

Winter 2014

Lasting Impressions, Winter 2014

College of Dental Medicine

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WINTER 2014

lasting Impressions

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE



PREMIER ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE: NSU'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY • GIVE KIDS A SMILE • DENTAL RESEARCH AT NSU





Become a part of an extraordinary story.

Be active in YOUR alumni society and leave a lasting impression.

The chain of events started as you applied to NSU, became a student at the College of Dental Medicine, and then graduated to become a member of the dental profession. You are a vital part of the NSU family.

Make your voice heard by becoming active in the new Alumni Society. We also are accepting nominations for the newly formed Alumni Society Advisory Board.

The chain begins and continues with you.

For the latest information, visit our Web site at www.dental.nova.edu. You can update your personal information at www.dental.nova.edu/alumnirelations.

For more information on becoming involved, email Bart Whitehead, D.M.D., at walbert@nova.edu, or call (954) 262-1495.



lasting Impressions

Lasting Impressions is produced by
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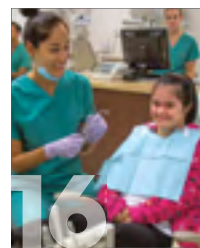


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FOLLOW NSU





First impressions are often our lasting impressions, and *Lasting Impressions* seems a fitting name for the magazine the College of Dental Medicine is launching.

Since it was founded in 1997, Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine has been making lasting impressions on the global community through its skilled alumni, dedicated faculty members, and hardworking students. Our graduates serve their communities as dentists and researchers in every part of the world. The college has the distinction of being the first private dental college established in the state of Florida.

As NSU enters its 50th year, the College of Dental Medicine is poised to make an even more far-reaching impact on our school and the global community.

One of the people making a lasting impression is the College of Dental Medicine's new dean, Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P. Niessen is an internationally renowned academician, researcher, author, and public health advocate. She comes to NSU from

Texas A&M University's Baylor College of Dentistry where she served as a clinical professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry. She is a passionate educator, and her research interests include geriatric oral research and education and oral health public policy.

We are excited to have someone of her caliber take on this leadership role. Niessen exemplifies the university's core values. She will continue to improve the already stellar national reputation of NSU's College of Dental Medicine.

Lasting Impressions will showcase the alumni, faculty and staff members, and students, as well as the college's cutting-edge education, its commitment to the community, and the donors who assist in our mission.

Just as NSU's first 50 years proved that the university was just getting started, the College of Dental Medicine's first 17 years are only the beginning.

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



NSU's Health Professions Division, Main Campus



Q&A

WITH

Linda C. Niessen

Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., became the third dean to helm NSU's College of Dental Medicine when she assumed the office last year.

During her tenure as professor and chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences at Baylor College of Dentistry at Texas A&M University, Niessen initiated advanced education programs in dental public health and geriatric dentistry as part of the Baylor partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

Niessen received her bachelor's degree in chemistry (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of New Mexico. She received her Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.), Master of Public Health (M.P.H.), and Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) degrees from Harvard University.

What attracted you to NSU?

Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine, in its short, 17-year history, has developed an excellent reputation as an innovative dental school that graduates students with strong clinical skills in a student-friendly environment. It was that

reputation, initially, that was an attraction. The college was founded with a mission to improve the oral health of underserved populations in South Florida and is part of a health professions campus that includes medical, dental, pharmacy, optometry, and nursing. This enables interactions across health professions to facilitate team learning and interprofessional education and practice. That was a plus. I also was interested because the faculty members serve as leaders in the profession, the students are incredibly talented, and the applicant pool is robust.

What goals do you want to achieve as dean of the College of Dental Medicine?

George L. Hanbury, NSU president, has outlined an exciting Vision 2020 for Nova Southeastern University. The College of Dental Medicine's vision "to become the acknowledged leader in dental education" aligns well with Vision 2020. My goals are consistent with the College of Dental Medicine's Strategic Plan (Innovations—2012–2017) and include expanding our research activities, continuing our curriculum innovation, strengthening our clinical program, and engaging our alumni to share their expertise with our current students.

NSU's planned Center for Collaborative Research (CCR) is key. As the university increases the research that it conducts, the College of Dental Medicine will play a key role in participating in this important activity.

The college has been known for curriculum innovation since its founding. Faculty members report that our graduates have a competitive advantage



today because they have had clinical experiences using the latest equipment. I plan to continue these great practices.

We at NSU's College of Dental Medicine are now starting to see our graduates take on leadership roles in the profession. We are beginning to engage our alumni and activate our alumni association. What better way for our current students to learn about their future than to hear from our own alumni about what possibilities exist. I want to help foster these relationships.

What are the trends in dental education?

Integration, collaboration, and competency-based education are the hallmarks of dental education in the 21st century. Case-based learning that integrates the basic and clinical sciences and collaboration with dental and medical specialties both provide educational opportunities that will simulate the dental practice of the future. As men and women of science, the greatest contribution dental professionals make to dentistry is the thinking they do on behalf of their patients.

Your background is in geriatric oral research. Why is this a growing field?

The United States and global demographics are driving this trend. Aging is a worldwide phenomenon. There is not just an increasing number of older adults, but an increasing number who have retained more natural teeth than their parents. Already, 17 percent of Florida's population is older than age 65, so NSU is a perfect location to develop oral health research in an older population.

The baby boomers are also the first generation to have had workplace dental insurance benefits. Now, as they retire and their health insurance switches to Medicare, in effect, they will lose their dental insurance (only a few Medicare Advantage programs include dental benefits) at a time when their dental needs may increase.

The other significant unmet oral health need in this older population concerns the 1.6 million people who currently reside in nursing homes. The current state of oral health care for nursing home residents is dismal, bordering on neglect. We have to figure out how to reach vulnerable populations with basic prevention and primary oral health care.

LEFT: Linda C. Niessen, College of Dental Medicine dean, discusses career options with dental students Keith Simon and Tamarra Smith in the CDM's clinic.

How do you think technology will affect the future of dentistry?

The advances in research and technology have the ability to make the practice of dentistry easier for the patient and more fulfilling for dental professionals, while improving both oral health and systemic health.

The new NSU Center for Collaborative Research will provide the perfect location to leverage the research expertise of various disciplines to generate new knowledge to assist health professionals in caring for patients.

Research and technology will continue to advance, but we must ensure that we are asking the right questions, and we must be willing to reevaluate old questions. If you don't ask, you won't learn. Why do we perform a procedure a certain way? Is there a better approach that may be faster or easier and provide better outcomes for the patient?

NSU's College of Dental Medicine has a thriving dual admissions program. What do you see as its future?

I view dual admissions as the future of education. President Hanbury has often said that a master's degree is the new bachelor's degree. A large number of our current undergraduate students are biology majors. As biology majors, many of our NSU graduates are seeking to pursue a health professional education. Why not continue their graduate education here at NSU?

Students want to design their own careers and continue their education in creative ways by combining disciplines. Student debt is skyrocketing. The more ways we provide for them to reach their educational and career goals in less time (and with less tuition), the more competitive we become as a university.

