

Summer 7-1-2012

## COM Outlook Summer 2012

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Follow this and additional works at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd\\_com\\_outlook](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd_com_outlook)



Part of the [Osteopathic Medicine and Osteopathy Commons](#)

---

### NSUWorks Citation

College of Osteopathic Medicine, "COM Outlook Summer 2012" (2012). *COM Outlook*. 9.  
[https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd\\_com\\_outlook/9](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd_com_outlook/9)

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Osteopathic Medicine at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in COM Outlook by an authorized administrator of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact [nsuworks@nova.edu](mailto:nsuworks@nova.edu).

Summer 2012

# COM Outlook

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine



**AGE IS JUST A NUMBER!**

**Senior Students Make Their  
Dormant Dreams Come True**





## Dean's Message

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

As graduation season winds down, I felt it was an appropriate time to inform the readers of *COM Outlook* about how the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) is broadening its areas of expertise and deliverance of health care in three important areas:

**Increasing amount of graduate medical education (GME) positions** – Twelve years ago, the college only had about 250 postgraduate residency and fellowship positions. Today, that number has burgeoned to 918 positions thanks to our Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, which allows us to provide exceptional postgraduate training opportunities through an ever-increasing array of affiliations. The COM has not only increased the number of positions but also the number of specialties and subspecialties to select, giving us a greater depth of education for our students.

**Acquisition of a \$1 million herbal medicine and nutraceuticals endowment** – The attainment of a \$1 million endowment to establish a research division in herbal medicine and nutraceuticals will allow the college, in partnership with other professions such as pharmacy, to begin examining and evaluating remedies and specific compounds that are being used in the field of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). As the program develops, we anticipate expanding into others areas of CAM, such as acupuncture. We anticipate launching this division within the new few months, after which time we will be providing education and research as well as patient care.

**Implementation of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine** – The third area of development is the implementation of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, which is being led by Nancy Klimas, M.D., professor of clinical immunology, who is one of the world's leading researchers and clinicians in chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis and Gulf War Syndrome. The institute will be located in the University Park Plaza complex along with patient rooms that will be adjacent to our Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center. In addition, the newly formed Department of Clinical Immunology will also have a new clinic in the Kendall area.

These three NSU-COM areas of expansion not only provide the opportunity to create advances in patient care, but also allow us to significantly enhance the education of our students and better prepare them for medical alternatives outside of the traditional areas of study.

They also dovetail nicely with the college's mission, which centers on providing learner-centered education, both nationally and internationally, for osteopathic medical students, postgraduate trainees, physicians, and other professionals.



## COM Outlook

Summer 2012  
Volume 13, Number 3

*COM Outlook* is produced by  
Nova Southeastern University  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018  
<http://medicine.nova.edu>  
<https://www.facebook.com/novaosteopathic/>

### NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

**George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

### HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION

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

### COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

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

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Scott Colton, B.A., APR**  
Director of Medical Communications

### EDITORIAL CONTACT

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

*COM Outlook* is produced quarterly in  
January, April, July, and October.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.**  
**Scott Colton, B.A., APR**  
**Marti Echols, Ph.D.**  
**Robert Hasty, D.O.**  
**Robin Jacobs, Ph.D.**  
**Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.**  
**Jill Ross, D.O.**  
**Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.**



## In This Issue - Summer 2012



### Medical Outreach on Display in Ecuador **6**

In early March, a compassionate group of 26 individuals traveled to Ecuador to provide medical care to about 400 patients in underserved areas of Ecuador.



### Senior Students Make Their Dreams Come True **22**

Making a career transition later in life is certainly not a new phenomenon, especially in recent years due to the prolonged economic downturn that has forced millions of people to reevaluate their lives—and professional futures—as a result of losing their jobs. However, the aforementioned scenario was not the case for three NSU-COM students who willingly relinquished lucrative careers in their mid-40s and 50s to begin the long and laborious journey toward osteopathic fulfillment.

### Silencing Stigma: The Decline of D.O. Bias **30**

On June 22, 1874, a revolutionary thinker named Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., made history when he first articulated the principles of osteopathic medicine. That momentous incident in the annals of medicine would also presage the dawn of what would become a protracted and often-rancorous battle with the allopathic (M.D.) profession, pharmaceutical companies, and the U.S. government to earn similar practice parity and rights.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

*Dean's Message* – 2

*Chancellor's Communiqué* – 4

*Undergraduate Student Awards* – 8

*COMmunications* – 10

*Health Care Legal Eagle* – 14

*Research Highlights* – 15

*NSU Overview* – 20

*Melnick Memories* – 27

*Graduation 2012* – 34

*Alumni Corner* – 43

*Alumni Spotlight* – 44

*Faculty Focus* – 46



### NOTICE OF ACCREDITATION

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.





The issue I bring to the attention of the readers in this edition of *COM Outlook* is not specific only to medical and health care professionals, but also to most professions. In fact, the definition of a professional is usually defined as a group of individuals that is self-regulated, which means these

individuals are regulated by the composite of their knowledge, their ethics, and their responsibilities.

In this country, you have states and other jurisdictions that have their own independent responsibilities of policy-decision rights as to licensing and regulations. Of course, there are certain basic tenets to the regulatory process, but the reason I bring this up is because I believe that competent and well-trained osteopathic physicians, pharmacists, allied health professionals, dentists, and optometrists not only have a responsibility to learn about the art of their profession, but also an obligation to understand the civics of our society. Similarly, they also have a responsibility to be good citizens who are participatory in providing for the health, safety, and benefit of the general society—just as they do for their patients.

It's very important for professionals who want to have control of their own professions and are "self-regulated" to understand that they need to be participatory and fight for the protections of this self-regulation. In order to do so, they have to be participatory in the vital process of policymaking, which occurs at the level of governmental representation, whether it be in the case of the professionals, usually at the state level, and then definitely at the national level through their own professional associations and societies as well as through the U.S. Congress.

People often listen to the multiple editorial pundits and commentators that permeate both the TV and radio airwaves, where they hear an array of comments, protestations, deliberations, and theories. But it really lies in the hands of the professionals to determine the true outcome of their own professional lives and the impact of their capabilities, their ethics, their integrity, and their knowledge. In the final analysis, the delivery of care they provide their patients really shouldn't be in any way denied to them. And the way you prevent that denial or that interdiction by external forces—whether they be governmental or their own professional societies—is by being involved.

Many people say, "I'm too busy." Well, are you too busy to show kindness, love, and caring to your families or significant others? Are you too busy to receive that kindness, caring, and love when you need it? The answer, of course, is no. In the same sense, you can't be too busy to protect your own professional opportunities and skills.

Because this is the time of year when the graduates of our various Health Professions Division programs are receiving their long-awaited diplomas, I implore them to be actively involved in their professions and resist the temptation to stay cloistered within the four walls of their office complexes or venues of caregiving. I urge them to be participatory in their professional associations and in the civics of their communities.

I hope they will resist the temptation to say, "Well, I can't fight city hall" or "I can't be involved in making policy because I'm too busy." It's the responsibility of being self-regulated that requires all of us to be participatory in the function of being self-regulated.

*Fred Lippman, Ed.D.*



## BEST OF THE BEST: Christine Nelson Snares a STUEY



*Christine Nelson (second from left) proudly displays her well-earned Staff Person of the Year STUEY.*

Christine Nelson, who serves as program manager in the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics program, was named Staff Person of the Year at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual NSU Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYS) held April 17 in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on campus.

"I feel honored to have received the 2012 STUEY Award for Staff Person of the Year," said Nelson the day after receiving the unexpected accolade. "I owe all of my successes to the faculty, staff, and students of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) program. They make my job enjoyable and easy to do well. I would particularly like to thank Dr. Jennie Q. Lou, the M.S.B.I. program director, for being both supportive and inspirational. I appreciate this wonderful recognition and hope to continue making the College of Osteopathic Medicine and all of Nova Southeastern University proud."

For those unfamiliar with the STUEYS, the event was initiated in

2000 to honor the people and organizations that best exemplify the core values of leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and inclusion within the university community.

Excerpts from Nelson's nomination entry clearly exemplify why she was selected as NSU's Staff Person of the Year. "Ms. Nelson embodies each of the NSU seven core values in every aspect of the staff support she consistently provides to NSU leadership, faculty, other staff, and students. Well before each academic term begins, Christine matches faculty members to upcoming courses – an extremely time-consuming and exacting process in and of itself, but critical to student enrollment, teaching, and course success.

*In more than 20 years of adjunct faculty teaching experience around the globe at major universities, I have never seen anyone lead, manage, or include 'people as partners' in this process better or more successfully than does Christine. More importantly, she does this with such commitment, drive, and enthusiasm that each*

*academic term is truly a fresh beginning for everyone. She also has such a positive and affable character – with total involvement in the process.*

*During a critical national accreditation review, specific faculty members were asked to submit detailed course accreditation data and information for review, analysis, and decision support by the accreditation review members. Throughout the challenging and iterative process, Christine provided all the faculty members with timely technical guidance, direct assistance, and a review of the information we provided for format, completeness, data integrity, and information accuracy. She was an unsung staff leader and hero of the review process and helped bring enormous credit to NSU and a successful accreditation review.*

*Most importantly, it is common knowledge among NSU leaders, faculty, staff, and students that she treats each and every person she assists as an individual, with dignity, integrity, and commitment."*

Other nominees representing NSU-COM with distinction were

### Executive of the Year

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

### Professor of the Year

Robert Hasty, D.O.

### Alumni of the Year

Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

### Student of the Year

Bryan Peterson

### Student Government of the Year

NSU-COM SGA

### Co-Curricular Adviser of the Year

Edward Packer, D.O.





## Medical Outreach on Display in Ecuador

*By Jill Ross, D.O., Assistant Professor of Family Medicine*

As the plane descended into a plateau valley of the Andes, the passengers aboard LAN Ecuador leaned over to watch out their windows. The city of Quito was below, with mountainsides all around. It is a breathtaking experience to fly into the capital city of Ecuador, and this was only the beginning of our adventure.

On board this flight in early March 2012 was a group of 26 individuals that was preparing to provide medical care to various people in underserved areas of Ecuador. As the leader of this medical outreach trip, I counted the participants several times, as they had been seated seemingly randomly aboard the plane. Once everyone cleared customs and immigration and boarded the bus to Hosteria San Jorge, I breathed my first sigh of relief.

The group was composed of two NSU-COM faculty members (myself and Sam Snyder, D.O., chair of internal medicine), one NSU-COM alumna (Jennifer Capezuti, D.O.), a dentist (Rachel Kwal, D.D.S.), an emergency physician (Gail Rubin, M.D.), an obstetrician/gynecologist (Paula Youngdahl, M.D.), a nurse practitioner (Nancy Heriot, ARNP), and a registered nurse (Helen Costa, R.N.) along with 17 medical students and one nonmedical volunteer. We also had several parent-child combinations among the 26 volunteers.

We arrived at Hosteria San Jorge in the dark, making our way to our rooms with headlamps and flashlights in the 50-degree thin air of a 9,500-foot elevation. We sat down

to one of many multicourse meals, tiredly eating as we attempted to get to know each other. The following day, we enjoyed one of many breakfasts together before we separated into two groups to enjoy some free time in Ecuador.

Our first day of medical outreach occurred at an elementary school that was within walking distance of Hosteria San Jorge. With 13 suitcases of medications and supplies brought down to the school by a pickup truck, we walked to the school and set up our stations. The first priority was to find a private room for the gynecological examinations, followed by a secure room to house the pharmacy.

For many of the students, this represented their first opportunity to truly assist in taking a patient history, performing a physical examination, and participating in the discussion of the differential diagnoses and treatment plans. All but one of the medical students were OMS-1s, and although they had some exposure to patient care prior to this trip, they were truly an integral part of the team each and every day. Patient care was divided into several stations: triage, gynecology, pharmacy, osteopathic manipulation, dentistry, and four general medicine stations.

In triage, students would ask some basic history questions to find out why the patient was seeking treatment that day. This helped to decide which practitioner would be best suited to see the patient. The students rotated among the different practitioners after each half day of medical care, which allowed them to gain exposure to the various aspects of clinical care and the different specialties represented. This may have been the only opportunity for the students to assist in the practice of dentistry as several were fortunate enough to participate in tooth extractions, which they found to be very rewarding.

## *“International Medical Outreach: Humanitarianism at its Finest”*

Children from the local orphanage were brought to see us regarding their medical issues, and hoping to receive some vitamins. Agricultural workers arrived with various physical complaints secondary to the exhausting manual repetitive labor they perform seven days a week. Families with three and four generations living under one roof were hoping for treatments for their respiratory infections, headaches, upset stomachs, and earaches. Many had never seen a dentist, so in addition to the dental extractions, we were able to provide a large number of fluoride treatments.

Our next stop was outside of the town of Tandayapa. Instead of being in a school, we conducted our medical outreach at a community center. Following that, we spent time at two additional communities outside of Milpe. All in all, we saw approximately 400 patients in three-and-a-half days of medical service. The medical outreach trip was quite successful, and we were able to enjoy the beautiful country of Ecuador while providing medical care to those in need.

To see the excitement in the faces of the students each and every day is equally as rewarding for me, personally, as the patient care itself. Getting to know each of the students on a personal basis has changed me as a person, and I am forever grateful to each of them. Here are some of their thoughts on the experience:

“I thought it was an amazing experience to be treated like colleagues and professionals with our preceptors,” said OMS-I Angela Kuehn. “Being given the chance to learn and practice our skills was priceless, and the people of Ecuador were so patient and appreciative of our help. I think it was a confirmation of our excitement for our future careers and our futures of helping people worldwide.”

OMS-I Kristi Martinez-Costa, the incoming vice president of the International Medical Outreach Club (IMOC), said, “Ecuador was a once in a lifetime learning experience. It fortified my passion to become an OB/GYN in the future and taught me so much in such a short time span. It was a wonderful experience in which I was able to practice my physical exam skills and learn from experienced doctors how to truly assess and plan treatment. It was a great bonding experience for me and my colleagues.”

“There was so much to learn in Ecuador during our clinic days, but what I think I learned most about was the skill required to narrow down a vague chief complaint into something tangible and treatable,” said OMS-I Emily Stumpf, incoming IMOC president. The differential [diagnoses] were a bit different in Ecuador, where a child’s abdominal pain could just as likely be a simple gastrointestinal virus or a vicious parasite. I learned a lot from listening to the preceptors’ form questions based on the patient’s

complaints and direct their questioning in different ways based on patients’ responses in order to lead to a diagnosis.”

We were very fortunate to be able to bring a great deal of medications and supplies with us to the various communities we served in Ecuador. NSU-COM was a vital supporter of this medical outreach trip, assisting in providing the necessary medications supplied to the communities we served. Members of the student organization IMOC also provided a great deal of supplies, medications, and vitamins that they had collected through a donation drive. Additionally, we were able to purchase Ready Relief Boxes from the American Osteopathic Foundation for half of the normal price for one box, and then we received a second box for free. Several of the participants also brought clothing, toys, coloring books, and various school supplies for the children, which were distributed throughout the duration of the trip.

This outreach trip was only possible through contributions of time and energy by several people who did not actually travel with us to Ecuador. Robin Jacobs, Ph.D., associate professor, played a key role as she did the majority of the coordinating of the vital components of this trip. Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., executive associate dean, was instrumental in passing along her thorough knowledge of this particular trip, which allowed it to be as successful as possible.

