

Spring 2009

Horizons Spring/Summer 2009

Nova Southeastern University

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SPRING/SUMMER 2009

HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

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AT NSU



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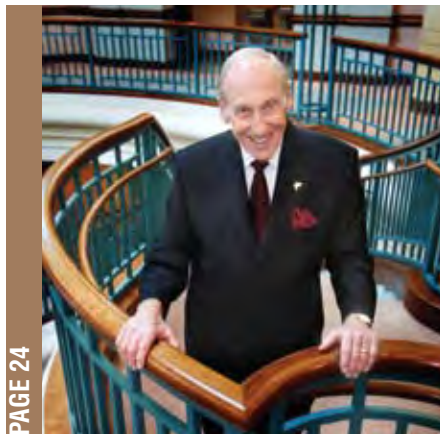
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PHOTO ON COVER:
NSU students Nova Lishon-Savarino and Bertram White

CORRECTION

In the Winter 2008–2009 issue of *Horizons*, in the article "Fischler School's Doctoral Degree Licensed in New Jersey," it was incorrectly stated that Doctor of Education classes would commence in Trenton, New Jersey, in fall 2009. The first doctoral cohort actually began there in fall 2008, followed by a second cohort in winter 2009.



To the Friends and Family of NSU:

Completing my 11th year as NSU's fifth president, I'm pleased to note that the editors of *Horizons* have elected to pay tribute in this issue to our second president, Abe Fischler. Besides being NSU's longest-serving president (1970-1991), Abe is a true visionary who laid a firm foundation for our present success. He remains a vital community force, valued colleague, and friend.

On campus, we've begun an internal engagement campaign called *I Believe in NSU!* to build greater pride and internal knowledge of our university's achievements. Promoting our awareness of the university's diverse accomplishments and the individuals behind them, this program represents a stepping-stone to developing our own perceptions of NSU as a great institution. For our internal audience, as well as for members of the broader community, this issue showcases many exciting examples of our educational prowess and innovation.

For example, you'll read about our educational outreach, which continues to grow. Close to home, in Miramar, classes in education and business are now available. We've also opened larger facilities in Tampa and Fort Myers and a new pediatric clinic in Hollywood. Looking beyond the state of Florida, you'll learn that NSU students interested in pharmacy and optometry can study in China.

Because donors are in the business of rewarding success, a large gift represents a tremendous vote of confidence in NSU's upholding of our educational mission. In this spirit, I invite you to read about the gift of entrepreneur Don Taft that resulted in his name's appearance on our University Center.

Additionally, you'll read about a kaleidoscope of topics ranging from the rapid expansion of the university's arts programs and dermatology services, to the mapping of coral reefs in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea. The amazing variety of pursuits here at NSU never ceases to amaze me.

In an era in which NSU has recently established a presence on the LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter social networking sites, I wonder if Abe ever dreamed of some of the remarkable things that NSU is doing now.

Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.
President, Nova Southeastern University

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academic notes

NEW DEGREE OFFERS REAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

The downturn in the housing market has dominated recent real estate news, but larger, long-term issues loom for the development side of the industry.

Developers wear many hats, but primarily oversee building projects to increase their clients' land value. With the baby boom generation approaching retirement, developers need to replace many retiring middle- and upper-level managers. But because of downsizing in a soft market, there is a shortage of younger, entry-level managers to take their places.

To address this problem, NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship has launched the Master of Science in Real Estate Development degree program, the first of its kind in Florida. The school previously offered an M.B.A. with a concentration in real estate development, but started the new program in January to further meet the industry's changing needs.

"The mission of the program is to provide students with a hands-on understanding of the real estate development process so they can provide an immediate and optimal benefit to employers," said Wayne Falbey, D.B.A., chair of the M.S. in Real Estate Development degree program (pictured).

Professors in the program are experienced industry professionals. In fact, Anthony Trella, founder, owner, and president of the Meranth Company, a leading real estate development company in South Florida, serves as developer-in-residence. The program is also closely aligned with the Urban Land Institute, a nonprofit organization serving as the real estate industry's preeminent forum.

"The Huizenga School's program is right on target to fill a need to educate and train individuals to meet the demand for top-notch real estate development professionals," said Terry Stiles, chairman and CEO of Stiles Corporation, one of the largest full-service real estate companies in Florida.

