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COM Outlook Fall 2012

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Fall 2012

COM Outlook

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

**What You Need
to Know:**

Healthcare Reform

Yes
 No

**Patient Protection and
Affordable Care Act**



Dean's Message

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

In late June, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In my opinion, this act is the logical next step in the evolution of health care in the United States, especially since we are the only industrialized nation in the world that doesn't offer its citizenry comprehensive health care.

Historically, people from various political, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds have voiced their concerns about the amount of money we spend annually for health care when compared to other countries. However, that's not actually the case when you consider specific variables. For example, in many countries, complicated pregnancies are not carried to term as they are here in the United States, and financial safety nets are not offered for infants delivered at extremely premature stages.

Similarly, there are numerous surgical procedures performed here that are unavailable in other countries, which explains why so many people from around the world come to the United States to have their health care needs met. It's also important to stress the ease of access patients and physicians have to cutting-edge medical equipment and diagnostic tools in this country such as cardiac catheterizations, MRIs, and PET scans. Consequently, we have much to be proud of.

There is, however, one major problem we face when it comes to the U.S. health care system: We don't offer it to everyone. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act addresses this shortsightedness by presenting an opportunity for all citizens to have available access to health insurance. As you will read in Dr. Robert's Hasty's insightful article that appears in this issue of *COM Outlook*, the merits of this legislation are plentiful.

From my perspective, I think it's unconscionable that a country recognized as being the most powerful in the world does not make health care available to all its citizens. According to recent figures, nearly 46 million people in the United States do not have health insurance for a variety of reasons. By 2014, when the law is required to be fully implemented, health insurers will no longer be able to turn away anyone because of a preexisting condition. In addition, most people will be required to obtain some type of basic health insurance coverage—or pay a fee if they refuse to comply.

The issues I just mentioned—preexisting conditions and mandatory health insurance—are important stipulations because they go hand in hand. You could never allow the removal of the preexisting conditions tenet without requiring all people to become insured first, the reason being that people would then choose to remain uninsured until they became sick, which would trigger catastrophic financial consequences. Essentially, health insurance, whether it is governmental or private, would become outrageously expensive because it would only be for truly sick people instead of comprising a mix of both healthy and ailing individuals.

As you can see, I am very optimistic about where our health care system is heading. It may not be a perfect prescription, but at least it's a step in the right direction.

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In This Issue - Fall 2012



Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act 20

On June 28, 2012, the United States Supreme Court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. In this insightful article, Dr. Robert Hasty discusses some of the key provisions of the legislation and explains how they will impact the general public as well as the health care community.

Leadership Council Provides Broad-Based Expertise 24

Since its establishment in 2010, the seven-member Dean's Leadership Council, which comprises a mix of alumni and non NSU-affiliated individuals representing various fields such as human resources, accounting, law, and organizational leadership, has provided invaluable input.

2012 Alumna Dr. Lindsay LaCorte Plots Her Future 30

After a multifaceted five-year NSU-COM career that included serving as Student Government Association president and doing an extra year of study in the Predoctoral Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship program, class of 2012 graduate Dr. Lindsay LaCorte is poised for success as she confidently progresses to the next stage of her osteopathic training.



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It is often difficult to gain insight into the decisions of the legislative and judicial branches of the U.S. government, especially when it comes to the subject of health care reform and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The process involved is extremely complex, which is why individuals such as myself who have been involved in health care regulation and health care delivery for many years always find it interesting to watch as *experts* that are external to the health care arena, such as policymakers and members of the media, offer their comments.

What I'm addressing relates to long-term goals and consequences in reference to not only the philosophy but also the actual written law. While portions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act were stricken by the Supreme Court, most of it was upheld. In some ways, it's a bit befuddling because several of the issues that were inherent to the decision have been around for years. For example, the mandate issue was brought forth nearly 25 years ago by bipartisan policymakers to try and bring some fiscal sense to how health insurance would work effectively. Without mandated health insurance for all citizens, the proponents' consensus opinion was you would never have enough people in the pool to be able to deal with the fiscal consequences of the very sick vs. the fact you don't have healthy people in the group.

In all probability, mandates would offer the general public a better opportunity to have lower pricing. It's just like saying everyone has to shop at Wal-Mart or Publix. If that were the case, then eventually they will be competing with one other and driving down the costs from a corporate perspective for greater profitability. Because I've been a health care insider for so many years as a previous owner of several pharmacies, I always knew my competitors were driving down costs because of the volume of prescriptions they were dispensing, so I had to be equally as competitive. It is difficult to understand the sustained noise relating to the mandate issue.

I've stated this before in previous issues of *COM Outlook*, but the truth is health care reform actually started well over a decade ago. It began within the medical schools and the health professions schools, including here at NSU's Health Professions Division where we built into our curriculums the inherent responsibility to communicate and cooperate with your co-professionals. This transformation began at least 12 years ago in the College of Osteopathic Medicine when we started to adapt the curriculum by transitioning to small-group teaching and the

use of simulation and standardized patients, which all relate to health care reform.

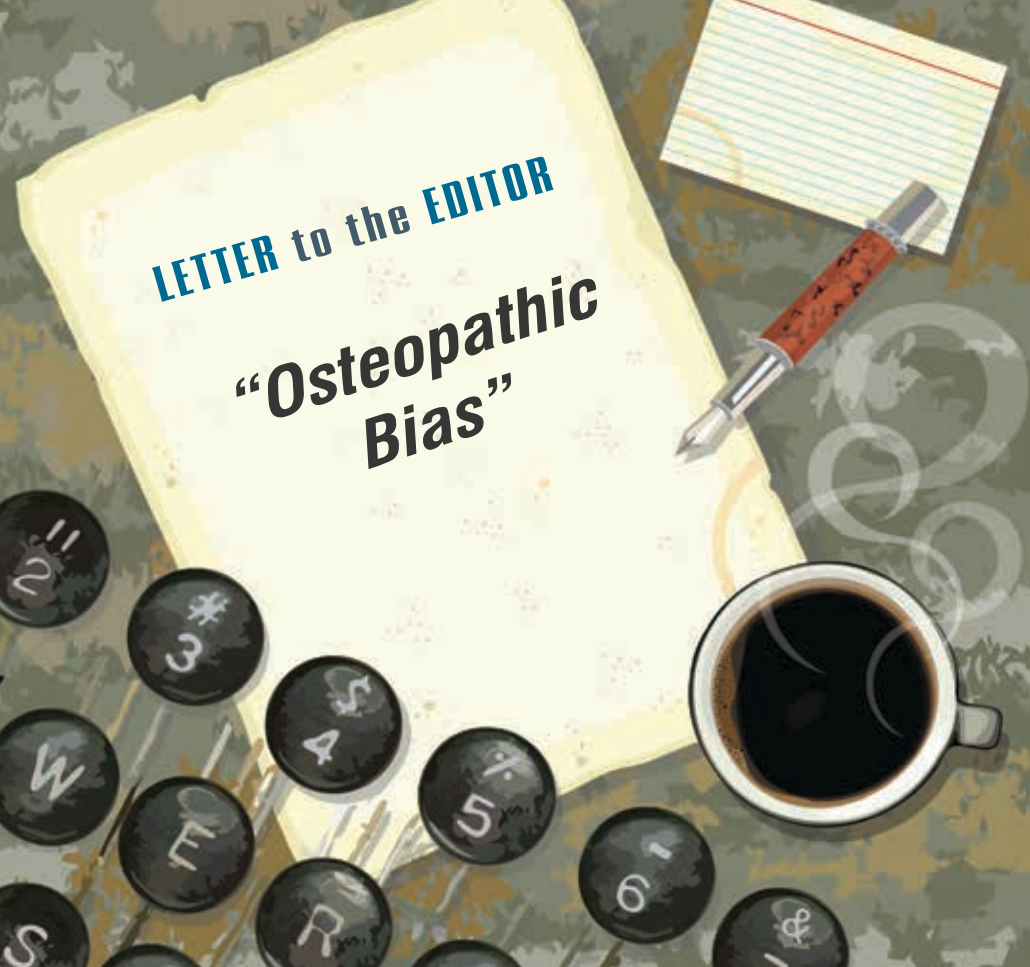
An example of the professional symbiosis I just discussed can be witnessed by the enhanced role of nursing professionals, who have become far more prepared educationally to take on the responsibilities of patient co-care under a doctor's direction. Today, about 85 percent of the personalized patient care provided in a hospital setting occurs through the management of the professional nursing staff. Similarly, although it's been occurring over a longer period of time, physicians and pharmacists as well as optometrists and ophthalmologists have been working together collegially to coordinate a patient's overall care.

We recognized this paradigm shift over 10 years ago, as did most medical schools, which have gradually incorporated into their curriculums the medical home or healthy home concept. What this means is health care professionals are communicating and cooperating with one another more than ever to be involved with and cognizant of the composite nature of a patient's health record. The way you keep the general public healthier and the way you provide health care more efficiently is by having all the information of what occurs within the patient's health care life available to every health care professional that comes in contact with that patient.

In addition to the mandate issue, there has been considerable anxiety regarding the creation and requirement of electronic medical records, which are already proving to be a dramatic tool in the reduction of medical error and medical mismanagement. If a health care professional can access a patient's medical history with the simple stroke of a computer key, the benefits are immeasurable.

Hopefully, we will get to the point where the most important person in this discussion is the one who has to be cared for—the patient. The goal of any health care legislation should be to improve care for all Americans and provide them with both the access and opportunity to obtain effective and quality health care to help better their lives.





The summer 2012 COM Outlook article entitled “Silencing Stigma: Historical Reflections Illuminate the Decline of D.O. Bias” elicited both passionate and overwhelmingly positive responses from our readers. One such response, written by class of 1997 alumnus **Richard Proctor, D.O., Pharm.D., M.B.A.**, illustrates that although the osteopathic profession has indeed come a long way in terms of overcoming bias, anti-D.O. sentiment still exists.

“I read with great interest your recent article and appreciated, very much, your giving the readers an opportunity to learn of some of the specific instances in which D.O.s encountered prejudice. I particularly appreciated learning of Dr. Neer’s experiences and of Dr. Melnick’s experiences with the pharmaceutical companies. Reading your article, I admired Dr. Melnick’s strategy in dealing with the pharmaceutical representatives and believe that, even today, we should make fellow osteopathic physicians aware when we encounter anti-osteopathic organizations. While the prejudice is less commonly found these days, it is still present. I have noted that those M.D.s having

the strongest anti-D.O. prejudice are almost invariably the least competent.

When in private solo practice, I was well received by the M.D. community and served on the executive board of the county medical society. In that capacity, I was one of the first to adopt the arbitration agreement (a response to the medical liability insurance crisis in Florida) then being promoted by the

Florida Medical Association (FMA) about six years ago. As such, I was asked by the FMA to be a speaker to the Orange County Medical Society to present the FMA program and relate my own experiences in requiring that all my patients sign an arbitration agreement as a condition to being my patient. The day before I was scheduled to speak, the Orange County Medical Society learned that I am an osteopathic physician and, within 20 minutes of learning that fact, the invitation for me to speak was rescinded.