As president of the college’s IMOC student chapter, OMS-III Belinda Collias helped to collect and organize all of the college’s information about the participants and the supplies that were being brought to Ecuador. Harold Laubach, Ph.D., dean of the College of Medical Sciences, provided the necessary laboratory supplies for us to utilize in our patient care. Joseph O’Connor, office manager of the Family Medicine Practice, in coordination with Marina Melendez, family medicine medical assistant, provided excellent assistance in purchasing additional supplies that were utilized in our patient care.





# Achievements Honored at Student Awards Ceremony

On May 4, a number of awards and scholarships were presented to both students and faculty members at the annual OMS-I and II Student Awards Ceremony. Students were honored in areas such as research, academic excellence, and community service, while several faculty members were presented with Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching abilities.



*Pictured at the awards ceremony (from left) are Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., Jacob Triplet, and Stanley Simpson, D.O.*

## Kuiatkovsky, Triplet Receive Dr. Matthew Terry Scholarships

OMS-I Jacob Triplet and OMS-II Milla Kuiatkovsky were the recipients of the Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to NSU-COM students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.

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

OMS-II Danlu Wang, OMS-I Aaron Fisher, and OMS-I James Jackson were the recipients of the Seventh Annual Dr. Bradley I. Silverman Memorial Scholarship, which was established in 2006 to honor outstanding NSU-COM students who participate in cancer-related community

service and showcase compassion, commitment, and other laudable traits exemplified by Dr. Silverman. In addition to earning well-deserved recognition, the awardees each received \$1,500 cash awards. Dr. Silverman, who passed away in 1999, was a member of NSU-COM's charter graduating class in 1985.



*Pictured (from left) are James Jackson, Danlu Wang, Marilyn and Stanley Silverman (the parents of Dr. Bradley Silverman—the scholarship's namesake), and Aaron Fisher.*

## Dr. Boesler, Johnson Earn Golden Apple Awards



David Boesler, D.O. (left), associate professor and chair of the Department of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine, and Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, were

the recipients of this year's Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching skills. Dr. Boesler received his award from the class of 2015, while Dr. Johnson was honored by the class of 2014.



## Wellington Garners David Spector Memorial Award

OMS-II Jennifer Wellington was the recipient of the David Spector Memorial Award, which is presented annually to a first- or second-year osteopathic medical student who has participated in research pertaining to the prevention or treatment of substance abuse. The award, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash prize, was established in

the summer of 2005 in honor of David Spector—an undergraduate psychology student in the NSU Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences who died from an oxycontin overdose in December 2004. Thanks to the benevolence of David’s father, Howard, who decided to find a positive outlet for his grief by establishing an endowment fund at NSU-COM, future generations of students now have an opportunity to conduct further research in this field.



*Pictured with Jennifer Wellington are Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., and Raymond Ferrero III, J.D. (right).*

## Academical Society Awards

Ten conscientious second-year students were honored for their contributions to their individual academical societies (*listed in italics*) as well as their commitment to fellow society members: **Jennifer Wellington** (*William G. Anderson, D.O.*); **Erik Adair** (*Louisa Burns, D.O.*); **Tiffany Chua** (*Robert Klein, D.O.*); **Parul Cham** (*Fred Lippman, Ed.D.*); **Brittany Stutzman** (*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.*); **Danlu Wang** (*Bradley I. Silverman, D.O.*); **Katie Leicht** (*A.T. Still, M.D., D.O.*); **Alexandra Oleinik** (*Morton Terry, D.O.*); **Tyler Thurman** (*James Turner, D.O.*); and **Joseph Geffen** (*Ross Zafonte, D.O.*).

## Ten Students Honored with Burnell Research Awards

Ten NSU-COM students—**Katherine Beditz** (OMS-II), **Frances Brlit** (OMS-I), **Rebecca Desfor** (OMS-I), **Tania Espinal** (OMS-I), **Nicholas Garrett** (OMS-I), **Michelle Grisillo** (OMS-I), **James Jackson** (OMS-I), **Elizabeth Phung** (OMS-III), **Vu Tran** (OMS-II), and **Emily Young**, M.A.T. (OMS-III) were named the winners of the Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards, which are presented to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science.

The scholarship was established in 2001 through an endowed gift from the late Dr. Burnell to stimulate student research at NSU-COM. This year, more students participated in the program than ever before. In addition, the quality of the submissions resulted in the college presenting cash awards to more students than ever before. All students received credit on their NSU-COM transcripts for having completed a course in research as well as a framed plaque. Six of the participating student researchers were awarded \$500. The two most notable projects were submitted by Brlit and Phung, who each received \$750.



*Pictured (from left) are James Jackson, Katherine Beditz, Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., Rebecca Desfor, Tania Espinal, Michelle Grisillo, Frances Brlit, and Elizabeth Phung.*

## TOUCH Community Service Awards



Thirty-five OMS-II students were honored with TOUCH Community Service Awards for their extensive community service work since beginning their NSU-COM education in the summer of 2010. These humanistic individuals were honored for their hard work and dedication toward improving the NSU, local, national, and international communities. **Carisa Lippmann** (*pictured left with Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.*) received a special recognition award for being the top student in the reported number of community service hours donated throughout her first two years of medical school. Listed below are the top 10 community



...student awards continued from page 9

service volunteers in chronological order of service hours provided: **Carisa Lippmann, Erik Adair, Jeremiah Robison, Charles Cevallos, Jennifer Wellington, Kiyomi Goto, Eric Chung, Joseph Geffen, Lena Virasch, and Eric Pitts.**



## Espinal, Young Receive Morris Public Health Scholarships



OMS-I Tania Espinal and OMS-III Emily Young, M.A.T., were the recipients of two public health scholarships bestowed to NSU-COM students thanks to the generosity of Marie Morris—the widow of Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who served as

executive dean for professional affairs at the NSU Health Professions Division prior to his death in May 2008.

Young received the Judy Morris, M.D., Scholarship in Public Health, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award. To be eligible for the scholarship, nominees must be NSU-COM students or have already achieved their D.O. degree, showcase high academic achievement, be currently enrolled in the college's Master of Public Health Program, and demonstrate financial need.

Espinal was awarded the Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., Scholarship in Public Health, which is accompanied by a \$1,000 cash allocation. Eligibility criteria are similar to the aforementioned scholarship. (Pictured in the above photo are Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., and Tania Espinal.)

## AHEC Update

### FEDERAL FUNDING

In terms of federal funding, the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program submitted its Federal Competing Renewal Application to the Health Resources and Services Administration and is expected to receive approximately \$1 million to support its activities throughout its 19-county South and Central Florida service area for the upcoming funding year.

### TOBACCO TRAINING AND CESSATION

In regard to state funding for its Tobacco Training and Cessation Program, it is projected that the AHEC Program will receive \$2.5 million for the renewal of its Florida Department of Health contract to continue to bring tobacco prevention education and tobacco cessation services to every county within its service region. In 2012, over 400 intensive six-week tobacco cessation groups have been provided in numerous communities throughout the region. In addition, the AHEC Program has continued to work with state and regional health professional organizations to conduct training programs for health providers throughout Florida on effective skills to treat tobacco dependency in the clinical setting.

### TOBACCO CURRICULUM

The AHEC Program also is continuing to work with about 20 faculty members from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Center for Psychological Studies on the development of the AHEC Tobacco Curriculum Immersion Initiative. The comprehensive and seamless curriculum consists of a series of didactic seminars on tobacco dependence and treatment, practicums in providing tobacco prevention education to schoolchildren, and case conferences in the preclinical years. The clinical years will include refresher courses, provided through distance learning, and specially designed training experiences that involve working with smoking patients during the students AHEC rotations in federally qualified health centers and other rural sites.

### STATE-FUNDED RURAL/UNDERSERVED TRAINING PROGRAM

Over the past year, the AHEC Program has established contractual affiliations with multiple residency programs to train their residents in community-based primary care sites such as federally qualified community health centers. The training program also played a key role in supporting the implementation of two major health fairs in the rural communities of Belle Glade and Clewiston. Over 200 faculty members and students from NSU's Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, Health Care Sciences, and Medical Sciences participated in this rural training/outreach effort. These health fairs provided a broad range of health services to approximately 1,500 residents from the medically underserved Glades region of South Florida.





### M.S.B.I. Program News of Note

On April 16-17, Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) students and faculty members attended the Cloud Computing in Healthcare Confer-

ence, which was hosted by the Cloud Computing Association in Miami, Florida. The conference covered when and how health care companies and organiza-

tions will adopt cloud-enabled products and solutions or how they will advance their already substantial investments in cloud-based technologies. Issues of cost efficiencies, scalability, improved administrative processes, and innovative communications capabilities were also addressed. *Conference attendees included (from left): Arif M. Rana, Ph.D., M.Ed., assistant professor of medical informatics; Javdaneh Kasravi (student); April Green (student); Elizabeth Oviawe, M.Sc., M.M.I.S., assistant director of data analysis and development; Josean Malcolm-Cook (alumni); and Troy Rubizovsky (student).*

On March 17, the M.S.B.I. program hosted a seminar entitled “Technology in Health Care” by John Santangelo, director of information technology at Cleveland Clinic Florida, who oversees all aspects of information technology such as network services, clinical informatics, IT business systems, and telecommunications and telemedicine services.

### NSU-COM Hosts Free Health Fair

On March 31, the college coordinated its annual health fair, which is sponsored by the Health Professions Division and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association and held at the Tower Shops/Home Depot Shopping Plaza in Davie.

During the event, over 100 attendees were able to participate in cholesterol, blood pressure, HIV, and diabetes health screenings as well as receive health care information from physicians, optometrists, physical therapists, dentists, occupational therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Information related to pediatrics, women’s health, family medicine, physical therapy, and public health was distributed by participating NSU-HPD colleges such as Osteopathic Medicine, Health Care Sciences, Nursing, Dental Medicine, and Optometry.

Additional highlights included an appearance by the Davie Fire Department and the participation of the Memorial Health Care System mobile units for adult and child health, which were on hand to provide free child immunizations and other health care services.



### Osteopathic Escalation: Three New D.O. Colleges Established

Three new colleges of osteopathic medicine have been established throughout the United States that will be matriculating their first classes in 2013:

**ALABAMA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**  
Dothan, Alabama

**CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

**MARIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**  
Indianapolis, Indiana

With the addition of these new schools, there are now 29 U.S. colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs), four branch campuses, and four additional teaching locations. Currently, more than 20 percent of medical students in the United States are earning their degrees at one of the nation’s COMs.



## Colton Wins AACOM Writing Award



**Scott Colton, APR**, director of medical communications, received a Best Feature Story or Article Award in the AACOM Communications Awards Competition held during the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Annual Meeting, which took place March 28-31 in Washington, D.C. Colton was honored for his fall 2011 *COM Outlook* article entitled "NFL to Osteopathic Physician: Dr. Claude Jones Completes Incredible Metamorphosis."

## Lippmann Participates in D.O./J.D. Program



In March, **OMS-II Carisa Lippmann** was the inaugural student accepted into the six-year NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine/Shepard Broad Law Center joint D.O./J.D. degree program. She will begin the law portion of her studies in July 2012. This progressive joint-degree program is of very limited availability nationally and offers NSU an opportunity to be a leader in yet another academic area. Consideration is being given to making this pilot program a permanent joint-degree opportunity for NSU students.

## Department of Clinical Immunology

NSU-COM has established the **Department of Clinical Immunology** and is in the process of developing the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, which will be based in the University Park Plaza complex located just to the south of the Terry Building. Nancy Klimas, M.D., professor of clinical immunology, will serve as chair of the newly launched department.

## Sivaraman Earns Governor's Scholarship



**Karthik R. Sivaraman**, a student in the Master of Public Health Program and a work-study student at the college's Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, was awarded a scholarship to attend the Governor's Hurricane Conference held May 12-18 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. After submitting an application and essay, Sivaraman received one of 29 scholarship awards from the Governor's Hurricane Conference – Student Scholarship Program. In the fall of 2012, he plans to enroll in the NSU-COM Master of Science in Disaster and Emergency Preparedness degree program.

## In Memoriam: Ronald B. Kaufman, D.O.

In April, **Ronald B. Kaufman, D.O.**, a longtime NSU-COM faculty member who retired several years ago, passed away following a long illness. Although he became a full-time faculty member in 1994, his first academic affiliation with the college occurred in 1980 when

he served as the inaugural chair of the Division of Cardiology. During his illustrious career, Dr. Kaufman served as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association in 1972-73 and chairman of the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine in 2000-2002.

## ECOP Spring Meeting Held at NSU-COM

On April 19-21, NSU-COM and Mark Sandhouse, D.O., hosted the spring meeting of the **Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP)**, which is composed of the chairs of the osteopathic principles and practice (OPP) departments or their equivalents from all colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. The main functions of the ECOP are to develop a common language for OPP and improve their teachings at osteopathic colleges and postgraduate training centers. A significant amount of work was accomplished during the meeting, including updates to educational modules used for teaching OPP, refinement of the *Glossary of Osteopathic Terminology*, and discussion regarding a curriculum for training M.D. colleagues who oversee D.O. residents.



## New Residencies at Larkin Community Hospital



**Larkin Community Hospital** in South Miami, Florida, which is a member of the college's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, received approval from the American Osteopathic Association's Program and Trainee Review Committee to establish several new osteopathic medical residency training programs effective July 1, 2012. They are as follows: general surgery, dermatology, geriatric medicine, rheumatology, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, allergy and immunology, sleep medicine, infectious diseases, addiction medicine, geriatric psychiatry, and forensic psychiatry.

## Medscape's Physician Compensation Report

According to **Medscape's 2012 Physician Compensation Report**, annual physician income declined in general, although the top-earning specialties remained the same as in Medscape's 2011 survey. In 2012, radiologists and orthopedic surgeons topped the list at \$315,000, followed by cardiologists (\$314,000), anesthesiologists (\$309,000), and urologists (\$309,000). Previously, radi-



ologists and orthopedic surgeons led the pack at a mean income of \$350,000 each, followed by anesthesiologists and cardiologists (both at \$325,000). The bottom-earning specialties in 2012's survey were pediatrics (\$156,000), family medicine (\$158,000), and internal medicine (\$165,000).

### Petrosky Joins Dean's Office



**Stephanie Petrosky, M.H.A., R.D.**, joined the college in April in the newly created role of director of administrative services. Petrosky, who was associated with HCA Plantation General Hospital and Covenant Retirement Communities before joining the NSU-COM managerial team, is responsible for a range of responsibilities. These include working with other college administrators in establishing short- and long-term plans and budgets, overseeing affiliation agreements and regulatory contracts, and administering the content of COM-specific policy and procedure manuals.

### NSU-COM Lends a Hand at Aging Conference

During the **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Broward Aging Network Conference** held May 3-4 at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in Pembroke Pines, second- and third-year medical students, along with NSU-COM Department of Geriatrics faculty members Hady Masri, D.O., and Kenya Rivas, M.D., provided a range of health care services to the attendees. In addition to offering mini cognitive examinations and blood pressure screenings, the students promoted general health and wellbeing strategies. Another individual who contributed to the conference's success was Elizabeth Hames, D.O., who became an NSU-COM geriatric fellow in July.



