. Accepting their respective Club of the Year awards (from left) are OMS-II students Christopher Wang, Weber Wu, Kelly Segars, and Pinal Chokshi.

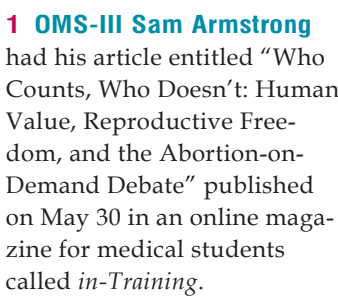
# Research/Scholarly Activity - Faculty and Student Achievements



**1 OMS-III Sam Armstrong** had his article entitled “Who Counts, Who Doesn’t: Human Value, Reproductive Freedom, and the Abortion-on-Demand Debate” published on May 30 in an online magazine for medical students called *in-Training*.



**2 Cheryl Atherley-Todd, M.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine, won second prize for her poster entitled “Urinary Bladder Catheter Use in a Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation Facility,” which was presented at the Florida Academy of Family Physicians Spring Conference held May 10-12 in Sarasota, Florida.



**3 David Boesler, D.O.**, associate professor of neuromusculoskeletal medicine, presented lectures on “Thoracic Outlet Syndrome: A Commonly Missed Diagnosis” and “OMT Techniques for Thoracic Outlet Syndrome LAB” at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Academy of Osteopathy Conference held May 4-5 at NSU’s Health Professions Division.



**4 Steve E. Bronsburg, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biomedical informatics, **Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**, professor of



biomedical informatics, public health, and internal medicine and director of the Biomedical Informatics Program, and **Kevin A. Clauson, Pharm.D.**, adjunct associate professor of biomedical informatics, presented lectures at Doctor’s Day held at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center on March 29. Dr. Bronsburg’s presentation focused on the topics “Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA),” “Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act,” and “Meaningful Use.” Dr. Clauson’s lecture targeted “Consumer Health Informatics,” while Dr. Lou discussed the “Challenges and Opportunities in Health Information Technology (HIT)” and highlighted aspects of the NSU-COM Biomedical Informatics Program.



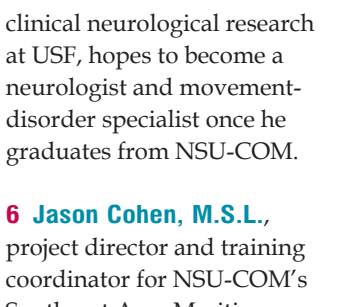
**5 OMS-I Michael A. Carranza, M.S.**, authored a book entitled *Parkinson’s Disease: A Guide to Medical Treatment* that serves as a comprehensive and up-to-date guide for patients, caregivers, neurologists, and other medical professionals. Carranza, who earned his master’s degree in Pharmacology at the University of South Florida (USF) and worked in



clinical neurological research at USF, hopes to become a neurologist and movement-disorder specialist once he graduates from NSU-COM.



**6 Jason Cohen, M.S.L.**, project director and training coordinator for NSU-COM’s Southeast Area Maritime Industry Training grant program (Project SEAMIST), authored an article entitled “Project SEAMIST” that was published in the April issue of *Ports Association of Louisiana*. **Kelley Davis, Ph.D.**, associate professor of microbiology in the College of Medical Sciences and a trainer for the Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (IDEP), is the principal investigator. The article discussed the project’s mission, which is to provide innovative and current health and safety training for workers in the maritime industry.



**7 Stanley Cohen, Ed.D.**, professor of humanities and executive vice dean for educational support at NSU’s Health Professions Division, presented a lecture on April 11 entitled “Increasing Workforce Value Through Effective Public Speaking Skills” for the 2013 Public Health Workforce Devel-



opment Series at the Broward Regional Health Planning Council in Hollywood, Florida. In addition, Dr. Cohen has been tapped by the Broward County Public Schools district to present lectures to various schools throughout Broward County, highlighting experiences from his book *My Time with Einstein*.



**8 Paula Dilanchian, D.O., Pharm.D.**, assistant professor of internal medicine, coauthored several poster presentations at the American College of Physicians Florida Chapter Annual Associates Meeting, which was held March 2-3 in Orlando. The posters were entitled “Mycobacterial in Cosmetic Surgery: A Case Report and Review of the Literature,” “Syphilis: Disease of the Past?” and “TNF Inhibitor Associated Kikuchi-Fujimoto Disease.” She also coauthored an article entitled “Fatal Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 Hepatitis in a Heart Transplant Recipient: A Case Report and Review of the Literature” in the April issue of *Transplant Infectious Disease*.

**9 Janet Hamstra, Ed.D.**, associate professor of internal medicine and director of preclinical education, presented a lecture entitled “How to Handle Nega-



# Research/Scholarly Activity - Faculty and Student Achievements



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tive Feedback" at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention held March 21-24 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**10 T. Lucas Hollar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health, presented a paper entitled "Public Health in the Wake of the Affordable Care Act: Transitioning from the Medicalization of Public Health to the Socio-Ecologization of Public Health to Improve Health and Reduce Health Care Spending" at the Midwest Political Science Association's 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, held April 11-14 in Chicago, Illinois. He also presented a lecture on "Setting Goals and Creating Objectives for Public Health Professionals" as part of the 2013 Public Health Workforce Development Series on May 14 at the Broward Regional Health Planning Council in Hollywood, Florida. In addition, Dr. Hollar presented a poster with **Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A.**, assistant professor of public health, entitled "Evaluating Patient-Centered Medical Home and Panel Management Practice Implementation and Transformation in Primary Care Safety-Net Clinics" at the

2013 Public Health Services and Systems Research Keenel and Conference held April 8-11 in Lexington, Kentucky. He also was invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the *American Journal of Public Health* beginning in May 2013.

**11 Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, biomedical informatics, and public health and director of international medicine, coauthored an article with **M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.**, and others entitled "The Role of Multiple Identities in Engagement in Care Among Gay/Bisexual Male Adolescents Living with HIV" in the January edition of *AIDS and Behavior*. She also made several presentations with **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, at the Eighth International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence held June 3-4 in Miami, Florida. These included "The Health Care Attitudes Scale (HAS) in HIV," "A Computer-Delivered IMB-Based Health Literacy Intervention Reduces Racial Disparities in HIV Information,"

and "A New Measure of Health Literacy Predicts Medication Adherence in Persons Treated for HIV." Dr. Jacobs also co-presented on the topic "Factors Associated with Internalized Homonegativity in Midlife and Older Gay and Bisexual Men" with Dr. Ownby and others at the First International Conference on LGBT Psychology and Related Fields held June 21 in Lisbon, Portugal.

**12 OMS-IV Milla Kviatkovsky** presented her coauthored abstract entitled "The Minimum Clinically Important Improvement and Patient Acceptable Symptom State in Basdai and Basfi in Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis" at the Annual European Congress of Rheumatology, EULAR 2013 (European Union League Against Rheumatism) held June 12-15 in Madrid, Spain.

**13 Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**, professor of biomedical informatics, public health, and internal medicine and director of the Biomedical Informatics Program, was selected to serve as a scientific reviewer for improving research methods application for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, which is authorized by

Congress to conduct research to provide information about the best available evidence to help patients and their health care providers make more informed decisions. She also coauthored an article with **Christine Nelson, B.S.**, biomedical informatics program manager, and **Steve E. Bronsborg, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biomedical informatics, entitled "Health Information Technology Field" in the February edition of *Military Medicine and Veterans Affairs Forum*.

**14 Oneka B. Marriott, D.O., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of pediatrics and public health, was selected to serve as a member of the *eJournal* Editorial Board for the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians during its April meeting. In May, she was also appointed to the NSU Medical Center Advisory Council as a physician representative.

**15 Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, was quoted in the May 1 issue of the *New York Times* in an article entitled "Does Depression Contribute to Dementia?"

# Research/Scholarly Activity - Faculty and Student Achievements



**16 Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, was elected vice president of the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) in March. In addition, she was involved in several activities at the AMDA's national meeting held March 21-24 in Washington, D.C. They included participating in a live-streamed workshop on "The Beers List Made Real," serving as a facilitator at the "In the Trenches: Peer-Group Roundtable Discussion on Diabetes," and co-presenting on the topic "Evaluation of Diabetes Management in 29 Long-Term Care and Rehab Patients: A Quality Improvement Project." In addition, she chaired the session on "Puberty and Aging" and presented a lecture entitled "Pituitary Dysfunction in the Frail Elderly: Clues from a Nursing Home Database" at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World Congress of Endocrinology held May 21 in Xian, China. She also coauthored a paper entitled "Contributions of Basal and Prandial Hyperglycemia to Total Hyperglycemia in Older and Younger Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus" that was published in the April 2013 issue of the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

**17 Arif M. Rana, Ph.D., Ed.S.**, assistant professor of biomedical informatics and medical education, received his Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) degree on May 19 from Rutgers University Graduate School of Education in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Dr. Rana was also awarded the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification from the Harrington Institute in Los Gatos, California. The goal of Lean Six Sigma is to train individuals in the philosophy and methodology in quality management by improving workflow processes, minimizing waste and resources, and delivering better results and outcomes.

**18 Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., RD**, presented a lecture entitled "Long-Term Care Issues in the U.S. and European Union: Issues for Comparison and Areas for Collaboration" at the 4<sup>th</sup> international meeting of geriatric health care providers from the European Union held April 26-27 in Prague, Czech Republic. She also represented the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine as a member of the MedEdPORTAL Interprofessional Education Collaborative Advisory Committee, which

is a component of a program within the Association of American Medical Colleges that works with national organizations representing the various health professions.

**19 Janet Roseman, Ph.D., R-DMT**, assistant professor of medical education, created a video entitled *Honoring the Medicine: Student Physicians Create Oaths of Healing* with technical coordination by **Arif M. Rana, Ph.D., Ed.S.**, assistant professor of biomedical informatics and medical education. In addition, her abstract entitled "Honoring the Medicine" was accepted for presentation at the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health's Fifth Annual Spirituality and Health Summer Institute, which was held July 10-13 in Washington, D.C.

**20 Elliot Sklar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine/public health and Project HOPE project manager, and **Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W.**, assistant project manager of the Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, presented an award-winning poster at the National Health Care for the

Homeless Council Conference and Policy Symposium held March 14-16 in Washington, D.C. The poster, entitled "A Survey of Academic Curricula Addressing the Health Care Needs of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness," won the Best at the Conference honor and includes the successful work of second-year students **Samantha Berr, Andrew Garrett, and Britta Gray**. Due to their win, the presenters won free conference registration to next year's conference, which will be held in May 2014 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

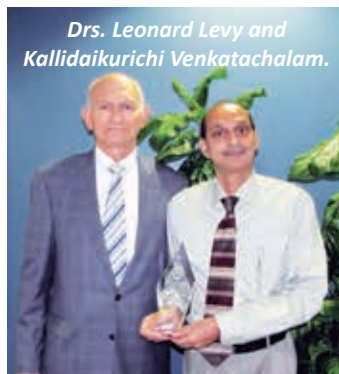
**21 Sweta Tewary, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, clinical assistant professor, evidence-based practice project director, and coordinator of interprofessional geriatric research, coauthored a manuscript with **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, and **Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A.**, assistant professor of public health. The article, entitled "Prevalence of Foot Problems in Nursing Homes: Retrospective Chart Reviews," was accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the *Annals of Long-Term Care*.