Visit www.nova.edu/business for more information on NSU's Master of Science in Real Estate Development degree program. ■



NSU'S FIRST CLASS OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS GRADUATES

Last year, 29 students from Nova Southeastern University's College of Allied Health and Nursing made history. They became Florida's first-ever graduating class of anesthesiologist assistants. "The students not only made history, but they are now making their patients' lives better," said Robert Wagner, M.M.Sc., AA-C, director of the anesthesiologist assistant program.



Launched at NSU in 2006, this unique program is available at only five universities in the country. The 27-month program teaches students how to administer anesthesia and care for patients under the direction of an anesthesiologist. Having more anesthesiologist assistants allows more surgeries to take place.

Nationally, these health care providers can practice in only 22 states. Wagner was instrumental in lobbying state lawmakers to allow anesthesiologist assistants to practice in Florida. But, this limitation has not curbed demand. The job market is so hot for NSU's anesthesiologist assistant graduates that they can expect to earn a starting salary between \$120,000 and \$150,000, Wagner said. Experienced anesthesiologist assistants can easily command a salary of \$180,000.

In June, the College of Allied Health and Nursing plans to open an additional anesthesiologist assistant program in Tampa to meet rising demand. The Tampa program will begin with 25 students.

Visit www.nova.edu/mhs/anesthesia for more information about NSU's anesthesiologist assistant program. ■

academic notes

NSU'S NEW DENTAL CLINIC GIVES SPECIAL-NEEDS CHILDREN REASON TO SMILE

Underserved children in South Florida now have a new facility for access to high-quality, low-cost dental services at the recently opened NSU pediatric dental clinic at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood. NSU's College of Dental Medicine is working to meet the needs of this population by providing dental care to ensure their teeth are healthy and their smiles are bright.

In January, the college received a grant from the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration to open the pediatric dental clinic at the Hollywood hospital. Known as the NSU-JDCH Center for Craniofacial Pediatric and Special Needs Dental Care, the facility treats children with cleft palate and lip issues, as well as craniofacial, HIV, and other physical and mental challenges. During its first year, the clinic expects to treat roughly 1,500 children, many of whom are Medicaid recipients.

"This clinic is bringing quality dental care closer to children who do not have a place to go," said Robert Uchin, D.D.S., dean of the College of Dental Medicine. "That puts a smile on all faces."

Nova Southeastern University has dental clinics throughout Broward County that provide pediatric dental services for all children, including those who suffer from physical, developmental, mental, behavioral, cognitive, and emotional impairment. The challenges facing these children include autism, cerebral palsy, and craniofacial disorders.

Visit www.nova.edu/healthcare/dental/index.html for more information about NSU's College of Dental Medicine. ■



Jose Larumbe, D.D.S., assistant professor of pediatric dentistry, NSU College of Dental Medicine

MAPPING CORAL REEFS IN THE RED SEA

Every spring, Bernhard Riegl, Ph.D., National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI) associate director, and Sam Purkis, Ph.D., NCRI assistant professor, travel to Saudi Arabia to map coral reefs in the Red Sea. This ongoing project is funded by the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation (KBSLOF) and highlights the international scientific collaboration of the NSU Oceanographic Center and NCRI scientists.



Bernhard Riegl, Ph.D.

The principal objective of this project is to assess the health of the major coral reef ecosystems along the coast of Saudi Arabia and to create habitat maps using multispectral satellite imagery and an airborne hyperspectral sensor. The researchers also conduct scuba surveys of fish, coral, marine mammals, and coral reef habitats.

The expeditions take place onboard the research and logistics ship, *M/Y Golden Shadow*, which gives researchers the opportunity to reach coral reefs that are not easily accessible because they are far from shore and in regions rarely visited by scientists.

Phase I of the expedition was conducted in September 2007 in the far northern corner of the Red Sea near the Strait of Tiran. Phase II covered the coast of Saudi Arabia from the Strait of Tiran to the city of Jeddah.

Riegl and Purkis will continue this project in the Red Sea in spring 2009. Both say that they are excited to have the opportunity for world-class research in a very important area of the world. ■



Sam Purkis, Ph.D.