### Dr. Rosenbaum Honored at Bal Fantastique

Camaraderie and celebration were the themes of the evening at the **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Bal Fantastique**, which is a gala dinner dance and fund-raiser honoring the vision of Morton Terry, D.O., who, along with numerous other dedicated individuals, created a renowned health care teaching facility called the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD). This year's event, held March 24 at the



Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale, also honored Irv Rosenbaum, D.P.A., Ed.D., M.P.A., HPD executive dean for administration, who received the HPD Distinguished Service Award for his numerous contributions to the Health Professions Division. *In the above photo, Dr. Rosenbaum receives his award from Jacqueline A. Travisano, M.B.A., CPA, who serves as NSU's executive vice president and chief operating officer.*

### NSU-COM Lends its Talents to Miami Health Fair

On April 28, NSU-COM participated in the inaugural health and wellness fair at **Sierra Norwood Calvary Baptist Church** in Miami, which was coordinated by Cheryl Atherley-Todd, M.D., assistant professor of family medicine, and the Dinthill Technical High School (DTHS) Alumni Association of Florida. NSU-COM was well represented at the health fair, where students and faculty members screened patrons for weight issues, hypertension, and diabetes. Pediatric Club members performed growth curves on the children, while faculty members from the Department of Geriatrics were in attendance to conduct cognitive testing. Additional highlights included tobacco cessation counseling sessions and the participation of Master of Public Health students, who gave presentations on major public health issues such as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes.



### Cruz Earns Significant Student Honor



**Angela Cruz**, administrative assistant in the Office of Education, Planning, and Research and a legal studies major at NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, was named International Senator for Undergraduate Student Government for the 2012-13 academic year. "This experience helped me gain leadership experience and 'come out of my shell' during the debates," explained Cruz, who plans to go to law school once she graduates.





## HEALTH CARE LEGAL EAGLE

### *Practical Tips for Your Future in Medicine*

By Elizabeth P. Perez, Esq.  
Health Law Attorney, Broad and Cassel

**As a health care attorney, I often hear my clients say, “They didn’t teach us that in med school.” Today’s medical students are entering a field that continues to evolve at a rapid pace as the health care industry becomes more complex and even more highly regulated by the government. It is therefore imperative for you to stay abreast of relevant changes in health law that will inevitably impact you as future physicians. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA) is one of those changes.**

Elizabeth Perez, Esq., is Of Counsel in the Fort Lauderdale office of the statewide law firm Broad and Cassel. A health law attorney, she is a member of the firm’s Commercial Litigation, Health Law, and White Collar Criminal and Civil Fraud Defense Practice Groups.

### ***An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure***

The act will impose mandatory compliance programs for all health care providers as a condition of participation in Medicare or Medicaid. Before the PPACA, compliance programs were largely implemented on a voluntary basis. Many physician group practices are making compliance programs a priority now, if they had not done so already before the enactment of the PPACA. While you may think compliance does not apply to you because you have no plans to become a Medicare or Medicaid provider, learning about the significance of having a compliance program will be invaluable to your future career. Even if it’s voluntary, a compliance program is a way to avoid or mitigate legal problems and minimize potential liability exposure in the future, particularly as you enter such a highly regulated industry.

A compliance program is a preventative measure designed to help health care providers avoid potential problems and, more importantly, to ensure compliance with state and federal fraud and abuse laws. Currently, physicians nationwide are experiencing an increase in audit activity and investigations, which can result in significant Medicare overpayments, false claim demands, as well as the other collateral consequences. As our forefather, Benjamin Franklin, once said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” It is far more beneficial and cost-effective for physicians, both financially and emotionally, to be proactive in developing an effective compliance program than responding to government investigations.

Section 6401 of the PPACA requires health care providers to establish a compliance program as a condition for participation in Medicare or Medicaid. However, as of now, the law does not provide any specific guidance for physicians other than to state that it authorizes the government to establish the core elements for the compliance program and determine the timeline for its implementation. Despite the lack of information, we can turn to the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) for guidance as to the necessary components to structure an effective compliance program.

The OIG Web site (<http://oig.hhs.gov/compliance/physician-education/05compliance.asp>) provides a wealth of information concerning compliance programs, including recommended components. According to the OIG Web site, aptly titled A Roadmap for New Physicians, Compliance Programs for Physicians, it states that, “Establishing and following a compliance program will help physicians avoid fraudulent activities and ensure that they are submitting true and accurate claims.”

The following seven components provide a solid basis upon which a physician practice can create a voluntary compliance program:

- *conduct internal monitoring and auditing*
- *implement compliance/practice standards*
- *designate a compliance officer or contact*
- *conduct appropriate training and education*
- *respond appropriately to detected offenses and develop corrective action*
- *develop open lines of communication*
- *enforce disciplinary standards through well-publicized guidelines*

A more comprehensive guidance for physician practices is found in the OIG Compliance Program entitled Guidance for Individual and Small Group Physician Practices that was issued in October 2000.<sup>1</sup> While the aforementioned OIG components are meant to be a starting point for structuring an effective compliance program, a good compliance program is tailored specifically to fit the type and size of the physician’s practice.

As medical students, you will have the benefit of observing and learning how the OIG compliance program mandate will unfold over time. Perhaps it may even become a topic of interest in the medical schools. At the very least, understanding the program will help you become better prepared as physicians to practice in this highly regulated world of health care.

<sup>1</sup> *Federal Register*. Volume 65, No. 194 (October 5, 2000), found at <http://oig.hhs.gov/authorities/docs/physician.pdf>.

## Project HOPE: Making a Difference in the Lives of the Homeless

By Elliot Sklar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Family Medicine /Public Health and Project HOPE Director

In 2010, NSU-COM was honored to receive a five-year predoctoral primary care training grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to fund Project HOPE (Homelessness in Osteopathic Predoctoral Training), which addresses the deficit in medical education training specific to the health care and psychosocial needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Since its inception, the project has been adopted throughout the medical school curriculum with attention to those factors leading to, being reinforced by, and perpetuating the homelessness experience.

As the only academic institution that has established a formal agreement with the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, NSU-COM has begun to provide national homeless-specific clerkship opportunities to our students. Beginning in January 2012, placements were facilitated for nine students at clinical sites in Florida cities including Miami and Orlando, and as far as Los Angeles, California. As of this summer, the curriculum is fully integrated and expansion to student clerkship opportunities will remain ongoing. The feedback from this initial cadre of students has been remarkable and reinforces the vision of this project that so closely aligns with NSU-COM's mission.

Project HOPE was well represented at the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium held May 16-18 in Kansas City, Missouri. During the conference, recent M.P.H. graduate Karthik Sivaraman presented his poster research entitled "Barriers and Potential Solutions to Emergency Preparedness for Indi-

viduals Experiencing Homelessness." In addition, Project HOPE facilitated a networking luncheon for Florida clinicians and formerly homeless consumer advisory board members. Another oral presentation provided by Elliot Sklar, Ph.D., and Kristi Messer, M.S.W., M.P.H., entitled "Advancing Primary Care Training in Health Care for the Homeless" was well attended by a diverse audience including clinicians and medical students from across the country. The project team also participated in the annual rally for

Health Concern, whose reputation in the community is one of excellence in providing comprehensive care to those experiencing homelessness. Their feedback well articulates the clerkship's impact.

"Personally, this was a pivotal change in my experience for both one-on-one patient encounters and my own perspective on how homelessness shapes health care needs," Dr. Gonzales explained. "The rotation became less about plugging in the data and more about an appreciation for the complexities that were attached to the patient in the room — issues like safety, travel, food, shelter, clothing, and adverse life events. I knew these concerns existed before rotating at Camillus, but prior to this I had found it commonplace to dismiss a patient's difficult social issues, abandoning these needs to social workers as if they had limited merit for physicians."

Project HOPE's goal is the adoption of an innovative curriculum that transcends beyond the medical school classroom to establish a cohort of collaborative, culturally empathic, and respectful health care professionals. These testimonials from our recent graduates reinforce the value of their experiences in these unique clerkship opportunities.

As the project ensues into the next academic year, students who are interested in completing rotations at a homeless-specific site will have the opportunity to receive assistance from Project HOPE in finding placements nationwide at sites serving individuals experiencing homelessness.

For more information about Project HOPE, please contact Dr. Elliot Sklar at (954) 262-1837 or [elliott.sklar@nova.edu](mailto:elliott.sklar@nova.edu).



human rights alongside both federal employees and those experiencing homelessness. It is an experience that truly speaks to the importance, value, and humanity of this work.

Earlier this year, 2012 NSU-COM graduates Mark Alexander Gonzales, D.O., and Emily Greer, D.O., each spent one month at Miami's Camillus



# GREAT GEC Receives Supplemental HRSA Alzheimer's Grant



The college's Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) was awarded a supplemental grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The two-year, \$134,906 grant will focus on Alzheimer's education for professionals involved in elder services and care and launch in July 2012.

## Graduate Students from Comenius University Participate in NSU Research

Anna Pivovarčiová, M.D., and Natália Kamodyová, who are Ph.D. students at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, received European Union scholarships to participate in six-month research projects at NSU. Dr. Pivovarčiová, who is conducting research related to behavior in children with autism and testosterone levels, is working with faculty members from NSU-COM, the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, and the College of Pharmacy, while Kamodyová is collaborating with NSU-COM and College of Dental Medicine faculty members.

The outstanding experiences of these Slovakian students were made possible through collaborative initiatives established by Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., executive director of education, planning,

The Professional Education for Alzheimer's Resources and Leadership (Project PEARL) will revise and utilize the evidence-based curriculum provided by the National Alzheimer's Association for Professionals Working in a Home Care Setting in year one. In year two, the curriculum for Practice in Assisted Living Centers and Nursing Homes, including end-of-life care, will be revised and tailored for delivery to meet the targeted goals and objectives.

Given NSU-COM's success in placing graduates in rural and underserved rural areas throughout Florida, training will focus on Alzheimer's prevention, diagnosis, and care in medically underserved areas to address special needs elderly, particularly Hispanics. The curriculum revisions and enhancements will focus on two overarching goals that will serve as the umbrella for the objectives and activities to be delivered:

**PROVIDING** a cultural and linguistic approach to existing evidence-based curriculum available from the national Alzheimer's Association for health care professionals working with Hispanic elders  
**INCORPORATING** interprofessional

core competencies into the professional training provided

The curricular revisions and enhancements will be translated into Spanish as both English and Spanish training will be provided. Curricular materials will be disseminated online on the GREAT GEC Web site and will be part of the HRSA centralized Web site. As one of 29 osteopathic medical colleges in the United States, and with the support of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, all of these approved CME training programs will be disseminated and available online to osteopathic physicians. The GEC project has also identified a need for training among medical residents. With current residency affiliations through the college numbering 918, fellows and residents can also be trained through this initiative.

## IDEP Partners with MetaMedia

MetaMedia Training International, Inc. has partnered with NSU-COM's Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (IDEP) to develop a library of HazMat scenarios that will be integrated into existing and ongoing hazardous materials training that is overseen by NSU-COM through its five-year National Institutes of Health grant-funded project entitled South East Area Maritime Industry Safety Training (SEAMIST).

The \$100,000 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) grant, of which IDEP is receiving \$25,000, is being used to develop interactive, scenario-based training programs to help prevent, mitigate, and respond to tragic and avoidable incidents related to hazardous materials in the maritime industry

MetaMedia will use Apple's iPad to deliver the maritime safety training programs. The case studies will be based on real-life accidents using highly realistic scenarios that will cover the most critical information and knowledge required for dock workers to perform an incident risk-free response.



*Pictured (from left) are Dr. Anna Pivovarčiová, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, and Natália Kamodyová.*

## NSU-COM Faculty Members Receive President's, QOF Research Grants

On May 23, a number of NSU-COM faculty members, in collaboration with other NSU faculty researchers, were awarded cash endowments in the university's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant (CFRDG) program and the Quality of Life Grant program, which were created in 1999 to provide funding to faculty members in their efforts to secure additional resources for research activities. Each spring, awards of up to \$10,000 are provided to full-time faculty members based on the quality of their applications. Following are the projects that feature NSU-COM participation:

### President's Faculty Research and Development Grants

*"Thinking of Changing Your Alcohol and Tobacco Use? There's an App for that!"*

**Steve Bronsburg, Ph.D., M.H.S.A.**  
**Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**  
**Steven B. Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.**

*"Neurocognitive Sequelae of HIV Infection in the Older Hispanic Adult"*

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

*"A CBPR Approach to Capacity Building Among Latino Migrant Workers to Prevent HIV"*

**Maria Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.**

### Quality of Life Grant

*"ACT with Wisdom: Utilizing a Group Model of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy to Increase the Level of Psychological Resilience in Older Adults"*

**Linda Maurice**



## ACOFP Faculty Presentations

During the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Scientific Seminars held March 15-18 in Kissimmee, Florida, several full-time faculty members presented the following lectures:

**Hilda DeGaetano, D.O.**

*"Update on the Pediatric Well-Child Exam/Vaccinations"*

**Robert Hasty, D.O.**

*"Advancements in Stroke Prevention and Anticoagulation for Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation"*

**Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., and Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W.**

*"The Role of the Family Physician Post Disaster"*

**Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., and Kelley Davis, Ph.D.**

*"Preparing Your Practice for Emergencies"*

## Faculty/Staff Presentations at AACOM Meeting

*American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Annual Meeting  
 March 28-31 - Washington, D.C.*

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

*"Developing a Learner-Centered Interprofessional Faculty Development Program"*

**Robin Cooper, Ph.D., and Stacey Pinnock, M.S.W.**

*"Building Healthy Organizational Behavior Change: An Appreciative Inquiry Approach to Implementing Interprofessional Education"*

**Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**

*"The Patient's Role on the Inter-professional Team"*

**Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W., and Elliot Sklar, Ph.D.**

*"Advancing Primary Care Training in Health Care for the Homeless"*

**Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., and OMS-III Emily Young, M.A.T.**

*"Training Health Professions Students to Teach Healthy Behaviors"*

**Elliot Sklar, Ph.D.**

*"Losing Wait: Timely Considerations in the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity in Primary Care"*

**Kristi Messer, M.S.W., M.P.H., Charles Blackledge, M.P.H., Karthik Sivaraman, and Robin Cooper, Ph.D.**

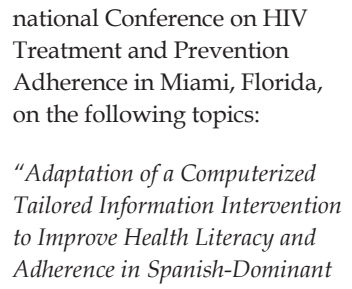
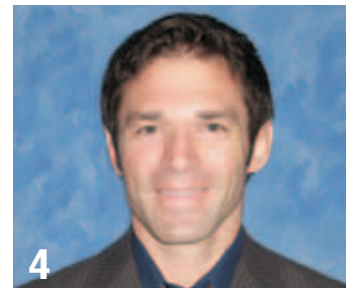
*"Preparedness Starts at Home: A Campus and Community Initiative for National Preparedness Month"*

**Sweta Tewary, Ph.D., and Charles Blackledge, M.P.H.**

*"Diabetes Foot Education Program for Health Care Professionals in Geriatric Care: An Interprofessional Evidence-Based Approach"*



# Research Highlights - Faculty and Student Achievements



**1 Delia Celestine, Ed.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of public health and director of graduate medical education, presented a poster on April 18 at the National Rural Health Association's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. Her poster was entitled "Nurturing Passion: A Grounded Theory of D.O. Graduates' Perceptions Regarding Impact of Clinical Rotations in Rural and Underserved Areas on Career Choices."

**2 Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP**, associate professor of pediatrics and assistant dean of preclinical education, presented a lecture on "Current Recommendations for Pediatric Immunizations" at the Monroe Osteopathic Medical Association's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference held May 30-June 3 in Key Largo, Florida.