We currently have dual admissions with the undergraduate campus (B.S./D.M.D.), and with the medical school (D.O./D.M.D.). A few of our predoctoral dental students are also pursuing a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) at NSU's medical school the same time as their dental studies. The College of Osteopathic Medicine is developing a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. After three years, students in this program can enter NSU's medical school. This is an opportunity we may want to consider for the dental school, too.

THE COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE (CDM)

VISION

The vision of the CDM is to be the acknowledged leader in educating students for an enriched career in general and specialty practice, academia, and/or research with special emphasis on underserved populations.

MISSION

The College of Dental Medicine's mission is to educate students to become competent in all phases of the general practice of dental medicine and postdoctoral residents who are proficient in their respective specialty fields. The CDM is committed to ensuring graduates' excellence in the art and science of dental medicine and their commitment to independent, lifelong learning. This mission requires graduates to be knowledgeable in the biological sciences, clinically skilled, technologically proficient, compassionate, and sensitive to the needs of the public. The graduate will be competent to function as a member of, or in conjunction with, an interdisciplinary primary health care team.

The CDM fosters leadership and excellence in dental education through a commitment to recruit and retain the highest caliber, self-motivated students, residents, and faculty; innovative teaching methods, research, scholarship, professionalism, and ethical principles; continuing education; and service to the local, state, national, and international communities.

The CDM has a special commitment to educate students and residents to provide culturally sensitive care to the underserved and special needs populations.

CORE VALUES

- Honesty, Integrity, and High Ethical Standards
- Professionalism
- Mutual Respect
- Communication
- Diversity and Cultural Competence
- Leadership
- Interdisciplinary Initiatives
- Service
- Excellence and Quality

You are an advocate for public health. What do you see as NSU's role in the area of dental public health?

NSU's College of Dental Medicine was founded based on the need for oral health care in various populations in South Florida. The American Dental Association's Health Policy Research Institute has done some excellent research identifying the change in the use of dental services in the U.S. population since the economic recession of 2008. Of particular interest, they identified that, while more children are receiving dental care through Medicaid or State Children's Health Insurance Programs, more low-income adults are being disenfranchised from receiving dental care.

NSU's College of Dental Medicine has a long-standing commitment to providing dental care to underserved and special needs populations. We need to continue that commitment. Our students continue to have rotations at community locations that provide dental care for patients with HIV, for children who are both healthy and medically complex, and at the Henry Schein Special Needs Clinical Suite. Our students learn to care for medically and physically complex patients. As graduates, they continue to provide care to these patients.

As a dental professional, you have worked with veterans at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers throughout Texas and Maryland. What challenges are there in working with veterans?

Throughout my clinical career, I have served as a hospital dentist. I liked practicing dentistry in this environment, both in the U.S. Public Health Service Division of Indian Health in Talihina, Oklahoma, where I started my career, and at several VA Medical Centers in Massachusetts, Maryland, and Texas.

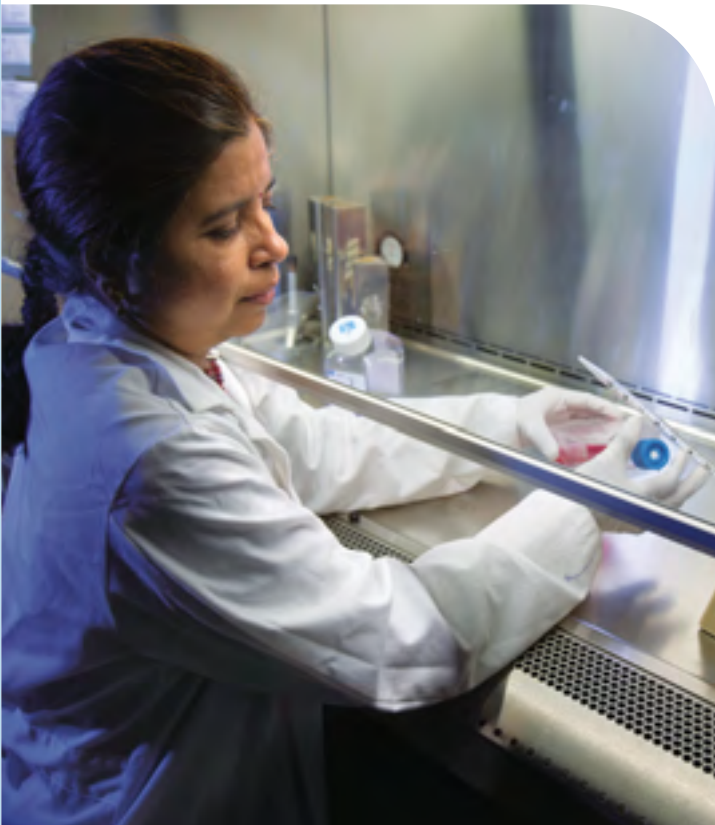
Caring for these patients often required complex decision making. More important, these positions regularly demonstrated the important role dentistry plays in improving a patient's overall health, not to mention, the clear relationship between systemic and oral health.

Please tell us a little bit about your personal life.

I grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; attended college at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque; and attended dental school at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. After graduation from dental school, I joined the U.S. Public Health Service to work with the Choctaw Nation, where I continued to learn about our Native American culture and history. As chief of the Dental Service at the Talihina Indian Hospital, I learned early about the importance of being part of the medical team and the contributions that dental professionals can make to improve patients' health.

My physician husband and I met when we worked together on the medical staff at the Talihina Indian Hospital. We raised two sons, of whom we are incredibly proud. Our older son is an ear, nose, and throat surgeon who currently practices in Santa Rosa, California. He and his wife have two darling, intelligent, sweet children—Liam, who's two years, and Nieve, who's nine months. (Can you tell I'm a proud grandmother?) Our second son is a dentist; he is currently in the third year of a six-year oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. ♦

Researcher Umadevi Kandalam conducts an experiment. Research is central to NSU's College of Dental Medicine and is mentioned in its vision and mission statements.



creating **SMILES**

BY JOHN DOLEN

amanda Buscemi, D.M.D., chief pediatric dental resident at NSU's College of Dental Medicine, never ceases to be distressed when meeting a child who has never been to a dentist—no matter how many times this has happened.

Amanda Buscemi coordinates the Give Kids A Smile event, which Ashley Grunbichler, 12, who waits in the chair for treatment, attends with her sisters.



Amanda Buscemi shows sisters Courtney Grunbichler, 10, and Kierra Grunbichler, 4, that going to the dentist can be fun.

Give Kids A Smile Day is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. It is held at NSU's College of Dental Medicine, 3200 South University Drive in Davie (just east of the intersection of 30th Avenue and University Drive). A parent or guardian must accompany all children. If not yet registered, it is recommended that parents call ahead to (401) 391-KIDS (5437) for appointments.

The good news is that Buscemi, other resident pediatric dentists, undergraduate dental students, and faculty members can do something about it through the College of Dental Medicine's annual Give Kids A Smile Day.