NSU EXPANDS EDUCATIONAL SITES THROUGHOUT FLORIDA



Miami-Kendall Student Educational Center

While other universities are cutting back during the recession, Nova Southeastern University is expanding its high-quality academic offerings across the Sunshine State. More high-tech classrooms, as well as computer and simulation labs, have been added to NSU's existing student educational centers (SECs) and academic sites in Miami-Kendall and Tampa, while new locations have opened in Fort Myers and Miramar.

In September of 2008, the university opened the 21,000-square-foot Miramar academic site, serving western Broward County. The site houses master's degree-level programs from the Fischler School of Education and Human Services and the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. The Hudson Institute of Entrepreneurship and Executive Education also offers programs at this location, providing practical business education.

This academic site is located on the third floor of the city's new Miramar Community Library and Education Center, which also houses Broward College and the Broward County Library. Complete with 14 classrooms and a computer lab, NSU's site also provides support services, such as financial aid counseling and academic advising.

At the Miami-Kendall SEC, state-of-the-art nursing skills and simulation laboratories have been built to accommodate the 141 nursing students at the facility. Each of these students has received a full scholarship from Baptist Health South Florida to complete a 27-month Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. The nursing labs are equipped with computerized mannequins that come in the form of men, pregnant women, children, and babies.

In Fort Myers, NSU opened a 60,000-square-foot SEC in November 2008. The state-of-the-art facility allows the university to offer more educational programs for Southwest Florida, one of the fastest growing regions in the state. The center has 19 classrooms, 3 computer labs, 9 videoconferencing suites, wireless Internet access, and a multipurpose room with a seating capacity for 180. These amenities are designed to meet the needs of students enrolled in associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs.

The Fort Myers SEC offers 34 programs that include education, criminal justice, physician assistant, information technology, mental health counseling, speech-language pathology, and Southwest Florida's newest nursing program.

Further up the Gulf Coast, NSU is doubling the space of its Tampa SEC this spring by moving into an 81,500-square-foot location in the Sabal Park Corporate Center. The new location will be home to Tampa's 18 bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and specialty degree programs in fields including business, education, psychology, speech-language pathology, leadership, early childhood education, and human resource management. The SEC is also launching the region's first-ever anesthesiologist assistant program with 25 students.

The new Tampa SEC has 22 classrooms, 2 simulated operating rooms, multiple computer labs, wireless Internet connection, and an anesthesiology lab. Because of its size, the SEC has allowed the university to fill 30 additional positions, creating jobs for the Tampa Bay Area. ■



The Miramar academic site offers modern, spacious classrooms.

academic notes

RAISING SUCCESS RATES FOR LOW-INCOME YOUTH

A low income should not be a determining factor for student success. But, all too often, children who fall into this category also fall through the educational system's cracks. With this in mind, a determined group of faculty members, students, and volunteers from Nova Southeastern University's Center for Psychological Studies (CPS) are working to help improve academic and socialization outcomes for low-income youth.

"When families and schools work together to support children who display resilience in the face of adversity, we find that they do better academically and also in terms of their own well-being and behavior," said Diana Formoso, Ph.D., a CPS faculty member. Formoso, along with Mercedes B. ter Maat, Ph.D., LPC, ATR-BC; Christian DeLucia, Ph.D.; and volunteers from the CPS doctoral-level and undergraduate programs are the facilitators for Connections: Families and Schools Supporting Our Youth.

This NSU project is a partnership with the Broward County Public Schools and four of its low-income elementary schools.

Targeting children of diverse backgrounds, parents, and schools, the project works to improve outcomes for low-income youth. Its goal is to promote coping skills, create stronger family relationships, increase parental involvement and practices, encourage support from adults and peers, and foster more school-home communication.



To ensure ready access to the program, the neighborhood school is the host for youth meetings and parenting sessions. A light dinner is served, and on-site child care is provided. Formoso said the ease of access has helped attract and keep families involved.

Research conducted during the program will be used to educate other practitioners in the field who work with low-income and ethnically diverse families. Findings are expected to be

published in a scholarly journal and will be presented at state and national conferences.