**3 Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI**, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program, presented lectures on "Drugs for Bugs: Novel Antibiotics for Infections" and "C Diff Infections" at the Monroe Osteopathic Medical Association's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference held May 30-June 3 in Key Largo, Florida.

tion's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference held May 30-June 3 in Key Largo, Florida. He also was quoted in an article entitled "If You Don't Have an iPad, Go to the Medical Library and Borrow One" that was published in April on *iMedicalApps.com*.

**4 T. Lucas Hollar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health, had a book chapter on the topic "Moving Clinic- and Community-Based Practice into Policy to Address Child Healthy Weight (and Vice-Versa)" published in *A Comprehensive Overview of Pediatric Metabolic Syndrome and Related Health Consequences*. He also made an oral presentation on "Competing Narratives Within Health Policy: Professional, Organizational, and Political Borders' Effects on Identifying and Responding to Issues of Public Health" at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Public Administration Theory Network held May 17-20 in South Padre Island, Texas. During the National Health Promotion Summit held April 10-11 in Washington, D.C., Dr. Hollar presented his coauthored poster on "A Comparison of Citizens' Perceptions of Their Countries' Health Insurance

Systems: Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America," which was coauthored with **Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H.** and **T.M.**, and **Rushita Shaw, M.P.H., M.S.**

**5 Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, and biomedical informatics, made a number of solo and coauthored poster presentations over the past several months. As a solo author, Dr. Jacobs presented her research on "Sexual Risk Behaviors and HIV Testing in Racial/Ethnic Minority MSM Aged 40 and Older" and "HIV Sexual Risk and Protective Behaviors in Lesbians and Bisexual Black Women in the United States" on May 24 at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS in Miami, Florida. In addition, she presented a poster on "Erection Difficulties, Disclosure, and Risk for Unprotected Sex in HIV-Negative Midlife and Older MSM" on March 13 at the National STD Prevention Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She also presented four coauthored posters on June 4 at the Seventh Inter-

national Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence in Miami, Florida, on the following topics:

*"Adaptation of a Computerized Tailored Information Intervention to Improve Health Literacy and Adherence in Spanish-Dominant Hispanics Living with HIV"* with coauthors **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**, Joshua Caballero, Pharm.D., BCPP, Amarilis Acevedo, Ph.D., and **OMS-III Cristy Avila**

*"A Computerized Tailored Information Intervention to Improve Health Literacy and Adherence in Persons with HIV Infection"* with **Dr. Ownby**, Dr. Caballero, and Dr. Acevedo

*"Sleep Quality Is Related to Medication Adherence in Persons Treated for HIV Infection"* with **Dr. Ownby**, Dr. Caballero, and Dr. Acevedo

*"Development and Validation of a Brief Computer-Administered HIV-Related Health Literacy Scale (HIV-HL)"* with **Dr. Ownby**, Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., Dr. Caballero, and Dr. Acevedo

**6 OMS-III Anna Lowell** (pictured above) and **OMS-IV Emily Young, M.A.T., M.P.H.**, had their research poster entitled "The Youth Shelter Medical Internship: Improving Adolescent Health Care in a Community Shelter with Onsite Medical Student Leadership" accepted for presentation at the American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP) National Conference of Family Medi-



8



11

cine Residents and Medical Students to be held July 26-28 in Kansas City, Missouri. The poster contest is ultra-competitive, which is evidenced by the fact that only 16 posters were accepted for presentation. Lowell also received an AAFP \$600 First-Time Student Attendee Scholarship.

**7 OMS-III Jaclynn Moskow** presented a poster on March 17 entitled “Fasting Blood Glucose May Predict Depression in Nondiabetics” at the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry 2012 Annual Meeting. She was also interviewed about the project for an article that appeared in the March 22 issue of *Medical News*.

**8 OMS-I David Packer** had his coauthored research article entitled “H-NS Regulation of IraD and IraM Antiadaptors for Control of RpoS Degradation” published in the May 2012 issue of the *Journal of Bacteriology*.

**9 Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, served as coauthor of two posters on May 3 at the American Geriatrics Society



9

Annual Scientific Meeting held in Seattle, Washington: “A Retrospective Study of Basal Insulin Analogs in Elderly Nursing Home Residents with Type 2 Diabetes” and “Too Many Finger Sticks for Nothing? A Study of Sliding Scale Insulin Use Among Elderly Nursing Home Residents with Type 2 Diabetes.”

**10 Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**, professor of family medicine and public health and executive director of education, planning, and research, made several poster presentations at the Public Health Preparedness National Summit in Anaheim, California, held February 21-24.

She served as the sole author of “An Examination of Elder Resilience Post Disaster” and coauthored “Implementing an Integrated and Ongoing Disaster Preparedness Training Program for Community Health Centers in Florida” with **Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W.**, assistant professor of public health and assistant project manager for the Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness.

In addition, she discussed “Health Care Reform and Impact on the Geriatric Population” at the NSU-COM Fifth Annual Interprofessional Geriatrics Symposium held March 2-3 on the NSU campus in Davie and presented a four-hour training program for the Florida Association of Community Health Centers at the Heart of Florida Commu-



10

nity Health Center in Miami on February 29. She also was named a member of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative-MedEdPORTAL Advisory Committee, where she will represent the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

**11 Elliot M. Sklar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine and public health and project manager of the Homelessness in Osteopathic Predoctoral Education project, made several presentations at the American Society on Aging Annual Conference held March 28-April 1 in Washington, D.C. Included was an oral presentation on “The Caregiver Teleconnection” and a poster presentation entitled “Geriatric Medical Education: The Ideal Model for Interprofessional Education” coauthored with Dr. Cecilia Rokusek.

He also discussed “Screening and Risk Assessment: A Decisional Aid for Elder Abuse” at the NSU-COM Fifth Annual Interprofessional Geriatrics Symposium held March 2-3 on the NSU campus. On May 17, Dr. Sklar and **Kristi Messer** presented their poster entitled “Advancing Primary Care Training in HCH” at the National Health Care for the Homeless Annual Conference and Policy Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri.

In addition, he had his research project entitled “Screening and Intervention Decisional Aid

for Elder Abuse” accepted as a poster presentation at the International Federation on Aging’s 11<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Aging held May 28-June 1 in Prague, Czech Republic.

## Recent Grant Proposals

### “Community Initiative for Primary Care Access in Rural Environments (CIPCARE)”

Submitted by **Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**, to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Requested Amount**  
\$8.6 million

#### Project Goal

The Community Initiative for Primary Care Access in Rural Environments—Project CIPCARE—is a new community-based health care delivery model that integrates interprofessional and team-based coordinated care that is provided to Medicaid and CHIP recipients in Glades and Hendry counties, which are two of Florida’s poorest rural counties.

### “Care and Reform for Economic Stability (CARES) – A CMS Innovations Project”

Submitted by **Elliot Sklar, Ph.D.**, to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Requested Amount**  
\$26.2 million

#### Project Goal

Project CARES is a health care delivery model for Medicare and Medicaid/Medicare recipients in two of Florida’s largest counties designed around a new model of community-based, culturally appropriate care provided primarily in the home that is focused on several areas, including interprofessional care coordination and increased access to care within the context of the medical home.



# NSU Overview:

## Dateline: Health...Swordfish and Sharks...and Golf

### Survival of the Swordfish

Jenny Fenton, a graduate student in marine biology at **NSU's Oceanographic Center**, is passionate about swordfish. After all, they are a top ocean predator whose survival is vital to balancing the ocean's ecosystem as well as being an important food source. However, years of overfishing in the Florida Straits, where America's swordfish nursery is located, has depleted their population to the point that longline fishing gear is now outlawed in the Straits and juvenile swordfish caught measuring 47 inches or less must be released. Longline gear uses up to 1,000 hooks strung on a single line to catch large quantities of fish.

Fenton decided to make her passion a research project. Over the past two years, she has been analyzing the survival rates of juvenile swordfish caught by fishermen using rod-and-reel and buoy gear. Her research is the first study of its kind. Of the 20 satellite tags she plans to put on the captured fish, data from 16 have been analyzed. Five of the fish died within a day, while nine survived without problems.

Fenton, whose study is sponsored by the NOAA Fisheries Service, will share her data with the federal agency. Then it will be up to resource managers to decide whether allowing swordfish anglers to sell their catch commercially is worth the fishing pressure it would put on their nursery grounds.



*Jenny Fenton conducting her research.*

### Dateline: Health Wins Telly Award

**Dateline: Health**, the NSU Health Professions Division's long-running cable TV program, was a winner in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Telly Awards, which is the premier competition for honoring the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television sta-

tions, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world. **Dateline: Health**, which received its first Telly Award in 2008, was honored for its episode on spinal surgery options. "We are very excited to be receiving our second Telly Award," said Dr. Fred Lippman, who hosts the program. "This prestigious accolade validates the quality of **Dateline: Health's** programming and the impact we are making in the South Florida health care community."



### Hammerhead Shark Double Whammy

Identity confusion between a new and yet unnamed shark species, originally discovered off the eastern United States by **NSU Oceanographic Center** researchers, and its lookalike cousin—the endangered scalloped hammerhead shark—may threaten the survival of both species.

According to an April 2012 article in the scientific journal *Marine Biology*, the new lookalike hammerhead species has now been discovered more than 4,300 miles away near the coast of southern Brazil. This confirms that the original finding was not a local oddity and that the new species is much wider spread. The lookalike species may face the same fishery pressures as the real scalloped hammerhead, which is being fished unsustainably for its highly prized fins.

"It's a classic case of longstanding species misidentification that not only casts further uncertainty on the status of the real scalloped hammerhead, but also raises concerns about the population status of this new species," said Mahmood Shivji, Ph.D., who oversaw the new research





at the Oceanographic Center's Save Our Seas Shark Center USA and Guy Harvey Research Institute.

Dr. Shivji's team first discovered the new hammerhead species in 2005 when examining the DNA of sharks thought to be scalloped hammerheads based on their physical appearance. A research team from the University of South Carolina independently confirmed the existence of the new species in 2006. Combining the genetic assessments of NSU and South Carolina researchers shows that at least seven percent of the sharks in U.S. waters originally thought to be scalloped hammerheads turned out to be the new species. This means the population of the endangered real scalloped hammerhead in U.S. waters is probably smaller than originally thought.



© Save Our Seas Foundation/Peter Verhoog

## NSU Men's and Women's Golf Teams Capture Championships

May 19 proved to be a historic day as the NSU men's and women's golf teams won their respective **NCAA Division-II Championships** in Louisville, Kentucky.

"What a day to be a Shark! Winning two national championships on the same day is really special, in fact really remarkable," commented Michael Mominey, NSU director of athletics. "The university and the athletic department are so proud of the student athletes and coaching staffs that make up these teams. We commend them on a season-long commitment to be champions in their respective sports both on and off the field."

The second-ranked NSU women's golf team overcame the grueling par-72 Persimmon Ridge Golf Course to win its fourth consecutive NCAA

Division-II National Championship. The Sharks finished atop the 12-team field to win the tournament with a collective score of +82 (308-306-315-305—1,234)—20 strokes ahead of runner-up No. 1 Florida Southern.

The top-ranked NSU men's golf team captured its first NCAA National Championship title at the par-72 Cardinal Club Golf Course in a five-day, six-round tournament, defeating Chico State in a head-to-head final match with a 5-0 sweep. During the five-day tournament, the Sharks finished the first three rounds second overall, making the eight-team cut to advance to head-to-head match play. The Sharks battled through 36 holes to defeat South Carolina-Aiken in the quarterfinals 4-1 before squeaking by Central Oklahoma in the semifinal round by way of the total strokes tie-breaker to advance to the national final against Chico State.







## DEFYING TRADITION: Senior Students Make Their Latent Dreams Come True

*By Scott Colton, APR  
Director of Medical Communications*

**T**he old adage that age is just a number has never been truer than it is today. In a society where 70 is considered the new 50 and TV icon Betty White is as scorchingly hot as ever at the frisky young age of 90, is it any wonder that educational choices that once were almost exclusively the domain of the under-30 set are now being pursued by distinguished professionals nearly twice that age?

Take for instance OMS-II Elizabeth Potter, Ph.D., M.B.A., who will be 59 when she graduates in 2015. Or Robert Coffin, D.O., M.S., who at a similar age just earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from NSU-COM. Or OMS-III Joshua Kretchmar, Ph.D., the baby of the bunch, who will be approaching 50 when he graduates in 2014.

Making a career transition later in life is certainly not a new phenomenon, especially in recent years due to the prolonged economic downturn that has forced millions of people to reevaluate their lives—and professional futures—as a result of losing their jobs. However, the aforementioned scenario was not the case for Drs.

Coffin, Kretchmar, and Potter, who willingly relinquished lucrative careers in their mid-40s and 50s to begin the long and laborious journey toward osteopathic fulfillment.

### **Pursuing a Longstanding Ambition**

In the case of Dr. Coffin, who spent over 25 years working as an assistant inspector, supervisory special agent, and acting unit chief for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), an unsuccessful attempt to attend medical school while he was pursuing his Master of Science in Biochemistry from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, only served to significantly delay—but not derail—his medical school aspirations. After earning his master's degree, Dr. Coffin spent several years working as a research biochemist at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

Interestingly, it was during his years with the FBI that his interest in pursuing a medical career was rekindled. “I joined the FBI as an agent and worked mostly violent crime and organized crime cases,” he explained. “Later, because of my science background, I was

*“In a society where 70 IS CONSIDERED THE NEW 50 and TV icon Betty White is as scorchingly hot as ever at the frisky young age of 90, is it any wonder that educational choices that once were almost exclusively the domain of the under-30 set are now being pursued by distinguished professionals nearly twice that age?”*

transferred to the FBI laboratory in Washington, D.C., and conducted forensic DNA testing in criminal cases. In this endeavor, I conducted DNA testing on items of evidence mostly from sexual assault or homicide cases and followed up by testifying around the country in criminal trials in both state and federal court.

“At that time, using recombinant DNA techniques in forensic cases was in its infancy, and the goal of the DNA Analysis Unit was to have DNA evidence admitted in every court in the land and used on a routine basis,” he added. “After completing my training, I was the seventh agent certified by the FBI to conduct the testing and present the evidence in court. While I was learning recombinant DNA techniques in the FBI lab, I realized how these practices would have been very useful in my prior research as well as their growing importance and use in medicine, especially in diagnostics and research. This helped renew my interest in pursuing a career in medicine or a related field. Because I had a desire to obtain some position in a science-related field after leaving the bureau, medicine became my number one choice.”

Unlike Dr. Coffin, who was interested in science and medicine from an early age, the late-blooming Dr. Potter was already in her late 20s before she even decided to enroll in college. “My life changed when I learned my baby brother, Vernon, was interviewing at medical schools,” said Dr. Potter, who earned her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1994 and her M.B.A. in Global Business from the University of Phoenix Graduate Business School in 2005. “This made me pause and take account of my life as I approached 28 years of age. My youngest brother was going to fulfill his highest dream, yet I had yet to earn a college degree. I knew something was definitely wrong with this picture.”