**22 David Thomas, M.D., J.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Surgery and the Division of Correctional Medicine, presented a lecture on "Using a Disease Entity to Change the Culture of an Entrenched Bureaucracy" at the Southern Region of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care event for physicians held March 6 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

**23 Jacqueline Thomas, D.O.**, assistant professor of dermatology, was recently invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. In April, she was also selected to serve as a peer reviewer for *Clinical Interventions in Aging, Clinical, Cosmetic and Investigational Dermatology*, and the *International Medical Case Reports Journal*.

**24 Kallidaikurichi Venkatachalam, Ph.D.**, professor of biochemistry, received the 2013-14 NSU-COM Kenyon Cancer Research Grant for a study entitled "Cancer Therapeutics: Targeting Cancer Metabolism Through Gene Therapy." NSU-COM has offered this grant program since 2001 as a result of an endowment created by the late Franklin Kenyon and Frances Kenyon Agneski, which provides support to faculty members who engage in cancer-related research. Dr. Venkatachalam's research will be supported by a \$15,000 grant for the period July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014.



*Drs. Leonard Levy and Kallidaikurichi Venkatachalam.*

## NSU-COM Faculty Members Receive President's Research and Development Grants and QOL Award



*Attendees at the award ceremony included Dylan Dimesh, Dr. Paula Waziry, Dr. George Hanbury, and Dr. Leonard Levy.*

On May 15, a number of NSU-COM faculty members, in collaboration with other NSU faculty researchers, were awarded cash endowments in the university's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant (PFRDG) and 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Quality of Life Awards ceremony.

George Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer, and Gary Margules, Sc.D., vice president for the Office of Research and Technology Transfer, recognized 37 research projects that received PFRDG awards of up to \$10,000 each for fiscal year 2014. They also recognized the dedication and innovation of 122 faculty members and 82 students from the 15 academic units that sub-

mitted a total of 62 PFRDG proposals. Following are the projects that feature NSU-COM participation:

### PRESIDENT'S FACULTY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

*"Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Nups: Understanding What Is Bugging Patients"*

*Paula Waziry, Ph.D., Nancy Klimas, M.D., and Dylan Dimesh*

*"Regulation of the Metabolic Changes in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Role of CNV"*

*Lubov Nathanson, Ph.D.  
Nancy Klimas, M.D.*

*"Impact of Yoga Therapy on Veterans with PTSD"*

*Nancy Klimas, M.D.*

### QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT

*"The Use of a Patient-Centered Relationship Enrichment Training Program to Improve Quality of Life for Caregivers and Stroke Survivors"*

*Michelle Gagnon Blodgett, Psy.D.*

## NSU-COM Shines at AACOM Annual Meeting

**April 24-27 - Baltimore, Maryland**

### - ORAL PRESENTATIONS -

**Barry A. Doublestein, D.S.L.**

*"A Medical Educator's Perspective"*

**Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.**

*"AACOM's Core Competencies for Students Defined: Now What?"*

**Janet Hamstra, Ed.D. (facilitator)**

*"Course Faculty Assessment," "The For-Profit Experiment: An Innovative Approach to Medical Education," "A Mixed Methods Approach to Competency Tracking," and "Developing Preclinical Faculty Expertise in the Instruction of the Core Competencies:"*

**James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.**

*"The Relationship Between Student Participation in International Electives and the Decision to Enter Primary Care Residencies"*

**Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.**

*"Preparing Future Primary Care Physicians for the Coming Revolution in Medical Genomics"*

**Stacey Pinnock, M.S.W.**

**Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., RD**

*"Faculty Development in Interprofessional Education and Lessons Learned: Where Do We Go from Here?"*

**Dianna L. Silvagni, J.D.**

*"Art Observation Skills Development Leading to Enhanced Patient Care"*

**OMS-IV Stephanie Stephens, M.S.**

*"Preparing for Licensure Examinations"*

### - POSTER PRESENTATIONS -

**Nadine Chipon-Schoepp, D.O., Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., Victor Jaffe, D.O.**

*"Training in Emergent Hospital Procedures: Bridging the Gap Between OMS-IV and PGY1"*

**Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.**

**Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., RD**

*"Integrating Primary Care and Public Health: A Primer for Success in a Changing and Uncertain Health Care Environment"*

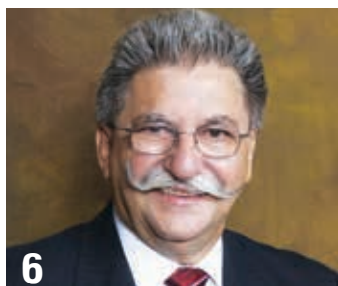
**Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., RD**

*"Incorporating the Thread of Interprofessional Education and Practice Throughout the Curriculum"*

**Elliot Sklar, Ph.D.**

**Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W.**

*"Medical Education for Special Populations: A Way to Integrate a Focus on Special Populations"*



**1 Scott Colton, B.A., APR,** COM/HPD director of medical communications and public relations, received a Best Feature Story or Article Award in the AACOM Communications Awards Competition held during the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Annual Meeting, which took place April 24-27 in Baltimore, Maryland. Colton was honored for his summer 2012 *COM Outlook* article entitled "Senior Students Make Their Latent Dreams Come True." He also was named as chair of AACOM's Marketing and Communications Advisory Council, which is responsible for tasks such as furthering the efforts of the promotion of osteopathic medical schools and the osteopathic profession to the general public, media, legislators, and all other individuals and entities that would benefit from knowledge of osteopathic medicine.

**2 Doris Newman, D.O.,** associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice, was appointed in April to the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' (NBOME) Standard Setting Committee

for the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination/Physical Examination (COMLEX II PE). She became recertified in March by the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and attended the American Academy of Osteopathy's annual convocation held March 20-24 in Orlando, Florida, as a three-year elected member of its board of trustees. Dr. Newman also wrote questions pertaining to osteopathic principles and practices for the NBOME's Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test writing workshop held February 19-20 in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

**3 Robert Oller, D.O.,** professor of family medicine and public health and chief executive officer of NSU Clinics, was named Hero of the Month by the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. He was nominated by Henderson Behavioral Health, which provides counseling services to NSU students. Dr. Oller is responsible for the clinical operations of 22 NSU health care centers representing 10 colleges and

programs providing more than 250,000 patient visits annually.

**4 Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP,** chair and professor of the Department of Pediatrics, was elected secretary/treasurer for the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians (ACOP) and will become chair of the ACOP's committees on finance and membership. In addition, Dr. Packer was appointed as an alternate delegate to the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates for the ACOP.

**5 Brent M. Schillinger, M.D.,** clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, received a Palm Beach County Medical Society Heroes in Medicine award in the Physician Local/National Hero category at a luncheon ceremony held May 9 at the Kravis Center's Cohen Pavilion in West Palm Beach.

**6 Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOPF dist.,** NSU-COM dean, led a discussion on the future of medicine and graduate medical education on April 27 at the Brevard Indo-American Medical and Dental Association (BIMDA) expo held in Melbourne, Florida.

**7 Randi Sperling, D.O., FAAP, FACOP,** clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and program director for the Palms West Hospital Pediatric Residency Program, received the Pediatrician of the Year award in April from the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians.

**8 Jill Wallace-Ross, D.O.,** assistant professor of family medicine, appeared on the April episode of the Health Professions Division's public service TV program *Dateline: Health*, where she discussed topics related to primary care, disease prevention, and cancer screenings.

**9 Delfina Wilson, Ph.D.,** joined the college as its new director of student affairs on May 28. She previously served as dean of students/district director of recruitment at East Mississippi Community College. She is also an adjunct lecturer at the University of Miami in the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies. Due to Dr. Wilson's arrival, **Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.,** will return to her original role as director of the Office of Alumni Affairs.





*Circa 2009: Dr. Fred Lippman, Judy Lippman, Mary Greber, and Dr. A. Alvin Greber at the HPD Bal Fantastique.*

## Remembering the King of Cardiology: Dr. A. Alvin Greber

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR  
COM/HPD Director of Medical Communications and Public Relations

On April 6, the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Health Professions Division lost a treasured and longtime colleague, administrator, and friend when **A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI**, who served as executive dean for professional affairs and professor of internal medicine, passed away.

“Most of you are aware of the tremendous positive impact he had on the profession, university, college, our curriculum, and most importantly, on students and many of us personally,” said Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP dist., NSU-COM dean. “His intellectual depth and commitment to quality medicine and education brought many of us to a higher level of accomplishment, which we might not have been able to achieve without his teachings and guidance. We will miss him.”

Dr. Greber joined NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1989, serving as chief of cardiology and chair of internal medicine. He also taught the inaugural course on Harvey – the

cardiology patient simulator that allows NSU-COM students to gain invaluable knowledge as they learn to discern the differences between and meanings of various heart sounds.

To commemorate his life, what follows is a revised profile about Dr. Greber that originally appeared in the spring 2002 issue of COM Outlook.

**W**hen it comes to choosing a career, some people spend much of their lives wandering aimlessly through the job landscape, showcasing little passion for what they do as they collect their paychecks. But there are other individuals who knew from an early age where their career destiny lay, and they steadfastly and resolutely transformed their dreams from fantasy to fruition.

“Ever since I was a kid, as far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a physician,” said Dr. Greber, who

*“Ever since I was a kid, as far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a physician,” Dr. Greber stated. “When I went to summer camp at the age of eight, I recall the very first thing I wanted to do was be in the doctor’s office and help him do things like hand out the Band-Aids in the camp office.”*

was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. “When I went to summer camp at the age of eight, I recall the very first thing I wanted to do was be in the doctor’s office and help him do things like hand out the Band-Aids in the camp office.”

As he reached his adolescent years, Dr. Greber’s fascination with the medical field was further nurtured by his family doctor, Arnold Berger, who just happened to be an osteopathic physician—a fact he kept well hidden. “I never knew what an osteopathic physician was,” Dr. Greber explained. “I knew nothing about osteopathy at that time, only the fact that I respected my family doctor, who was legendary in South Philadelphia. “He saw over 100 patients every day, and when the front of his office was mobbed, they’d come through the back door because he had another side entrance for his regular patients. They’d be waiting on the curb to get in.”