I am presently an emergency room physician at a major Tampa hospital affiliated with the University of South Florida School of Medicine. I continually see the contrast in personality characteristics between osteopathic and allopathic doctors in training and with my physician colleagues. I am saddened to notice that many/most osteopathic physicians who do allopathic postgraduate training programs adopt many of the personality traits of our M.D. colleagues. I continue to believe that the osteopathic training I received at NSU-COM and my postgraduate training at NSU-COM-affiliated Palmetto General Hospital is, at the least, every bit the equal of my M.D. colleagues. However, the M.D.s lack an acceptable level of competence in the most-common medical problem confronting the emergency room physician: evaluation of musculoskeletal complaints.”

Renovated HPD Student Lounge Unveiled



OMS-III Carisa Lippmann, the college’s current Student Government Association president, has been a profoundly dedicated advocate for her student peers ever since she began her medical school odyssey in 2010. Lippmann’s all-encompassing commitment reaped dividends in August when the renovated HPD Student Lounge, located above the HPD Library, was unveiled to an audience comprising about 300 HPD students, faculty members, and administrators. “Last year, I asked NSU President Dr. George Hanbury if the lounge could be redone,” Lippmann said. “Not only did he say yes, but he allowed me and another student from the Physician Assistant Program to help design the new lounge, which looks awesome.”



Intrigue in Argentina and Colombia

As a fourth-year medical student, you will often hear a similar story of students traveling across the country to audition for their dream residency spots, living out of their cars, perhaps on the sofa of a good friend, or struggling to find decent roommates on craigslist. The fortunate few are actually able to keep an apartment and have some stability throughout the year, but those are few and far between.

My dream residency wasn't far—just a little south of NSU in Coral Gables. But like many students, I traveled by car, placed the few things I did have of value in a storage unit, and started my fourth year with determination and enthusiasm.

What was most unique about my fourth year was the opportunity to study for three months in South America. I placed the little I had remaining in my rented-out studio apartment in storage, along with my car, and packed a backpack with not much more than some scrubs, several dresses, my running gear, and my stethoscope.

Some people would argue that there is little to be learned from studying medicine in a developing country, but I am here to tell you that the lessons learned are priceless. My first two months were spent in a small region of Argentina called La Rioja doing my core rural medicine rotations. I worked with a colleague from NSU and three medical students from a private medical school in La Rioja named Fundacion de Barcelo while living in an apartment provided by the university.

Our responsibilities were many. During the day, we worked at a community health center doing mainly pediatric well-child visits, vaccinations, and wound care, while in the afternoon, we went to class two times a week with the medical students for pharmacology and clinical case reviews. Every 15 days, we went to the villages in the interior of La Rioja to provide

care. There are five routes that are visited each 15 days to villages that are just starting to receive electricity and running water. They consist of not much more than a small health center, police office, and school with populations ranging from 11 to 50.

With a stethoscope, your hands, and a few medical supplies, we would set out to see our patients. With so many resources available in the United States, sometimes the basics are forgotten, such as a good history and physical exam. With these two tools, 80 percent of a diagnosis can be made.

My experience in Argentina was a return to the basics of medicine, to those things I



learned in my first year of medical school. It also served as a reminder that medicine is still an art that is about the people we are called to serve. Those two months of my fourth year reminded me of why I started this journey in the first place. I often heard my Argentine attendings and fellow colleagues talk about medicine as a vocation, a calling. I could not describe our wonderful profession in any other way.

After two intense months in Argentina, you would think I would be ready to return stateside, but that was not the case. I had yet another month left to work in Bucaramanga in one of the largest medical centers in eastern Colombia. My experience in Colombia was

much different than in Argentina. I found a host family online that provided meals and laundry and worked in the pediatric ER, which had two patient rooms, eight beds for observation, and two attendings. I worked with three medical students from the Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga, a private medical school, and worked 12 hours a day, 6 days a week.

I was given a password for the electronic medical records system and thrown into the mix, just like everyone else. And I definitely improved my Spanish. At the end of the month, I was doing case presentations, writing orders and notes, and admitting and discharging patients. The medical students functioned as interns in this hospital, so I was expected to perform the same.

What impressed me most about this hospital is that it had all of the modern technology you would find in the United States, but the physicians still focused on the basics and ordered only the most necessary of tests. It made me think twice about the labs and imaging I wanted to order. They always asked us how these test results would change the management and treatment of our patient. I felt my month in Colombia pushed me to a new level, ready to take on the challenges of residency with a new confidence in my clinical skills.

After three months away from home and being completely immersed in the Spanish language, it was time to return to South Florida. I walked away from those experiences as a more caring, compassionate physician. I am grateful to NSU for having given me the opportunity to travel and practice medicine in an area of the world that interests me. These experiences are what make us different because they make us step outside of the box and look at medicine from a different perspective.

A Student's Perspective on Attending Conferences

By OMS-II Alex Youngdahl

Secretary, American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians' Student Chapter



My goal for writing this article is to expose some aspects of national and local conferences that students usually do not consider through a brief overview of my experiences with them. As a second-year medical student, I casually consider myself a seasoned conference-goer with two national and one state assembly under my belt.



The prospect of attending a big national conference for physicians was intimidating to be sure, but it was a nice excuse to make my first-ever visit to Sin City. The luxurious Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, was the site for the fall conference hosted by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP). Aside from the fall conference in Las Vegas, I have also attended the ACOEP spring conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the Florida Medical Association's (FMA) annual conference in Boca Raton, Florida.

Before I get into what I enjoyed about attending these conferences, I want to describe the concerns I had with abandoning Steele Auditorium for three days in the middle of my first semester. Cost was obviously high on my list of anxieties, but our local chapter graciously paid for hotel rooms for all those wishing to attend. The ACOEP conference registration was free for students (in contrast to the \$750 it costs for physicians). This left only my plane ticket, food, and drink as my only expenses—oh yeah, and the money I lost playing blackjack in Vegas.

Fortunately, after considering the debt generated by four years of medical school, this turned out to be a drop in the ocean. More concerning was the academic burden even over the fiscal one. To effectively subdue my worries about missing class, I convinced myself this was vital for my career and thus a guilt-free vacation. Plus, calling it a *business trip* made me feel important. Luckily, the conferences are excused absences, so we were able to make up any labs with no questions asked. Unfortunately, I was not able to match the studying I normally accomplish in Davie, but we did all manage to sneak away and get our noses in the books a little, and everything turned out just fine.

The ACOEP is exceptional in how it has an entire conference curriculum designed specifically for medical students, but not in the "let's keep the children in this room so they don't cause any trouble" kind of way. A lecture series presented by distinguished physicians tackled various subjects, from snake bites and other types of envenomations to emergency medicine in a combat setting. The afternoons were filled with hands-on clinics that included mass casualty, casting and splinting, suture, and ultrasound.

Additionally, the resident chapter designed a *Jeopardy* game for us with cash prizes. The real competition was the leadership academy, where groups of students were tasked with creating a presentation with the goal of recruiting more students to the conferences. I thoroughly enjoyed working with students from other schools and comparing the challenges of medical school.

By night, the mood changed and the social events hosted by various corporate sponsors effectively wined and dined us all. These lavish parties were open to the attending physicians and residents as well, so I really got to rub elbows with a great group of physicians that truly love getting to know the next generation of their profession. Also, it's a nice place to pick the brains of residents off the record about their particular programs. However, one of the most valuable experiences is the marquee event for the ACOEP fall conference: the residency fair. This is where directors and residents from programs across the country come and set up booths to advertise their programs. It's a great opportunity to get some face time with the program directors because as they will all tell you, aside from board scores, the best determinant of where you get matched is, "Can I put up with you for the next three years?"

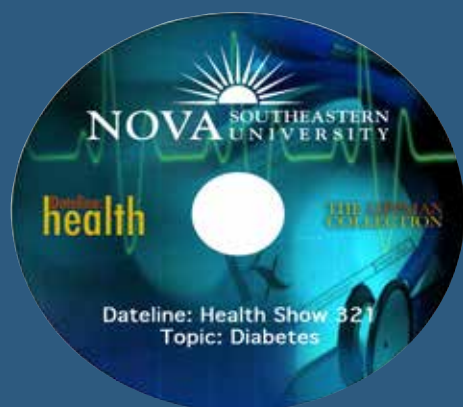
The FMA conference in Boca Raton was less student-oriented but beneficial in a completely different way. The FMA is a political advocate for medicine in Florida; therefore, the discussions there revolved around policy and politics. As a fly on the wall, I observed Florida's most politically active physicians debate plans of action on topics such as scope of practice of other medical professionals. The student chapter developed and presented a proposal for clean-needle distribution to reduce disease transmission between IV drug abusers, which spurred an intense debate among the physicians. It was invigorating to see the passion everyone displayed and refreshing to watch intelligent debate take place.

Looking back, I can say the benefits of attending conferences as a medical student far outweigh the costs. They are fun, informative, and constructive for my career, not to mention the closest thing I'll get to a real vacation for a while.



Attendees at the unveiling of *The Lippman Collection* include (from left): Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor of family medicine and NSU-COM associate dean of alumni affairs; Dr. George Hanbury; Dr. Fred Lippman; Barry J. Silverman, M.D., NSU Board of Trustees vice chair; and Lydia Acosta, NSU vice president for information services and university librarian.

DATELINE: HEALTH EARNS LIBRARY RECOGNITION



Savvy NSU insiders who want to access the latest health information know that one of the best places to find it is at the university's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. That's especially true now that the Alvin Sher-

man Library houses a collection of more than 300 episodes of NSU's internally produced local television health show *Dateline: Health*, which is available on DVD to the public as part of *The Lippman Collection*.

Each 30-minute episode, which is hosted by Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of the Health Professions Division (HPD), features conversations with experts, researchers, and policymakers and provides the latest information about contemporary health care issues. *Dateline: Health*, which was created by Dr. Lippman in 1998, is written and produced within the HPD and filmed within NSU's Office of Innovation and Information Technology.

In support of NSU's 2020 vision and core values, and to honor Dr. Lippman's service to NSU and the surrounding community, NSU President George Hanbury II, Ph.D., established *The Lippman Collection* in June 2012. Over the past 14 years, *Dateline: Health* has addressed diverse topics, including equine-assisted family therapy programs at NSU, various children's health issues, cardiovascular disease prevention, geriatric health care, progressive cancer treatments, tooth reconstruction, nutrition and dietary supplements, and pediatric care.

To view a listing of the entire *Dateline: Health* series, visit www.nova.edu/library/datelinehealth.

AHEC PROGRAM HOSTS NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS SITE VISIT



On July 24, the college's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program hosted an important site visit featuring representatives from the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and nearly 40 faculty members from NSU-COM, the Health Professions Division (HPD), and the Center for Psychological Studies. As part of NSU's ongoing effort to promote the placement of HPD graduates in medically underserved communities, NHSC representatives had the opportunity to meet with key administrators and faculty members.

"Our institution and our AHEC Program have enjoyed a long-standing history of collaboration with the NHSC, as evidenced by the great number of our graduates that have benefitted from its loan repayment and scholarship programs and returned to practice in medically underserved areas," said Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director. "The NHSC representatives were awed by the active involvement of so many of our administrators and faculty members, the extremely profound insights and input they received, and the genuine spirit of interprofessional collegiality that exists here at NSU's Health Professions Division."





Ronnie Oller Receives Melnick Child Advocacy Award

On September 28, the college's Pediatrics Club honored Ronnie Oller with the Arnold Melnick Child Advocacy Award for her contributions to the health and welfare of the children of Southern Florida.

Oller, who has dedicated her life to children's causes, has spent the past eight years organizing the university's A Day for Children, a free event held each year that features speech, medical, dental, behavior, and vision screenings for South Florida children. Since Oller took over the event's coordination, attendance has exploded to over 12,000 children and parents and now includes over 100 youth-oriented service organizations.