"By devoting our resources to serving these low-income schools, we are able to use the gift of education to serve the local community," Formoso said. ■

STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN POINTS IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE COURT



Left to right:
Elizabeth Brauher,
Eskender Abdalla,
Andrea Irarrazabel,
Jenera McGruder,
Sergio DeFeudis

As of January 2009, 145 of 250 total student-athletes at NSU had grade point averages (GPAs) above 3.0. Sixty-one of those athletes had GPAs above 3.5. The men's soccer team averaged a 3.11 GPA overall, the highest among the men's teams. The women's teams were led by the tennis team, with an average GPA of 3.56. Overall, the athletic program had a collective 3.0 term GPA.

"We work hard at producing top-notch Division II athletic competitors," said Mike Mominy, athletic director and head baseball coach. "But we also work equally hard to ensure the students' academic success."

For this level of educational achievement, Mominy partially credits the department's coordinator of athletic academics who monitors the scholastic progress of all student-athletes each semester. Scholastic initiatives include supervised study halls for all student-athletes in their first semester at NSU and for any student-athlete with a semester GPA below 2.5. Tutoring services are also

available from the Office of Academic Services and the College Success Program.

These efforts are creating a successful track record. For example, for the fall 2008 semester, NSU had 35 student-athletes out of 67 competing in fall sports named to the Sunshine State Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, which requires a minimum grade point average of 3.20 on a scale of 4.00. Participants in men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, and volleyball were eligible.

Five of the NSU student-athletes who made the Honor Roll carried a perfect 4.0 GPA. They were Elizabeth Brauher, women's soccer, applied professional studies major; Eskender Abdalla, men's cross country, business administration major; Andrea Irarrazabel, volleyball, biology major; Jenera McGruder, volleyball, business administration major; and Sergio DeFeudis, men's soccer, business administration major.

NSU is proud of these competitors who honor both halves of their "student-athlete" title. ■

TECH-SAVVY COUPLE DEVELOPS ONLINE RESOURCE FOR TEST-TAKERS

More than 12 years ago, Denton and Shalette East took their friendship to the next level when they began dating. Their partnership led not only to marriage, but to the basis for a successful business. The Easts, both Ph.D. candidates at Nova Southeastern University's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, combined their interest in education and technology to create www.GoGSAT.com.

The Web site prepares Jamaican students for their Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) through 24-hour, online assistance; live chats; and online practice exams for math, English, social studies, and science.

"We spend every day together, unless one of us is traveling," Denton said. "Sometimes we have differences of opinions, like all couples do, but we agree to move on to find solutions."

This philosophy is working. To date, the couple's Web site is helping more than 11,000 students in 200 preparatory and primary schools in Jamaica. Building on this success, the Easts also developed www.CaribbeanExams.com, which provides test preparation to students in 17 Caribbean countries.

In recognition for their work, the Easts recently won first place in the 2008 Jamaica Innovation Award for Education and

Popularization of Science and Technology. They also received second runner up for the Jamaica Innovation Grand Award. The recognition was especially meaningful to the couple, who always wanted to make a difference in their native Jamaica.

The duo is also currently working with the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Social Development Commission in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development's Community Empowerment and Transformation (COMET) project. Through COMET, the Easts are developing Community Safety and Security Courseware (CSSC). The courseware will help students understand community policing principles and the roles and responsibilities of police and find youth development opportunities. During the 2008–2009 school year, about 3,900 inner-city students will benefit from the CSSC course, which is also available to www.GoGSAT.com subscribers.

The Easts' next venture will be in the United States, creating a Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) preparation Web site. The pair hopes to launch this project within the next two years.

"We are enjoying the best of both worlds: doing what we like to do and helping people along the way," Denton said. ■



NSU Ph.D. candidates Denton and Shalette East

NEW DEGREE PROGRAM TEACHES HEALTH PROFESSIONALS HOW TO TEACH

Experienced health professionals have, over the years, developed medical expertise and their bedside manners, but aren't necessarily taught how to pass on these skills to the next crop of young medical practitioners. In order to give seasoned health professionals the skill set to teach, Nova Southeastern University has introduced a new graduate degree program: the Master of Science in Medical Education.

The program, offered by the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, is designed for physicians and faculty members with professional degrees from any health professions field. The degree is intended to further develop the health professionals' teaching skills, strengthening their ability to educate students and residents. The three-year, 36-credit program is offered in collaboration with NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine and is one of the few of its kind in the academic world.