Unfortunately, because osteopathic medicine was disparaged by much of the medical profession back in the 1950s, most D.O.s did not actively advertise their osteopathic status. “Because of the prejudice, Dr. Berger did not even put the D.O. designation on the sign outside his office,” Dr. Greber said. “As a result, I don’t believe even five percent of his patients knew what an osteopathic physician was, including myself when I used to assist him in his office from time to time.”

### Following a Mentor’s Path

After graduating from high school, Dr. Greber attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in microbiology and showcased his all-court skills by playing varsity basketball. A career in medicine was the

ultimate goal, yet Dr. Greber felt unsure of the exact direction he wanted to take. That’s when his father interceded, providing the budding physician with some prudent advice. “My dad said, ‘Why don’t you talk to Dr. Berger? You’ve had a nice relationship with him and worked in his office. He knows you want to be a doctor, and he will recommend you to attend his alma mater.’ That’s when I found out he was an osteopathic physician, so I figured if it was good enough for Dr. Berger, it was good enough for me.” Dr. Greber recalled.

Thanks to a glowing letter of recommendation from Dr. Berger, Dr. Greber was accepted to Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) and began his distinguished journey toward an enriching career in the osteopathic realm. After earning his D.O. degree in 1958, Dr. Greber completed his internship and residency at Osteopathic Medical Center in Philadelphia. In 1965, he earned his certification in internal medicine, which was followed in 1978 with certification in cardiology.

Although he was initially unsure about where to relocate to when he completed his residency, fate again intervened in the form of Herman Kohn, D.O.—a prominent professor and surgeon at PCOM who had befriended Dr. Greber. “Dr. Kohn came to me and said he had a spot for me at a new hospital called Parkview, which is now known as Metropolitan Hospital and owned by PCOM,” he explained. “He basically said, ‘You are going to practice with us,’ and that’s how I subsequently wound up becoming the chair of internal medicine and then cardiology at the hospital.”

Over the next 25 years, Dr. Greber—much like his childhood mentor Dr. Berger—established himself as a respected osteopathic practitioner in the Philadelphia area, serving in a variety of positions at the Parkview division of Metropolitan Hospital such as

**chairman** of the Department of Internal Medicine

**chief** of the Division of Cardiology



*On October 22, 2007, the Harvey Lab was officially renamed the A. Alvin Greber Cardiac Simulation Center. Pictured at the ribbon-cutting ceremony are Dr. Lippman, Dr. Greber, Geraldine Terry, and Mary Greber.*





**director** of Residency Training in Internal Medicine

**director** of the Coronary Care Unit

**director** of the Medical Department of Emergency Room and Occupational Health Patients Registered in the CompCare Industrial Program

Early in his Parkview tenure, Dr. Greber was confronted with a particularly troubling case, which involved a cardiac patient who was near death following a traumatic accident. Realizing he had nothing to lose and everything to gain, Dr. Greber contacted Michael DeBakey, M.D., who was a pioneer in cardiac surgery at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. Dr. DeBakey immediately responded by sending his heart retrieval team to Parkview to transport the patient back to Houston for what would be the second heart transplant procedure of his career.

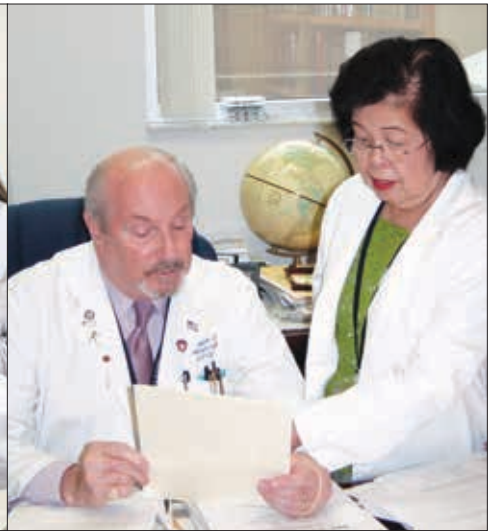
Impressed with Dr. Greber's medical aptitude, Dr. DeBakey invited him to spend 10 days at Houston's Methodist Hospital to observe first-hand the cutting-edge procedures that were taking place at the medical center. "It was quite an experience observing the organization and application of high technology to new and uncharted medical pathways," he recalled. "Dr. DeBakey's office was always filled with the most prominent cardiac patients from all over the world, including sheiks, prime ministers, and heads of state."



Around the time his career trajectory was about to shift, so did his personal life when he met the love of his life, Mary, who has her own psychology practice in Hollywood, Florida. "She has been the support a physician committed to medicine requires – with the encouragement and counsel a true partner in life is ready to supply," he said. "As the cliché goes, I could not have done it without her."

### **Dawn of a New Day at SECOM**

As the 1980s drew to a close, Dr. Greber was happily ensconced in his new position as medical director of ACCORD Health Services in Wayne, Pennsylvania, when an old friend who had relocated to South Florida called with an intriguing offer. "Arnold Melnick, D.O., who I had known for many years, had come



down to South Florida to help Morton Terry, D.O., establish Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM)," Dr. Greber said. "And he asked me to come down and teach a cardiology course."

More specifically, Dr. Melnick, who was the founding SECOM dean, wanted Dr. Greber to teach a course on Harvey – the cardiology patient simulator that allows NSU-COM students to gain invaluable knowledge as they learn to discern the differences between and meanings of various heart sounds. "Initially, I was just supposed to come down and teach a two-week Harvey course and then return to Pennsylvania," said Dr. Greber, who helped establish internal medicine residency programs at both Westchester General Hospital and Mount Sinai Medical Center in Mi-



*Circa 2002: Dr. Greber with Dr. Morton Terry, the founder of SECOM and NSU's Health Professions Division.*



ami. "But as the old adage goes, they made me an offer I couldn't refuse, and I agreed to stay on for a year as the college's chief of cardiology and chair of internal medicine."

When Dr. Greber arrived at SECOM, the college had just obtained its first Harvey device. In typically *Greberesque* fashion, he immediately delved into all aspects of the simulator and began using it regularly for lectures. As a result of his Harvey expertise and contributions to the students, the Harvey Lab was officially renamed the A. Alvin Greber Cardiac Simulation Center on October 22, 2007. In addition to his Harvey achievements, Dr. Greber was responsible for modernizing the Department of Internal Medicine and recruiting renowned faculty members. He also singlehandedly created the curricula syllabi and implemented an innovative log system to track medical students' attendance and performance during their third- and fourth-year rotations. In another show of immense respect, Dr. Greber was appointed clinical professor of internal medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine—a rare feat for a D.O. at that time.

"It is very humbling to think that you deserve such an honor as having your name placed on a clinical simulation lab that will remain for many years," stated Dr. Greber during the Harvey Lab renaming ceremony in 2007. "Perhaps decades from now students will walk into the lab and wonder who that individual was."

As we all know, that single year eventually extended to 24, which proved to be a wonderful circumstance for the students Dr. Greber taught and the numerous people at Nova Southeastern University who shared a special bond with him. He also will be remembered lovingly by his many patients for the brilliant diagnostic skills he possessed, his compassionate ability to relate to them—and his incredibly caring heart.

## Colleagues and Friends Reminisce About the Unforgettable Dr. Greber

*"In my 32 years at NSU, I have interacted with some wonderful faculty members, but Dr. Greber stands out because he was not only knowledgeable in medicine, but he was a great teacher who was always positive with our students and faculty members. I received a call from Hilda Green, D.O., who was one of Al's residents in Philadelphia many years ago, and she cried at the news of his passing. She told me that Dr. Greber had a tremendous influence on her practice of internal medicine through the years because of his compassion and empathy for people. I believe Dr. Mort Terry would have called him a 'people doctor.' From my perspective, Dr. Greber had the unique quality for explaining complicated medical jargon into language every person could understand, and I loved him for that. He would laugh at my humor even when he was racked with pain. He will never be forgotten." – Stan Cohen, Ed.D., HPD executive vice dean for educational support*

*"Dr. Greber always comported himself with a sense of intrinsic panache. No matter how he felt physically, Dr. Greber always arrived in impeccably dapper style, willingly sharing a hug, a friendly word, or a heartfelt compliment. During my 14 years at NSU's Health Professions Division, I've witnessed the passing of many legendary osteopathic figures such as Drs. Morton Terry, Morton Morris, Lawrence Jacobson—and now Dr. Greber. They all played such a pivotal role in the development of both NSU-COM and the Health Professions Divisions and were much beloved. Fortunately, they will live on in our hearts and memories forever." – Scott Colton, B.A., APR, COM/HPD Director of Medical Communications and Public Relations*

*"When I was a medical student at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in the late 1970s, my first clinical rotation was with Dr. Greber at Parkview Hospital. Being like a deer in the headlights, I showed up at the hospital for a new experience. And there was Dr. Greber, who had a hospital census of patients so abundant I thought he owned the hospital. Quickly, I realized the intern who was to help instruct and manage this heavy census was scheduled to take his vacation. Well, it was just Dr. Greber and I handling this patient load—talk about a baptism by fire. It soon became obvious what type of man and physician Dr. Greber was. He was always prompt, courteous, patient, and in command. He taught me by example what it means to be an osteopathic physician, a distinction that is oftentimes lost in today's busy medico-political world. Little did I know that in time Dr. Greber would be my fellow teaching colleague and friend, or that I would become his personal ENT physician. As I always preach to the students, 'Remember those that came before us, both living and deceased, that have helped build our profession. Thank you to my friend and colleague for his never-ending inspiration and helping to mold me into the physician I have become.' – Robert B. Contrucci, D.O., chair and clinical associate professor, Division of Otorhinolaryngology*

*"Dr. Greber was one of the first faculty members that welcomed me to the College of Osteopathic Medicine when I arrived in 1998. He had such a welcoming smile and personality. I got to know Dr. Greber very well over the years, not only as a physician, but as a friend. He was always asking me if I was 'feeling okay' and never complained if he was not 'feeling okay.' He always showed compassion and care for everyone he met. His presence will be sorely missed not only by me and those in our college, but by all of those at NSU as well as our CEME affiliates whose lives he touched in one way or another." – Johneta Goodwin, director of administrative operations*



*“To my husband, best friend, and soul mate forever, there are no words to describe how much you are loved and missed. Not only was Al a brilliant physician, but he was the most compassionate and genuine person. Regardless if he was recovering from surgery or not at his best, he was always available to offer consultation and support to others and was genuinely concerned. He never complained and had this amazing strength and positive attitude that enabled him to achieve and excel at whatever goal he pursued. He was so learned in many areas that he could converse on almost any topic and win the debate. Our vast library is a testament to that. He even bought books on how to take care of books.*