As the mother of four and grandmother of five, she possesses a concern for children that is deeply heartfelt. Raised by her grandfather, Oller grew up in difficult circumstances and can't bear the idea that any child might lack the essentials to reach full potential. "That's my whole thing—children—and making sure they receive all the basic needs such as health care, nutrition, and education. This award stands for what is most important to me: our children."

Working closely with her husband, Robert Oller, D.O., CEO of NSU's

Division of Clinical Operations, she has tirelessly personified the mission of community service on which the university prides itself. In 1997, she chaired the first independent fund-raiser for diabetes, raising \$97,000 for research. Her commitment to South Florida's younger population is evidenced by her involvement as a board member for the following organizations: Prestige Club, Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center, Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County, as well as NSU's Mailman Segal Center for Human Development and Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Most recently, she was elected president of the Davie Boys and Girls Club.

"The Pediatrics Club was honored to recognize Ronnie Oller as this year's award recipient, as she is an inspiration to us as future pediatricians and to her community as a philanthropist and advocate for children and families," said Kelly Segars, Pediatrics Club president.

CLASS OF 2015 ESTABLISHES ASCLEPIUS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The history of medical education since the days of the Ancient Greeks has been predicated upon the passing down of knowledge and wisdom from each generation of physicians to the next. The Greek god of medicine and healing, Asclepius (best known for his snake-entwined staff that serves as the international symbol for medicine), was held in mythological esteem for centuries as the first physician-educator.

That explains why the class of 2015 recently established the ASCLEPIUS Scholarship Fund, which is an acronym for Acknowledging Scientific and Clinical Leadership Encouraging Physician Intuition, Understanding, and Scholarship. The fund's purpose will be to encourage an atmosphere within NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine that embraces and appreciates this crucial and time-honored relationship between student and teacher.

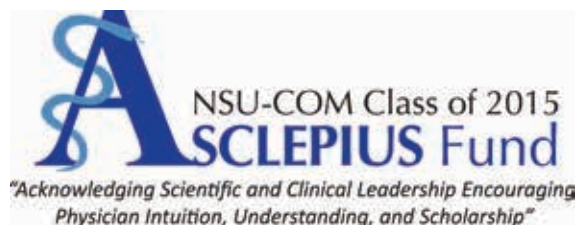
The class of 2015 recognizes the importance of continuing to foster an environment that embraces excellence in teaching

and helps students combat the rising cost of medical education and reach their life goals through the scholarship. Once endowed, the ASCLEPIUS Scholarship Fund will annually award both a student scholarship and a faculty grant by conducting a student essay-writing competition. The award will both acknowledge an educator who has had a profound impact on an NSU-COM student, as well as the medical student who authors the winning essay nominating the educator.

Larkin Community Hospital Earns Statutory Teaching Hospital Status



Larkin Community Hospital in South Miami, which is a member of NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, was officially designated as a statutory teaching hospital in August. This type of recognition is accorded to hospitals with at least 100 residents in training in 7 or more disciplines. Currently, there are 12 Florida hospitals with this designation, including 3 in Miami-Dade County. In other Larkin news, the Florida Department of Education confirmed the action of the Commission for Independent Education to officially license the Larkin School of Nursing. Upon program completion, students will be awarded an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing and will be eligible to sit for licensure with the Florida Board of Nursing.





WHITE COAT CEREMONY: CLASS OF 2016 EARNS WARM WELCOME



On July 29, the class of 2016 was officially welcomed into the osteopathic profession at the 32nd Annual White Coat Ceremony, which was held at the Signature Grand in Davie. For the 230-plus students comprising the class of 2016, the White Coat Ceremony served as an auspicious experience that officially marked their entry into the medical profession. In the presence of family, guests, and faculty members, the students were welcomed into the medical community by leaders of the osteopathic

profession and ceremonially “cloaked” with their white coats. By establishing this meaningful ritual at the beginning of medical school, the intent is to make students aware of their responsibilities from the first day of training and convey the message that doctors should “care” as well as “cure.”

Graduate Medical Education Reform Legislation Pending

U.S. Representatives Aaron Schock (R-IL) and Allyson Y. Schwartz (D-PA) introduced a legislative bill to address the physician shortage and ensure greater accountability among hospitals overseeing the nation’s medical residency training programs.

“The United States is already facing the reality of having a significant shortfall in trained doctors and medical professionals, and this shortage will only continue to grow if we don’t begin to address the problem now,” said Congressman Schock. “It’s estimated by 2015, the country will have over 62,000 fewer doctors than needed. The primary way our country can address the physician shortage is by ensuring we increase the number of graduate medical education slots. By doing so, we are increasing the number of medical school graduates who will receive hands-on training in a patient setting to gain the experience needed to become a practicing physician.”

The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction and Graduate Medical Education Accountability Act would create 15,000 new graduate medical education (GME) slots—3,000 per year for five years. While the bill creates two methods to apply for the slots, each hospital would be restricted to a maximum of 75 additional slots.

The bill would require a payment adjustment of two percent to hospitals if the hospital fails to meet specific patient care quality measures to be developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with accrediting bodies, by January 1, 2015. In addition, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to

- report on physician specialties with shortages
- provide strategies to enhance health professional workforce diversity
- furnish annual reports describing how the increased funding has been used

STUDENT ACTIVISM ON DISPLAY AT HOUSE OF DELEGATES



In July, OMS-III Carisa Lippmann, Student Government Association president, and OMS-II Elyse Julian, president elect (left), served as state delegates to the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates annual meeting held in Chicago, Illinois. In this role,

the duo represented NSU-COM at the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents and National Osteopathic Student Caucus gatherings. Showcasing their student activism, Lippmann and Julian debated legislative issues such as H-410 (Providing Medical Care in Areas of Active Conflict), H-208 (Study New Methods of Residency Funding), and H-400 (Is Your Doctor a Physician?)

In addition, they discussed a resolution that was subsequently passed by the House of Delegates and added to its ethics code: H-500 – Amendment to the AOA Code of Ethics to Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.



HEALTH CARE LEGAL EAGLE

Tips on How to Approach Your First Employment Contract

By Fred Segal, Esq.
Health Law Attorney, Broad and Cassel

As medical students, it is obvious you have a lot on your minds while beginning to learn your craft. Many different issues can cause stress besides the practice of medicine, especially as you move into residency. Legal and business-related issues certainly can keep any resident up at night; specifically, that first contract you are offered as an employee of a medical group or hospital.

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.

Receiving a proposed employment contract can be both an exciting and a scary moment. On the one hand, it can be exciting that you have received an offer to become employed by a health system or a medical group. On the other hand, it can be overwhelming to receive such an important document and have little knowledge as to whether it adequately protects you. Below are a few tips on what to look for and how to approach your first contract.

Consult a Professional

It can be a daunting task to try and decipher what some of the provisions in your agreement mean and how they can affect you. Most residents and medical students rarely have any legal experience. Even though you probably are able to decipher the terms in the contract, the lack of experience with employment contracts may not allow you to determine whether the terms in the contract are fair in the industry. This is why it is essential to consult a legal professional to review your agreement before you sign it. The small investment at the outset could help you save a significant amount of money in the long run.

Don't Be Afraid to Negotiate

Many times, residents are so happy to receive their *dream offer* that they are afraid to negotiate specific terms of their contracts. Attorneys frequently encounter residents who think if they try and negotiate their terms, the employer will move in a different direction and they will be out of luck. This is not the case. It is reasonable to try and negotiate the terms of your deal, especially if you believe the terms are unfair.

Non-Compete Agreements Are Normal

Non-compete provisions, as unfair as they sound, are quite common in physician employment agreements. A non-compete provision basically prevents a physician from working in a defined area for a specific amount of time. The rationale is that since the employer will spend a substantial amount of time and effort training a physi-

cian, the physician should not be able to simply leave his or her job and compete with the former employer. These provisions are reasonable as long as the distance and time restrictions are fair. The laws in certain states do not allow these types of provisions. In Florida, a non-compete provision is not considered unreasonable on its face if the time restriction is for two years or less.

Don't Underestimate the Specifics

There are certain specific terms in a proposed contract that, in this author's experience, are not taken as seriously by physicians. For example, a majority of physician contracts will state the physician's *responsibilities and duties*. You should review these carefully and be sure that what your future employer states you are responsible for on paper meets your expectations going into the job. In addition, what are the payment terms? How do you get paid and how often? Also, what will your call schedule be? How does that schedule compare to other similarly experienced physicians?

The tips above only broach the surface of the amount of issues you must look out for when reviewing your first employment agreement. Nevertheless, this is not as daunting as it seems. Read every provision carefully and think long and hard about how these provisions may affect you in the present AND the future. Protect yourself from future headaches now.



NSU-COM Receives Five-Year, \$1.47 Million HRSA Grant



In July, NSU-COM was awarded a five year, \$1.47 million grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. The training grant, which focuses on primary care and interprofessional education and practice, will enable

physician assistant (P.A.) students in this special interprofessional initiative to obtain a Master of Public Health degree at NSU-COM along with their physician assistant degree completion.

P.A. students selected to participate in the program will join students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine that are enrolled in a similar interprofessional joint-degree program with the Master of Public Health Program. The students will work with the NSU-COM Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice (CIEP), which will provide them with interprofessional education, simulations, and clinical experiences. The students will also participate in a newly designed three-credit-hour course on Interprofessional Education and Practice, which will provide an introduction to the national Core Competencies for Interprofessional Education and Practice as well as offer a forum to examine issues, challenges, and opportunities in interprofessional practice in a changing landscape of health care delivery.

Having P.A. students join in this interprofessional education initiative

is an important step in bringing health professions students together to learn about the team process and how to more effectively deliver primary care that is team-based, patient-centered, and integrates the core principles of public health. "I cannot tell you how pleased I am to see the CIEP and the joint M.P.H. degree program expand to include the P.A. program," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., professor of family medicine and public health and assistant dean of education, planning, and research. "This is a true testament to the leadership of the faculty members in the Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice and in our public health and P.A. programs. This program expansion is truly helping to make NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division true leaders in interprofessional education within the state and throughout the United States."

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, professor of public health and pediatrics and director of the M.P.H. Program, will serve as the program's principal investigator.

Rural Medicine Retreat Provides Multifaceted Activities

On June 22-24, the college's Department of Rural Medicine hosted its annual conference and recognition weekend for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and administrators from its network of rural/underserved training partners. These clinical centers participate in the education of NSU-COM medical students and afford them the opportunity to render service in medically underserved communities.

The Rural Medicine Retreat, held at the Lago Mar Resort Hotel and Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was coordinated and hosted by James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean of professional relations and chair of the rural medicine department, and Delia Celestine, Ed.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of public health and director of the Department of Rural Medicine. The retreat is part of the AHEC Program's mission to extend academic resources to rural/underserved safety net sites throughout

the state. It also brings NSU-COM faculty members together with primary care physicians and other providers from various community health centers, the Florida Department of Corrections sites, and private physicians' offices to provide continuing education on vital health issues.

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

"Homelessness in Predoctoral Education"

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

"Training NSU-COM Students to Work with Tobacco-Addicted Patients"

Gary Hill, D.O., Heather McCarthy, D.O., Dennis Penzell, D.O., Jill Ross, D.O., Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., and Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

"Pediatric Immunization Update"

Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.