On March 8, the team will be offering free exams and cleanings, as well as filling cavities, taking X-rays, doing extractions—whatever is needed—for Broward County children and young adults who don't have access to dentists. Sometimes, children arrive in pain with severe abscesses. Sometimes emergency treatment is necessary.

Give Kids A Smile Day is a gift to the community from the university. On that day, children who Buscemi has preregistered from schools in at-risk neighborhoods, as well as from Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Broward, will fill the college's 110 dental chairs. The

event is open to all, even to those who just want their child to have a fun dental visit.

The program is for children ages 2 to 18. But don't think this is purely a medical affair. For small children, the clinic plans to create a fun environment with balloons. "I believe if you have just one happy experience as a child," said Buscemi, 26, "you won't be afraid to go back for dental care."

For the older attendees, they get the chance to meet one of the Miami Dolphins and enjoy live music from a deejay. Last year, the event featured the Dolphins' Marcus Thigpen, Paul Soliai, and Troy Drayton. This year, Jason Taylor is expected to attend. The players make it a point to convey the message that it is important to have regular dental care.

To make everything fall into place for the special day requires a lot of advance work by Buscemi, who serves in university-run clinics on campus and in Wilton Manors. While she will have the help of NSU's 16 postgraduate residents and more than 250 dental students, Buscemi is the one who handles all the logistics and coordinates efforts with national associations and local suppliers. Give Kids A Smile Day also fits well with the NSU core value of community involvement.

Give Kids A Smile Day was begun in 2003 by the American Dental Association; this will be the College of Dental Medicine's 11th year in the program. Last year, the team treated 234 children and provided \$125,000 in dental care. This year, Buscemi estimates 350 children will be treated during the event. She also is working with the Henry Schein

Dental Company, which has donated all the supplies, and Team Smile, a national nonprofit group, to recruit sports professionals for the event.

Buscemi has coordinated the event for the past three years. But, she has taken part in the program for the past five years. It is, she admitted, a labor of love and pride. She will coordinate it one more year, before entering private practice. "At the end of the day, it's so rewarding. The dental students learn by being with the kids and treating them," she said.

"Our responsibility as the premier dental school in South Florida is to give back to our community and further help eliminate the problems our children and their parents have in getting the quality, affordable oral health care needed," said Buscemi. (By the way, for Hollywood buffs, yes, Amanda

Buscemi is related to actor Steve Buscemi of *Fargo* and *Boardwalk Empire* fame. They have a great-grandparent in common.)

Lauren Grunbichler heard about Give Kids A Smile Day through one of her children's tutors and thought it would be a good experience for her girls, ages 4, 10, and 12. "It was very professional. My little one was very excited. They did a really good job making sure that everyone was happy," said Grunbichler, who attended last year's event and lives in Margate.

Grunbichler said she would recommend the event for others.

"What really impressed me is that everybody took their time. There was no feeling of being rushed," she said. "The dental students made sure that each child's questions were answered and care was complete. And then they were backed up by faculty dentists."

Buscemi is especially proud that more than a quarter of the students at the College of Dental Medicine will participate. Those students, she said, "learn how

techniques we are learning in class to patients."

Peter A. Keller, D.D.S., executive associate dean at the college, is impressed with the dental students' hard work to make the event a success—and unique to NSU's College of Dental Medicine.

"Our Give Kids A Smile Day is unlike any experience performed by any dental school in the country. Ours is one large party that is hiding a free dental clinic experience. We always have guests from other states at our event who promote Give Kids A Smile Day in other dental schools. They have all stated that none of the other Give Kids A Smile Day events are conducted in a party setting like the one at NSU's College of Dental Medicine. The students, faculty and staff members, administrators, guests, parents, and patients all

leave looking forward to the next year's event," said Keller.

A junior majoring in biology, Brandon Holecek has participated for the last three years. "The benefits," said the would-be oral surgeon, "are not only kind of a foreshadowing of what you'll be doing in the future, but also, it's a great networking opportunity. You interact with faculty members, even the dean."

But beyond that, he said, "It's a humbling experience; I enjoy doing something that helps make somebody happy and healthier, which is why I got into this in the first place." ♦



The Give Kids A Smile event lets children combine play with learning about dental care (with the use of an iPad).

underserved dentistry is in the state of Florida, and how many children don't receive routine dental care."

Dental students who participate in the event receive community service credit for their time. More important, the students receive training in real-world situations. They can then apply that training to their classes.

"It's rare that third- and fourth-year students would be able to work with that many children, especially at one time," said Buscemi. "That experience is so valuable. We are getting on-the-job training and seeing how to apply



The College of Dental Medicine's clinic on the main campus offers students real-world training, while also serving members of the community.

THE ROOTS

OF THE
COLLEGE OF
DENTAL MEDICINE



BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON



Nova Southeastern University, which has been firmly rooted in Broward County for five decades, celebrates its golden anniversary in 2014. The university's unprecedented growth has undoubtedly surpassed the founders' dreams. Today, NSU is home to a 314-acre main campus with nearly 27,000 students and more than 162,000 alumni across the globe.

The College of Dental Medicine is a part of that legacy—and the university's future—sharing in NSU's underlying pride in the success story of how “the little university that could” became the nation's ninth largest, not-for-profit, private, research university.



LEFT: The College of Dental Medicine admitted its first class of 75 students in August 1997, becoming the first private dental college established in the state of Florida. Today, the competitive college attracts 2,800 applications for 130 placements annually.

BELOW: Sigmund Stahl, D.D.S., an internationally recognized periodontist, was among the college's first faculty members.



NSU's Health Professions Division has developed into a multi-disciplinary academic health center of international stature. It is composed of the Colleges of Dental Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Optometry, Health Care Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Nursing. NSU's dental students take classes and interact with other health professional students in both educational and community service activities.

The College of Dental Medicine (CDM) began with the same "can do" spirit as the foundation set forth by the educational pioneers who began NSU. When the CDM admitted its initial class of 75 students in August 1997, it was the first private dental college established in the state of Florida, and the first to open in the United States, since 1975. (The University of Florida, a public institution, operated the state's only dental school at the time.)

The accessibility has allowed the fostering of many interdisciplinary opportunities and dual degrees, including the D.O./D.M.D. degree with the College

of Osteopathic Medicine, and a newly established D.M.D./Master of Public Health degree.

The College of Dental Medicine is known as the nation's "most applied to" dental school and is highly competitive, regularly attracting 2,800 applications for 130 spots. "We have a really robust pool of applicants who have an average grade point average of 3.7," said Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., who, in October 2013, became the CDM's third dean.

THE BEGINNINGS

In many ways, the story of the College of Dental Medicine begins with a retired endodontist, Seymour Oliet, D.D.S., from Philadelphia, who had moved to Pompano Beach, and Arnold Melnick, former Health Professions Division provost and executive vice chancellor. "I met Dr. Melnick when he was an associate chancellor in the Health Professions Division," said Oliet. "He told me there was a desire to create a dental school, and he somehow extracted a promise from me that I would help when this dream became a reality.