*Not only was Al an avid sports fan, but he was great at sports. As a top college basketball player at PCOM, he was featured in the local newspapers for making a half-court shot backwards over his head in the last second, winning the game. He later funneled his interest in sports to handicapping sports, which of course he excelled at and enjoyed as a hobby with friends. Needless to say, he was full of love, life, compassion, knowledge, talent, and drive. But for those who knew him, you already know that. My husband always said how I was his rock, but he truly was my mountain and will always be. I love you, Al.”* – **Mary Greber, Psy.D., spouse of Dr. Greber**

*“I first met Dr. Alvin Greber when I joined the NSU-COM faculty in the late 1990s. I was placed on several committees he chaired and quickly became a friend and admirer of this incredible physician and human being. Dr. Greber’s commitment to educating our future osteopathic physicians never wavered. He was a role model for so many of us.”* – **James T. Howell, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean for professional relations and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine**

*“Where do I begin to speak of someone who was very dear and meant so very much to me? Dr. Greber, who possessed a gentle spirit and humanitarian heart, was rich with knowledge and wisdom. I came to know him as my doctor, medical advisor, and a genuine, caring individual. In spite of his own health problems, he always extended his knowledge and expertise to ensure that I and everyone else were okay. I had the honor and privilege of knowing Dr. Greber as a kind, humorous soul who ungrudgingly gave good advice and loved my guacamole. Although he was not a fan of guacamole in the beginning, after tasting my guacamole, he loved its taste and complimented me for the culinary care and love I placed in making it. He used to tell me he would start eating it on the way home because he could not wait to get home to eat it. In his later years, he claimed it was so delicious that it had healing properties. I and the HPD Executive Office staff will always love him, miss his presence, and keep him in earnest remembrance.”* – **Marie P. Joseph, M.S., HPD administrative assistant**

*“Dr. Alvin Greber was an incredible physician, a wonderful human being, and a consummate academic intellectual. He was also a mentor to many health care professionals and as such*

*was able to cross the barriers between the professions that for some reason over the years saw each other as adversaries rather than advocates for their patients. His primary responsibility as a physician was to provide his patients with not only care but with a sense of belonging and comfort. He was, and still is in the hearts and minds of many, a significant member of the human community.”* – **Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D. HPD Chancellor**

*“I knew Al Greber longer than most anyone at our college, perhaps even more intensely than most. I first met him when he finished his residency in the early 1960s, so we went back some 50 years. I worked closely with him at Parkview Hospital in Philadelphia medically, administratively, and personally. He was an ideal internist and friend. I was on the phone with him at the moment when Mort Terry and I decided to bring him down to Florida to head the internal medicine department—a move neither of us, or anyone else, ever regretted. He contributed greatly to our development and growth and showed the same humanity throughout as he always did. Among my many memories is an Al Greber, living in the same building, who never hesitated to come up to our apartment—even in the middle of the night—when my wife Anita or I needed him. I shall never forget his kindness. A number of my family members in Philadelphia became his patients. When he moved to Florida, they always remembered to ask me about him. You see, they loved him—and so did I. They miss him—and so do I.”* – **Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine**

*“I walk by his office, number 1504, and I still do not have the strength to look at his door. The magnitude of our loss is too great to bear. I am ashamed, but I must be honest and say that I have stayed in denial because the pain of his absence in our daily lives is so difficult for me to come to terms with. Dr. Alvin Greber, the epitome of a healer, will forever remain in my heart. I can honestly say that Dr. Greber imbedded in me an influence that taught me the importance of trusting in the medical profession. As a result, he gave me the confidence to make life-changing decisions that have improved my health and created for me a better quality of life. He was so easy to love, and he stole my heart before I even knew what an extraordinary and gifted physician he was. Always...a kind word, always...a gracious smile, always...a genuine caring and compassion for anyone who was in his presence. There will never be another Dr. Greber, but I know the legacy of his spirit will live on forever. I can personally say I am a better person due to the privilege and honor of him having been a part of my life. He will never be forgotten.”* – **Karen M. Reinford-Perez, HPD executive assistant and special projects coordinator**

*“I’ve been blessed with some great bosses in my career. However, the one that has most impacted my life was Dr. A. Alvin Greber. I first met Dr. Greber over 10 years ago. Dr. Lippman introduced me to him, saying ‘This young lady is Alnora, and she will take care of you.’ I hope I did. It was with great pleasure*



that I worked with and for Dr. Greber as his executive assistant for 10 years. Dr. Greber was an incredible, charitable, and caring man who always gave the best of himself and inspired others to do likewise. He was very knowledgeable and had a way of capturing your attention so you just wanted to sit and listen to him all day long. I certainly will miss our private time together. He was a great leader and mentor. In fact, there were countless calls and visits to his office from people seeking his wisdom until his very last day at work. Dr. Greber was the go-to man for any medical issue. He was my boss, doctor, teacher, and an immaculate dresser—a wonderful man. He was dedicated, intelligent, and kind-hearted—without a doubt a gift from God. I, along with his staff, loved Dr. Greber. He was a gentle man with a passion for medicine, sports, Philly cheesesteak sandwiches with mushrooms and jalapenos, onion rings, and a regular coke soda—no diet for him. I will miss seeing him coming down the hall with that smile that was always a beacon of light. I will hold him forever in my heart; God only made one Dr. Greber.” – **Alnora Sands, HPD Executive Assistant**

“Dr. Greber was a doctor’s doctor. When I was having a compilation of symptoms for which I didn’t know the diagnosis, he was the physician to whom I trusted my health care. He not only knew the diagnosis, but then taught me about it and entertained me with a story about his previous experiences with other patients who had had the same problem. In addition to the many kindnesses that were an inherent part of his warm personality, I always felt included by him when he was in a room with me. He was a rare person, one I will miss.” – **Judith Schaffer, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine**

“Dr. Greber was always ready, able, and willing to provide his knowledge and wisdom in medicine to everyone who asked. He had no problem in stopping what he was doing to answer any question. I remember an incident when I was evaluating a ‘patient’ for the Principles of Clinical Medicine simulation course. The patient had what I thought was a cardiac murmur. I called Dr. Greber to ask if he would confirm my finding. Not only did he say yes he would, but came to the simulation area within minutes to do so. I found out later that he was in a meeting with Dr. Mort Terry. Dr. Greber excused himself to respond to a ‘teaching’ moment, which he always felt was his most important reason for being on this earth.” – **Stanley L. Simpson, D.O., associate professor of family medicine**

“Prior to being with NSU-COM full time, I was intimately involved with the College of Osteopathic Medicine and attended several of the strategic meetings and other functions. Dr. Greber went out of his way to make me feel welcome and appreciated. When I became a full-time faculty member and he was asked about my potential value to the college, his comment was, ‘We are lucky to get him.’ Those comments and his kindness always were a wonderful way to begin a new academic challenge, and he became an integral part of my NSU-COM experience. In a very short time, I came to appreciate his clinical acumen. Together,

we worked on a case report of a patient with multiple cancers. We learned a great deal from one another, and when he became the executive dean, I presented a revamping of our current procedures program for the COM. He immediately grasped its value and was instrumental in sharing with and assisting Dr. Fred Lippman in securing the funding and resources to implement the program. Al’s value to the COM cannot be overstated. As we look around, we see his imprint on huge parts of the curriculum and hundreds of students and residents. He proudly told of our students’ mastery of cardiac murmurs through the Harvey program and the calls he received from his cardiology colleagues around the country bragging about our students and their knowledge base in this area. In my interactions with Al, he was always a gracious gentleman who had the best interests of the COM and the students as his foremost priorities. I will sorely miss him and his counsel, wisdom, balance—and most of all—his presence.” – **David L. Thomas, M.D., J.D., professor and chair of the surgery and correctional medicine**

“I will never forget his deep concern for the people he took care of medically. That, tied with his vast knowledge of his profession and of his miraculous grasp of pharmacology, made him the super cardiologist and internist he was. That, plus his obvious affinity for people, and theirs for him, made him that very extra special person. But moreover, I remember his fierce disapproval of replacing a winning pitcher early in a game because he’d reached the 100-pitch limit some managers practice. That practice really bugged Al, and he was quite vocal about it. Those attributes, along with many others, are what made Al Greber a near-perfect human being.” – **Jay Tischenkel, R.Ph., HPD director of institutional advancement**

“I fondly remember Dr. Greber in the Harvey classroom standing next to Harvey with one hand on his stethoscope and his other hand ‘conducting’ the orchestra of different heart sounds. He was always available to answer any questions and offer his insight.” – **Jacqueline Thomas, D.O., assistant professor of dermatology**

“My initial memories of Dr. Greber are from my second year of medical school as we began the cardiovascular system. He was a wonderfully dynamic and passionate lecturer and was truly dedicated to ensuring that we understood the material he presented. Dr. Greber was truly instrumental in helping me to understand the correlations between the anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular system and the sounds I heard through my stethoscope. He helped teach me how to truly listen to the heart and how those sounds gave clues to the possible underlying pathologies. Because I had a chance to get to know Dr. Greber during medical school, residency, and then as a colleague, I saw that his passion never faded, that he was always an avid education advocate. He was always warm and welcoming, with kind praises given often. I am thankful I had the opportunity to know him.” – **Jill Wallace-Ross, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine**



*"I had the privilege of knowing and working with Dr. Greber since May of 1990. During these years, Dr. Greber has been my physician, my friend, my teacher, and my mentor. In many ways, he has been like a second father to me—and a godsend to my family. I used to think I was taking advantage of Dr. Greber, but he told me he would be upset with me if I ever needed him and did not go to him. Dr. Greber was one of the most caring physicians anyone ever met; in fact, you could go to him with any medical problems you, your family, or your friends had. If it was important, you could call Dr. Greber anytime day or night. I know I have asked myself about what am I going to do without Al Greber. The answer is we all have to be a little bit more like him. When someone needs help, do your best to provide it. When someone asks for information or advice, provide it. Dr. Greber has left a legacy on this earth that will go on for generations. The students he has trained who are now in practice and the faculty members he trained will continue to help people and save lives. Al, I love you. I always will, and I will carry you with me always."* — **Steve Weinstein, CPA, HPD Director of Finance**

*"Whenever I think of Dr. Greber, my mind and heart fill with admiration, awe, and great love for the most special and wonderful colleague I have ever known in my 40 years in health professions higher education. Al was a giant in his field, a doctor's doctor, and a brilliant cardiologist revered by all of his peers here at NSU as well as by so many physicians and other health professionals throughout South Florida and the nation. He devoted nearly a quarter century of time here at NSU teaching students and residents, serving as a great faculty member and HPD administrator, and unselfishly providing top-notch medical care, counsel, and support to all of us and our loved ones here at NSU and throughout the community. He had an incredible presence brimming with extraordinary grace, class, kindness, compassion, empathy, charm, wisdom, and wit. He lived life to the fullest and his abundant and openly expressed endless love and adoration for Mary, his wonderful wife, soul mate, and angel, made even spending a brief moment or two with him inspirational and memorable. He will forever be loved but never even close to forgotten."* — **Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director**

## IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Hartley Schwartzberg



**Hartley Schwartzberg, D.O.**, who served as a clinical professor for over 25 years and as chair of the Department of Dermatology for several years, passed away on May 5 following a six-month bout with illness. In a *COM Outlook* profile published in 2008, Dr. Schwartzberg shared his insights about becoming a physician, which aptly captured his passion for medicine.