"Managing Pain in Florida"

Alan Seigel, M.D.



NSU-COM Impresses at International Conference in Slovakia

NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine was well represented at the 26th World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. Three NSU-COM faculty members, who were joined by three colleagues from NSU's College of Medical Sciences, the Center for Psychological Studies, and the College of Dental Medicine, served as presenters at the international symposium held July 1-6 at the University of Zilina in Zilina, Slovakia. Following are the three participating NSU-COM faculty members:

Kristi Messer, M.S.W., M.P.H., presented a coauthored paper with **Elliot Sklar, Ph.D.**, entitled "Housing and Health: Advancing Health Care Training."

Hady Masri, D.O., presented a paper entitled "Current Research and Treatment for Elder Delirium."

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., presented two papers entitled "The Role of Nutrition in Alzheimer's Disease Prevention and Intervention" and "Public Health's Global Challenge: Childhood Obesity—A European and U.S. Comparison."

While in Slovakia, the NSU team met with faculty members and administrators at both the University of Zilina and at Comenius University's Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy. Two potential grant projects were written while there to further collaborative research between NSU and Comenius University.



FSACOFP Presentations in Orlando

Several full-time NSU-COM faculty members made presentations at the 32nd Annual Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Convention and National Family Medicine Update held August 1-5 in Orlando:

Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.

"Current Recommendations for Pediatric Immunization"

Robert Hasty, D.O.

"Drugs for Bugs 2012"

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD

"Thyroid Disease and Nodules"

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

"Florida Mandatory Lecture on Federal and State Laws Related to the Prescribing of Controlled Substances"

New Grants

"Educating Caregivers to Help Improve Sleep Problems in Patients with Dementia"

Received by **Nicole Cook, Ph.D.**, **Linda Maurice, Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Sweta Tewary, Ph.D.**, from the Retirement Research Foundation

Received Amount
\$139,812

Project Goal

The project's main goal is to test the impact of a caregiver-focused intervention on reducing sleep disturbances among patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and other dementing illnesses. The translational project will include developing and implementing a non-pharmacologic intervention to improve sleep among people with AD and other dementing illnesses through bright light exposure, exercise, and sleep/hygiene practices. The program will be delivered to family caregivers of people with dementia at adult day care centers in Broward County, Florida.

"ARRA: Regional Extension Center (REC) Program to Promote the Adoption and Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records (HER) by Priority Primary Care Providers"

Received by **Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**, from the South Florida Regional Extension Center

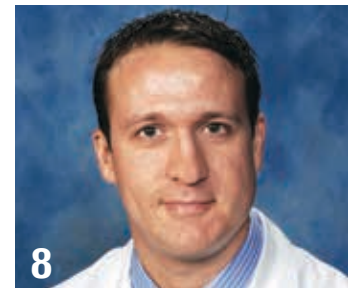
Received Amount
\$45,000

"NIEHS Mitigating Maritime Chemical Incidents Through Mobile Learning"

Received by **Kelley Davis, Ph.D.**, from MetaMedia Training International, Inc.

Received Amount
\$25,000

Research Highlights - Faculty and Student Achievements



1 Jennie Berkovich, Leah Marron, and Matthew Uhde (fourth-year students) presented a poster entitled “The Effects of Obesity on Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Pediatric Patients” at the Obesity Society Annual Scientific Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on September 22.

2 Nicole Cook, Ph.D., and Lucas Hollar, Ph.D., who are both assistant professors of public health, presented the results of a yearlong study entitled “Understanding Factors of Provider Productivity Amidst Practice Transformation Activities” to the Health Choice Network, Inc. Clinical Committee on July 18. This mixed-methods study aimed to: understand current state physician productivity across eight community health centers in Florida; describe the impact of electronic health records, meaningful use, and patient-centered medical home on productivity; and identify opportunities for promising practices and future areas of research.

3 OMS-II Kevin M. Donohue, class of 2015 president, had his coauthored article entitled “Pigment-Independent cAMP-Mediated Epidermal Thicken-

ing Protects Against Cutaneous UV Injury by Keratinocyte Proliferation” accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Experimental Dermatology*.

4 Jay Fleisher, Ph.D., associate professor of public health, presented a poster entitled “On Rapid Assessment Methods Using Statistical Modeling: Multiple Least Squares Regression Vs. Logistic Regression” at the Oceans and Human Health Gordon Research Conference held June 3-8 at the University of New England in Biddeford Maine. He also accepted an invitation to serve as a reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, which is an independent organization that helps people make informed health care decisions and improves health care delivery. In addition, he serves as an SAS customer advisory panel member.

5 Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, associate professor and vice chair of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program, along with Palmetto internal medicine resident **Vincenzo Barbato, D.O.** (a 2011 NSU-COM alumnus),

authored a chapter on “Erythema Induratum” that was published in the *5-Minute Clinical Consult 2013* on its online site <http://5minuteconsult.com/>. He also was quoted in a June 6 *Sun-Sentinel* article entitled “Surgeon: Left Without a Face, Victims All Say ‘I’ve become a monster’” and in the August 21 article “Transplant Options Grow.”

6 Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, and biomedical informatics, coauthored two research papers that were presented at the XIX International AIDS Conference held July 22-27 in Washington, D.C. The projects, entitled “Proyecto SOL: A Resilience-Based HIV Prevention Intervention for Latino MSM” and “Proyecto SOL: A Risk-Reduction Intervention for Hispanic MSM,” were coauthored by **M. Isabel Fernández, Ph.D.,** and **Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D.**

7 Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor of family medicine, public health, and biomedical informatics and associate dean for education, planning, and research, was named 2011-12 NSU-COM

Professor of the Year in August. The award is conferred upon a full-time faculty member who has served the university for at least 10 years, has achieved national and/or international prominence, and has earned a distinguished reputation through significant contributions to research and scholarship and exceptional instruction. To commemorate his achievement, Dr. Levy will receive a \$2,000 university honorarium as well as a one-year membership to the NSU Faculty Club. In unrelated news, Dr. Levy was selected to be a reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, which is an independent organization created to help people make informed health care decisions and improve health care delivery.

8 OMS-II Ryan Moorhouse coauthored an article entitled “The Role of Context in the Visual Identification of Objects” that was published in the June 2012 edition of *Medical Data*.

9 Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, maintained an active presentation agenda over the past several months that



included discussing “Managing Diabetes Across the Care Continuum” and chairing the “Geriatrics vs. Pediatrics” session at the BIT’s inaugural World Congress of Diabetes held June 15-17 in Beijing, China. She also presented a seminar on “Practical Aspects of Managing Diabetes in Long-Term Care” at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists’ Spring Conference and Exhibition held May 21-23 in Anaheim, California. In addition, she coauthored a poster entitled “Effects of Opiates on Pituitary Function” with geriatric fellow **Elizabeth Hames, D.O.**, that will be presented at the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation’s Annual Assembly, which will be held November 15-18 in Atlanta, Georgia.

10 Siddharth Pandya, D.O., clinical assistant professor of surgery, presented a lecture entitled “Imaging of Foot Complications in Diabetes” at the BIT’s inaugural World Congress of Diabetes held June 15-17 in Beijing, China.

11 Robert Parkes, M.D., M.P.H., a third-year resident in the NSU-COM/Palm Beach County Health Department

Preventive Medicine Residency Program, presented a lecture on the “Reemergence of Dengue Fever in Palm Beach County, Florida” at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual Conference held June 3-7 in Omaha, Nebraska.

12 Kenya Rivas, M.D., assistant professor of geriatrics, coauthored an article with several NSU colleagues entitled “Enteral Vancomycin and Probiotic Use for Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Antibiotic-Associated Diarrhea” that was published in a recent issue of *BMJ Case Reports*.

13 Sweta Tewary, Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of geriatrics and evidence-based practice project coordinator in the college’s Geriatric Education Center, served as the primary author on three published articles in the areas of disease management and health promotion. They are as follows: “Marriage, Self-Efficacy Beliefs, and Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Conceptual Framework” in the July issue of the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*; “Cognitive Behavior Therapy: A Potential Treatment for Depression Among Asian Indian Immigrant Women in the United States” in the April issue of the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*; and “Marital Quality and Self-Efficacy: Influence on Disease Management Among Individuals with Rheumatoid

Arthritis” in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*. She also discussed the topic “Elder Suicide: Issues and Challenges” at the Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention Third Annual Tri-County Conference held June 9 at Nova Southeastern University.

14 OMS-IV Matthew Uhde, PA-C, had his coauthored article entitled “Forearm Skin Tissue Dielectric Constant Measured at 300 MHz: Effect of Changes in Skin Vascular Volume and Blood

Flow” published in a recent issue of *Clinical Physiology and Functional Imaging*. Uhde coauthored the article with Harvey Mayrowitz, Ph.D., professor of physiology in the College of Medical Sciences, and fellow fourth-year students Xiaoran Guo and Mark Salmon. He also coauthored two articles that have been accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology*: “Treatments for Cutaneous Larvae Migrans” and “Periocular Verruca Plana Following Carbon Dioxide Laser.”

Daemen College Visits NSU

On August 6, representatives from Daemen College in Amherst, New York, visited NSU-COM to discuss a possible articulation agreement that would allow five high-aptitude premed students from Daemen College to participate in a dual-admittance program at NSU-COM if they maintain a designated grade-point average and achieve a mandated score on their MCATs. The meeting was facilitated by Maria Dillard, M.A., executive director of enrollment management at NSU’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions.



Pictured (from left) are: OMS-II Andrea Palestro, president of the NSU-COM Christian Medical and Dental Association; OMS-II Alexandra Scoma, secretary of the class of 2015; OMS-II Kevin Donohue, president of the class of 2015; Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni; Kathleen E. Murphy, Ph.D., professor of chemistry at Daemen College; Kristin M. Fries, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry at Daemen College; Maria Dillard; and Kevin Tewford, Ph.D., dean of arts and sciences at Daemen College.



Leadership Council (WLC) Steering Committee. The WLC, which was formed to mobilize United Way of Broward County's women donors to become powerful philanthropists and community change leaders, also aims to educate women about available opportunities for philanthropic involvement and civic leadership through their own fund-raising and advocacy.

1 Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S. Ed, FFAFP, FACOFP, professor of family medicine and associate dean of clinical and graduate medical education, was named Mentor of the Year by the NSU-COM/Broward Health Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program. The honor is awarded annually each summer by the residents to a faculty member who has been singled out as an exceptional educator, mentor, and role model for the academic year.

2 Francisco Laboy, D.O., instructor of sports medicine, visited Archbishop McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches on July 6 to speak to and interact with 65 students who attended a four-week summer sports medicine class. During his talk, Dr. Laboy discussed the importance of academic preparation prior to applying to medical school and shared information about the concussion clinic NSU-COM provides to all McCarthy High School athletes.

3 Stephanie Petrosky, M.H.A., R.D., director of administrative services, is now serving as a member on the United Way of Broward County's Women's

4 Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., professor of family medicine and public health and former executive director of education, planning, and research, has been promoted to the position of assistant dean for education, planning, and research. In June, she participated in a 30-minute radio interview with Ron St. John of Majic 101.5, where she discussed senior services available at NSU as well as various geriatrics-related topics. In addition, she was quoted in a July 16 *Sun-Sentinel* article entitled "Emergency Rooms Specially Designed for Seniors."