"The Master of Science in Medical Education degree program is for professionals who are on faculty in schools or training people in hospitals, as well as for those who desire to be better educators," said Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean for education, planning, and research at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Levy coordinates the program along with Sidi M. Lakhdar, Ed.D., of the Fischler School.



NSU health care professionals take part in new graduate teaching program

Coursework is conducted online through a team-teaching approach, with educators from the Fischler School and the Health Professions Division. The instructors are highly respected professional practitioners and educators.

Visit www.fischlerschool.nova.edu/programs/ms/health for more information. ■



east
meets
west



Students learn to combine traditional Chinese medicine

with modern science.

BY ROBERT SPENCER KNOTTS

As China emerges from a long isolation, its doctors, teachers, and others are increasingly reaching out to help bring centuries-old medical techniques to their colleagues in the west. Nova Southeastern University is one of the institutions in the United States reaching back to welcome traditional Chinese insights, while sending across the Pacific some knowledge of its own.

Both NSU's College of Optometry and College of Pharmacy have created popular study-abroad programs to China. Students travel to renowned Chinese schools for intensive clinical and class work in a variety of subjects, including traditional Chinese medicine.

A pharmacist works with an auto decoding and packaging machine, preparing Chinese herbal medicine.



Traditional Chinese medicine, which has been around for thousands of years, aims to diagnose, prevent, and treat diseases, according to the National Cancer Institute. This form of medicine is based on the belief that qi, the body's vital energy, is distributed along 20 meridians or channels all over the body. This flow of energy keeps a person's spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health in balance.

The College of Optometry's program also includes bringing Chinese scholars to teach and study at NSU for extended periods.

"For me, it was very valuable, and I would never trade that experience for anything else," said Allison Falden, O.D., who spent three months in China during 2006 as part of her NSU optometry studies. "I learned a lot from it. I saw a lot of things I wouldn't have been exposed to otherwise."

The College of Optometry's program was launched by Bai-Chuan Jiang, Ph.D., FAAO, professor of optometry, after NSU students went to Tianjin, China, in 2002 for externships supported partly by the Tianjin Eye Hospital. Shortly after this, Jiang began to teach optometry and vision science in China for one month each summer. In 2005, NSU's Health Professions Division, which includes the College of Optometry, provided funding for two visiting Chinese professors to study at NSU.

"We used their knowledge to help with teaching labs and research assistance," Jiang said.

Since then, about 10 Chinese visiting scholars have worked at NSU, and about 50 optometry students have studied in China, including 6 students in 2008.

"There are many benefits for our students. There is the cultural exchange, and our students can see more patients compared to an externship in the United States," Jiang said. "The students come in contact with many patients with different kinds of diseases and really benefit from that exposure."

The College of Pharmacy's study-abroad program started in 2004, but not in China. "We began the exchange in Peru to go to the Amazon and study plants. This led to our interest in studying nontraditional medicine," said Andrés Malavé, Ph.D., R.Ph., dean of the College of Pharmacy. "In China, we were studying traditional Chinese medicine." NSU optometry students had an opportunity to observe traditional Chinese methods, including the use of acupuncture to treat conditions such as glaucoma and crossed eyes.

So far, pharmacy students and faculty members have made two study-abroad trips to China, beginning in 2007. Last year, 50



NSU pharmacy students and faculty members examine insect remedies at a traditional Chinese medicine pharmacy.

pharmacy students, faculty members, and pharmacists traveled to Beijing, as well as to several Japanese cities, for 22 days. Called Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine, the course included 60 hours of lectures and 8 hours of clinical observation at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, one of China's most prestigious universities.

Students learned such traditional philosophies as Qigong and Tui na, food therapy, and herbal medicine from well known physicians and professors. Along with the academics, this program emphasized cross-cultural understanding, allowing students the time to explore historical sites and develop a richer appreciation of China's ancient culture.

If the study of age-old remedies seems odd in this time of modern drugs, Malavé said it isn't. He believes today's pharmacists may need to suggest alternative medicines that sometimes are less expensive or more effective than conventional medication. Pharmacists also should be aware of possible interactions between conventional

and alternative treatments, which can be severe, he said. "The reality is that, in this country, and especially here in South Florida, many people are using nontraditional medicines," Malavé notes. "We have to know what our patients are doing."