"Life is all about choices, and you need to pick what you feel you're going to be happy doing," he said. "I think that's the most important thing in life, and that's what I tell my students when I teach them—that you have to enjoy what you're doing. I also tell them there is no occupation in the world where you can get the satisfaction, excitement, and deep inner feeling of accomplishing something significant than when you're helping a patient." Dr. Schwartzberg, who always practiced what he preached, was widely known as a brilliant, innovative, and enthusiastic doctor who treated his patients with compassion from 1973 through 2001 in his private practice in Hollywood, Florida. Clearly a forerunner in his field, Dr. Schwartzberg was the first osteopathic physician to be accepted into an M.D. residency in dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, his children Jason, Jordan, and Danielle, and his granddaughters Kira, Lexi, Zoe, and Miranda.

## Drs. Hasty, Ledbetter Bid Farewell to NSU



On May 13, the college coordinated a farewell reception for **Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI**, associate professor of internal medicine and program director of the NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Hasty, a 2000 alumnus who worked as a faculty member for over eight years, left the college to become vice president of medical education at Southeastern Health and regional associate dean at Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Buies Creek, North Carolina. *Pictured are Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni and Dr. Robert Hasty.*

On April 19, the college coordinated a farewell reception for **Susan Ledbetter, D.O., FACOFP**, associate professor of family medicine and program director of the NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program in Hialeah, Florida. Dr. Ledbetter, who served as an NSU-COM faculty member for almost a decade, left the college to assume a position as medical director for United Healthcare in Miramar, Florida. *Pictured are Dr. Susan Ledbetter with Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.*





A photograph of a young man in a blue graduation cap and gown, smiling broadly. He is holding a young child with blonde hair who is looking directly at the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people at what appears to be a graduation ceremony.

# Graduation 2013

## **Senior Week Serves as Last Hurrah for Graduates**

Senior Week provided an abundance of opportunities for the class of 2013 to get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, a jovial dining experience at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. in Fort Lauderdale, and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 19 when 216 D.O., 55 Master of Public Health, and 22 Biomedical Informatics degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) Commencement Ceremony at the BB&T Center in Sunrise.

During the ceremony, graduates from the various HPD colleges were acknowledged for their accomplishments in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Ursula Bauer, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, was the keynote speaker.



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



## **Chancellor's Award (D.O. Program)**

*Exemplifies the characteristics of a fine osteopathic physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.*

**Recipient**  
**Naimah Wajid, D.O.**

**Presenter**  
Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.,  
Pharm.D., M.Sc.



## **Dean's Award (D.O. Program)**

*Presented to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program.*

**Recipient**  
**Laura Pestana, D.O.**

**Presenter**  
Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.,  
Pharm.D., M.Sc.



## **Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award**

*Presented to the student for the highest achievement in the study of internal medicine, both academic and clinical.*

**Recipient**  
**Tania Lopez, D.O.**

**Presenter**  
Samuel Snyder, D.O.



## **Matthew A. Terry, D.O., Memorial Award**

*Presented to the student chosen by his or her peers as the exemplary osteopathic medical student.*

**Recipient**  
**Seiha Kim, D.O.**

**Presenter**  
Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.,  
Pharm.D., M.Sc.



## **Dean's Community Award**

*Awarded to that member of the graduating class who, by personal and professional conduct, and by contributions to the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special recognition.*

**Recipient**  
**Matthew Uhde, D.O.**

**Presenter**  
Debbi Steinkohl,  
M.H.S.A.



## **Dean's Government and Public Policy Award**

*Presented to that member of the graduating class who has shown unique interest in developing an understanding of governmental and public health care policies.*

**Recipient**  
**Kobi Hano, D.O.**

**Presenter**  
James Howell,  
M.D., M.P.H.



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



## Alumni Association Award

Presented to the student who, by his/her leadership, has done the most to maintain the cohesiveness, unity, and esprit de corps within his/her class for all four years.

### Recipients

**Neha Patel, D.O., and Lauren Peter, D.O.**

### Presenter

Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.



## Florida Chapter, American Academy of Osteopathy Award in OMM

Presented to the student who, in the opinion of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, has achieved the highest proficiency in osteopathic therapeutics.

### Recipient

**Christopher Felton, D.O.**

### Presenter

Mark Sandhouse, D.O.



## Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine.

### Recipient

**Lauren Westafer, D.O.**

### Presenter

John Pellosie, Jr., D.O., M.P.H.



## Albert L. Weiner, D.O., Memorial Psychiatry Award

Presented in memory of Dr. Albert Weiner to the student achieving the greatest proficiency in psychiatry.

### Recipient

**Camille Alvarado-Pinguelo, D.O.**

### Presenter

Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.



## Clinical Service Award

Presented to the student judged to be outstanding in clinical service.

### Recipient

**Rohit Mehra, D.O., M.P.H.**

### Presenter

Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed



## Samuel J. Salman, D.O., Award in Family Medicine

Presented by the FSACOFF to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician.

### Recipient

**Devlin O'Connor, D.O.**

### Presenter

Barbara Arcos, D.O.



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



## Dean's Award (M.P.H. Program)

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Master of Public Health Program.

**Recipient**  
Nailya Mugalinskaya,  
M.P.H.

**Presenter**  
Cyril Blavo, D.O.,  
M.P.H. and T.M.



## Dean's Award (M.S.B.I. Program)

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program.

**Recipient**  
Marybeth Schambach,  
M.S.B.I.

**Presenter**  
Jennie Q. Lou,  
M.D., M.Sc.



## Chancellor's Award (M.P.H. Program)

Exemplifies the characteristics of a fine public health professional—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.

**Recipient**  
Angela Garcia,  
Pharm.D., M.P.H.

**Presenter**  
Cyril Blavo, D.O.,  
M.P.H. and T.M.



## Chancellor's Award (M.S.B.I. Program)

Exemplifies the characteristics of a fine biomedical informatics professional—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.

**Recipient**  
Teresa Blanco,  
M.S.B.I.

**Presenter**  
Jennie Q. Lou,  
M.D., M.Sc.



## Dean's Organizational Award

Presented to the senior who demonstrated organizational skills and leadership and received recognition from his/her peers during a productive academic career.

**Recipient**  
Stephanie Stephens,  
D.O.

**Presenter**  
Margaret Wilkinson,  
Ph.D.



## Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award

Presented to the student exhibiting the highest quality of service and leadership, combined with scholarship, integrity, and personal worth.

**Recipient**  
Seiha Kim, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Elaine Wallace,  
D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



## Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics

Presented to an outstanding student who is in the upper quarter of the class in rank and possesses honor grades in pediatric ambulatory and hospital rotations as well as one elective in a pediatric area with an honor grade.

**Recipient**  
Sarah Otero, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Edward Packer, D.O.



## Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service

Awarded to a student in the upper third of class in rank who organized and participated in at least three children's projects and is considered by students and faculty to have motivated children-related projects at NSU-COM.

**Recipient**  
Courtney Allen, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.



## Rose Community Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated sincere interest in community service or community projects.

**Recipient**  
Wendy Song, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Steven Zucker,  
D.M.D., M.Ed.



## Daniel R. Barkus, D.O., Outstanding Achievement in the Study of OB/GYN

Ranks in the top 25 percent of the class, is pursuing OB/GYN residency training, and has obtained the highest academic grade in the women's health course.

**Recipient**  
Natalie Wessel, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Kenneth Johnson, D.O.



## Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society Outstanding Achievement in the Study of OB/GYN

Demonstrated intention of pursuing residency training in OB/GYN and organized/participated in the greatest number of women's health activities.

**Recipient**  
Jessica Pearce, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Kenneth Johnson, D.O.



## Student Service Award (M.P.H. Program)

Presented to the Master of Public Health student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

**Recipient**  
Lauren Bello, M.P.H.

**Presenter**  
Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H.



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



## Research Award (D.O. Program)

Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty members.

**Recipient**  
Emily Young, D.O.,  
M.A., M.P.H.

**Presenter**  
Leonard Levy,  
D.P.M., M.P.H.



## Research Award (M.P.H. Program)

Presented to the student who demonstrated an effort to contribute to new public health knowledge through research.

**Recipient**  
David Quinn, M.P.H.

**Presenter**  
Nicole Cook, Ph.D.,  
M.P.A.



## Research Award (M.S.B.I. Program)

Presented to the student who demonstrated an effort to contribute to new knowledge in biomedical informatics through research.

**Recipient**  
Alphonse Derus,  
M.S.B.I.

**Presenter**  
Jennie Q. Lou, M.D.,  
M.Sc.



## A. Alvin Greber, D.O., Cardiology Award

Presented to the student demonstrating outstanding aptitude academically with recognized clinical application of knowledge in patients with cardiovascular disease.

**Recipient**  
Natassja Gangeri, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Samuel Snyder, D.O.



## Florida Geriatrics Society Excellence in Geriatrics Award

Presented for aptitude and interest in geriatrics as well as clinical competency and superior performance in the geriatrics rotation.

**Recipient**  
Elizabeth Phung, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Naushira Pandya,  
M.D., CMD



## Endocrine Society Award

Presented to the student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area and/or study of endocrinology.

**Recipient**  
Jesse Dubey, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Naushira Pandya,  
M.D., CMD



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



## Student Service Award (M.S.B.I. Program)

Presented to the M.S.B.I. student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

### Recipient

**Mark Carnemolla,**  
M.S.B.I.

### Presenter

Jennie Q. Lou,  
M.D., M.Sc.



## Golden Apple Award (D.O. Program)

Presented by the class of 2013 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

### Recipient

**David Boesler,**  
D.O., M.S.

### Presenter

Derrick Goubeaux, D.O.



## Golden Apple Award (M.P.H. Program)

Presented by the class of 2013 to the M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

### Recipient

**Jon Dodds,**  
Ph.D., M.P.H.

### Presenter

Angelica Martinez,  
M.P.H. student



## Golden Apple Award (M.S.B.I. Program)

Presented by the class of 2013 to the M.S.B.I. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

### Recipient

**Arif Rana,**  
Ph.D., Ed.S.

### Presenter

Mark Carnemolla,  
M.S.B.I.