5 Khin Tu, M.D., associate professor of public health and professor of anatomy in the College of Medical Sciences, was named an honorary orthopedic surgery professor of the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom.

6 Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., professor of osteopathic principles and practice and executive associate dean, recently received her third master's degree—an M.S. with a concen-

tration in Brain Research from NSU's Abraham S. Fischler School of Education. Because she is a true lifelong learner, Dr. Wallace is currently pursuing an Ed.D. degree in Organizational Leadership from the Fischler School of Education.

- TRANSITIONS -



Barbara Arcos, D.O., chair of the Department of Family Medicine, was promoted in rank from assistant to associate professor of family medicine.



Scott Colton, B.A., APR, has been promoted from his position as NSU-COM director of medical communications to director of medical communications and public relations for both the college and the Health Professions Division. In his new role, Colton will be responsible for handling publication and communication needs for the seven colleges comprising the Health Professions Division as well as the HPD Executive Office. In addition, a medical communications coordinator has been hired to assist Colton as well as assume many of his day-to-day NSU-COM communications functions.

Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, assistant dean of preclinical education, was promoted in rank from associ-



ate professor of pediatrics to full professor status.

Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., director of preclinical education, was promoted in rank from assistant to associate professor of internal medicine.

Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program, was promoted in rank from assistant to associate professor of internal medicine.

Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., was promoted in rank from assistant to associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, and biomedical informatics.

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., professor of family medicine and public health and former executive director of education, planning, and research, has been promoted to the position of assistant dean of education, planning, and research.

Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was promoted in rank from associate to full professor status.

In Memoriam: Dr. Arthur Snyder



On July 11, NSU-COM and the osteopathic profession lost a beloved colleague and friend when Arthur Snyder, D.O., passed away following a prolonged illness.

After graduating from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in 1944, Dr. Snyder opened a private pediatric practice in Philadelphia. Over the next decade, in addition to maintaining his private practice, he established a free clinic in

a rundown area of the city to treat sick and impoverished children. The clinic, which existed until 1955 when Dr. Snyder relocated to Florida, became a major success, thanks primarily to Dr. Snyder's ability to persuade pediatric specialists to volunteer their time and treat the ailing children.

After relocating to Miami in 1955, Dr. Snyder spent the next 26 years establishing a reputation as a respected South Florida pediatrician before joining forces with old friend and former PCOM classmate Morton Terry, D.O., FACOI, the founder of NSU's Health Professions Division. In 1981, Dr. Snyder joined the faculty of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM), serving as assistant professor in the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice.

In 1984, Dr. Snyder was promoted to the position of chair and professor within the OPP department, where he taught the nuances of OMM to several

thousand students. In October 1999, Dr. Snyder received the college's ultimate tribute when he was designated as a professor emeritus for his lifelong dedication to the community, his students, and the osteopathic profession. Four years later, another major honor came his way when he received the 2003 NSU-COM Alumni Association Living Tribute Award.

After 25 years as an NSU-COM faculty member—and more than six decades working in the osteopathic profession—Dr. Snyder officially retired from the college on February 1, 2006. Fortunately, his rich osteopathic legacy lives on in his son Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, who serves as chair of the college's Department of Internal Medicine.

Without question, the profession and its proponents are deeply indebted to Dr. Snyder for his innumerable contributions to past and current generations of osteopathic practitioners.

DR. JAMES HOWELL HONORED FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Throughout his exemplary career, James T. Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor of public health and rural medicine, assistant dean of professional relations, and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, has focused on improving the well-being of Palm Beach County residents, especially those living in the rural western communities of the Glades.

Because of his commitment to the citizens of Palm Beach County, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County's Board of Commissioners recognized Dr. Howell on August 8 for his eight years of volunteer service and leadership to the Glades region as a member of the board that oversees the district's hospital—Lakeside Medical Center (formerly known as Glades General Hospital).

Dr. Howell began serving on the Glades General Hospital board in March 2004 and continued that service on the Glades Rural Area Support board, which governs Lakeside Medical Center. For the past two years, Dr. Howell served as chair of the Glades Rural Area Support board and continues to volunteer his time and talents to the Health Care District's Finance Committee.

His unwavering dedication to the Glades region began in 1969 when he served as a Palm Beach County public health resident. As his career progressed, Dr. Howell went on to become director of the Palm Beach County Health Department and

later served as secretary of the Florida Department of Health and division director for the Agency for Health Care Administration.

In addition to his Glades honor, Dr. Howell was quoted in the July 25 edition of *The Miami Herald* in an article entitled "Jackson Health System Becomes Center for Tuberculosis Cases."



Pictured (from left) are Ronald J. Wiewora, M.D., M.P.H., Sandra Chamblee, Stephen Coffman, Dr. James Howell, Benjamin Frank, Esq., and Juan C. Cocuy, CPA.

Coral Reef Research Center...Dental School Grant...Saving the Corals

America's Largest Coral Reef Research Center Opens



On September 27, NSU's Oceanographic Center hosted a grand opening ceremony for America's largest coral reef research center. The 86,000-square-foot **Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research** located at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Hollywood, Florida, houses local, national, and international coral reef research.

At a price tag of roughly \$40 million, the center has created 22 new academic jobs and 300 construction jobs. In addition, it will employ 50 graduate students as well as preserve 22 existing academic jobs. NSU received a \$15 stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to build the center, while the university funded the rest of the project.

The Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research, a multidisciplinary facility, will address national and international priorities in coral reef research in five areas: impacts of global and local stressors; geospatial analysis and mapping; deep-sea coral reefs and biodiversity; genetic and genomic connectivity; and hydrodynamics. The center has space for offices, laboratories, collaboration, research training, and fieldwork staging. It's designed to promote research by current and new faculty members, researchers, visiting scientists, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students.

"By opening this state-of-the-art facility, NSU is taking a leadership role in Florida's marine science research and helping boost an important multi-billion-dollar coral industry that employs thousands of South Floridians and sustains many small businesses," said NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D. "The center is critical for the environmental sustainability of coral reefs, which are the lifeblood of our region and oceans."

Operated by NSU's National Coral Reef Institute, the center will help protect coral reef ecosystems, which contribute over \$6 billion and 71,000 jobs annually to South Florida alone. The center will also protect and expand jobs in Florida that depend on healthy reef systems.

Dental School Receives \$75,000 Grant

During the current school year, underserved and uninsured elementary school students in the North Miami Beach area will receive preventive dental services from **NSU's College of Dental Medicine (NSU-CDM)** thanks to a \$75,000 grant from the Dr. John. T. Macdonald Foundation Inc. The grant will allow the college to provide dental services such as comprehensive oral examinations, cleanings, fluoride application, sealants, and oral hygiene instruction to the uninsured students of three participating elementary schools in North Miami Beach.

Many of these schoolchildren are at risk for dental caries or tooth decay, which affects low-income and disadvantaged children significantly more than their affluent cohorts. According to an NSU-CDM spokesperson, more than 50 percent of children without health insurance had not seen a dentist in the past year, and more than one in five required dental care but did not receive it for financial reasons.

If left untreated, dental caries may lead to problems in eating, speaking, and sleeping. Poor oral health among children has been tied to lower performance in school and poor social relationships. Children with early childhood dental pain often weigh less than other children.

The NSU-CDM program is designed to provide the children from select Miami-Dade County elementary schools with oral health services at NSU's North Miami Beach Dental Clinic.



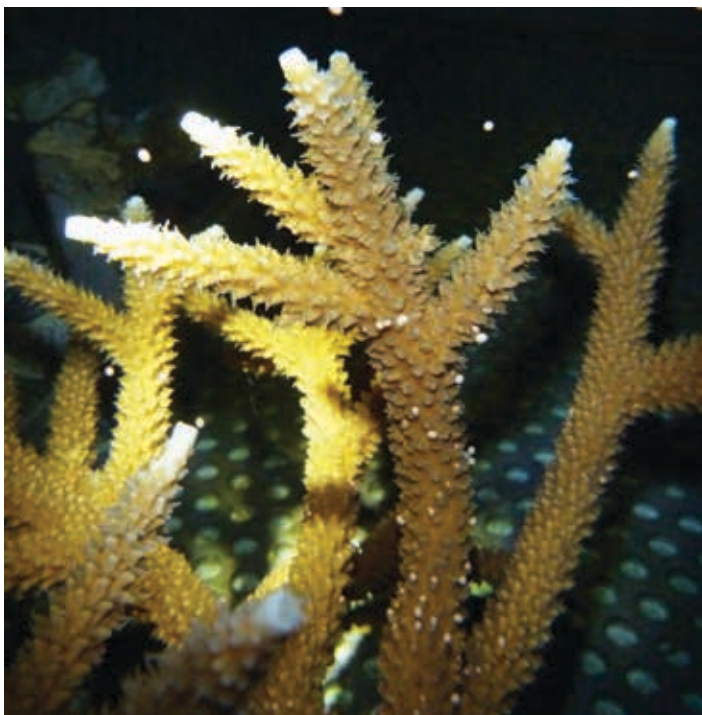
NSU OVERVIEW

Priority Project: Saving the Corals

In August, researchers from **NSU's National Coral Reef Institute** plunged into the ocean to observe the once-a-year phenomenon known as coral spawning. After the full moon each August, corals release millions of sperm and eggs into the ocean at night. NSU researchers then collect some of the fertilized eggs to grow corals in their laboratory.

The researchers have observed the coral spawning event for years, but this year was special. Scientists are observing the spawning not only in the offshore coral nursery off the coast of Fort Lauderdale but in the land-based coral nursery located at NSU's new Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research.

The staghorn corals have been thriving in the laboratory-based nursery for almost two years, and the fact that they are reproducing normally, just like the corals in the natural reef environment, is very encouraging. NSU scientists collected eggs and sperm from both offshore and lab-based nurseries and are raising the larvae in the laboratory. When lab corals reach a minimum size, researchers will return them to the ocean to help restore reefs that have been physically damaged by events such as anchors and ship groundings.



Former U.S. Surgeon General Speaks at Commencement



On August 25, **David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.**, the former U.S. surgeon general, served as the keynote speaker at the commencement ceremony for NSU's College of Nursing and College of Health Care Sciences. During the ceremony, more than 700 students received their nursing, audiology, health sciences, occupational therapy, and physician assistant degrees at the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise, Florida.

As surgeon general under President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush, Dr. Satcher provided Americans the best scientific information available on how to improve their health and reduce the risk of illness and injury. He protected and advanced the health of the nation through educating the public, advocating for effective disease prevention and health promotion programs and activities, and providing a highly recognized symbol of national commitment to protecting and improving the public's health.

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Odds and Ends

OMS-III Kacie Bhusman was appointed as the 2012-13 student representative for the AOA Committee on Palliative Care Issues.



CORRECTION: In the summer 2012 issue of *COM Outlook*, the top winners of the Dr. Kenneth S. Burnell Student Research Awards were incorrectly



listed. The top winners, who each received \$750, were **OMS-III Katherine Beditz** (left) and **OMS-IV Emily Young**.



THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: What You Need to Know!

By Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Internal Medicine
Program Director, Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program

On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.¹ This is arguably the most important health care legislation in recent years and is perhaps as monumental as Medicare in terms of its ability to change the delivery of health care in the United States.