"One day, Melnick called me and said the Health Professions Division was taking me up on my promise," said Oliet, who served as founding dean of the dental college from 1996 to 2001. "Not having planned it, I started a second career." Now, Oliet, the dean emeritus, is an NSU professor of endodontics, working with resident candidates who will become endodontic specialists.

Many detractors believed opening the dental school was a daunting task and doomed for failure. In a 1997 story in the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, the

RIGHT: Linda C. Niessen, the college's newest dean, is shown with the college's founding dean, Seymour Oliet (seated), and her direct predecessor, Robert Uchin (standing).

BELOW: The College of Dental Medicine prepares its graduates for the rapidly expanding and demanding future of dentistry.



newspaper cited six dental schools, all private, throughout the country, which closed between 1986 and 1992. But, Melnick thwarted the skeptics by saying in the article: “We have about half of our admission slots filled, and we did it without any major announcement or press conference, just word-of-mouth.”

According to Oliet, “several things worked for us to start a school.” Just like the educators who saw a future for a private university in Broward County, Oliet, Melnick, and the late Morton Terry (the former chancellor of the Health Professions Division), believed that having people aligned with the College of Dental Medicine who were in the dentistry profession was one of the biggest pluses to move the school swiftly to opening and to

build a strong foundation.

“We used our common sense, our backgrounds in dentistry, and the knowledge of our friends in the field. We found teachers here—retirees, dentists who really wanted to go back to work,” Oliet said.

RECRUITING A TEAM

Then, with the initial faculty established, Oliet began recruiting a team to work with him on “political concepts, finances, how to maintain and establish a school,” he said. “We started off from scratch with no knowledge.” He recruited Sigmund Stahl, D.D.S., an internationally recognized periodontist, and worked closely with Peter Keller, D.D.S., (currently executive associate dean at the College of Dental Medicine) and Frank DePiano,

Ph.D. (past provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at NSU), who “was very essential in the development,” Oliet said.

In 1997, DePiano, founding dean of the Center for Psychological Studies, became associate dean for academic and student affairs for the College of Dental Medicine. In 2000, he became associate dean for administration at the dental college.

And, of course, there was Morton Terry, a doctor of osteopathy who opened the Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1981 with private funds. It eventually became the Southeastern University of the Health Sciences. In 1994, Southeastern University merged with Nova University, creating Nova Southeastern University.

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU’s Health Professions Division, remembers Terry’s contributions and how his dedication resonates today. “To work with Dr. Terry was both an honor and an inspiration,” said Lippman. “Dr. Terry was one of the first in Broward County to practice in the African American communities back in the 1960s when that was unheard of. He was the kind of doctor who went out into the streets. He knew what

was going on in the grocery lines and in the theater lines. He was, and still is, an inspiration for me.”

Terry’s mission to help the underserved is a steadfast commitment in the Health Professions Divisions and is also a cornerstone of NSU’s College of Dental Medicine. When the dental college was founded, its goal was not only to educate future practicing and research-oriented dentists, but to offer free or low-cost service to area residents who could not afford dental care. At the time, Melnick told the *Sun-Sentinel*: “I don’t know if we will make a huge dent in that, but we will have our students working in campus clinics and community clinics.”

The College of Dental Medicine has made more than “a dent”; it has created an impact in South Florida in helping the underserved. Niessen, whose academic specialties are in public health and geriatric dentistry, believes training future doctors to work with special needs patients is crucial in developing the 21st-century practitioner.

“We have a federal grant right now to research and work with



treating children with autism,” Niessen said. “What we are working on is compiling some of the best practices and how to provide care to children and even adults with autism.” Keeping the interdisciplinary focus that Nova Southeastern University so steadfastly encourages is instrumental in using the College of Dental Medicine’s autism grant, since it works so closely with the university’s Mailman Segal Center for Human Development.

“The College of Dental Medicine has a special commitment to educate students and residents to provide culturally sensitive care to the underserved and special needs populations. Our educational program includes

rotations to community facilities, with faculty members who have expertise in caring for these unique populations,” said Niessen.

Technology is also an area where the College of Dental Medicine is helping to graduate clinicians trained for the rapidly expanding and demanding future of dentistry.

“We teach students how to become contemporary dentists,” said Robert Uchin, D.D.S., a Broward County endodontist, who was dean of the dental college from 2001 until 2013. When Uchin took over the helm, there were 520 students in the college’s graduate and postgraduate programs, just four years after the school began.

A MEDICAL SCIENCE

“Dentistry has gone from being a remove-and-replace profession to a prevent-and-retain profession. We have become much more of a medical science than a mechanical service. Our undergraduate students are learning stem cell replacement and implantology and are gaining a totally different understanding of anatomy because of the changes in diagnosing,” said Uchin, who is now a professor in the College of Dental Medicine.

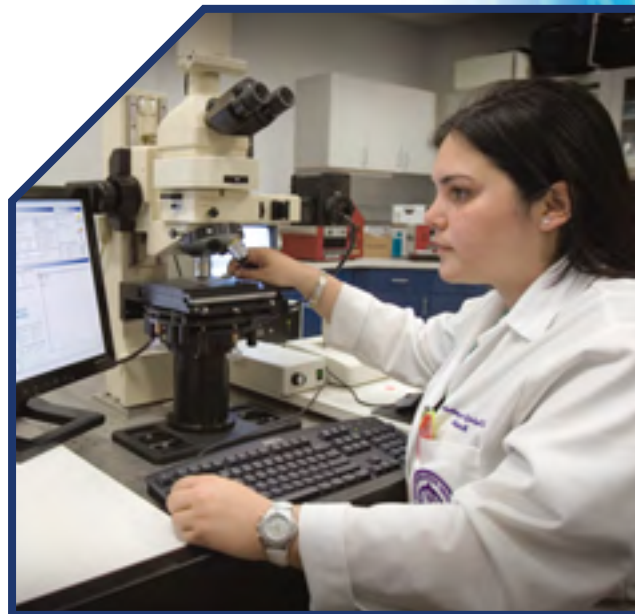


The concept for NSU's Academical Village is a planned community of scholars, professionals, and students.

LEFT: Oscar Padilla, D.D.S., takes care of patient Kevin Cordova at the clinic at NSU's Mailman Segal Center for Human Development.

BELOW: The planned Center for Collaborative Research is a vital part of Vision 2020, the shared vision for NSU presented by George L. Hanbury II, the university's president and CEO.

RIGHT: The college fosters interdisciplinary opportunities, dual degrees, and research, such as that conducted by Cristina Garcia-Godoy, D.D.S., clinical research director.



Uchin believes that dentistry has “matured” as a profession. “That means we need educators who understand new technology plus those who are doing the research in the laboratory to produce new materials and equipment. The College of Dental Medicine continues to push forward in this area,” he said.

The Center for Collaborative Research is key to NSU’s growth. The \$80-million, 215,000-square-foot training and research facility will have full-service laboratories—a vital part of Vision 2020, the shared vision for Nova Southeastern University presented by George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of the university.

Vision 2020 lists research as one of its missions. It is also listed as one of NSU’s Core Values. Hanbury’s goal is to increase grant funding at NSU from the

current \$82 million to \$300 million by 2020.