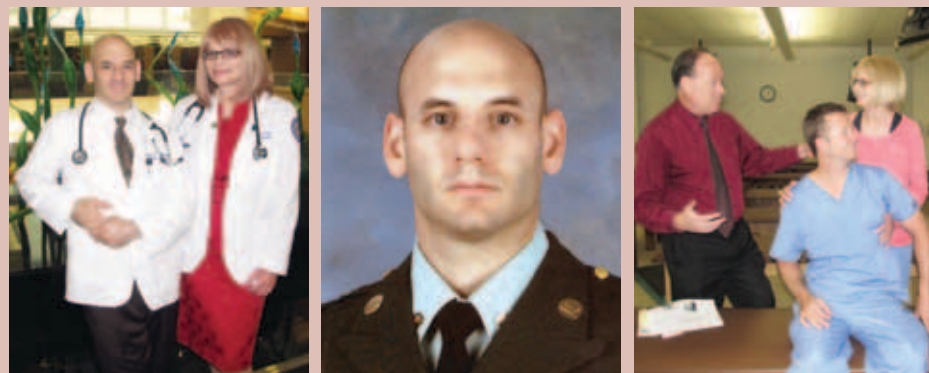
Over the ensuing years, Dr. Potter quickly made up for lost time, majoring in History and Philosophy of Social Sciences and Medicine while earning her bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1989, as well as assisting in several behavioral drug studies. After receiving her Ph.D., she maintained a prolific research career over the next two decades that included working as a research scientist at Rush Presbyterian–St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago, a research scientist/grants writer for the University of Miami School of Medicine’s Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, and as an Alzheimer’s disease research scientist at Mount Sinai Medical Center’s Wien Center for Alzheimer’s Disease and Memory Disorders in Miami Beach.

Surprisingly, for someone who had spent so many years earning numerous

accolades for her work in the research realm, Dr. Potter admitted to never feeling an intrinsic sense of fulfillment regarding the research process. “Certainly I had a good run, working with many talented scientists in neuroscience research,” she explained. “However, during these many years, I was not truly happy. For example, coming out of Johns Hopkins Medical, I was privileged to interview with Toshio Narahashi, Ph.D., the world-famous discoverer of the tetrodotoxin channel, for a postdoctoral position. However, I turned it down on the advice of colleagues who said I could ‘not sit still long enough to do cell patch-clamping.’ Similarly, a couple of years ago, a famous researcher who developed a memory test administered in many countries, asked me, ‘Elizabeth, if I set you up with your own lab and everything you needed to conduct research on a



*Pictured (clockwise from left) are: Dr. Robert Coffin, Dr. Elizabeth Potter, and Dr. Joshua Kretchmar; Dr. Potter receiving OMM training from David Boseler, D.O.; Dr. Kretchmar during his military incarnation; and Drs. Kretchmar and Potter during a photo shoot at NSU’s Alvin Sherman Library.*







particular channel that is of interest to me, would you do it?' Again, I said no."

Although becoming a physician had been a dearly held dream for many years, Dr. Potter didn't commit herself to pursuing the possibility until she had an epiphany in her early 50s following the death of a loved one. "When my grandmother passed away at the age of 93, I suddenly realized I could have 40 more years to live," she stated. "I decided I must live these years to fulfill my dream of working in medicine and expanding my horizons, perhaps by working in psychiatry, internal medicine, and clinical research all together."

When it comes to Dr. Kretchmar, a wick- edly witty and incredibly self-deprecating individual, his journey to become a medical student was something that occurred almost in spite of himself, as he freely admitted. The youngest of five children, Dr. Kretchmar was a mischievous tyke who "ran pretty much free through most of my teens and did terribly in school when I bothered to go at all," he said. "I was so out of control that by the time I was 15, my parents sent me to live with the only person who hadn't given up on me—a sister in Israel—but there was no magical transformation there either. I

was a rough kid, not someone one thinks is headed to medical school. But I always wanted to be a physician. After returning to the United States, I was intent on going to medical school and looked for the shortest route in: I quit high school and took a GED to start at the local college a year earlier. Of course, I was too impatient, undisciplined, and immature to complete any degree at that point, least of all the rigorous premed requirements, and did terribly."

After devoting an inordinate amount of time to the only things that kept his attention—girls, martial arts, and international travel—Dr. Kretchmar rededicated himself to his educational pursuits, earning a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Wisconsin in 1992 and a Master of Arts in American Literature and Rhetoric from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1996. That was followed in 2002 by the attainment of his Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Cultural Criticism from the University of Texas at Arlington.

However, while he was pursuing his master's degree in Texas, a seminal event occurred that changed the trajectory of his life. "I ran out of money for grad school halfway through my master's degree," he explained. "This was before the Gulf Wars,

and so the U.S. Army Reserve seemed a 'safe way' to pay for graduate school. The recruiter assured me that 'One weekend a month and two weeks in the summer and you will never be deployed.' Oops.

"My unit was deployed for a few months to rebuild El Salvador, and I volunteered to go to Guatemala to rebuild after multiple devastating earthquakes took out much of its infrastructure," he continued. "Somewhere along the line, the Army Reserve found out I had gotten a Ph.D. and promoted me from an enlisted soldier (sergeant) to a second lieutenant. I was then sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where I was trained in civil and combat engineer operations. I had a few fun years after that, commanding a reserve engineering detachment in East Texas, training other units, doing reserve duty in Japan for two years, checking the logistics and supply issues of various plans, and working on my Japanese language skills."

The next several years would prove to be industrious ones for Dr. Kretchmar, who balanced working as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas, establishing and overseeing a nonprofit organization that benefits the people of Vietnam, and fulfilling his military duties. Then, on December 7, 2005, he received a life-changing phone call from the military.

"Seven days later, I was on a plane," he stated. "I was assigned to the Joint Special



*Dr. Kretchmar with his wife, Mariana.*

Operation Task Force-Philippines to assist with the Global War on Terrorism. I was the forward engineer commander, which meant I was the engineer in charge of everything from toilets to building combat trails in the south region of the Philippines for the largest combined special-forces operations I think the United States has ever—or will ever—run. It was, and still is, a war zone featuring real bullets. Not fun.”

Four months later, in a stroke of luck that could be construed as either injurious or advantageous depending on how you analyzed the circumstances at the time, Dr. Kretchmar experienced a severe bout of both peri- and myocarditis. “I was medically evacuated first by helicopter to a small hospital on a nearby island, and then after I stabilized, by private jet to Manila, where I spent a few weeks getting the best medical care the Philippines had to offer before returning home to Texas.

“So there I was in my late 30s/early 40s, teaching English at a nice, small university

From finding time for their spouses and children to juggling numerous other personal and professional commitments that many of their younger medical students have yet to cope with, being a medical student of a more-mature age can prove problematic but also richly rewarding.

“For me, the challenges include the responsibilities that come with age and extended families,” said Dr. Potter, who has been teaching anatomy and physiology as an adjunct faculty member at Miami Dade College’s Wolfon Campus since 2010. “However, my husband Tony and I got married later in life, so we have cats, not children. The benefit of being older is that after 15 years of marriage, my husband knows how to support me, which is a great help and blessing.”

However, in order for Dr. Coffin to pursue his NSU-COM degree, much more upheaval was involved from both a geographic and emotional standpoint. Although his three children are all adults, with the

curve is much steeper,” admitted Dr. Kretchmar, who credits his wife of 14 years, Mariana, for keeping him sane. “Short-term memory deteriorates with age, and I have short-term memory deficits to begin with. Moreover, my expertise is so far outside the biological/physiological sciences that I might as well have come from Mars to attend medical school. On the other hand, I do not have the same fears of my fellow students. They are trying to figure out how to ‘rock their rotations’ and compete for top slots or residencies at what they believe are the right hospitals. They are looking at medicine as a way to make a living and excel. These are not issues for me because medicine is not a way for me to make a living at all. I have already done that. Medicine is for me a calling, an avocation done for love and not a vocation done for money.

“After I’m done with my medical school responsibilities, I go home and play with my son before reading and preparing to help people again the next day,” he added. “I don’t

---

*“Obviously, at this age, the slope of **THE LEARNING CURVE IS MUCH STEEPER.** Short-term memory deteriorates with age, and I have short-term memory deficits to begin with. Moreover, my expertise is so far outside the biological/physiological sciences that I might as well have come from Mars to attend medical school.” - DR. JOSHUA KRETCHMAR*

---

while trying to figure out what I just saw and did in my whirlwind military tour of the beautiful southern Philippines,” he continued. “I was also buying and fixing up various types of real estate and working for all my professor friends to remodel their houses to pay off my astronomical student loans and fund my charity in Vietnam. In my spare time, I took premed classes. I was happy and hard at work because I knew I would be in medical school soon.”

### **Making the Medical School Transition**

Dealing with the complexities and responsibilities that accompany being a medical student are arduous enough for those in their 20s, so imagine the numerous challenges the brave triumvirate of Drs. Coffin, Kretchmar, and Potter did—and continue to—contend with on a daily basis.

youngest being 22, Dr. Coffin made the difficult decision to relocate to South Florida without his wife, Dana, so he could focus on his coursework. “When I came to NSU, I chose to get an apartment near the school by myself, so either my wife or I would travel back and forth every two weeks or so for visits,” he explained. “This really gave me extra time to focus on studying and keeping abreast with the workload. But when I was home, I made it a point to spend sufficient time with my wife, family members, and friends to maintain those important relationships and have a strong support network.”

For Dr. Kretchmar, being approximately 20 years older than his medical school peers does present some obvious challenges—as well as a far-reaching perspective on the overall medical school experience. “Obviously, at this age, the slope of the learning

have to compete or try out for residencies. I know there is a residency out there for a guy who wants to help people heal. That’s a perspective that only comes with age.”

Dr. Potter wholly endorses Dr. Kretchmar’s “with age comes wisdom” philosophy, which has allowed her to try new things, like become both a teacher and medical student, and overcome long-held fears in the process. “One morning, I woke up and suddenly I was not so afraid of things,” she said. “For example, an often-cited study found the majority of people rank death below public speaking in order of personal fears. Now I am not so afraid to speak in public—if I can read from a prepared script. Also, I am beginning to learn that if you stop worrying about yourself and take a moment to care about the other person, that person may *cut you some slack* and perhaps



become a friend. I am still learning the art of friendship—a most valuable mutual gift. Perhaps by becoming a physician, I can help others and perfect this art.”

Interestingly, Drs. Coffin, Kretchmar, and Potter said they have never faced any type of overt ageism in their dealings with the college’s administrators, faculty members, and student peers. What they found instead was a warm and welcoming environment that has allowed them to prosper in their own individualistic way. “In general, I think the osteopathic medical profession is more progressive in its attitudes toward students who are older,” stated Dr. Potter. “NSU-COM students have certainly shown compassion and kindness toward me and my ‘life-accomplished’ colleagues. Our professors seem to respect our experience, while we older students understand there is so much more to learn.”

“There are really no drawbacks to being an older medical student except the obvious—in all probability, a relatively shorter career when compared to others,” said Dr. Coffin, who just began his family medicine residency in Largo, Florida. “I feel that medical professionals are a little more accepting of differences than most individuals, and I feel fortunate to have not received any adverse comments or treatment from either faculty members or peers. To the contrary, most are very supportive. The most fulfilling aspect of being an older student is probably much like that of any medical student, and that is being able to meet and work with some fantastic individuals and faculty members, being able to help patients during some of the most trying points of their lives, being able to see some amazing and cutting-edge medical treatments, and probably most important of all, being able to be a part of the art and science of medicine.”

“I have formed several wonderful relationships with my professors,” Dr. Kretchmar admitted. “I call them friends, see them as colleagues, and relate to them. I have also helped a lot of my younger peers. I see their angst—feel it myself—and sometimes can pull them aside and show them a bigger picture. I’m no star performer academically, but I know how to help some of them gain a bit of perspective. When someone feels better as a result of my assistance, I have done something useful and transformed a little negative energy.”

### Forecasting Their Futures

Because he is a recent NSU-COM graduate, Dr. Coffin already knows where his professional destiny will lay once he completes his family medicine residency, which is likely to involve doling out top-notch medical care in a small practice in the Tampa Bay area of Florida.

With three years remaining in her medical school career, Dr. Potter’s ultimate goal is to marry her myriad interests into a fulfilling career once she graduates. “With a Ph.D. in neuroscience and many years of experience working in neuroscience research, a career path combining psychiatry, internal medicine, and clinical research would be very exciting and optimal,” she stated.

And then there’s the philosophical Dr. Kretchmar, who has a resolute viewpoint on why he came to NSU-COM and what he hopes to accomplish in the future. “I read the college’s mission statement before applying, and I want what NSU-COM wants—to work with underserved populations, poorly understood populations, and when possible, do austere medicine,” he explained. “Any one of the primary care resi-

dencies will get me there, and to be frank, the difference between an internist, a family practitioner, or an emergency medicine physician doesn’t matter to patients as long as the doctor makes them feel better.

“I don’t care about money at all, although my wife says I have to pay off my student loans, so I have to make a little,” he joked. “I intend to spend a lot of time raising money to run the kinds of free clinics and overseas charity projects I want to do. That probably means I will be moonlighting in emergency rooms and urgent care clinics to raise money directly through my salary as well as by attending professional dinners to speak on behalf of this or that disaster or group in need of supplies and doctors.”

With the perspective of age and maturity on his side, Dr. Kretchmar has become a fully evolved individual who can say without hesitation that “I know I am here to do better. I am going to give my patients what they need, which is usually compassion first, closely followed by having someone to listen to them, just listen to them, right into their bones and heart and lungs—and for more than seven minutes,” he passionately declared. “Any doctor reading this is probably saying ‘Nice idea, but he can’t do it. He’ll never make enough money to stay afloat.’ But my life has been punctuated by people saying ‘You can’t do x, y, and z’ or ‘You have to recognize your limitations.’

“I have been telling my students the opposite for 20 years, which is this: If you recognize your limitations, those will be your limitations,” he concluded. “I will not limit myself or my patients because *the system* is not working. I will not let the limitations of *the system* be my limitations as a physician.”



# MELNICK MEMORIES

## Looking Back...at Graduation Awards

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

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

Graduation is a time for celebration and an opportunity to reward graduates for specific accomplishments in their student days. Last year, 32 graduating seniors received awards. Some of those awards are named in honor of special people or donors, and it is easy to lose sight of who they are. Let me try to remedy that.

The Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award. This naming is an obvious one, but for the few who do not know, Morton Terry, D.O., FACOI, was the driving force and founder of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) in 1979.



Dr. Terry served for most of its history as the first president. When the merger with Nova occurred in 1994, he became the first chancellor of the NSU Health Professions Division. His wife Geraldine (Gerry) was closely allied with him and most supportive.

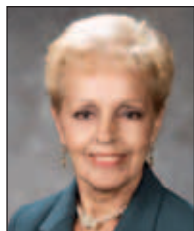
### Matthew A. Terry, D.O., Memorial Award

Matthew served as dean of SECOM during its middle years. He was the eldest son of Morton and Geraldine Terry and came to SECOM with high credentials because he was one of the few doctors in the country to earn a degree in medical education at the time. Sadly, he died tragically at an early age, which is why this award is given in his memory.

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

Dr. Weiner, with a strong psychiatry background, came to SECOM at its start, serving as the inaugural assistant dean of admissions and student affairs and establishing that department on a firm footing. Unfortunately, he died within a few years of accepting the position. He also served on the faculty as professor of psychiatry.

### Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award



Morton Smith, D.O., and his wife, Mary, both contributed greatly to the founding and operation of SECOM. Dr. Smith was with SECOM from its inception, serving in many capacities, including director of clinics and professor of family medicine. Mary, who had been an employee of Osteopathic General Hospital, continued with SECOM—and then NSU-COM—for many years until her retirement several years ago, serving in many administrative positions, including college registrar.

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

A local practicing family physician, Dr. Salman was a very early supporter of the fledgling SECOM and joined the faculty as clinical professor of fam-

ily medicine. He was extremely active in family medicine organizational affairs, including serving as president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

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

This prize was established to honor Dr. Greber for his long service and contributions to the college as professor of internal medicine and cardiology as well as chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine.