The Affordable Care Act has developed into one of the most controversial political topics in recent history. The pundits often refer to it as *Obamacare* in a nod to the significant role President Obama had in its development. In the ensuing years, the Affordable Care Act has become a polarizing topic with Republicans criticizing it while Democrats typically defend its merits. During this controversy, the legality of the law was challenged all the way to the Supreme Court, and on June 28, 2012, the highest court of the United States upheld the law. Regardless of individual opinions, it appears it will remain the law of the land.^{2,3}

Few Americans understand many of the provisions of the law, perhaps, with the exception of the mandatory requirement. In fact, only 39 percent of Americans report they understand how it is going to impact

them.⁴ For the purposes of this discussion, I have included some of the key provisions of the law with a discussion related to each provision.

Closure of the Donut Hole and Discount on Prescription Drugs for Seniors

On December 8, 2003, President George W. Bush signed the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003, which created Medicare Part D and provided an entitlement benefit for prescription drugs for Medicare recipients. This entitlement drew significant criticism due to its complexity. One aspect of this was once beneficiaries paid their premium, they would receive coverage for prescription drugs up to a threshold and then would be uncovered until the beneficiary reached a much higher threshold of prescription drug expense where coverage would resume. This gap in recipients' coverage is commonly referred to as the *donut hole*. While maintaining prescription drug coverage to these beneficiaries at all levels of utilization, the Affordable Care Act will completely phase out the donut hole by the year 2020.⁵

“On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This is arguably the most important health care legislation in recent years and is perhaps as monumental as Medicare in terms of its ability to change the delivery of health care in the United States.” - DR. ROBERT HASTY

Increasing the Efforts to Reduce Health Care Fraud

Medicare fraud is estimated at \$60 billion annually, with South Florida being amongst the worst regions for health care fraud nationally. The Affordable Care Act creates provisions for more stringent rules and sentences for those who commit fraud, greater scrutiny for those who are more likely to commit fraud, enhanced collaboration amongst federal and state agencies, advanced technology systems to detect fraudulent activity (similar to what the credit card companies use), and enhanced ability for Medicare recipients to identify and prevent fraud.⁶

Increasing Primary Care Providers

At NSU-COM, we have taken a leadership role in training primary care physicians. For instance, in internal medicine (one of the designated primary care specialties), we have increased the number of graduates entering internal medicine residencies from 36 in 2006 to 70 in 2012. However, we continue to have a national shortage of primary care physicians in the United States, and there is a projected additional shortage of 30,000 by 2015 partially created by the demand of an additional 32 million Americans with access to health care.

Another provision of the new law is to increase primary care providers. The law creates stipulations for nurses and primary care physician scholarships and tax-exempt loan repayments for those health care providers to work in underserved areas. It will also increase reimbursements to providers who practice in rural communities in order to incentivize them to help improve access to health care for Americans living in these areas.⁷

Access to Insurance Coverage for Early Retirees

Medicare benefits traditionally begin at age 65 for most Americans. However, many Americans choose to retire early,

and 30 percent of men and 41 percent of women are retired between the ages of 55 to 64 in America. As a result, many of these individuals find themselves without access to employer-based insurance and often go without health insurance due to lack of affordable alternatives. The Affordable Care Act provides assistance to employer-based plans that will allow insurance companies to continue affordable coverage for Americans who retire early.⁸

Eliminate Discrimination Against Preexisting Conditions

Approximately one in six Americans has multiple chronic conditions, and this number is increasing. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) provided provisions to limit employment-based insurance plans from excluding individuals with preexisting conditions, but it did not provide access to insurance coverage

to all Americans with preexisting conditions. The Affordable Care Act does.⁹

Online Access to Insurance Coverage

Difficulty finding and comparing available insurance plans has limited the ability of Americans to obtain access to health insurance. The Affordable Care Act has created *HealthCare.gov* as an online resource for Americans to discover and explore affordable insurance plans.

Extended Coverage to Young Adults

Prior to the Affordable Care Act, young adults frequently were removed from their parents' insurance plan at age 19 (or sometimes later if they were full-time students). Many times, these young adults went without health insurance coverage because they were either not employed or were full-time students and their options for health insurance weren't affordable. Under the new law,





young adults are allowed to be covered by their parents' plan until they turn 26.

Reduce Administrative Costs or Profits for Insurance Companies

The Affordable Care Act provides provisions to limit administrative costs and profits to 15-20 percent.

Establishment of Accountable Care Organizations

A major provision of the law is the establishment of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). Under the law, organizations may form a coordinated group of health care providers, and their reimbursement for health care services will be tied to quality outcome measures as well as total health costs to the population of patients they care for. The idea behind ACOs is to align the interests of the patients and society with the financial interests of a health care organization to foster improved outcomes. A consequence of the creation of ACOs is a greater trend toward an employed model that aligns well with the desires of current graduates to be employees rather than the traditional solo-practice model that previously dominated medicine.

Increasing Medicaid Payments for Primary Care Doctors

Patients who are insured under Medicaid frequently are challenged with finding

physicians who will take their insurance. Additionally, some high-quality physicians have chosen not to accept Medicaid, but will accept patients with Medicare due to a greater reimbursement. Under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid will reimburse health care providers at a rate of no less than 100 percent of the Medicare rate. This is projected to increase access to quality care for Medicaid recipients.

Extends the Children's Health Insurance Program

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was created in 1997 to provide health insurance access to children who don't qualify for Medicaid and whose families find available insurance unaffordable. The Affordable Care Act extends the program to 2015.

Creation of an Insurance Exchange

The Affordable Care Act provides for the creation of an insurance marketplace. Americans will be able to shop for health insurance in a competitive environment. Members of the U.S. Congress will be required to obtain their health insurance through this marketplace starting in 2014.

Mandate Individual Coverage When Affordable

The most controversial provision of the new law is the individual mandate. By 2014,

Americans will be required to obtain basic insurance that meets minimum standards. If an individual can afford to pay for insurance, but chooses not to, he or she will be assessed a fee. In most cases, this money will be used to offset the cost of insuring Americans who cannot afford insurance. This provision of the law will have the greatest impact by opening access to 32 million of the 46 million Americans without health insurance.

Increase Medicaid Eligibility

The law also provides the ability of states to expand access to Americans who live slightly above the poverty line and were previously ineligible for Medicaid. The federal government will now fund 100 percent of this cost for the first three years and then 90 percent after the initial phase-in period. In Florida, Governor Rick Scott has declared he won't expand access to health care to Floridians who would otherwise qualify for this new provision.

It is clear that the Affordable Care Act, in its entirety, will create a paradigm shift in how patients will access health care, improve the quality of health care, and eventually stabilize the cost of health care in the United States. At NSU-COM, we are training caring and competent physicians who will serve the health care needs of Americans and beyond in this new frontier of medicine.

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MELNICK MEMORIES

Looking Back...at Osteopathic Principles and Practice

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

Founding Dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM)

Osteopathic principles and practice (OPP), from the outset, have been an important part of NSU-COM—both in emphasis and in teaching. Also, it was an important consideration in planning the original curriculum of our school.

In the teaching area, we were fortunate in enlisting James J. McCormick, Jr., D.O., a young local physician whose practice was heavy in osteopathic manipulative treatment, to start the department and to begin planning for the four years. He, in turn, enlisted the assistance of several local D.O.s who were very adept in their field: Frank Barrone, D.O., Donald Farrow, D.O., Raymond Rossa, D.O., and Arthur Snyder, D.O. This group taught OPP during the first year.

Unfortunately, Dr. McCormick, because of the heavy demands of his private practice, had to withdraw after the first year, so we began a national search. After interviewing several of the leading OPP specialists in the country, we employed a nationally known instructor to head the department—**Thomas F. Schooley, D.O.** He brought years of teaching and practice experience to the job. However, for some unexplained reason, he only stayed a year or so, and we were back to square one.

Again, we conducted a national search, but this time the pickings were slim and we could not find a satisfactory match for the post.

At this point, Morton Terry, D.O., the college's founder, came up with one of his unbelievable, but eventually correct ideas (he had a lot of them, including hiring me as a dean without any experience in administration or in a dean's office). He turned to me and said, "Let's hire Art." That was Dr. Snyder, another successful local practitioner. When we were both in Philadelphia, I had helped train Dr. Snyder in pediatrics, and he became certified, so I knew him well.

However, he had played only a very small role in OPP the previous year. "But...but...but," I sputtered. "Art is a great guy and a dear friend of mine. He has a great record in practice both in general practice and in pediatrics." Catching my breath, I added, "But even though he used

manipulation in his practice, he has had no teaching experience, either in planning or in standing in front of a classroom." Mort's reply was a firm, "He can do it."

And do it he did. Thanks to intensive study, consultation with experts, and unlimited amounts of time devoted to preparation, Art quickly raised his knowledge and ability to a point where he was the right person for the right job. He guided the department, did much of the teaching, trained several OPP fellows, and was loved by the students. He brought with him the ability to maintain order and behavior without alienating the students. His compassionate teaching style and numerous accomplishments were recognized in 2003 when he received the NSU-COM Alumni Association's Living Tribute Award.

Outside of school and academics, he was known for his marvelous wooden sculptures (he did several hundred of them), his athletic prowess (like 100 one-arm push-ups every morning) and for his calm, even-tempered disposition. All of Art's talents added up to make him an outstanding department head, particularly for OPP. Art was named professor emeritus in 1999 and retired in 2006.

Our Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice has come a long way and has always been a department we look upon with pride.



OPP AT NSU-COM

Osteopathic principles and practice remain a hallmark of the training students receive at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Dean's Leadership Council Provides Broad-Based Expertise

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

In 2010, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni established a seven-member Dean's Leadership Council comprising a mix of alumni, including the NSU-COM Alumni Association's most-recent past president, as well as non NSU-affiliated individuals representing various fields such as human resources, accounting, law, and organizational leadership.

In the past, Dr. Silvagni had coordinated a Dean's Advisory Council comprised strictly of alumni that proved productive in a variety of ways. However, because NSU-COM continues to branch out into new and exciting areas, he felt it was important to add more depth to the council, thereby broadening its perspective.

The members of the leadership council, which meets quarterly, routinely receive college information on issues ranging from policy changes to programmatic enhancements, which they then have the opportunity to review and comment on. The council, which held its first

meeting in August 2010, provides an interactive forum to review activities that have occurred within the college over the past several months and offers an opportunity to solicit input concerning the college's progress and how the council members think the college is doing. More importantly, they are helping formulate NSU-COM's future direction and are participating with the faculty in regard to strategic planning.

"The Dean's Leadership Council brings together a unique group of people that has a commitment to the college without having a direct vested interest," Dr. Silvagni explained. "For example, alumni come from the perspective of practicing osteopathic medicine and having been educated at the college, which means they are able to give a comparative perspective of how we are achieving a more contemporary medical education paradigm while presenting the skills that are needed to practice medicine today and into the future."

"The other professionals, whether they be administrators from associations, attorneys, or human resources specialists, bring experience that guides me immeasurably in being able to view the strategic plan, policies, vision, and even day-to-day operations with input that is normally unavailable," he added. "Since they do not have a vested interest in the college, they are able to remain totally impartial. The members have also contributed to the college in a significant way by annually making a financial donation because of their belief in what the college, through its faculty and staff members, is trying to achieve. Most importantly, they are all visionaries in their professional careers."

Although the contributions of the seven individuals comprising the Dean's Leadership Council are incalculable, one fact is certain: Their perceptions, opinions, and professional savvy have helped lead the college to greater levels of accomplishment.