His colleagues agree on the importance of looking beyond standard training when educating new pharmacists. “The study-abroad program provides an introduction and helps them integrate the Western practice with Eastern tradition,” said Leanne Lai, Ph.D., director of the international program at the College of Pharmacy. “It helps students become more open-minded about other methods.”

Fourth-year pharmacy student Tami Houser, who was part of last year’s trip to China, said she gained respect for traditional Chinese medicine on the journey. “I also learned ways to incorporate it into Western medicine. For instance, we spoke to patients in hospitals in Beijing who use acupuncture to treat side effects caused by the Western medications they use,” Houser said. “I would recommend the study-abroad program to other students because it is such a unique and valuable learning experience that very few other pharmacy students or pharmacists will ever have.”

But it’s not only the students who benefit from NSU’s China connection. The Chinese visiting scholars in the College of Optometry say they come here to teach and learn from Americans.

“I think the biggest difference is that American optometry has a very mature system of education. But, in China, it’s still very young,” said Ying Wu, M.D., an ophthalmologist from Fudan University in Shanghai, who is currently teaching and studying at NSU’s College of Optometry. “We want to learn and gain experience from America in how to construct an appropriate educational system in China and also to experience clinics here.”

Along with her colleague from Fudan University, Feng Xue, M.D., Wu plans to spend a full year at NSU. Several weeks after arriving, both say they’re already happy with their visit.

“Here, they give me lots of help and allow me to observe. Even my supervisor said, ‘You can do whatever you want,’” Xue said. “In our spare time, we talk about the differences between China and here. Maybe we can learn from the experience in the United States, and when we go back, we can provide better service for our patients.”

In both the colleges of optometry and pharmacy, the future seems likely to bring even greater collaborations with China.

Jiang said he hopes the College of Optometry will begin a joint-degree program with a Chinese university, drawing graduate students from China to study here, while continuing the flow of NSU study-abroad students to Asia. He said discussions about this are underway with Shenyang Medical College in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. “I want this program to operate so that both sides feel the benefits,” Jiang said.

Attracting even larger numbers of Chinese academics to NSU should be easy enough, judging from the experience of another visiting scholar in the College of Optometry, Yongji Liu, Ph.D., from Nankai University in Tianjin. After more than one year here, she said her work has been productive and enjoyable.

“I think the facilities for us are very good at NSU—things such as the shuttle bus and availability of computers and printers. What impressed me most are the electronic resources at the library,” she said. “And the staff is very warmhearted at this school. People are nice. I had a good time here.”

At the College of Pharmacy, Lai said the study-abroad affiliation with the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine will continue. “They’re a major research institution,” she said. She added that there is also a new affiliation between NSU and Taiwan’s largest pharmacy school, Kaoshiung Medical University. Lai will be part of a faculty exchange tentatively scheduled for June 2009, and talks have begun about the possibility of developing a student research exchange as well. ■

Pharmacy Students Respond to International Natural Disasters

When a massive, 7.9-magnitude earthquake struck central China’s Sichuan Province in May 2008, killing more than 22,000 people, a group of NSU College of Pharmacy students were quick to help the victims.

“A tragedy in China is a tragedy for everyone,” said Tami Houser, a fourth-year pharmacy student. “My heart went out to all the victims.”

Houser and her classmates began to raise money for the Red Cross Society of China to help victims purchase food, medicine, potable water, blankets, temporary shelter, and other basic necessities. Although they’ve never been to China before, Houser said she felt personally connected to the victims because she was preparing to participate in a study-abroad program in China a few weeks after the earthquake struck.

By June, the students raised \$1,500 for the Red Cross Society of China. Soon after, they joined forces with the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine to increase the relief efforts.

“Our pharmacy students want to reach out to the people of China in their time of need,” said Leanne Lai, Ph.D., an NSU professor of pharmacy who oversees the study-abroad program. Lai took 48 pharmacy students to Japan and China last summer to learn about holistic medicine and traditional Chinese medicine techniques—such as acupuncture, Tai Chi, massage therapy, and herbal medicine—in a real-world setting.