NSU’s expansion plans also include Hanbury’s concept for the Academical Village, inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s plan for the founding of the University of Virginia, (which Jefferson called his Academical Village). In the “Jeffersonian concept,” scholars and professionals are brought together with students to blend theory with practice in an academic setting. The \$500-million, mixed-use project would transform 30 acres that the university now occupies at a shopping center on University Drive into a high-tech research/office park with retail space and residences. The project, currently in development, will add handsomely to NSU’s existing \$2.6-billion economic impact in the state of Florida.

“We have to continue the enthusiasm that the College of Dental Medicine was founded upon and continue our progress. There are dental schools all over the world, but they aren’t all great dental schools. NSU has the pioneering spirit and the respect for the profession to continue to make this school one of the top schools for dental medicine,” said Oliet.

And while a first-rate faculty and technologically advanced facilities are of primary importance, Niessen said it is the students that will make the difference. “We’re looking for smart, talented individuals who want to pursue a career in dentistry. We’re also looking for people with a heart. We’re a health care profession, and we need people who want to give back. NSU’s College of Dental Medicine develops dentistry leaders who want to participate in their community, and who have the competitive advantage and skills to make a difference.” ♦



Filling a Need



BY NANCY MCVICAR

The first patient of the day at **The Henry Schein Special Needs Clinical Suite** has Down syndrome; the second has cerebral palsy. Then, there are two mentally challenged residents from the group home, followed by a 15-year-old girl with autism and a frail, elderly woman who arrives on a stretcher from a nursing home.

Their needs vary from a simple cleaning and checkup to fillings, extractions, or gum treatments. But, many of these patients are already on several medications, suffer from anxiety, or are nonverbal and can't easily communicate to explain what hurts, or where it hurts.

None of these patients are likely to be seen in the average dental practice, but it is an everyday occurrence for the faculty members and students at the clinic operated by Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine in North Miami Beach. NSU's dental school has a long history of treating patients who would otherwise have trouble getting needed care, said Diane Ede-Nichols, D.M.D., M.H.L., M.P.H., chair of Community Dentistry for NSU's College of Dental Medicine.

Through the years, dental students, graduate students, and faculty members have provided treatment in such settings as the Women In Distress shelter for battered women—repairing damage from broken teeth and battered jaws, the Ryan White HIV-AIDS Clinic in Oakland Park, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood—treating children with cranial-facial problems, and the Baudhuin Pre-school at the Mailman Segal Center—providing dental care for autistic children and other youngsters with special needs.

The NSU students and faculty members also have treated jail inmates and women in a drug rehabilitation facility. The students have done rotations in rural settings, which helps these future dentists decide if they would want to practice in underserved areas after graduation.

"People who are disabled, medically compromised, homebound, or institutionalized are at increased risk for dental diseases," Ede-Nichols said. "But these individuals encounter great difficulties finding dentists able to offer them care in a typical private practice setting."



Ede-Nichols, who received her dental degree from New Jersey's Fairleigh Dickinson College of Dental Medicine and completed a general practice residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, also has a master's degree in health law from NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center and a master's degree in public health from the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. She said the goal of the special needs program is to increase the number of dentists who have the knowledge and confidence to provide dental care to people with challenging physical, medical, and behavioral needs.

All graduating seniors in NSU's dental school have a one-day-a-week rotation through the Special Care Clinics over a five-week period, while others—including eight first-year residents and four second-year residents—provide dental care there full time. The residents focus on treating people with acquired and/or developmental disabili-

ties, as well as those who have special challenges such as physical movement or communication difficulties. Florida, along with the rest of the nation, is facing a severe shortage of dentists who have the experience and skills to serve this population.

"From the age of 15 up, we treat anyone with a developmental disability—Down's, autism, or some kind of syndrome with intellectual delay. We treat the frail elderly—someone with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's or stroke patients," Ede-Nichols said. "We treat people with disabilities acquired from near drowning, motor vehicle accidents, or dealing with severe drug problems as well."

Until the fall of 2012, these special needs patients were seen at NSU's main campus in the Davie-Fort Lauderdale area, but then the clinic moved to NSU's North Miami Beach facility at 1750 NE 167th Street. It now shares a building with the general dentistry, medical, and

optometry clinics. This relocation enables the special needs dentistry clinic to serve a broader patient population in both Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

NSU's special needs clinic is one of only a few in Florida, so it draws patients from across the state. Tuesdays and Thursdays are among the busiest days because residents of two group homes in Fort Myers are transported to the clinic for their dental care.

Because many of these patients are nonverbal or don't always understand what is being done for them, special techniques are used to calm them and sometimes rewards are offered—strategies necessary to help them cooperate in their care, Ede-Nichols said. "We use the 'tell, show, do' method," she said. "We tell them what we're going to do, show them, and then do it. 'I'm going to count your teeth,' use the tool to show them, touch them, then do it."

Some patients require oral sedation or are placed on a papoose board, wrapping them up so they feel safe, she said. With others, positive reinforcement—a reward system—works.

"We try to find out what they like—a particular food, a particular musical artist—and if they like Beyonce, for example, we can pull [a singing performance] up on a computer screen and it distracts them. We sometimes use diet soda, or toy giveaways, different kinds of little rewards," she said. "We'll put it where they can see it so they can focus on it."

Although it is a team effort often requiring from two to six people to treat each patient, only the lead dentist speaks to the patients—explaining, soothing, letting them know they will get a break soon, she said. "We use

FOUNDATION HELPS HEALTH HAPPEN

The Henry Schein Cares Foundation's mission "helps health happen." It achieves this by supporting not-for-profit organizations, institutions, and communities dedicated to health education and care for at-risk and underserved populations.

The foundation has been instrumental in assisting NSU's College of Dental Medicine in extending its community-based programs, supporting one of the university's core values.

In honor of the foundation's generosity, the College of Dental Medicine's Special Needs Clinic in North Miami Beach was renamed The Henry Schein Special Needs Clinical Suite. The clinic opened during the fall of 2012.

The foundation gave \$350,000 to the College of Dental Medicine's clinic, this includes \$100,000 in cash and an in-kind donation of \$250,000.

For more information about the foundation, visit www.hscaresfoundation.org.

'one voice.' Usually the providing dentist takes command of that ship. They will say things like 'look into my eyes.' Even with people very minimally alert, you can command their attention," Ede-Nichols said. "We have a fabulous staff at the clinic that reinforces these concepts, and has the patience to work with these individuals."

Some patients have more complex problems that can't be treated at the clinic. When that is the case, they are taken to either Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood or to Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.

"Our goal is to create a pool of practitioners who can care for these patients," Ede-Nichols said.

One such practitioner is student Arwa Alwehaib, a married mother of two who was a practicing dentist in her native Iraq before she and her family came to the United States. She worked as a dental assistant for two years before she got into the NSU program.

Her husband, also a dentist in Iraq, now works as a dental assistant. He plans to pursue his dental degree once his wife is finished with school.