Meet the Dean's Leadership Council

Robert W. Barron, Esq.
Berger Singerman LLP
Fort Lauderdale, Florida



Mr. Barron is a corporate and real estate attorney as well as a partner in the Fort Lauderdale office of the law firm Berger Singerman LLP, where he provides legal and strategic counsel and assistance to his clients in various types of commercial business transactions as well as business challenges and opportunities. Mr. Barron, who

has significant experience in commercial real estate transactions, corporate acquisitions and dispositions, corporate loans, and distressed business and debt transactions, has been listed by *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of corporate and real estate law, legal elite, and super lawyers.

His commitment to community service and charitable causes is evidenced by the time he spends serving on the NSU Health Professions Division Board of Governors and the NSU-COM Dean's Leadership Council. He also devotes his energy to serving on the Henderson Behavioral Health Board of Directors' Executive Committee and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Finance Committee and Board of Directors. Additionally, he chairs the Florida Bar Business Law Section of the Legal Opinion Standards Committee and the Sheridan House Family Ministries Board of Directors.

Daniel C. Carney, D.O.
Medical Director
St. Anthony's Rehabilitation Hospital
Lauderdale Lakes, Florida



Dr. Carney, who graduated from NSU-COM in 1995, actually received his undergraduate degree nearly two decades earlier from the University of Miami in 1977. That's because the path he took to become a rehabilitation medicine practitioner was a bit unconventional. After years of working as a sportscaster and talk show host in Miami, Florida, and in Atlanta, Georgia, for CNN, he decided the time had come to pursue his medical school dream.

Following the completion of his residency training in physical medicine and rehabilitation

at Boston University Medical Center in Massachusetts in 1999, he joined the staff of Boston University Medical School as assistant professor of rehabilitation medicine. Dr. Carney, who is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and attained his subspecialty in spinal-cord injury certification from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 2002, is licensed to practice medicine in both Florida and Massachusetts.

Because Dr. Carney is a native of South Florida, he returned to the area with his wife and four children in 2003 and has served as medical director of St. Anthony's Rehabilitation Hospital since that time. His clinical interests include spinal-cord injury, stroke, sports medicine, and musculoskeletal disorders.

Tyler Cymet, D.O.
Associate Vice President
for Medical Education
American Association of Colleges of
Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)
Chevy Chase, Maryland



Dr. Cymet, who graduated from NSU-COM in 1988, completed a rotating internship/research fellowship at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and a primary care internal medicine residency at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Cymet, who also is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Faculty Development program, has conducted research on musculoskeletal disorders and has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and two books.

In addition, he currently serves as AACOM's director of the Training Osteopathic Primary Care Educators (TOPCE) program.

In this role, he is able to fulfill his passion for teaching as he develops, coordinates, and implements AACOM activities related to clinical education, from undergraduate medical education through residency, with an emphasis on clinical faculty development and coordination. According to Dr. Cymet, he joined the Dean's Leadership Council to gain a better understanding of the issues facing the various colleges of osteopathic medicine and to facilitate policy change.

Tamer Gozleveli, D.O.
Owner, Family Practice
Pembroke Pines, Florida



Dr. Gozleveli, a 1987 NSU-COM graduate, established a successful family practice in 1995 that focused on providing excellent health care services to its patients. In the ensuing years, the practice—now formally known as Primary Care Offices (PCO)—has grown to include three sites located in Pembroke Pines and Miramar. In addition to running his busy practice, Dr. Gozleveli has served as an NSU-COM clinical assistant professor since 1996 and as chief of Memorial Hospital West's Department of Family Medicine.

Since graduating from NSU-COM, he has maintained an active association with his alma mater, serving as president of the Alumni Association, designing its first Web site, and serving as its Web master. Dr. Gozleveli, who is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Practitioners, has also devoted a significant amount of time to working with NSU-COM students as they rotate through his offices during their Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum experiences.

Because he has served in a variety of leadership roles both in the community and on a national level—including a stint as president of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association—Dr. Gozleveli has been instrumental in regard to educating health care providers in the areas of quality care and patient satisfaction. He has also been an advocate for improving health care accountability and coordination of care between primary care physicians and specialists.

Donna L. Horkey, M.S., PHR
Founder
Missing Link Consultants, Inc.
Plantation, Florida



In 1988, Horkey established Missing Link Consultants, Inc., which has provided management training, performance management consulting, expert witness and defense litigation support, and one-on-one executive coaching for a variety of organizations.

After receiving her Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management from NSU in 1987 and earning her accreditation as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) that same year, she then served as an adjunct faculty member in NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship for five years.

Horkey, who published her book *Mentoring: The Missing Link to Supercharge Your People* in 1996, is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 1993 Up and Comers Award in Human Resources, the 2002 Human Resources Florida Professional of Excellence Award, the 2005 NSU

Distinguished Alumni Award, and the 2008 Girl Scouts of Broward County Community Partnership Award.

"I was thrilled when Dr. Silvagni approached me to serve because he recognized the advantage of increasing the breadth of expertise on the council to include business, legal, and human resources," said Horkey of her 2010 appointment to the Dean's Leadership Council. "Last semester, I created and facilitated two expert panel workshops for NSU-COM residents on professionalism in the workplace and employability skills, delivered under the umbrella of the college's medical education department. It was rewarding to utilize my professional skills and network to benefit our graduates. This, along with serving as advocates for NSU-COM in the community, is the *raison d'être* of the DLC."

Ronald B. Tolchin, D.O., FAAPM&R
Medical Director
Baptist Center for Spine Care
Miami, Florida



Dr. Tolchin, who graduated from NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1989, is a board-certified specialist in both physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) and pain medicine and is board-eligible in spinal-cord injury. Prior to joining Baptist Health South Florida, he worked with the Miami VA Healthcare System and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where he spent over five years serving as chief of physical medicine and rehabilitation and interim deputy chief of staff for the Miami VA.

Dr. Tolchin, who serves as an oral and written board examiner for the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has also been heavily involved in academic medicine, acting as assistant professor of clinical rehabilitation medicine and the former associate residency director in PM&R at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Currently, he serves as clinical associate professor of PM&R at NSU-COM and as clinical voluntary assistant professor at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

"I was honored to be selected to the Dean's Leadership Council due to my connection to NSU-COM," he stated. "Having graduated in the early years of the medical school, grown with the school, and being a continued part of its wonderful development has played a huge role in making me the osteopathic physician I am today. The Dean's Leadership Council provides a unique opportunity to give back to the school while at the same time be a part of its continued forward growth under the tremendous leadership of Dr. Silvagni."

Michelle S. Winn, CAE, CMP
Associate Executive Director
Florida Osteopathic
Medical Association
Tallahassee, Florida



Winn, who is a 1992 graduate of the University of Alabama, joined the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) in 1996, where she currently holds the position of associate executive director. In addition to her role with the FOMA, she serves as coordinator for the Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors and is a proud

member and secretary of the Tallahassee Society of Association Executives.

In 2002, Winn received her Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation from the Convention Industry Council. In January 2008, the Certified Association Executive Commission of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) conferred the designation of Certified Association Executive (CAE) for fulfilling prescribed standards, passing a rigorous examination, and pledging to uphold ASAE's standards of conduct.

In 2009, Winn was awarded the FOMA Distinguished Service Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the association in recognition and appreciation for outstanding service, commitment, and dedication to the osteopathic profession and FOMA members.

When she was asked by Dr. Silvagni to serve on the Dean's Leadership Council in 2010, she quickly accepted. "This council is part of shaping the future of osteopathic medicine," Winn explained. "The osteopathic profession has given me an opportunity to be a part of a *great family* for the past 35 years, and for this I am truly grateful."



Pictured (standing from left) at a 2010 meeting are Dr. Ronald Tolchin, Dr. Tamer Gozleveli, Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., NSU-COM Director of Student and Alumni Services, and Howard Neer, D.O., NSU-COM associate dean of alumni affairs. Seated are Johneta Goodwin, NSU-COM director of administrative operations, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Michelle Winn.



Peter Andrade, D.O. ('09) was featured in an installment of *NY Med*—an eight-episode reality summer series on ABC that provided a raw and intimate look at life inside several New York hospitals where physicians spent far more time with each other than with their families and developed complicated and intertwined personal relationships. In the segment featuring Dr. Andrade, he was shown performing a test-tube placement.

George P. Bekic, D.O. ('97) has joined the Division of Cardiology and the Cardiovascular Institute at Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the AGH team, Dr. Bekic was a cardiologist in private practice in Lumberton, North Carolina. While in North Carolina, he held academic appointments at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Duke University Medical Center.



Bridget Bellinger, D.O., FACOFP ('86) was appointed to a two-year term on the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine by Governor Rick Scott. Dr. Bellinger, who is a self-employed physician in Largo, serves as a research affiliate with DMI Research in Pinellas County and is past president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Glenn Charles, D.O. ('92) a leading hair transplant surgeon who serves as immediate past president of

the American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery, recently acquired the groundbreaking ARTAS® System for use in his Boca Raton-based practice. The ARTAS System is the first and only FDA-cleared and physician-controlled computer-assisted technology for harvesting follicular units directly from the scalp.

Harold L. Dalton, D.O., FAAPMR, DABPM ('96), who was named president elect of the Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, received the organization's President's Achievement Award for his work regarding pain clinic regulation and recently became the first osteopathic physician to become a member of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Caducean Society.



Doede Donagh, D.O. ('04) is currently working as a family practice physician at the Ka'u Family Health Center in Hawaii.



Jeffrey S. Grove, D.O., FACOFP ('90) will be inaugurated as the 60th president of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) during the organization's 50th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminars to be held March 21-24, 2013, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dr. Grove, who is board certified in family medicine with added certification in geriatrics, has played an active leadership role in the ACOFP, which include stints as a Board of Governors member, chair of the Florida Society Delegation

to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates, chair of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee, chair of the Young Physicians Committee, and vice chair of the Membership Committee. In addition to his national ACOFP service, Dr. Grove served as president of the Florida Society of the ACOFP and as 2011-12 president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.



Shawn Iverson, D.O. ('11) was awarded \$70,000 from the National Eye Institute Clinical Loan Repayment Program, which is an L-Series award designed to attract health professionals to careers in clinical or pediatric research. Dr. Iverson, who is pursuing an ophthalmology residency, is currently working on the "Advanced Imaging for Glaucoma Study" at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.



Christopher E. Keel, D.O. ('09), who is affiliated with the Department of Urology at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, was honored with a first-place prize in the Montague Boyd Essay Contest held in conjunction with the Southeastern Section American Urology Association 76th Annual Meeting held March 22-25 in Amelia Island, Florida. His award-winning manuscript was entitled "Protective Effects of Reducing Renal-Ischemia Reperfusion Injury During Renal Hilar Clamping: Use of Allopurinol as a Nephroprotective Agent."

Robert Kominiarek, D.O., FACOFP ('95) is hosting a twice-weekly TV program called the *ABC's of Health Series* on NBC's Living Dayton WDTN2 in Ohio. He also serves as a medical adviser and director to emergency medical services, police departments, and radio and television shows.

Joshua D. Lenchus, D.O., R.Ph., FACP ('00) achieved a major milestone in June 2012 when he became the first osteopathic physician to be named president of the Jackson Health System medical staff in the institution's 94-year history. "I recall sitting in the AOA President's Luncheon at last year's meeting in Chicago while a few individuals were recognized for their life's work toward advancing osteopathic medicine," said Dr. Lenchus, who also serves as associate program director of the Jackson Memorial Hospital Internal Medicine Residency in Miami, Florida. "I vividly remember one physician who worked in Miami but was prohibited from seeing his patients at Jackson. It is because of these pioneers who never stopped fighting for the equal rights of D.O.s that I now sit as Jackson's representative of its medical staff. I feel truly privileged and humble to do so and will carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability. The days of D.O.s receiving second-class treatment at Jackson are now long since gone."