## Donna Jones Morisugu Award

Presented to the spouse of a graduating student who best exemplifies the role of a professional's partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the D.O. profession.

### Recipient

**Jennifer Paquette**

### Presenter

Elaine Wallace, D.O.,  
M.S., M.S., M.S.



## M.S.B.I. Program Highest Honors

Raed Alhazme, M.S.B.I., Mark Carnemolla, M.S.B.I., Stewart Castro, M.S.B.I., Malka Fraiman, M.S.B.I., Amanda Horton, M.S.B.I., Kathy Hussein, M.S.B.I., Dr. Hernando Latorre, M.S.B.I., Frank Ndayahoze, M.S.B.I., Marybeth Schambach, M.S.B.I.



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



NSU-COM was proud to host its annual **Promotion Commissioning Ceremony** for graduating seniors who will be entering the U.S. armed services. The event, which was established in 2005 to honor and showcase support for graduates who will be doing medical tours of duty in the armed services, is held annually to facilitate the promotion of these young officers from the rank of second lieutenant (army and air force) or ensign (navy) to the rank of captain (army/air force) or lieutenant (navy). These young men and women have attended NSU-COM via the armed services Health Professions Scholarship Program. This year's ceremony was presided over by Major General Douglas Robb, D.O., of the U.S. Air Force. Following are the graduates who were recognized at the ceremony:

## United States Army

Captain Kathryn Bello, D.O.      Captain Charles Blackwell, D.O.  
 Captain Carleen Burt, D.O.      Captain Daniel Sharpstein, D.O.  
 Captain Jon Fowler, D.O.      Captain Justin Grimes, D.O.  
 Captain Jennifer Guyant, D.O.      Captain William Horneman, D.O.  
 Captain Maurice Nguyen, D.O.      Captain Joseph Salama, D.O.  
 Captain Andrew Steidley, D.O.

## United States Navy

Lieutenant Tonya Bolton, D.O.      Lieutenant David Burr, D.O.  
 Lieutenant Lauren Dozier, D.O.      Lieutenant Andrea Gajeton, D.O.

## United States Air Force

Captain Nicole Tafuri, D.O.

## M.P.H. Program Highest Honors

Nailya Mughanlinskay, M.P.H., David Quinn, M.P.H.,  
 Mimi Ribotsky, M.P.H.

## M.P.H. Program Honors

Lauren Bello, M.P.H., Keyla Breton, M.P.H.,  
 Angela Garcia, Pharm.D., M.P.H.

## M.S.B.I. Program Honors

Samar Almadani, M.S.B.I., Teresa Blanco, M.S.B.I.,  
 Halimat Jinadu, M.S.B.I.



The **Gold Humanism Honor Society** honors senior medical students, residents, role-model physician teachers, and other exemplars that have demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service and was organized to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and its constituent institutions. Following are the individuals who earned membership: Courtney Allen, D.O., Jaime Baynes-Fields, D.O., Gabrielle Berlinski, D.O., Elizabeth Noelle Clayton, D.O., Jaya Jagmohan, D.O., Sieha Kim, D.O., Kristopher Kline, D.O., Naa-Dei Kotey, D.O., Kelli McCarrell, D.O., Aldene McClymont, D.O., John Murchison, D.O., Eric Nichol, D.O., Hayley Oligane, D.O., Jessica Pearce, D.O., Elizabeth Phung, D.O., Richard Poole, D.O., Wendy Song, D.O., Matthew Uhde, D.O., Naimah Wajid, D.O., Lauren Westafer, D.O., and Emily Young, D.O.



## Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards

The **Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards** recognize one graduating medical student and one outstanding faculty member judged to be exemplary in their compassion and sensitivity in patient care. These individuals consistently demonstrate compassion and empathy, act as role models for professional behavior, and demonstrate cultural sensitivity in working with people of diverse backgrounds.

### Recipients

Jessica Pearce, D.O. (graduating student) and Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S. (faculty member)

### Presenter

David Boesler, D.O., M.S.



# Graduation 2013: Awards of Excellence



**Sigma Sigma Phi** is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity whose main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Following are the individuals who earned membership: Courtney Allen, D.O., Jennifer Berkovich, D.O., Austin Bach, D.O., Jaime Baynes-Fields, D.O., Marquila Freeland, D.O., Emily Eubanks, D.O., Elias Fakhoury, D.O., Jillian Fleisher, D.O., Natassja Gangeri, D.O., Christopher Gore, D.O., Jaclyn Gorovoy, D.O., John Jones, D.O., Jessica Pearce, D.O., Kelli McCarrell, D.O., Aldene McClymont, D.O., Tanya Mokhateb-Rafii, D.O., Stephanie Perez, D.O., Elizabeth Phung, D.O., Shannon Rindone, D.O., Stephanie Stephens, D.O., Matthew Uhde, D.O., Zachary Virgin, D.O., Naimah Wajd, D.O., and Lauren Westafer, D.O.



## Research Fellowship Award

*Presented to the members of the graduating class who successfully completed the NSU-COM Predoctoral Research Fellowship.*

### Recipients

**Jaclynn Moskow, D.O., and Emily Young, D.O., M.A., M.P.H.**

### Presenter

**Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**



Membership in the **Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society** is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 10 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. Honorees are listed chronologically. Laura Pestana, D.O., Sarah Otero, D.O., Tania Lopez, D.O., Jennifer Guyant, D.O., Joseph Biondolillo, D.O., Natassja Gangeri, D.O., Scott Sandilands, D.O., Jessica Pearce, D.O., Natalie Wessel, D.O., Stefanie Haynes, D.O., Lauren Westafer, D.O., Max Citrin, D.O., Bradley Gordan, D.O., Jesse Dubey, D.O., Courtney Allen, D.O., Kristin McBeath, D.O., Lisa Kurajian, D.O., Scott Moradian, D.O., Matthew Uhde, D.O., Jaya Jagmohan, D.O., Kobi Hano, D.O., and Richard Talbot, D.O.



## Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates

*Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2010 to May 2013.*

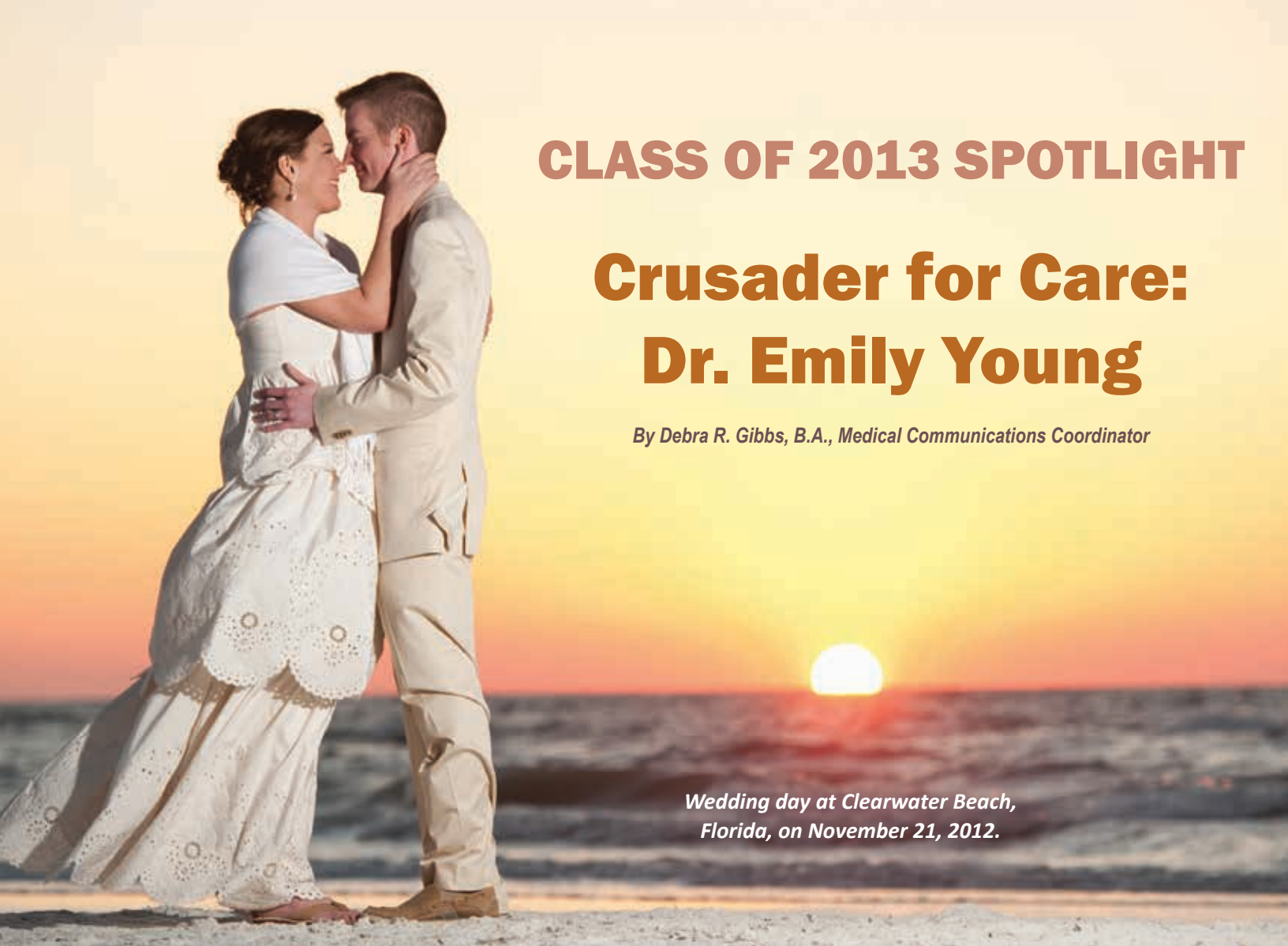
### Recipients

**Perry Dave, D.O., Christopher Felton, D.O., Rohit Mehra, D.O., M.P.H., Erika Simmerman, D.O., Wendy Song, D.O., and Natalie Wessel D.O.**

### Presenter

**Mark Sandhouse, D.O.**





## CLASS OF 2013 SPOTLIGHT

# Crusader for Care: Dr. Emily Young

*By Debra R. Gibbs, B.A., Medical Communications Coordinator*

*Wedding day at Clearwater Beach,  
Florida, on November 21, 2012.*

**M**any view commencement as an ending, but it actually is much more of a beginning. As some graduates revel in the relief of finishing their medical degrees, many others are already moving toward promising futures. Emily Young, D.O., M.A., M.P.H., is one of those successful graduates poised to bring health care to those in need.