Alwehaib said that she knows she and the others at the special needs clinic are making a difference for patients who might otherwise not be getting care. "I know patients are in pain by seeing what's in their mouths, by taking X-rays, even if they can't say they are in pain,"

Alwehaib said.

Alwehaib said once she passes the dental board exam, she would like to continue working with special needs patients, possibly in an underserved area in Florida. "I love my career, and I am willing to go forward with this as a specialty," she said. "Every day, I feel blessed to be treating these patients." ♦

SERVING DENTISTS

Management firm
allows doctors to
focus on patients.



Chris Steven Villanueva's company handles the business management for 100 dental offices in five states. Photo: Hank Henley

BY LIZ ATWOOD

When **Chris Steven Villanueva**, D.M.D., graduated from NSU's College of Dental Medicine in 2004, he saw two ways of practicing dentistry.

A dentist could join a large group practice, saving on office costs, but risk sacrificing professional autonomy. Or, he could start a private practice, which meant juggling office management and patient care.

"I had the idea to create a model where you get the best of both worlds," said Villanueva, who is now based in Dallas, Texas. So, in 2009, he founded a dental management company that today provides services to more than 100 dental offices in five states—Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Alaska. The concept is simple: his Dallas-based company takes care of billing, office management, business promotion, and the paperwork of credentialing and continuing education, while the dentists he serves focus on caring for

their patients. "I want to preserve the integrity of our profession," Villanueva said.

Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., dean of NSU's College of Dental Medicine, said Villanueva represents the next generation of leaders in the dental profession. "It is important that our profession continues to be innovative," said Niessen. "Dr. Villanueva is a prime example of how NSU graduates are demonstrating their leadership in all phases of dentistry and giving back to the profession."

Villanueva credits his success to a combination of luck, planning, and education.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Villanueva grew up in the Philippines and Venezuela. The fifth of six children, he was the son of a vice president of Proctor & Gamble. His father, who had risen through the ranks in corporate law, encouraged his son to follow his footsteps and go to law school. But Villanueva

“was fascinated with all the facets of dentistry, of being a business owner and entrepreneur,” he said.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the University of Florida, Villanueva began searching for a dental school. NSU’s dental school was just three years old at the time, but Villanueva was intrigued with the possibilities it promised. “I liked the idea of a newer school,” Villanueva said. “I always felt like they were at the forefront of technology and educating students.” He also relished the idea of being one of the school’s first students. “I had the ability to make more of an impact,” he said.

After a visit, he was convinced NSU was the place for him. “I felt like the professors were very amicable,” he said. “In contrast with some other schools, it was very friendly when it came to interacting with students. I felt they were rooting for you to succeed.”

His initial impressions of the school were confirmed during his four years of study. Villanueva said he appreciated the support the faculty gave him and the willingness of the administration to listen when he had concerns. “I always felt the administration had my best interest in mind,” he said. “If I had an issue, I felt very comfortable going to the dean...I wasn’t intimidated. That’s not normal in the academic world.”

That’s the type of atmosphere that the College of Dental Medicine always has encouraged.

“The philosophy from day one was encouraging an open-door policy from students, faculty members, and administrators,” said Abby Brodie, D.M.D., associate dean for curriculum and educational affairs, who has taught at NSU’s dental school from its inception. Students in the first classes were especially important in establishing the program, Brodie said. “They gave us a lot of feedback on things to fix.”

**“I want to preserve
the integrity of
our profession.”**

—Chris Steven Villanueva

The faculty and administration commitment to students remains the same, said Niessen. “All of the faculty members are committed to the students’ success. Students are a high priority. That’s a cultural aspect of NSU that will continue.”

After he graduated in 2004, Villanueva accepted an associate dentist position in Dallas. After a year, he became the dental director of several dental practices, managing, recruiting, and training other dentists. In 2007, he purchased three dental practices and soon realized that a successful practice depended on providing excellent patient care, as well as efficiently managing the office.

In 2009, he founded Dental Professionals of Texas. Three

years later, when the business expanded to other states, he changed the company’s name to MB2 Dental Solutions. While those outside of the profession don’t recognize the significance of the name, dentists know MB2 is a kind of root canal. “It’s one of those things that stick out in your mind when you study,” Villanueva said. Having a name that only other doctors would understand also reflects his business model, Villanueva said. “It’s always going to be doctor-centric.”

Despite overseeing a growing company, Villanueva still finds time to practice dentistry, mostly caring for friends and family. “I want to continue using my skills,” he said. “In order to lead doctors, you need to know what they are going through.”

In addition to his growing company, Villanueva stays busy with his family. Villanueva’s wife, Carol, also a Nova Southeastern University graduate, is a primary care physician. She received both her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) and her Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) from NSU in 2006. The two met during an NSU-sponsored medical/dental mission to Jamaica, where they worked in churches and community centers in the country’s rural areas. They have three children ages 11 months, 3 years, and 4 years old.

Although he went into dentistry against his father’s advice, it all has worked out for the best. “He concedes I made the right decision,” Villanueva said. ♦

BY MARY HLADKY

THE NATURAL LOOK

Researcher focuses on more durable ceramic materials that resemble natural tooth structure.



A winning smile that shows off healthy, bright teeth conveys an outgoing personality that is confident and capable—a key to hiring, promotions, and relationships.

Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., professor and director of the Biosciences Research Center at NSU's College of Dental Medicine, works to get you that smile.

While not a dentist, his training in engineering and materials science has propelled him into research to make better and more durable ceramic materials used in crowns, implants, and dentures. Just as important is that the ceramic material looks as good as the natural tooth.

His research primarily focuses on the use of zirconia, a biomaterial that is stronger and less likely to fracture than some other materials used to repair or replace teeth. Zirconia has other advantages as well. It is biocompatible, meaning it interacts well with the mouth. It does not produce allergic reactions. And, it is used with other materials to make teeth that are aesthetically pleasing.

"They can be made to look like natural tooth structure," Thompson said. "You can't tell the difference if the work is good."

He also aims to create materials that are easy for dentists to use. "We are trying to develop new techniques, new technologies that make it easier for clinicians to do their jobs efficiently," Thompson said. "We are trying to make these technologies simpler to use and more cost effective. Most important, we are trying to improve the treatment outcomes for the patient."

Research being conducted in Thompson's research center—which has three other, full-time researchers—is important to NSU, said Ana Karina Mascarenhas, B.D.S., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., associate dean of research, professor, and chief of the Division of Primary Care of NSU's College of Dental Medicine. "Part of our mission is to be a top-tier university, so there is huge interest in the administration and faculty to increase our research efforts," she said.

Thompson also is very involved with teaching first- and second-year students, as well as postgraduate dental students, about biomaterials. Students give him rave reviews. While the subject might seem dull at first, they said, Thompson is able to explain how important it is to their future dental practices.

"He's the go-to biomaterials guy," said Jason Watts, 24, a third-year dental student. "He is a spectacular teacher, the way he is able to relate complex information to someone just learning it."