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



One of the longest-serving professors in the college, Daniel Barkus, D.O., FACOOG, headed the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from its very inception up until his death in 2010. A consistent performer, he was often chosen as the students' favorite professor.

### Rose Community Service Award

Community service people themselves, Jonathan Rose, Ph.D., and his wife Terri Rose, O.D., established this award. Jonathan first served as president of the SECOM Foundation and later joined the Health Professions Division as vice chancellor for operations; Terri was one of the early graduates of our College of Optometry.

### Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

Donna was the wife of Kenneth Moritsugu, M.D., a career officer in the U.S. Public Health Service who reached the heights of assistant surgeon general of the United States, deputy surgeon general, and eventually acting surgeon general. In the process, he became a rear admiral. Throughout his service, he was always a friend to the osteopathic profession and grew to know and work with many D.O.s. Donna met a tragic and untimely death, and this award was established by SECOM to memorialize her.

Many honorable students win these awards—all named for honored icons of our college.





# Medical Students Without Borders

By Ken Ma, M.B.A., Associate Director, NSU Office of Public Affairs

In Vietnam, OMS-IV Leigh Anne Bressler learned that the quality and quantity of care patients receive depends on how much money they can afford for health care since the impoverished nation's health care system runs largely on a cash-pay system.

In Argentina, OMS-IV Heidi Eleanor Hagerott gave basic medical exams to residents of rural villages where electricity and running water are considered luxuries.

Their experiences are reflective of other NSU-COM students who volunteered for an international selective medical rotation program in 28 countries in five continents. These rotations provide the students with academic credit, allow them to discover other cultures, and help them learn about international health care systems and the practice of medicine in other countries where access to care is very limited and some of patients have never seen a doctor before. "In my two months in Argentina, I saw the true humanistic viewpoint of medicine," Hagerott said. "I left La Rioja in tears and will always keep Argentina close to my heart."

Since 2008, NSU-COM students have become compassionate medical ambassadors for the university as they participate in the delivery of primary care throughout the world. They have also introduced the practice of osteopathic medicine to many countries, where this branch of American medicine is unknown.

"The international rotations allow our medical students and faculty members to learn and share different health care delivery systems and introduce the osteopathic profession around the world," said James T. Howell, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean for professional relations and director of the International Medical Rotations Program. "We are very optimistic that osteopathic medicine will eventually be a major health contributor around the world."

Hagerott and Bressler, like other NSU-COM students, are given a wide range of opportunities during their international rotations. It could be a routine medical examination, participating in the treatment of infectious and chronic diseases, or the delivery of public health and

preventive medical services. "The availability and affordability of vaccinations in Vietnam has been subpar, leading to outbreaks of several preventable diseases," Bressler said. "I saw a middle-aged Vietnamese man with a nasty case of the mumps. This was my first and hopefully last time to see such a preventable disease."

Bressler said the man's case reinforces the importance of vaccinations and added that it should make Americans feel lucky to live in a country that has far-reaching public health initiatives to protect its population. "As a whole, my experience in Vietnam has opened my eyes to some of the health care needs of other cultures I have yet to have as patients," added Bressler, who also treated expatriates. "It has prepared me to be open-minded and sensitive to their needs when I will inevitably encounter many of them as a practicing physician in the melting pot of America."

Some of the countries where NSU-COM students have completed their rotations include Haiti, Peru, India, Colombia, Ghana, Bulgaria, United Arab Emirates, China, the Philippines, Brazil, France, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, Mexico, Ecuador, South Africa, Ireland, Guatemala, Kenya, Taiwan, Israel, Jordan, Costa Rica, Nepal, Germany, and Pakistan.

More than 150 medical students have participated annually in international medical trips lasting from 10 days to three months, said Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, NSU-COM dean. He said the program has a positive impact on the professional growth of NSU medical students since these opportunities start with an international medical outreach elective at the end of the student's first semester during year one, progressing to international clinical rotations during their fourth year.

"NSU-COM students who are engaged in these international rotations return to the United States with a global medical mindset," said Anthony J. DeNapoli, Ed.D., NSU executive director of international affairs. "Their experiences will undoubtedly change the way they think, view, understand, and care for a changing patient population in America."



## My Story: Adventure in Australia

*“Ladies and gentlemen, we are pleased to have at Brook Medical Centre, Belinda Edokpolo, a medical student from Florida in the United States. She will be observing us for the week. Please be sure to say hello and don’t forget to ask her about life in Florida.”*

It was this brief announcement by John Rogers, M.B.B.S., via the intercom at Brook Medical Centre in Muswellbrook in New South Wales, Australia, that made me realize my position. I found this announcement comical at first because it sounded like a celebrity salutation. But I soon realized the implication of the announcement as the doctors, nurses, patients, and their families trickled in one after the other to welcome me to Brook Medical and Australia. With each handshake, I replayed the words “visitor, medical student, and United States” in my head. It dawned on me that I was a medical ambassador, and these were the words I should act in accordance with.

In the spring of 2012, I had the opportunity to visit Sydney and rural Muswellbrook as part of an international medical selective rotation that allowed me to learn about the similarities and differences between medical care in Australia and the United States. As a third-year medical student in the United States, I was at a stage where I was gaining exposure to multiple clinical setting and sites. I had experienced how patient care is approached, particularly in metropolitan Miami-Dade and Fort Lauderdale. I had admitted patients in the emergency room under the guidance and supervision of resident physicians and attendings at my rotation sites, utilizing logical and organized history and physical examinations. It was from these experiences,

which have been embellished with easily accessible medical technology, that my curiosity to do an international observership was aroused.

Brook Medical Centre caters to the 15,000 inhabitants of Muswellbrook, which is a town 151 miles from Sydney that is home to eight coalmines, the wine-grape industry, and horse breeding. Based on this knowledge, I was eager to immerse into the town’s culture and medicine. My experience at Brook was more than I had expected, as I was warmly received by Dr. Rogers, the center’s managing partner. First up was an initiation for medical

*Belinda Edokpolo enjoys a sightseeing tour near the Sydney Opera House.*



students in Australia. My seat was right next to the practitioner facing the patient. This I later learned is the routine seating for medical students in Australia. Being that close to the practitioners facilitated our conversations about their health care system that covered topics such as osteopathic medicine, medical insurance, and physician compensation.

Before going to Australia, I knew it was a country where osteopathic medicine as we know it here in the United States has practice limitations. During my osteopathic manipulative medicine classes during my first two

years at NSU-COM, I had learned that *osteopaths* had different training since they are primarily trained in manipulative medicine and thus had a scope of practice restricted to manipulation or manual medicine. Therefore, they are *osteopaths* and not *osteopathic physicians* who practice the full scope of medicine and receive additional training in manipulative medicine. An American D.O. would register in Australia as an *osteopath*, with limitations in the practice of medicine. Physicians at Brook Medical Centre made me aware that these limitations were still present, but they were very receptive as I enlightened them on the significant differences.

Although there were differences in the way medical care was delivered in Australia and the United States, there were similarities as well. One example is the utilization of advancing medical technology in the provision of health care in both countries. Even though it was a rural town, its medical center utilized as much advancing medical technology as I had experienced in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. During my last day at the center, as I took pictures with the doctors and staff members, one of the physicians stated, “Please take a picture in front of our equipment so you can show America that we have the same tools.”

As everyone bid me farewell on the last day of my observership, I thought back to my first day when Dr. Rogers made the announcement of my arrival. Since their farewells were just as genuine as they had welcomed me, I was gratified. My time in Muswellbrook learning about its health care system and culture is an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life.



# Chronicling an Uphill Battle...

By Scott Colton, APR  
Director of Medical Communications

Everybody BUT ...

**Osteopathic  
Physicians**

Welcome

## **SILENCING STIGMA: Historical Reflections Illuminate the Decline of D.O. Bias**

On June 22, 1874, a revolutionary thinker named Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., made history when he first articulated the principles of osteopathic medicine. That momentous incident in the annals of medicine would also presage the dawn of what would become a protracted and often-rancorous battle with the allopathic (M.D.) profession, pharmaceutical companies, and the U.S. government to earn similar practice parity and rights.

Over the ensuing 138 years, the profession has advanced mightily to become one of the fastest-growing health care disciplines, with over 20 percent of all U.S. medical students now attending one of the 29 U.S. colleges of osteopathic medicine as well as their four branch campuses and four additional teaching locations.

Although the profession has come a long way, especially in the past 40 years, it's important to acknowledge one inexorable statistic in regard to analyzing the physician landscape that exists in the United States today: M.D.s rule—at least from a numbers perspective. According to recent figures, there are over 78,000 osteopathic physicians, but that number is significantly dwarfed by the nearly one million allopathic physicians comprising the physician workforce.

However, thanks to the dogged efforts of numerous osteopathic

physicians who battled rampant prejudice at every turn, the profession eventually achieved legislative parity with its allopathic brethren as well as near-universal acceptance nationwide. In this insightful look back, three osteopathic pioneers who have a longstanding link to NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine—William Levin, D.O., Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, and Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, share their memories of those trying, but never dull, times.

### **Confronting Overt Osteopathic Intolerance**

From the 1940s through the 1960s, when the profession was experiencing significant growing pains, Drs. Levin, Melnick, and Neer were at various stages in their development as osteopathic practitioners in locales stretching from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Miami, Florida. Nevertheless, the common denominator connecting them as D.O. compatriots was their ongoing battle to overcome overt osteopathic bias from a variety of sources.

"The first actual bias I ever faced occurred in 1959 when I filled out several school physicals for some schoolchildren and the teachers would not accept them because the family was told I was not a real doctor," said Dr. Levin, who graduated from Philadelphia College of



**OSTEOPATHIC TRAILBLAZERS:** Pictured (from left) are Drs. William Levin, Arnold Melnick, and Howard Neer.

Osteopathic Medicine in 1958 and currently serves as a NSU-COM clinical associate professor of family medicine. “I couldn’t get in touch with those teachers, so I had the parents contact the teachers directly and told them they better get familiar with the law because I was indeed a doctor. Consequently, the forms were resubmitted and eventually accepted without any problems.”

Dr. Melnick, the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (now NSU-COM) who became a practicing pediatrician in 1945, remembers an equally distressing display of D.O. disparagement that occurred in the early 1940s to a D.O. colleague at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in Pennsylvania. “CHOP had a highly regarded Friday clinical conference, held weekly and featuring interesting and important in-house cases, with intense discussion from one or more attending staff members,” he recalled. “In addition to residents, medical students, and CHOP staff members, many community pediatricians attended either regularly or on a sporadic basis. So it was not unusual to find strange faces in the audience.

“Leo Wagner, D.O., was one of the leading osteopathic pediatricians in the Philadelphia area at the time and an attending at Osteopathic Hospital of Philadelphia who was highly regarded for his skills and competence,” added Dr. Melnick. “One Friday, before I interned at CHOP, Dr. Wagner went into the CHOP auditorium and took a

seat. Shortly, the physician-in-chief of CHOP approached him and said, ‘Sir, I’ll have to ask you to leave. This conference is only for pediatricians.’ Dr. Wagner replied, ‘But I am a pediatrician. I’m an osteopathic pediatrician.’ The final blow came with the answer, ‘But this is only for M.D.s. You’ll have to leave.’

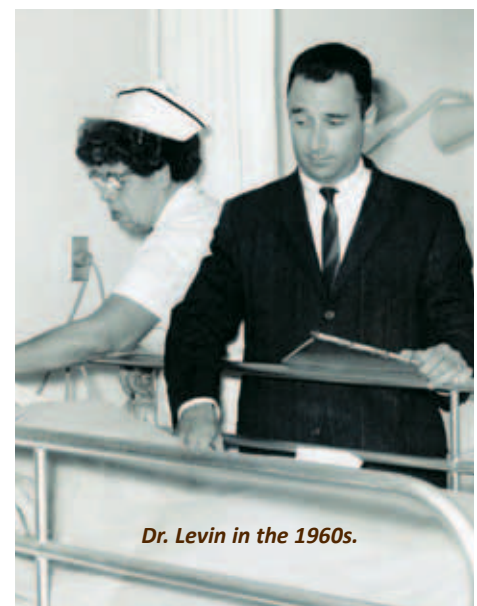
“Dr. Wagner left, never to return, so one may wonder why this happened,” Dr. Melnick concluded. “There were no medical secrets, not even trade secrets—only good, clear medical information. Cynics might question whether they were afraid someone would learn something—something that might eventually help patients. There was no logical explanation except that, in that era, M.D.s did not accept D.O.s as physicians—or as any part of the health care team.”

The situation in Florida was just as untenable for Dr. Neer, who graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathy in 1954 and completed an internship at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, before relocating to South Florida in the late 1950s. “At that time, the hospitals in Florida—both public and private—did not admit D.O.s to the staff for practice privileges,” he stated. “If patients needed hospitalization, we simply sent them to the emergency room. If I had a patient I wished to send to a physician of a specific specialty, I learned many of them simply would not accept a patient from a D.O. Very embarrassingly, I would have to tell the patient to go see a specific specialist, but not to let him know that I, a D.O., had referred the

patient to him. This was about as humiliating as things could get for a physician.”

### **Insurance/Pharmaceutical Company Contention**

During those tumultuous times, osteopathic physicians were also enduring a protracted skirmish with both the insurance and pharmaceutical industries, which patently refused to acknowledge the merits of the D.O. profession. “One of the biggest discrimination practices was that we were unable to become participating physicians in Blue Cross Blue Shield, so as nonparticipating physicians, we were only entitled to collect 70 percent of whatever Blue Cross paid to M.D.s,” said Dr. Levin, who served as president of the Dade County Osteopathic Medical Association in



*Dr. Levin in the 1960s.*





*Circa 1950: Dr. Melnick with a decidedly dejected pediatric patient.*

1968. “What that meant was the amount we billed to Blue Cross was then paid directly to the patients, which made it very difficult for us to collect that money.”

Dr. Melnick, who remains a fervent defender of the osteopathic profession at the feisty young age of 92, recalled an oh-so-typical incident that occurred while he was serving as president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) in the 1950s. “A great source of income for both osteopathic and allopathic organizations was the sale of exhibit space at medical meetings,” said Dr. Melnick, who received the American Osteopathic Association’s Distinguished Service Certificate in 2002. “The detail man from a major pharmaceutical company that had turned us down for an exhibit came to my office to ‘detail’ me; I refused to see him and told him why.

“Not long after that, the same gentleman made a special appointment to see me with a higher-up in his company,” he added.

“The senior representative made a nice presentation, explaining about limited funds, the need to place the company’s money in the most strategic spots, small attendance at osteopathic meetings, and so forth. My counter argument was simple: I told him I understood but felt that some support should be shown to the many D.O.s who did write for the company’s products, and that we felt that the company was not supportive. After 10 or 15 minutes of quiet, non-confrontational discussion, the ‘boss’ pulled out his big gun by saying, ‘Our company has an increase in business income of nearly 10 percent every year. Osteopathic physicians account for barely 5 percent of our business. So, if every D.O. stopped writing prescriptions for our products, the company would never notice it.’”

Although he was understandably upset at the brash and insulting statement he had just heard, Dr. Melnick remained calm. Rather than getting embroiled in a vociferous

argument, he chose a much wiser course of action by standing up and saying, “Okay, if that’s the way you feel and the way you want to operate, thank you for coming to see me.”

Threatening a boycott of the company’s products was an illegal practice, so Dr. Melnick adopted a different approach that would soon reap unexpected dividends. “I immediately circulated to all D.O.s in Pennsylvania a list of those companies that supported the osteopathic profession by exhibiting and had signed up for our upcoming convention,” he explained. “I also suggested subtly that all D.O.s do what they could to convince the recalcitrant companies to come aboard, but I wasn’t really sure whether it would do any good.