Her desire for a career dedicated to healing others began while growing up in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she lived at the Ronald McDonald House—the nonprofit organization that offers families a place to call home while their children receive care in a nearby hospital—and where her mother has been the onsite director for over 30 years. Seeing her mother comfort low-income families from around the world that had children in the nearby hospital offered invaluable insight, Dr. Young said.

Her concern for others grew as her life progressed. Attending the University of Pennsylvania for undergraduate studies in biology cultivated a deep commitment to social justice. As an assistant in a program for West Philadelphia secondary school science classes, Dr. Young learned that the students there were just as bright, if not smarter, than she was. She also realized that her supportive middle-class

background had given her an advantage her students did not have. Consequently, while pursuing her Master of Arts degree in Teaching at American University in Washington, D.C., she spent two years with Teach For America—a service corps that offered the opportunity to work and teach in underserved neighborhoods.

Two weeks into her first year with Teach For America, one of Dr. Young's female high school students was killed by gang violence. That tragedy helped forge her commitment to help adolescents overcome poverty, hunger, unplanned pregnancy, illness, and violence. In her first year with the organization, only a handful of the more than 160 students graduated from high school, while some dropped out due to unplanned teenage pregnancy. As a result, Dr. Young committed herself to becoming a leader of social change to improve adolescent and women's health.

At Teach For America, her interest in osteopathic medicine was sparked by a discussion with her University of Pennsylvania premed adviser, who suggested that allopathic medical schools may not offer the best means to achieve her goals of practicing equitable and holistic primary care. The adviser explained that students who have diverse



interests, love community service, and enjoy a hands-on approach are good fits for the principles and practices of osteopathic medicine and the *whole individual* approach it promotes. “That phone call opened the door to the path I feel my life was supposed to take,” Dr. Young recalled.

Medical school has allowed her to explore diverse opportunities and to make an impact on the issues that had affected many of her former students. While completing her second master’s degree, a Master of Public Health, she was accepted into NSU-COM’s yearlong Predoctoral Research Fellowship program. That year connected her with Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, who was the first to encourage her toward conducting public health research. The fellowship award allowed her to join forces with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provide health care to South Florida immigrants. Dr. Young researched the need for tests and treatments to combat a disabling parasitic disease called lymphatic filariasis.

During her fellowship year, Dr. Young founded a medical internship program at a local youth shelter, which helped her establish preventative educational and health services for at-risk adolescents. Getting involved with Planned Parenthood to promote health services ignited Dr. Young’s passion



Participating in a 2007 Teach For America Biology classroom in Washington, D.C.

for the right of patients to make informed and private medical decisions about their own bodies – especially vis-à-vis reproductive health care. She also became a leader in Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) – an offshoot of the national organization of students whose members are committed to becoming future pro-choice physicians and providers. With MSFC, Dr. Young and other members organized groups and events to advocate for access to all comprehensive reproductive health care and personally testified six times before the Florida State Legislature regarding the right for women to make private and informed medical decisions about their own bodies.

Overall, the most exciting highlight of her career has been founding and directing the Reproductive Health Seminar Program with Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., director of preclinical education and associate professor of internal medicine, who Dr. Young calls her “Nova Mom.” The program trains health professional students to administer comprehensive sexual health education to at-risk youths throughout South Florida. Selected health professional students educated more than 1,000 adolescents on topics including abstinence, birth control, pregnancy, and self-esteem during puberty. Dr. Young hopes to expand the program into a nonprofit organization.

A few of the many accolades garnered by Dr. Young’s commitment and leadership in health care include the following:

**Judy Morris, M.D., Public Health Award**

**(First Place)**

**Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Research Competition**

**Health Professions Division Grant Award**

**American Osteopathic Association Presidential Leadership Award**

**March Of Dimes Florida Chapter Community Award**



Celebratory Trio: Scott Colton, B.A., APR, COM/HPD director of medical communications and publications, Dr. Young, and Debra Gibbs, B.A., COM medical communications coordinator, at the graduation dinner on May 17.



*(First Place)*  
*Florida Osteopathic Medical  
Association Poster Competition*

*(First Place)*  
*American Colleges of Physicians  
Medical Student Poster Competition*

*Medical Students for Choice  
Reproductive Health Internship*

*2013 NSU-COM Research Award*

Dr. Young loved her entire NSU-COM experience and said her most enjoyable time was during her third-year clinical rotation at Largo Medical Center. "Working in the clinics and hospital was a wonderful experience in an organized, professional, and positive learning environment," she explained. "D.O. preceptors taught me how to add osteopathic manipulation to routine patient care, helping me to solidify the skills I learned during my first and second years and build a commitment to including manipulation into my future practices."

In contrast, her most challenging time at NSU-COM occurred as she started her first year. While she has enjoyed her "Nova experience," she admitted that, "Looking back, I would say first year was the roughest for me socially and academically. I came to NSU-COM from Philadelphia and took almost the whole year to find my fit," she said. "Luckily, as I settled in and began to thrive, the school became a wonderful fit for me."

While pursuing her professional passion, Dr. Young discovered her personal one. According to Dr. Young, getting married in November 2012 was the most memorable moment of her life. "I never imagined such good fortune would come to me, to find such a partner and such happiness," Dr. Young said as she reflected on her road to romance and marriage. "Luckily, NSU's College of Optometry had a wonderful guy named Adam Sweeney in its third-year class when I was a first-year medical student. I had always seen him in the

HPD Library, and then we got set up on a blind coffee date that turned into dinner and four hours of conversation. I went home to the Rolling Hills graduate housing that evening and told my classmates I had just met the man I was going to marry."

Four years later, Dr. Young's father married them in a small ceremony on Clearwater Beach. "I feel so lucky to have a great love in my personal life, and for it, I know I am better in my professional life," Dr. Young said.

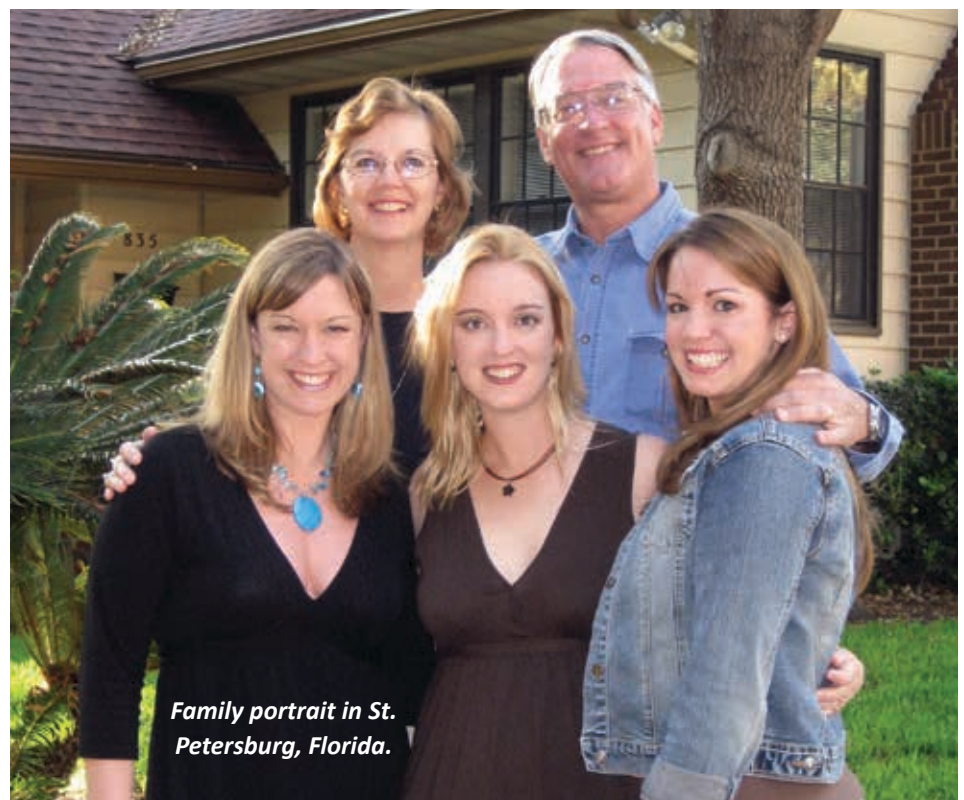
With her strength in building fortitude in those around her, Dr. Young offered some advice for new students on handling the stresses and challenges of medical school. Quoting Plato, she said, "Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle," which are words that highlight the importance of empathy. "There were times when the stressful and unique situations of medical school challenged this personal philosophy for me, and those moments were necessary — albeit sometimes painful — learning experiences."

Now, a bright future beckons. Dr. Young has been accepted into the University of Virginia Family Medicine

Residency Program in Charlottesville, where she will train in the global and women's health tracks program. Dr. Young plans to use both behavioral medicine and osteopathic manipulation to care for refugees from countries undergoing political unrest and treat chronic somatized pain — the condition wherein an emotional pain becomes a physical symptom. She will also practice obstetrics along a model similar to midwifery and provide preventative reproductive health and comprehensive family planning that includes abortion care.

Another mentor, David Thomas, M.D., J.D., professor and chair of the college's Department of Surgery and Division of Correctional Medicine, has instilled within her a strong commitment to serving in correctional facilities, where Dr. Young hopes to assist incarcerated juveniles and women. In the future, "I would love to enter academic medicine, be a faculty member of a university, and be involved in medical student and resident development," she concluded.

With her formidable skills and compassion, Dr. Young is set to serve and succeed in myriad ways.



*Family portrait in St.  
Petersburg, Florida.*



# Graduation 2013: Capturing a Moment in Time





# Graduation 2013: Capturing a Moment in Time





**Deidre E. Bass, D.O.** ('10) has accepted a general pediatric position with Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa Pediatrics in Santa Rosa, California. She completed her pediatric residency training in June at Advocate Children's Hospital Park Ridge in Park Ridge, Illinois.

**Maria Behnam-Terneus, D.O.** ('09), was named associate program director for Miami Children's Hospital's Pediatric Residency Program in Miami, Florida, and has become a pediatric hospitalist at the institution.



**Charles J. Chase, D.O.** ('89), who serves as president of the Florida Society of

Anesthesiologists, established a \$25,000 endowment called the Chase Honorary Anesthesiology Support Endowment Fund (CHASE Fund). The endowment's purpose is to provide several NSU-COM students interested in anesthesiology with an opportunity to attend an all-expenses-paid educational conference at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida, and meet their future peers. "It's a great way to introduce aspiring anesthesiologists to the profession," Dr. Chase explained. "The endowment is in its first year, and I hope to get support from other anesthesiologists that realize the importance of encouraging medical students to go into our profession. The endowment idea was a product of my desire to thank NSU-COM for giving me an opportunity to become a physician and to thank my specialty society for giving me a leadership opportunity."