The ultimate goal, Watts said, is to benefit the patient. “It allows the dentist to know the advanced uses of the newest materials to give our patients the best function, look, and price. The patients trust the doctors to make those decisions for them. We trust people like Dr. Thompson to have those answers for us.”

Thompson became a member of NSU’s dental faculty in 2007. He had previously served as professor and graduate program director of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas—San Antonio from 2005 to 2006. Before that, he was an associate professor of operative dentistry and biomedical engineering at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill for five years. He graduated from the University of Florida, with a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering in 1995.

Thompson has published 135 papers and book chapters and is a fellow of the Academy of Dental Materials. He is also a former president of the Dental Materials Group of the International Association of Dental Research.

“It is really impressive the way he comes from an engineering background and got into the field of dentistry,” said third-year dental student Ian Lieberman. “He is on the cutting edge of what is coming out with implants and different kinds of crowns.”

Thompson has been awarded numerous grants, with the two largest coming from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for multiyear research. One project



focused on the application of novel zirconia-based, thin-film surface coatings to strengthen dental ceramic restorative materials. The second focused on surface modification of zirconia to improve its ability to adhere to other materials used in the mouth.

Working with his former colleagues from the University of North Carolina, he is pursuing a joint patent on improved adhesion technology for NSU and RTI International, a leading research institute headquartered in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Thompson mentors postgraduate students as they conduct their own research and helps them get published, said Sergio Kuttler, B.S., D.D.S., associate dean for advanced education programs at NSU’s College of Dental Medicine. “One of the things the students fear is research. They feel it is very difficult. With Dr. Thompson at the helm, they have

a positive experience conducting research,” he said.

Thompson is well known in the research community, Kuttler added. “He lectures extensively. That is good for the school.”

Thompson, who is the father of eight-year-old twins (a boy and a girl) and a sports enthusiast, was recruited to NSU. “I was given a lot of autonomy,” Thompson said. “I have freedom to pursue what I want to pursue. I work with faculty members and students from all the subdivisions of dentistry. I don’t get pigeonholed in one thing.”

The research will continue. “Our goal is to be more and more productive in scholarly activity every year. That means research, publications, and presentations at international and national meetings. That also offers exciting opportunities. As a member of the faculty, you have the opportunity to be part of the process of building the university,” he said. ♦

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Great Expressions Dental
Centers names first
recipients of new
endowed scholarship.



*Kevin Carbonell, left, and
Geoffrey Morris confer
on a patient's X-ray.*

BY ELLEN WOLFSON VALLADARES

The future of dentistry depends on the education today's dental students receive. Great Expressions Dental Centers, one of the nation's largest, privately owned dental service organizations, is investing in that future with its new \$125,000 endowed scholarship to NSU's College of Dental Medicine.

"At Great Expressions Dental Centers, we are dedicated to helping shape the future of patient care by supporting future dentists," said Richard Beckman, the company's chief executive officer.

Students Kevin Carbonell and Geoffrey Morris, the first two scholarship recipients, are already reaping the rewards. Each student received \$2,500 for his winning application submission, which included a letter of recommendation from a faculty member and an essay about how each intends to contribute to the community through dental service.

KEVIN CARBONELL

Carbonell, who graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in biology, said he was always interested in science. He had planned to go into medicine. When he shadowed a dentist, he was instantly captivated by the profession's integrative aspects. As a dentist, he could be involved more fully in a patient's care, offering a combination of medical, surgical, or radiological services in one practice.

He knew he wanted to attend NSU's College of Dental Medicine (CDM) after he met faculty members. "At NSU, they teach about the newest techniques in dentistry and introduce you to the newest technology," Carbonell said. "Other schools out there are still teaching methods from the 1990s. Here you get a cutting-edge education that is clinically oriented. NSU truly prepares you to be in private practice."

Now a third-year dental student, Carbonell said he is impressed with how welcoming the CDM's faculty members are. "Many have become friends and mentors to me," he said.

Carbonell holds many leadership positions at NSU including class treasurer, vice president of Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity, education chair of the American Dental Education Association, secretary for the Student Society of Periodontics, chair member of the Fund-Raising Committee for the NSU Dental Mission Club, and student ambassador for the College of Dental Medicine.

In addition, Carbonell is a teaching assistant for axiUm Training and Treatment Planning and tutors students in operative dentistry, neuroanatomy, and gross anatomy. "If I can help make their lives easier by sharing what I have learned, that is very rewarding for me," he said.

Carbonell is grateful to be receiving one of the first Great Expressions scholarships. "This means the world to me," he said.

The essay Carbonell wrote in applying for the scholarship emphasized his philosophy of preventive dental care. While the patients he sees at the NSU dental clinic usually come because they already have dental issues, Carbonell said he believes in making sure they leave with a preventive plan to maintain their dental work and avoid major problems in the future. "My philosophy is to instill knowledge about brushing, flossing, and overall care, so that patients

become advocates for their own oral health," he said.

After graduation, Carbonell wants to do a hospital-based residency, and then open his own private practice in general dentistry, which he hopes will also offer advanced surgical procedures. "I want to learn as much as possible from the faculty members here about all their different philosophies, and ultimately, provide the best patient care I can," he said.

In addition to finding out that he was to receive the scholarship, Carbonell also recently got engaged and plans to get married in the spring of 2015.

GEOFFREY MORRIS

Morris comes from a long line of dentists. His great-grandfathers were dentists, his grandfather was an orthodontist, and his grandmother was a dental hygienist. Still, surprisingly, Morris said his father's career in architecture also influenced him to become a dentist.

"I grew up with a love of science and medicine. I also grew up around a lot of building. Dentists are the builders of the mouth, so it was the perfect career for me," he said.

A native South Floridian, Morris completed his undergraduate studies at NSU with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in psychology. He received a master's degree in biomedical science from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, graduating first in his class.

continued on page 26

GREAT EXPRESSIONS DENTAL CENTERS

According to Richard Beckman, CEO of Great Expressions Dental Centers, the \$125,000 endowed scholarship to NSU's College of Dental Medicine is a perfect example of the company's commitment to serving local communities and investing in the future of dentistry.

"Dental groups are where many students are looking to build their career, because the groups provide unparalleled access to experienced dental leadership and ongoing professional development and training," said Beckman.

Based in Michigan, Great Expressions is one of the largest dental groups in the country, with more than 200 practices in nine states including Florida. The practices offer a wide range of dental services, including preventive care, orthodontics, specialty care, and cosmetic dentistry. All of its dentists are members of the American Dental Association and its orthodontists belong to the American Association of Orthodontists.

Great Expressions officials hope that its new scholarship will benefit deserving NSU dental students for years to come. "As the landscape of dentistry continues to evolve, partnerships—like ours with Nova Southeastern University—help to prepare skilled future doctors and make their education more affordable while doing so," said Robert Brody, D.D.S., national clinical director of Great Expressions. "We're helping to lay a foundation for the next generation of doctors, which will lead to better patient care for the future." ♦

Student Impressions

continued from page 25

There was no question about where he would attend dental school. “NSU was the only school I wanted,” said Morris, a third-year dental student.