Teresa W. Rawe, D.O. ('88) was appointed medical director for emergency medicine at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, Florida, where she has served as a staff emergency physician since 1998.



Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90), a two-term Florida House of Representatives member,

withstood a strong challenge in the August 14 primary election in District 17 to win a third term of office. Dr. Renuart, a Republican from Ponte Vedra Beach, captured 39 percent of the vote in the reconfigured St. Johns County district, while his two challengers received 31 and 30 percent of the vote, respectively. "It was good that I had such high-caliber opponents because it really drove me to make as many connections in these new precincts as I could," said Dr. Renuart, who is unopposed in the November general election.

Jason C. Sniffen, D.O., FACOI, FACP, FIDSA ('96), who is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases and has a Certificate of Added Qualification in hyperbaric

medicine, recently completed a two-year term as chief of staff at Florida Hospital East Orlando and is the current chair of pharmacy and therapeutics for the Florida Hospital System. In addition, he currently serves as chair of the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine's Infectious Disease Section and as president of Infectious Disease Consultants in Altamonte Springs, Florida.

Scott Strauss, D.O. ('97) recently joined the clinical staff of The Doctor Is In, a New Jersey-based practice with three locations that provides medical care as a full service family practice and urgent care facility. Dr. Strauss, who is a board-certified family physician, has extensive experience in family medicine and urgent care and holds a particular interest in sports medicine.

Richard Thacker, D.O. ('92) was elected first vice president of the American Osteopathic Association during its 116th Annual Board of Trustees



and House of Delegates Business Meeting held July 20-21 in Chicago, Illinois. "Serving the AOA has been a great experience," said Dr. Thacker, who just completed a term as third vice president. "I look forward to continuing to represent the needs of the osteopathic medical profession."

Dr. Thacker, who is a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists, serves as a physician and chairman of the board for the Capital Regional Medical Center in Tallahassee, Florida.

Ian D. Weir, D.O. ('02), who is board certified in pulmonary medicine, critical care, and sleep medicine, was promoted to the position of program director of the Norwalk Hospital Sleep Medicine Fellowship located in Norwalk, Connecticut. He also serves as director of the hospital's Insomnia Center and associate director

of the Norwalk Sleep Disorders Center. His wife, **Taralyn Cronin-Weir, D.O.**, who is also a 2002 NSU-COM graduate, is a practicing pediatrician.

Heidi Wickham Pratt, D.O. ('02) was inducted into the NSU Athletics Hall of Fame during a ceremony held in October at NSU's Don Taft University Center. Dr. Pratt, the 1997 Florida Sun Conference (FSC) Player of the Year, led NSU to three consecutive FSC Championships, twice as a player in 1997 and 1998, and once as a coach in 1999. The 1999 squad went an astonishing 53-7 and earned a berth in the NAIA National Tournament. As a player, she received NAIA All-America honors in 1997, while being selected as an Academic All-American the following two seasons. As an individual, Dr. Pratt recorded a career batting average of .392, which places her second in the NSU record books at the time of her induction into the university's Athletics Hall of Fame.

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LINDSAY LACORTE. D.O., M.P.H.

Class of 2012 Spotlight

Grace and Determination Personified

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

Graduation is usually a time filled with myriad emotions for those hard-working individuals who have successfully completed the arduous trek through medical school. Although great exaltation is the overriding emotion, it's often difficult to avoid experiencing a sense of general unease at what the future may hold as newly minted alumni embark on their internships and residencies of choice.

As you will read in the following account of the pathways she pursued to achieve her D.O. degree, the future looks exceedingly bright for Lindsay LaCorte, D.O., M.P.H., as she confidently progresses to the next stage of her osteopathic training.

Interestingly, a medical career wasn't initially in the cards for Dr. LaCorte, who didn't even contemplate becoming a physician until after she graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. "When I

was in the fifth grade, I wrote a 10-page essay about what I wanted to be when I grew up that included diverse careers such as dancer, actress, physicist, mathematician, and scientist. Surprisingly, physician wasn't on my list," said Dr. LaCorte, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and spent her formative years shuttling between the East Coast and California.

"When I moved to California at the age of 14 to live with my dad, it proved to be a major turning point," said Dr. LaCorte, whose parents and grandparents were teachers. "I went to high school and played water polo, but I was still a math and science geek. I really liked physics and actually was accepted into the University of California, Berkeley, to earn a degree in it. That was my original plan, but then I realized just how boring it was. Theoretically I loved it, but I was just sitting at a desk studying or sitting at a lab bench

researching and not having much social interaction, which I really enjoy.”

After earning her biochemistry degree, Dr. LaCorte was uncertain of what lay ahead on her professional pathway. “After graduation, I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do, so I took a fun summer job where I worked as a lifeguard, swim instructor, and counselor at an aqua camp for children,” she said. “As part of the job, I was required to get some EMT training, which is what actually led me into medicine. I thought ‘Oh I really like this, so this is what I can I do. I can become a doctor.’”

Unlike her earlier pursuit of a physics career, which turned out to be an ill-suited choice, Dr. LaCorte wisely decided to take her time before applying to medical school. “I didn’t want to make the same mistake, so I took a job as a clinical laboratory assistant at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and then worked as a medical assistant at the Sansum – Santa Barbara Medical Foundation Clinic in the Department of Urology,” she explained. “I wanted to try different jobs in the medical field before I chose a specific path.”

Fortunately for Dr. LaCorte, her bulb-above-the-head moment occurred while working in the urology office. “I did a lot of assisting and had the opportunity to watch numerous surgeries. That was when I knew what I wanted to do specialty-wise,” she admitted. “Although most of our patients were male, we did see a number of female patients with bladder issues. And that’s what enabled me to decide on pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology.”

Romance Blooms as Medical School Looms

As she plotted her career course, Dr. LaCorte maintained a busy vocational schedule that included working as a lifeguard in the morning, a clinical research coordinator at the Cancer Center of Santa Barbara during the afternoon, and a bartender at a local establishment called Harry’s at night. As luck would have it, the bar would prove to be a true good-luck charm for Dr. LaCorte both personally and professionally.

During her stint at Harry’s, Dr. LaCorte fell in love with a fellow bartender named Seth Smith, who would go on to become her hus-

band in 2010. It was there where she also met Daisy Green, D.O., a patron who would go on to become a pivotal mentor on Dr. LaCorte’s path to becoming an osteopathic physician. “She was the one who really encouraged me to go to medical school,” Dr. LaCorte stated. “She allowed me to shadow her to gain some experience and wrote a wonderful recommendation letter on my behalf.”

When it came time to begin the medical school applications process, Dr. LaCorte was still a bit conflicted as she wavered between several options, including attending an oriental medicine college in Santa Barbara, M.D. and D.O. colleges, and a chiropractic school. So how did she eventually come to select NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine? In the final analysis, Dr. LaCorte said her decision to relocate to South Florida was based on several key factors.

“I was looking for two specific things: global health outreach programs and an opportunity to obtain an M.P.H. degree,” she explained. “I applied to a number of M.D. and D.O. schools, but in the end I narrowed it down to NSU-COM and Michigan State.

My husband was the final decision maker because he wanted to live in a warm place.”

As soon as Dr. LaCorte embarked on her NSU-COM odyssey in 2007, she quickly made a name for herself as a friendly, compassionate, and hard-working student leader, which is an area she never pursued in her previous educational incarnations. “I didn’t participate in any type of leadership in high school or college,” said Dr. LaCorte, who served as president of the NSU-COM Student Government Association in 2009-10 and did an extra year of study in the Predoctoral Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship program. “I was a real sports geek back then, but when I came to NSU, I realized this is my chosen profession, so I decided to learn everything I could and be very involved.”

To say she was involved is indeed an understatement. During her five years at the college, Dr. LaCorte immersed herself in a multifaceted mix of activities that included making numerous research presentations, participating in various community service projects, becoming a political activist on



Pictured (clockwise from left) are: Dr. LaCorte enjoying some time at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C.; with her mom, Barbara, at a Greenpeace Rally; with god sister Skye; with Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni at the 2007 White Coat Ceremony; a fresh-faced high school graduate in 1998; sharing a hug with good friend Darcy at their high school graduation.





the key thing in life, especially when it comes to medical school,” she stressed. “When you step away from the expectations of high grades and academic perfection, you can spend more time becoming the person you want to be both personally and professionally.”

A Bright Future Beckons

With the glow of graduation giving way to the realities of postgraduate responsibilities, Dr. LaCorte began her OB/GYN osteopathic internship/residency training in July at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, New York. “I’m excited to be back in a place where there are different seasons,” she said. “I liked Florida at first, but it’s just too hot year-round.”

Dr. LaCorte’s husband, Seth, who is now a financial planner, lovingly relocated to New York to be with his wife even though he’s not a fan of frigid northeastern winters. But Dr. LaCorte is well aware that when it comes to balancing marriage and careers, compromise is the name of the game. “When I complete my residency, and possibly fellowship, training, I told Seth he can choose where we relocate to since I have dragged him around the country over the past several years.”

Her future state of residence may be unclear; however, one fact that is almost certain is her decision to work in a general OB/GYN practice once she completes her residency/fellowship training. “I am 90 percent sure I want to work in a general group practice. Lifestyle-wise, it’s the kind of practice that will fit my personality very well,” she explained. “What I like about OB/GYN is that it’s so



Pictured above is Dr. LaCorte at age two (right) with her cousin, Clayton, and her dad, Don.



Several years ago, Dr. LaCorte had the opportunity to reconnect with her best friends from high school.

behalf of the osteopathic profession, and serving in a range of leadership capacities that includes the following:

- *Florida student delegate*, AOA House of Delegates
- *liaison*, AOA Council of Interns/Residents
- *student liaison*, AOA Council of Interns and Residents
- *student delegate*, FOMA Board of Trustees
- *student representative*, AACOM Society of Osteopathic Medical Educators Steering Committee
- *chair*, Council of Student Government Osteopathic Presidents Medical Education Committee
- *research and public health chair*, NSU-COM International Medical Outreach Club
- *founder and chair*, NSU-COM Student Organization Research Committee
- *clinical research chair*, NSU-COM Student Osteopathic Association for Research

Like many NSU-COM student leaders who have preceded her, Dr. LaCorte willingly sacrificed a lofty GPA in order to gain an all-encompassing medical school experience, which she believes will make her a more accomplished physician. “I think balance is

multifaceted. I can perform surgery, deliver babies, work in a clinic, counsel patients on preventive medicine, and incorporate all the wonderful OMM techniques I learned as a predoctoral OPP fellow at NSU-COM.”

Because the transition from student to intern and resident is so swift, Dr. LaCorte hasn’t had much time to reflect on all she accomplished during her time as an NSU-COM student, nor does she really care to. “I’m not really a prideful person,” she admitted. “I suppose I’m proudest of the fact that I have been able to successfully balance my personal and professional priorities while never losing sight of who I am during the process.”



Can you guess which one is the future osteopathic star?

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fund-raising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact **Lynne Cawley** in the Office of Alumni Affairs at **(954) 262-1029**.

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