**Rosendo Collazo, D.O.** ('89) has joined Baptist Health Medi-

cal Group — an organization of more than 120 physicians in multiple specialties closely aligned with Baptist Health South Florida.

**Roya Ghorsriz, D.O.** ('05), who completed her family practice and dermatology residencies at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, has accepted a position as a practicing dermatologist at Gessler Clinic in Winter Haven, Florida. She also serves as a Winter Haven Hospital medical staff colleague.

**Lisa Gwynn, D.O, M.B.A., FAAP, CPE** ('98), assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics and medical director of the Pediatric Mobile Clinic at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Mailman Center for Child Development, was featured on WSVN 7 News on April 5 in a two-minute segment profiling the mobile clinic.

**Colonel Wayne E. Hachey D.O., M.P.H.** ('89) recently retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years of service. His most recent deployment was to Afghanistan as chief of public health for 1<sup>st</sup> Medical Brigade; however, his last assignment before retirement was as executive secretary of the Defense Health Board. Following his retirement from the Army, Dr. Hachey accepted a leadership position with the governmental and clinical affairs unit of Protein Sciences Corporation in Meriden, Connecticut.

**Melissa Hartman, D.O.** ('08), who works at Family and Women's Health at Avalon Park in Orlando, Florida, coauthored an article entitled "Musculoskeletal Causes of Chronic Pelvic Pain: What a Gynecologist Should Know" that was published in the March issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.



**Marlow Hernandez, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.** ('11), a clinical internal medicine resident

at Cleveland Clinic Florida, recently had his coauthored article entitled "Predictors of 30-Day Readmission in Patients Hospitalized with Decompensated Heart Failure" published in *Clinical Cardiology*. He also is working on an ongoing prospective clinical trial at Cleveland Clinic Florida entitled the "Model for Heart Failure Exacerbation Reduction (Model HEART) Trial" that is listed on [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov).



**Christopher E. Keel, D.O.**, ('09), a chief resident in the Department of Urology at Tulane Uni-

versity School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, was recently named Physician of the Year at University Hospital. The award recognizes Dr. Keel's contribution to the rollout and troubleshooting of the hospital's introduction of Epic — its electronic medical records system.

**Bradley Marcus, D.O., FAAPMR**, ('01) recently established a cutting-edge, nonprofit facility named VIP Neuro-Rehabilitation Center in San Diego, California, which offers top-quality outpatient care to disabled military veterans, children, and the underserved.

**Jana Marjenhoff, D.O.**, ('87) currently serves on the New Mexico Medical Review Board and works for the Indian Health Service at a remote reservation.

**Michael MacDonald, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A., FAOCOPM**,

('90), who is a board-certified and residency-trained occupational medicine physician in Melbourne, Florida, was named the United States Naval Reserve Flight Surgeon of the Year for 2012. He currently serves as a captain in the Navy Reserves and as a flight surgeon for VP-62 — a Navy P-3 Orion squadron based at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida, whose squadron mission is maritime patrol.



**Jilleen M. Panizzo, D.O., FAPA** ('89) received her Fellow designation

from the American Psychiatric Association.



**Tiffany Sizemore-Ruiz, D.O.** ('09) was recently named as one of the 15 top concierge

medicine physicians in the country by *Concierge Medicine Today*, which looks for physicians each year who have made an impact on patients, their community, their state, social media, and technology. In addition, she and **Camilo Ruiz, D.O.** ('07) recently opened a private, retainer-fee concierge internal medicine and sleep medicine practice in downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Practice information can be found at [www.Choice-PhysiciansSFL.com](http://www.Choice-PhysiciansSFL.com).

**Craig Ziering, D.O.**, ('89), who is board certified by both the American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery and the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology, was named chairman of Biologix Hair Inc.'s recently established medical advisory board.



# Getting to Know...

## 1995 Alumnus Dr. Dan Carney



**Fast Facts:** Dan C. Carney, D.O., of Boynton Beach, Florida, is married to his high school sweetheart, Christine, and has four children: Dan Jr., who is a police officer in Boca Raton; Michael, who is pursuing career opportunities in physical therapy; Caitlin, a senior at NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences who is studying athletic training; and Brian, who is a junior at Wingate University in North Carolina, where he is studying acting and communications.

**Please summarize how you became interested in medicine and decided to become a physician.** I guess I was always interested in medicine. My father was a family practice physician, so when I was a young kid around 1960, I used to ask questions like, "What's happening in my head when I have a headache?" and "Why, in the middle of the summer in Florida, do they call it a *cold*?" I remember, like it was yesterday, answering a phone call at home at around 3:00 in the morning where a gentleman said his wife was very ill. My father took the phone and headed out the door. But this was the way it was back in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The call would come in at any time after hours, and my father was on his way to another house call. He was one of the most respected men in town.

My path to medicine took a more unconventional route than most. I had

started in premed at the University of Miami (UM). Problem was, I was playing football at UM and chasing this wonderful lady. Something had to give. Naturally, the grades went where you might expect. I switched to a radio and television broadcasting and journalism course of study. Fortunately, everything worked out as my career in broadcasting took off. After working a few years in Miami at WIOD radio, then at Channel 4 behind the camera, I moved in front of the camera at Channel 6 as sports director. In 1980, I moved to Atlanta to help launch CNN as the network's second of four original sportscasters. The year 1982 brought us to the Satellite News Channel, another 24-hour news network that went off the air after two years.

I left broadcasting at that point and moved to Key West after buying the dog track there, but got back into TV in 1984 in Pensacola at another startup station. In the late 1980s, I went back to school to take all my science prerequisites, sit for the MCAT exams, and hopefully realize something I had only dreamed about decades earlier—becoming a physician. I guess I scored well enough to allow me to join the class of 1995. We stayed in Pensacola until 1991, which is when we moved back to South Florida so I could begin my education at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. It was the best thing I've ever done professionally. Oh, and that girl I was chasing at UM? We celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 10, 2013.

**Why did you decide to attend SECOM (NSU-COM), and how did you come to learn about osteopathic medicine?** My father, Thomas F. Carney, D.O., was a graduate of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1951. He was one of the earliest osteopathic physicians in South Florida, moving here in 1954. He was part of the group that helped in the birth of SECOM. My younger brother was born at Osteopathic General Hospital in 1962, the building that would become part of the medical school. Where else would I go?

**What was the most memorable aspect of your osteopathic education at SECOM (NSU-COM)?** I think the most memorable aspects of medical school were the third- and fourth-year rotations. We used to say—and I guess students still do—that the worst day on rotations was better than the best day sitting in classes because we were actually *involved* in medicine and/or procedures. It gave exposure to where you might be as an attending, and going with physical medicine and rehabilitation brought me to some of the more renowned rehab facilities to rotate.

**Please describe in detail what you are doing professionally at the moment and why you enjoy it.** After finishing my residency at Boston University Medical School and Boston Medical Center, I received my board certification in physical medicine and rehabilitation and subspecialty certification in spinal-cord injury medicine. I stayed on staff there, gaining an assistant professorship. In 2003, after four years as an attending physician, we moved back to South Florida, where I accepted the medical director's position at St. Anthony's Rehabilitation Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, which is where I still am today. This was a coming home in every sense of the word. My wife and I are both natives of the area, as are our families and so many of the friends with whom we grew up.

**What has been the most fulfilling aspect of being a physician?** From my perspective, I feel the greatest thing one can do is to make a difference in another person's life. There's a lot of trust placed by patients in their physicians. That's a lot of responsibility, which has to be taken seriously. I am strictly hospital-based at St. Anthony's. I don't have an outpatient practice and prefer to keep it that way. It allows me to spend as much time as I need in a patient's room as is necessary, not worrying about needing to rush to an outpatient clinic. Reversing medical misfortune and getting a patient home or to the next level gives me the greatest satisfaction.



*“I guess I was always interested in medicine. My father was a family practice physician, so when I was a young kid around 1960, I used to ask questions like, “What’s happening in my head when I have a headache?” and “Why, in the middle of the summer in Florida, do they call it a cold?” — DR. DAN CARNEY*

**Has there been a specific case that truly made you appreciate the reason you became a physician? If so, please provide some specific details.** Perhaps one of the greatest challenges we’ve had in quite some time was a young man who developed transverse myelitis after a day of surfing. No cause could be found as to what may have contributed to this non-traumatic spinal-cord injury. I first met the 19 year old in the ICU at Northwest Medical Center in Margate, Florida. His legs had no motion and virtually no sensation, but he was driven to recover, and I could see some measure of hope. We brought him into St. Anthony’s, and our rehab and therapy team worked with him for a number of weeks. Fortunately, this turned into quite a success story, with the patient literally walking out of our rehab hospital. I don’t think I’ve ever had that kind of outcome before in a patient with transverse myelitis.

**What personal and professional achievements are you the proudest about?** Watching my kids grow into the outstanding people they’ve become gives me the greatest amount of personal pride. My wife and I have truly been blessed. Professionally, St. Anthony’s Rehabilitation Hospital has recently been placed in the top seven percent of rehab hospitals in the country, and there are over 800 such hospitals nationwide. I’m certainly proud of that as well as any part I may have played in helping achieve this level of success.

**As a past president of NSU-COM’s Alumni Association and a member of Dr. Silvagni’s Leadership Council, why are you so willing to give back to the college in this manner?** There’s a long history of osteopathic medicine in my family. This university gave me the opportunity to realize a lifelong focus

of becoming a physician. To say thanks, I’ve been working with Debbi Steinkohl, the college’s Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum program’s administrative director, to bring students to St. Anthony’s to give them an idea of what rehab medicine is all about. In short, I’m doing anything I can to give back to the college that helped me get where I am today. Every NSU-COM student should be compelled to give back, and a great way to start is by joining the Alumni Association. Also, when Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni kindly asked me to join the Dean’s Leadership Council, well, you just don’t say *no* to Tony. He’s a great leader, and under his leadership the school has gone great places that will mean even more opportunities for the medical students. I’ve been on the Dean’s Leadership Council since its beginning and will continue to contribute any way I can as long as I can.



*Dr. Dan Carney (far left) in 2010 at the college’s alumni reception held in Weston, Florida, during the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association’s annual convention.*





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# ***2013-14 Calendar of Events***

## **August 11, 2013**

### ***Class of 2017 White Coat Ceremony***

10:00 a.m.

Signature Grand - Davie, Florida

## **September 20-22, 2013**

### ***FOMA Mid-Year Seminar***

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay

Tampa, Florida

*(The seminar will offer approximately 25 hours of 1-A CME credits.)*

## **February 7-8, 2014**

### ***Seventh Annual Interprofessional Geriatrics Training Institute***

NSU Main Campus

*(For additional information, please visit <http://www.nova.edu/gec>.)*