Morris is president of the American Dental Education Association chapter and the Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery Club. He also has been selected by his professors to tutor in prosthodontics, general anatomy (head and neck), and neuroanatomy. “Each time I teach, I also am learning,” he said.

Morris and fellow student Ian Lieberman created a project to raise money for children who need dental implants. They spent their 2012 winter break devising a DVD study guide that discussed and illustrated the anatomical structures of the brain and neuroanatomy to assist Health Professions Division students in their studies. Sales of the DVDs brought in more than \$7,500, which Morris and Lieberman donated to Joe DiMaggio’s Children’s Hospital in Hollywood. They currently are selling the DVDs again and plan to make another donation to the hospital.

These accomplishments, along with his essay and faculty member recommendation, earned Morris this year’s Great Expressions scholarship. Along with helping him pay for his tuition, the scholarship will allow Morris to buy some new instruments and supplies for his clinic work, he said.

Just recently, Morris said he had the opportunity to work on an advanced case in which the patient had been hit in the mouth and lost all the front teeth. Morris used a variety of tools and methods—including crowns, implants, veneers, and fillings—to restore the patient’s teeth. His work was so successful that he was asked to present the case to his class.

Mainly, Morris was proud of what he was able to do for the patient. “He walked away with a brand new smile,” Morris said. ♦



FRED LIPPMAN NAMED TO FLORIDA TAXWATCH BOARD

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of Nova Southeastern University’s Health Professions Division, has been named to Florida TaxWatch’s Board of Trustees.

Florida TaxWatch is an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan research institute widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens’ tax dollars for more than 33 years. Its mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high-quality, independent research on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies, and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida government.

As chancellor of NSU’s Health Professions Division, Lippman is responsible for overseeing seven colleges—the Colleges of Dental Medicine, Health Care Sciences, Medical Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy, Optometry, and Osteopathic Medicine.

“I have known Dr. Fred Lippman personally and professionally for nearly 30 years. He is both a well-respected professional and dedicated public servant, in Florida and his local community,” said Dominic M. Calabro, president and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, who made the announcement in January. “TaxWatch is very pleased to have Dr. Lippman serve with us and so many other distinguished Floridians to improve the lives and livelihoods of the people of the Sunshine State for years to come.” ♦

Campus Impressions

KAREN MCKENZIE HONORED AT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Karen McKenzie, D.M.D. ('08), was one of 16 outstanding graduates honored during NSU's annual Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards. McKenzie is the director of dental services at Central Florida Health Care in Sunrise, Florida. She is responsible for administering, maintaining, and expanding the program of primary, secondary, and preventive dental care in a community health center setting. McKenzie supervises the dental staff of the community health center and provides dental advice and counsel to the corporation's CEO and board of directors.

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is the highest and most prestigious honor that NSU bestows upon its graduates. The program recognizes alumni who are changing lives and changing the world by demonstrating a record of distinguished service and extraordinary achievement in a particular profession, discipline, organization, or community cause.

"The true measure of a university's greatness can be found in the achievements of its alumni," said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of NSU. ♦

STUDENTS WALK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

The College of Dental Medicine's Student Chapter of the American Association of Women Dentists raised \$450 during the Susan G. Komen 5K Walk for breast cancer in Miami. The money raised will support breast cancer research. The team included Sharon Siegel, D.D.S., M.S., professor and chair of prosthodontics, and dental students Htet Bo, Cindy Hua, Lam Le, Keith Sochaiwanich, Sandrine Huynh, and Mary Ta. ♦



OFFICE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO SERVE ALUMNI

A dental education never ends—whether one is a recent graduate of the College of Dental Medicine or an alumnus who has been practicing for years.

The Office for Professional Development has been created to better serve the needs of all dental college alumni by placing Alumni Relations and Continuing Professional Development under one area of responsibility, led by Bart Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., eM.B.A., assistant dean. The new office will provide resources to advance dental education and to encourage communication among professionals.

To promote networking, the College of Dental Medicine Alumni Society kicks off this year. It is open to graduates and students of all the dental college's degree, postdoctoral, and specialty programs. Non-alumni dental professionals, friends of the college, and faculty and staff members may join the Alumni Society as associate members.

The Alumni Society is scheduling a variety of activities, including reunions, service projects, student recruitment, social events, scholarship opportunities, mentoring, networking, professional development, and symposia with national speakers.

During fall 2014, the Office for Professional Development also will organize networking events outside of South Florida so alumni can “stay connected,” said Whitehead. “We want updates and feedback from our alumni, who are the backbone of our college. Our alumni—and the friends of our college—are part of our family, and we want them to become active members.”

In addition, a Dental Alumni Society Advisory Board is being established to provide leadership for the Alumni Society, assist with annual giving, provide counsel for the dean, and act as ambassadors for the college. The board will organize its work around four standing committees: Alumni Society Engagement, Alumni Society Study Clubs, Annual Alumni Giving, and Leadership Gifts.

For more information, call the Office for Professional Development at (954) 262-1811 or email dentalce@nova.edu. For information on the college, visit dental.nova.edu. Alumni can update their information at dental.nova.edu/alumnirelations. ♦



DR. JOHN T. MACDONALD FOUNDATION GRANT PROVIDES DENTAL SERVICES

Underserved and uninsured elementary school students in the North Miami Beach area are once again receiving dental care services this academic school year, thanks to a grant from the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation.

NSU's College of Dental Medicine is using a \$70,000 grant from the foundation to provide dental services—such as oral examinations, cleanings, fluoride application, sealants, and oral hygiene instruction—to the uninsured students of participating elementary schools in North Miami Beach during the 2013–2014 academic year.

The John T. Macdonald Foundation has supported NSU's College of Dental Medicine for the past few years with a recurring grant that provides free dental care to North Miami children. ♦

ALUMNUS NAMED FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR



Ronald Renuart, D.O., a 1990 graduate of Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and three-term Florida House of Representatives member, has been honored with the 2013 Florida Dental Association Legislator of the Year Award.

Renuart practices internal medicine in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, and is recognized as a leader in health policy in the Florida House of Representatives. He was acknowledged for his efforts during the 2013 legislative session. ♦



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MUSEUM of ART | FORT LAUDERDALE
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

The NSU Museum of Art is pleased to present, *Spirit of Cobra*, a major exhibition tracing the roots and influences of the avant-garde Cobra movement of European poets, painters, and sculptors that also highlights key works from the museum's preeminent Cobra collection.

On view through May 18, 2014

FREE admission for NSU students and faculty and staff members with a SHARK ID. Ride the Shark Shuttle to the Museum. For route information, visit www.nova.edu/locations/shuttle.html.

Spirit of Cobra is organized by the NSU Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale and the Cobra Museum of Modern Art (Amstelveen, Netherlands). *Spirit of Cobra* is generously supported through a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of its Knight Arts Challenge, with additional funding provided by Linda J. Marks and Stephen R. Marks, Daniel and Jan Lewis, and the David and Francie Horvitz Family Foundation. Funding for the NSU Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale is provided, in part, by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs; and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



Knight Foundation