“Several weeks later, the executive called for another appointment,” he added. “His hostile opening gambit was to say, ‘What’s all this nonsense that’s going on?’ I pleaded ignorance of what he was talking about. He railed that no Pennsylvania D.O. would allow his representative to enter an osteopathic office. I simply shrugged my shoulders, to which he said angrily, ‘Okay, we’ll take a booth.’ And that company has been with POMA ever since. This was one of many machinations we had to go through to get support from a number of suppliers—and almost all of that discrimination among drug companies is gone today.”

### **Keys to Winning the Bias Battle**

Over the past several decades, the osteopathic medical profession has made great strides in overcoming the pervasive prejudice that used to exist. So what were the major contributing factors that helped create this shift in attitude? According to Dr. Neer, who served as president of the Broward County Medical Association, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, and the American Osteopathic Foundation during his illustrious career, the answer is quite elementary. “I believe the major contributing factors were the ingenuity, hard work, and willingness to never give up,” he stated. “Along the way, we were very fortunate to find prominent people who were laymen that

greatly respected us, who would take up our cause and help us.”

Dr. Levin’s astute assessment centers on the creation of osteopathic hospitals in South Florida, specifically Osteopathic General Hospital in North Miami Beach. “In Miami—and in Florida in general—a significant attitude shift occurred when Osteopathic General Hospital opened in 1960 because it truly was a first-class hospital with residents,” he explained. “It was a full-service hospital that people really wanted to go to because of the top-quality service it rendered and the type of care that was given. As a result, a number of local allopathic hospitals slowly began granting us practice rights in their hospitals. Frankly, I wasn’t thrilled using those hospitals, but it really was good for enhancing the osteopathic profession’s prestige.”

In Dr. Melnick’s estimation, myriad—and often unrelated—elements played a pivotal role in augmenting the osteopathic profession’s esteem over the years. “The refusal to appoint D.O.s as medical officers in the armed services in World War II created a doctor shortage,” he said “This resulted in thousands of civilians going to D.O.s., where many of them found satisfaction and continued with their D.O.s, even spreading their satisfaction to other family members and friends. Additionally, the subsequent recognition of D.O.s for military service appointments basically started osteopathic medicine down the path toward recognition and acceptance.”

Analogous to Dr. Levin’s comments, Dr. Melnick credits the rise in the number of larger and more sophisticated osteopathic hospitals that proliferated in the 1960s for boosting the profession’s standing in the medical community. Nevertheless, he is also quick to assert that greater acceptance of the D.O. profession has led to the demise of many osteopathic hospitals in recent years.

### **Prognosticating the Profession’s Future**

The osteopathic profession has certainly come a long way in terms of growth, recognition, and acceptance, which are facts exemplified by the increasing number of osteopathic medical colleges springing

up throughout the United States. However, several unanswered questions remain. For example, does the continued expansion of the profession bode well for its future—or does it threaten to create an inevitable, and homogenous, merging of the allopathic and osteopathic vocations?

“Today, we find that the number of osteopathic medical colleges being created continues to increase at a faster rate than allopathic schools,” said Dr. Neer, who serves as professor and associate dean of alumni affairs. “As the percentage of D.O.s relatively increases when compared to the total pool of physicians in the country, the profession cannot help but benefit. The important thing is that we must diligently police ourselves and deliberately maintain a high level of education from every entity that wears the name osteopathic in its title.”

According to Dr. Levin, who retired from active practice in 1993, there are both positives and pitfalls on the profession’s horizon. “In my opinion, the proliferation of schools has helped the profession; there is no question about that,” he admitted. “On the flip side, we’ve lost almost every osteopathic hospital we had, so we really don’t have any osteopathic training anymore, which means we are relying on allopathic hospitals to provide training to our students and graduates. We have been talking about amalgamation for about 50 years, and I think it’s eventually going to happen. However, if this does occur, it means we will lose our identity as well as our birthright, but I think we’ll have very little to say about it because it will be decided by the American Osteopathic Association, the American Medical Association, and the U.S. government.”

Dr. Melnick, who has personally witnessed the profession’s evolution over the past 70 years, said predicting the future is a perilous undertaking, although he gladly shared his thoughts on the topic. “When I went into practice, I never would have dreamed we would reach today’s present acceptance and recognition,” he admitted. “I see several possibilities for the osteopathic medical profession. First, the growth of osteopathic colleges will certainly continue and perhaps reach double the present number. With 50 or more

such schools, the allopathic profession and the osteopathic profession might put aside their guns and bullets and try to live peacefully together, giving the public an impression of professional cooperation—and live *happily ever after*. However, this will not completely eliminate professional bias and sniping.

“Another possibility is that at some point, the allopathic profession may realize the competition is gaining on it and do what any prominent business does in a similar situation—buy out the competition and merge as occurred in California years ago,” he added. “The buyout could involve granting all osteopathic physicians M.D. degrees without payment, as California did, to guarantee them continued operation of their schools with guaranteed official recognition and credentialing, thus creating a unified healing profession. This may sound and look good, but it will completely destroy the osteopathic profession and put all former D.O.s under the direct thumb of allopathic medicine.”

The final scenario, concluded Dr. Melnick, is that the D.O. and M.D. professions “will continue essentially the same as they are now—with overt acceptance but partially hidden discrimination and hostility.”

Whatever happens in the future, one fact is irrevocably evident: Without the unwavering efforts of osteopathic pioneers such as Drs. Bill Levin, Arnold Melnick, and Howard Neer, the profession would not be the vigorous, successful, and ever-evolving entity it is today.



*Dr. Levin preparing for surgery.*





## Graduation 2012

### **Activities Abound During Senior Week**

Senior Week provided an abundance of opportunities for the class of 2012 to get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, a jovial dining experience at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. in Fort Lauderdale, and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 27 when 234 D.O., 60 Master of Public Health, and 14 Master of Biomedical Informatics degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) Commencement Ceremony at the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise.

During the ceremony, graduates from the various HPD colleges were acknowledged for their accomplishments in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Jonathan Cohn, a senior editor at the *New Republic* and a nationally recognized authority on health care policy, served as the keynote speaker. His keynote address, titled "Healing the Nation," focused on the obligations of graduates to ensure America's health care system works better and is more efficient.



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence

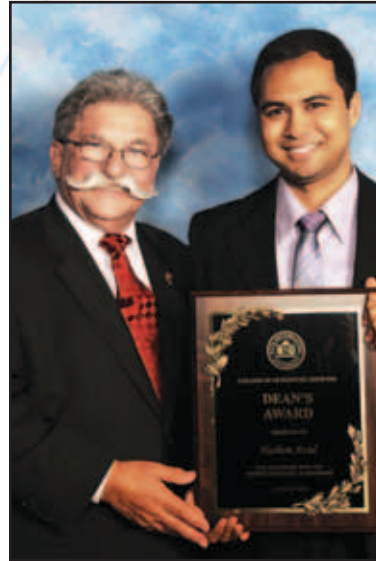


## Chancellor's Award (D.O. Program)

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

**Recipient**  
Rachel Pierre, D.O.

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
Hashem Azad, D.O.

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



## Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award

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

**Recipient**  
Steven Garcia, D.O.

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
Laura Bertolino, D.O.

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



## Dean's Community Award

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

**Recipient**  
Heidi Hagerott, D.O.

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



## Dean's Government and Public Policy Award

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

**Recipient**  
Bryan Peterson, D.O.

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



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence



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

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

**Recipient**  
**Paula Howard, M.P.H.**

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

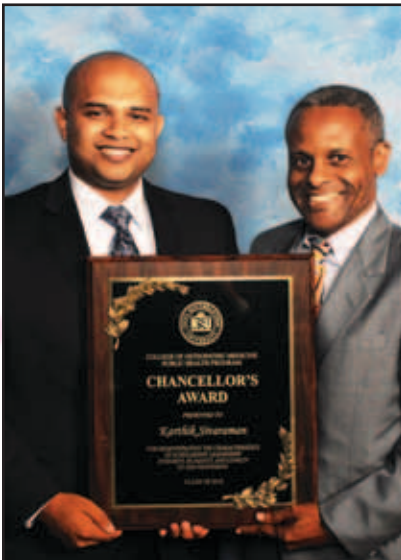


## **Dean's Award (M.S.B.I. Program)**

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

**Recipient**  
**Joseph Sconzo,  
M.S.B.I., M.P.H.**

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
**Karthik Sivaraman,  
M.P.H.**

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
**William Freeze,  
M.S.B.I.**

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

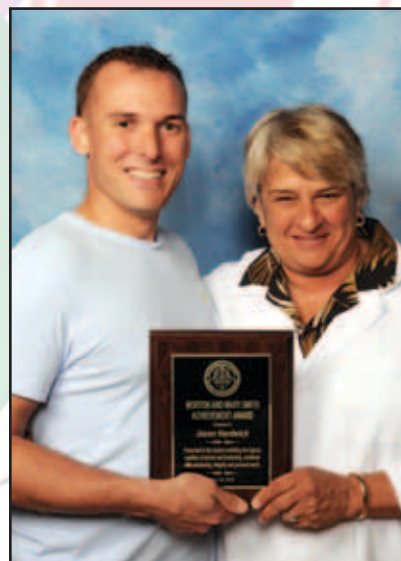


## **Dean's Organizational Award**

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

**Recipient**  
**Lindsay LaCorte, D.O.**

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



## **Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award**

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

**Recipient**  
**Jason Hardwick, D.O.**

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



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence



## **Alumni Association Award**

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

**Recipient**  
Lindsay LaCorte, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.



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

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

**Recipient**  
John Luksch, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Mark Sandhouse, D.O.



## **Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award**

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

**Recipient**  
Laura Bertolino, D.O.

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
Leigh Anne Bressler,  
D.O.

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



## **Clinical Service Award**

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

**Recipient**  
Mara Bozza, D.O.

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
Chelsey Holmes, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Barbara Arcos, D.O.



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence



## **Research Award (D.O. Program)**

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

**Recipient**  
**Heather Ruff, D.O.**

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
**Rushita Shah, M.P.H.**

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
**Angel Brana,  
M.D., M.P.H.**

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
**Sandy Zambrano, D.O.**

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



## **Florida Geriatrics Society Excellence in Geriatrics Award**

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

**Recipient**  
**Nonna Kozlenko, D.O.**

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



## **Endocrine Society Award**

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

**Recipient**  
**Nadim Jaber, D.O.**

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



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence



## Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics

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

**Recipient**  
Elizabeth Ropp, D.O.

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



## Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service

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

**Recipient**  
Angela Sargeant, D.O.

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



## Rose Community Service Award

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

**Recipient**  
Emily Greer, D.O.

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
Nicole Tafuri, D.O..

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
Hilary Gerber, D.O.

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



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

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

**Recipient**  
Andrea Schaeffer,  
M.P.H.

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



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence



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

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

**Recipient**  
Richelene Joseph,  
M.S.B.I.

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



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

Presented by the class of 2012 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

**Recipient**  
David Boesler, D.O.

**Presenter**  
Laura Bertolino, D.O.



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

Presented by the class of 2012 to the M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

**Recipient**  
Alina Perez,  
J.D., M.S.W., M.P.H.

**Presenter**  
Nonna Kozlenko,  
D.O., M.P.H.



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

Presented by the class of 2012 to the M.S.B.I. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

**Recipient**  
Daniel Hatton, Ph.D.

**Presenter**  
Theresa Blanco



## Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

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

**Recipient**  
OMS-III Carisa  
Lippmann

**Presenter**  
Marti Echols, Ph.D.



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

Elaina Franks, M.S.B.I., Vidhya Babu, M.S.B.I., William Freeze, M.S.B.I., Amber Henry, M.S.B.I., Krystina Hernandez, Joseph Sconzo, M.P.H., M.S.B.I., and Jenna Shrigley, M.S.B.I.



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence



**Sigma Sigma Phi** is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity whose main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Nicole Abell, D.O., Keivan Abtahi, D.O., Mara Bozza, D.O., Danielle Conahan, D.O., Jenna Crowe, D.O., Leah Delumpa, D.O., Chantelle Dufrense, D.O., Tasha Frederick, D.O., Jonathan Grima, D.O., Heidi Hagerott, D.O., Toni Hall, D.O., Miranda Haskins, D.O., Jeremie Karsenti, D.O., Karoline Korah, D.O., Lindsay LaCorte, D.O., John Luksch, D.O., George McKean, Jr., D.O., Allison Moore, D.O., Katherine Peicher, D.O., Rachel Pierre, D.O., Nina Rivera, D.O., Angela Sargeant, D.O., Sarah Siddiqui, D.O., Meghna Shah, D.O., Thanh Tran, D.O., and Nitin Wadhwa, D.O.



## Research Fellowship Award

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

### Recipients

**Hillary Gerber, D.O., and Heather Ruff, D.O.**

### Presenter

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



Membership in the **Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society** is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity (honorees are listed chronologically). Keivan Abtahi, D.O., Hashem Azad, D.O., Mara Bozza, D.O., Leigh Anne Bressler, D.O., Laura Brosbe, D.O., Brad Culling, D.O., Miglena Dzhupanova, D.O., Ileana Farrada, D.O., Steven Garcia, D.O., Jason Hardwick, D.O., Zachary Hothem, D.O., Jeremie Karsenti, D.O., Mark Lentner, D.O., William Main, D.O., George McKean, D.O., Riley Meyer, D.O., Lincoln Ropp, D.O., Joshua Rothenberg, D.O., Angela Sargeant, D.O., Badal Shah, D.O., Ryan Surmaitis, D.O., Elizabeth Turner, D.O., and Sandy Zambrano, D.O.



## Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates

*Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2009 to May 2012.*

### Recipients

**Doug Johnson, D.O., Lacy Knowles, D.O., Lindsay LaCorte, D.O., John Luksch, D.O., Meghna Shah, D.O., and Jennifer Wilson, D.O.**

### Presenter

**Mark Sandhouse, D.O.**



# Graduation 2012: Awards of Excellence



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

## United States Army

Captain Steven Brown, D.O.  
 Captain Brandon Hecht, D.O.  
 Captain Karsten Jennings, D.O.  
 Captain Kristopher Peters, D.O.  
 Captain Cesar Rosa, D.O.  
 Captain Thomas Tokarz, D.O.

## United States Air Force

Captain George Fulghum, D.O.  
 Captain Tasha Sheree Hellu, D.O.  
 Captain Leah Marron, D.O.  
 Captain Donald McMillan, D.O.  
 Captain Priya Patel, D.O.  
 Captain Brittany Perkins, D.O.  
 Captain Nicole Tafuri, D.O.

## United States Navy

Lieutenant Amber Brittain, D.O.  
 Lieutenant Michael Luca, D.O.  
 Lieutenant Jason Hardwick, D.O.  
 Lieutenant Ryan Mikac, D.O.  
 Lieutenant Lincoln Ropp, D.O.

## M.P.H. Program Highest Honors

Ryan Chizner, D.O., M.P.H., Paula Howard, M.P.H.,  
 Robert Parkes, M.D., and Danny Whu, M.P.H.

## M.P.H. Program Honors

Emily Young, M.A.T., M.P.H.

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

Michelet Alcy, M.B.A., M.S.B.I., Angel Brana, M.D., M.P.H.,  
 and Sharifah Ramsay, M.S.B.I.



The **Gold Humanism Honor Society** honors senior medical students, residents, role-model physician teachers, and other exemplars that have demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service and was organized to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and its constituent institutions. *Laura Bertolino, D.O., Ruth "Danielle" Chery, D.O., Neetu Dhawan, D.O., Nicole Gavallas, D.O., Hilary Gerber, D.O., Emily Greer, D.O., Jonathan Grima, D.O., Heidi Hagerott, D.O., Vickey Kosakowski, D.O., Nonna Kozlenko, D.O., Lindsay LaCorte, D.O., Dustin May, D.O., Kaylesh Pandya, D.O., Bryan Peterson, D.O., Angela Sargeant, D.O., Danielle Selema, D.O., Palav Shah, D.O., Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., Michelle Tom, D.O., Thanh Tran, D.O., Nitin Wadhwa, D.O., and Jason Yarsley, D.O.*



## Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards

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

### Recipients

Kaylesh Pandya, D.O. (graduating student) and Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M. (faculty member)

### Presenters

Robert Hasty, D.O., and Edward Packer, D.O.



# NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

## Past Presidents

Pre-1995 Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)  
1996 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
1997 - Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)  
1998 - Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)  
1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)  
2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)  
2001 - Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)  
2002 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
2003 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
2004 - Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)  
2005 - Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('87)  
2006 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)  
2007 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
2008 - Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)  
2009 - Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)  
2010 - Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)

## 2012-13 Officers

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O. ('94)  
President

Andrew Gross, D.O. ('94)  
President Elect

Annette Da Silva, D.O. ('96)  
Vice President

William Stager, D.O. ('96)  
Secretary

Donald Howard, D.O. ('85)  
Treasurer

Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)  
Immediate Past President

Howard L. Neer, D.O.  
Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs

Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.  
Director, Student and Alumni Services

## Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)  
2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)  
2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)  
2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)  
2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)  
2009 - Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)  
2010 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)  
2011 - Jacqueline Kraveka, D.O. ('94)  
2012 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)

## Trustees at Large

Bridget Bellingar, D.O. ('86)  
Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)  
Donald Howard, D.O. ('85)  
Stephen MacDonald, D.O. ('90)  
Raymon Priewe, D.O. ('86)  
Bruce Rankin, D.O. ('85)



## Graduation Festivities





# A CONVERSATION WITH...

## Dr. Richard Herman (1989 alumnus)



**Fast Facts:** Richard G. Herman, D.O., FACOOG, who graduated from the college in 1989, has been happily married for 23 years to his loving wife, Marci, and has three children: Mindy, Amy, and Josh.

**Why did you decide to become a physician?** I became a physician out of a desire to lead a life that enables me to do good for others. Osteopathic medicine has allowed me to grow in my ability to help other people in an ongoing capacity as an obstetrician/gynecologist as well as a minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgeon. In addition, I continue to embrace a holistic integrative approach to understand and successfully treat neuromuscular dysfunction due to nonstructural brain injury.

**How did you come to learn about osteopathic medicine, and why did you decide to attend SECOM?** I was fortunate to grow up in South Miami, where I was influenced by the quality care that was provided to me by my own family physician who was osteopathically trained. My

preference to go to SECOM was deeply influenced by the caring manner, values, and approach to medicine that were reflected by the physicians I came in contact with when I visited the campus.

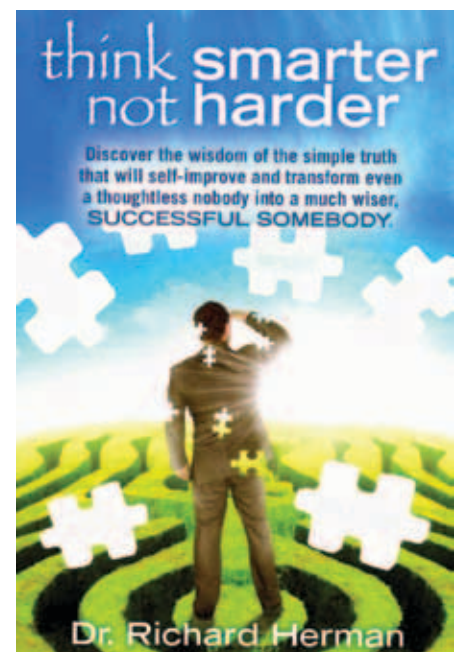
**What was the most memorable aspect of your osteopathic education at SECOM?** Some of the best experiences I encountered were the hands-on clinical training opportunities I had during my clinical rotations. Learning by doing and not simply observing leads to a superior educational experience.

**Please describe in detail what you are doing professionally at the moment and why you enjoy it.** I am currently practicing as an OB/GYN as well as a minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgeon at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Michigan. I also participate as an assistant clinical professor with Michigan State University in the training of residents at my hospital in all aspects relating to OB/GYN, including urogynecologic and pelvic reconstructive surgery.

In addition, I have developed a successful integrative approach in the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of neuromuscular dysfunction related to nonstructural brain injury. This form of injury is commonly found in many medical conditions, including stroke, fibromyalgia, neuralgia, neuropathy, chronic pain, and conditions leading to loss of movement.

I deeply enjoy treating individuals with these conditions to enable them to achieve significant clinical improvement. You can see what improvement is possible by viewing the before and after treatment stroke videos on my practice's Web site located at [AMAZINGTREATMENT.COM](http://AMAZINGTREATMENT.COM).

**What has been the most fulfilling aspect of being a physician?** One of the most fulfilling aspects of being a physician is using your ability to critically think beyond what you learned in order to arrive at creative medical solutions to help those individuals that are unable to clinically improve. The statement "If it isn't broken then do not fix it" is really an open challenge to advance medicine. When you recognize that much of what we were taught was really broken, then you create the opportunity to seek out new solutions to improve and advance medicine.





person you can be each day to help other people despite the many challenges and obstacles that need to be overcome.

**Why did you decide to write your books *Overcome What Your Brain Cannot* and *Think Smarter Not Harder*?** One of the most gratifying things I can do for others is to share what I have clinically experienced and learned. The reason I wrote the book *Overcome What Your Brain Cannot* is to inform people that it is possible to achieve significant clinical improvement even after no further clinical improvement is considered possible. This is especially true if your body has physically healed but your brain failed to recognize you improved. The result is that you will continue to experience ongoing symptoms that do not benefit your wellbeing. This is because your brain is instinctively responding to an illness, injury, or trauma that is not even present.

**What personal and professional achievements are you the proudest about?** One of the best professional achievements I contribute to is the ability to graduate residents each year that are not only quality individuals but are exceptional in their surgical ability to perform minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgery. I consider this accomplishment one way I can give back to the profession that trained me.

One personal achievement I am proud of is the ability to recognize that patience and compassion will allow you to be the best

The contents of this book deal with this form of injury. This book redefines our clinical understanding and treatment of many illnesses, including stroke, fibromyalgia, neuralgia, chronic pain, neuropathy, and memory loss, as well as many physical and emotional injuries. The message contained in this book is revolutionary in its approach to understanding nonstructural brain injury, including nonstructural neurologic diagnosis and treatment.

My new book, *Think Smarter Not Harder*, allows the reader to gain a clearer understanding that will enable him or her to correctly interpret and successfully

respond to many of life's most challenging difficulties. It will also enhance the reader's ability to be in control using the simple truth that is present in the complex challenges that he or she needs to overcome. Recognizing this simple truth will give the reader a competitive advantage in life to achieve the success he or she desires. This book also allows a person to look inward so that he or she will begin to discover what needed improvements are missing in his or her life. This knowledge will enhance a person's ability to be good enough, to overcome past mistakes, and to experience a more meaningful life of purpose and appreciation.



*“One of the **MOST FULFILLING ASPECTS** of being a physician is using your ability to critically think beyond what you learned in order to arrive at creative medical solutions to help those individuals that are unable to clinically improve. The statement ‘If it isn’t broken then do not fix it’ is really an open challenge to advance medicine. When you recognize that much of what we were taught was really broken, then you create the opportunity to seek out new solutions to improve and advance medicine.” - DR. RICHARD HERMAN*



## - ALUMNI -

**Ananita Azharian, D.O.** ('04) recently joined the medical staff at the SLEEK Surgical & MedSpa facility in Manhattan, New York. Dr. Azharian, who completed both her general surgery and plastic surgery postgraduate training in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a skilled plastic surgeon who utilizes the latest proven advances in surgical and nonsurgical procedures to achieve a natural and youthful appearance.

**Scott Brick, D.O.** ('05), who is affiliated with Lake Regional General Surgery in Osage Beach, Missouri, successfully completed the requirements to earn board certification in general surgery from the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists of the American Osteopathic Association.

**Lauren B. Cianciaruso, D.O.** ('99) was named vice president of medical affairs at Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Ranson, West Virginia. Dr. Cianciaruso, who is board certified in family medicine and has been practicing since 2001, previously served as the chief medical officer at Loudoun Community Health Center in Leesburg, Virginia.

**Todd Clarkson, D.O.** ('03) who co-owns Oakhurst Medical Clinic in Seminole and East Bay Medical Center in Largo, Florida, was named Best Physician in a reader's poll coordinated by *Tampa Bay Newspapers*.



**Lieutenant Amber N. DeChambeau, D.O.** ('07) was featured in the Naval Air Station

Corpus Christi's *Wingspan* newsletter in a front-page ar-

ticle entitled "Powerpuff Girls Tackle Navy Flight Medicine." She and two other female D.O.s comprise the Powerpuff Girls, which is the only all-female flight medicine group in the U.S. Navy today. Dr. DeChambeau, a senior flight surgeon, recently began her radiology residency training at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

**Javier Rafael Gonzalez, D.O.** ('96), who is board certified in family practice and osteopathic manipulative treatment, opened a new practice in Spring Hill, Florida. He also sees patients at Access Health-care's main office in Spring Hill.

**Sherika Newman, D.O.** ('05) is working as a palliative care physician with Lee Memorial Health System in Southwest Florida. In addition, she was profiled in an article entitled "Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor Sees Former 'Little Sister' Become a Doctor" in the May 23 issue of *The News Press*.

**Layne D. Nisenbaum, D.O.** ('85), who was a member of the college's inaugural graduating class, passed away on March 22 of liver cancer while awaiting a liver transplant in Palm Beach, Florida. Dr. Nisenbaum's expertise in skin care and anti-aging techniques attracted Palm Beach socialites to his Island Dermatology and Laser Institute for many years.

**James L. Otis, D.O.** ('85) passed away on March 14 in Lee County, Florida, at the age of 61.

**Elise J. Zahn, D.O., M.B.A., FACOEP** ('96), medical director of the South Florida Baptist Hospital Emergency Department in Tampa, received her M.B.A. degree in April 2012 from Columbia Southern University in Alabama.

## - FACULTY -

**Jose F. Arrascue, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, received the Palm Beach County Medical Society Services' 2012 Physician Local/National Hero of the Year Award at a ceremony held on May 9. These prestigious awards honor individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout Palm Beach County that use their skills and resources in the field of health care to provide outstanding services for the people of our local, national, and global communities. **Bradley Feuer, D.O., J.D.**, clinical professor of family medicine, also was a nominee in this category.



**Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP**, professor of public health and pediatrics

and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was assigned as a national accreditation evaluator for the Council on Education for Public Health and has been reappointed by the Broward County Commission to serve as a member of the Broward Regional Health Planning Council Board of Directors. In addition, Dr. Blavo, who was named as a *Distinguished Professor* by the Federation of African Student Leaders, and **Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor and assistant director of the M.P.H. Program, served on the planning committee for a regional meeting of the Florida Public Health Association, where they were recognized for their poster presentation entitled "Tetanus Vaccination Initiative in Rural Ghana."

**David Boesler, D.O.**, associate professor and chair of the



Department of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine, received the 2012 Northrup Educator

of the Year Award from the national office of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA), which was announced at SOMA's National Spring Convention held March 7-11 in Washington, D.C. Dr. Boesler will be officially honored in October at SOMA's National Fall Convention in San Diego, California.

**John Halpern, D.O.**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, was sworn in as a Florida Highway Patrol auxiliary trooper.

**Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.,** professor of family medicine and chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division, received the Dade County Medical Association's Distinguished Citizen Award at its Doctors' Day Reception and Awards Reception on March 29.

**Raymond L. Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, was a quoted expert in the article entitled "Mind Over Matter: Psychology Affects AD Risk, Cognitive Reserve" that appeared on the Alzheimer Research Forum Web site.



**Stanley L. Simpson, D.O.**, associate professor of family medicine, was inducted into the Florida Boxing Hall of Fame at a ceremony held during the weekend of June 23-24 in Tampa, Florida.

# 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**.

## 2012 Donors

### NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Allergy, Dermatology & Skin Cancer  
Center, Inc.

Dr. Gary Heller

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

Broward Rehabilitation  
Medicine Associates

Florida Association of Physicians  
of Indian Origin, Inc.

Dr. Tuan Dinh Nguyen ('99)

### Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Mr. Robert Barron

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Dr. John and Ellen Geake, Jr. ('93)

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)

Dr. Gregory L. Stamper ('88)  
(in memory of Sheila Zinser Boice)

Clarence/Alma Wolf Foundation

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts ('94)

Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)

Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)

Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Mr. Warren Nishimoto ('91)

Drs. George and Isabel Ramie ('96)

Dr. Michael Ross ('88)

### 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Tye Barber ('06)

Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)

Dr. Robert Cano ('95)

Dr. Andrew Gross ('93)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)

Dr. Gary Merlino ('92)

Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)

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

Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

Dr. Bridget Bellingar ('86)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

Dr. Annette Da Silva ('96)

Dr. Linda Delo ('86)

Linda and Mike Finkelstein  
(in memory of Layne Nisenbaum, D.O.)

Dr. Steven Gillon ('86)

Dr. Leslie Greco ('91)

Dr. Joy H. Kang ('10)

Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)

Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)

Dr. Michael J. MacDonald

Dr. Olga Martinez ('06)

Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

Dr. Tricia Percy ('99)

Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)

Dr. Shaheen Shamji ('10)

Dr. William H. Stager ('89)

Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)

Drs. Mary Jo Villar ('94)

### Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

Dr. and Mrs. Howard "Woody"  
and Amy Alpern  
(in memory of Layne Nisenbaum, D.O.)

Dr. Robert Cambridge ('08)

Dr. Christian Capener ('02)

Dr. Yvonne Duffe ('85)

Dr. Amber Gruber ('06)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Ms. Eleanor Howe  
(in memory of Layne Nisenbaum, D.O.)

Dr. Robert Isaak ('07)

Dr. Ragasri Kumar ('06)

Ms. Rae Litcherman  
(in memory of Layne Nisenbaum, D.O.)

Dr. Michael Misuraca ('03)

Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)

James Seltzer ('10 - M.S.B.I.)

Dr. Francis E. Salazar ('05)

Todd Schwartz, Loree Schwartz Feiler,  
Jimmy Schwartz, and Donna  
Schwartz Silverman  
(in memory of Layne Nisenbaum, D.O.)

Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)

Mr. Darnell Smith

Dr. John Tole ('03)

Ms. Sharon Wender  
(in memory of Layne Nisenbaum, D.O.)





Health Professions Division  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018



# 2012-13 Calendar of Events

## **July 29, 2012**

### ***NSU-COM White Coat Ceremony***

*10:00 a.m. – Alumni are welcome to attend.*

Signature Grand in Davie, Florida

## **August 1-5, 2012**

### ***FSACOFP Annual Convention and National Family Medicine Update***

Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek/Waldorf Astoria in Orlando, Florida

## **September 21-23, 2012**

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

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida

## **February 21-24, 2013**

### ***110<sup>th</sup> Annual FOMA Convention***

Hyatt Bonaventure in Weston, Florida