Not long after their China trip, the pharmacy students were offering their relief efforts in another part of the world devastated by natural disasters. The Caribbean region had been pummeled by a series of hurricanes and tropical storms in August and September that left death and destruction in their wake.

One of the worst-hit places was the island nation of Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti was struck by hurricanes Ike and Gustav and tropical storms Fay and Hannah during a month-long stretch. The storms left towns inundated with floodwaters and residents without homes, food, and potable water.

To abate the suffering, the pharmacy students teamed up with their classmates from the colleges of osteopathic medicine and allied health and nursing to collect donations of nonperishable food, clothes, water, bedding, and other supplies. The Health Professions Division (HPD) students collaborated with Food for the Poor, a South Florida-based charity organization that transported the goods to Haiti. In addition, the pharmacy students sold stickers to raise money.

“This is an excellent example of how our health professions students are making a difference in people’s lives,” said April Mitchison, M.B.A., NSU’s manager of events and academic support systems for HPD.

“Helping victims is the right thing to do because we are all members of the global community,” said Houser.

around campus

TAKING A STEP FORWARD

Showcasing the step, stroll, and salute talents of 10 different fraternities and sororities from colleges across Florida, the second annual Brown and White Jump Off step competition filled the arena at the Don Taft University Center with a crowd of 1,200 spectators in fall 2008.

Stepping is a form of dance that has been traditionally practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities. It involves teams of dancers using their bodies to create complex rhythms through a mixture of footsteps, spoken word, and hand claps.

The high-energy event, hosted by NSU's Lambda Theta Phi Latin fraternity, showcased the creativity and vigor of step teams from NSU, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida Memorial University, University of South Florida, University of Florida, and University of Central Florida.

Although the event was just in its second year, organizers hope to build on its success and make it one of the premier step events in Florida.

"Other schools have step shows, so we wanted to bring a lot of people and step teams to NSU to make a statement," said Rafael De La Rosa, president of Lambda Theta Phi at NSU. "The event is only going to grow and get more competitive as teams try to top each other. It's going to keep progressing, and the teams are going to have to get even more creative with their routines."

NSU's own Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Florida Atlantic University's Alpha Nu Omega fraternity emerged as



NSU's Phi Beta Sigma performs in step competition

the winners of the \$1,000 prize. Both teams also received commemorative paddles.

Visit www.nsulambdas.org for more information about the Brown and White Jump Off. ■

EXPLORING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AND UNDERSTANDING ON CAMPUS

Alexis Melville was raised a Christian, but her family has always supported the exploration of other faiths and religions. So, she naturally gravitated to a new program at NSU called Faith Connections, which was launched to support the spiritual discovery and development of students and faculty and staff members.

"In my household, a lot of different viewpoints were expressed. My family always encouraged me to seek out other religions and find my own niche," said Melville, 25, who is in her second year as a clinical psychology student at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies. "I've always been really curious about other religions and wanted to see how other people worship."

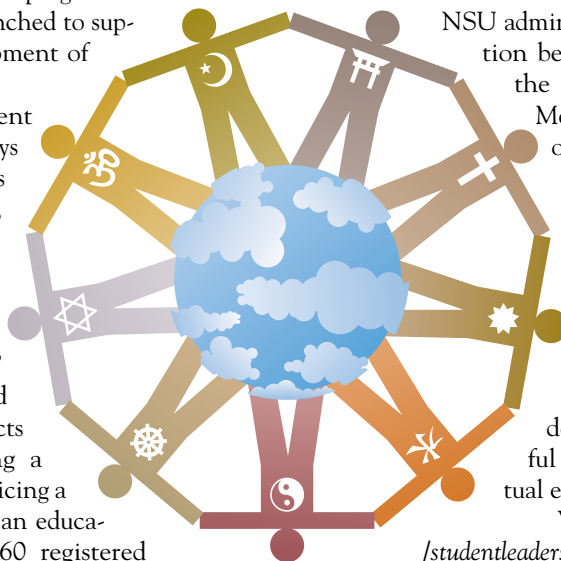
The program, which is coordinated by NSU's Spiritual Life Council, connects those who are interested in exploring a faith with someone who is currently practicing a religion and has volunteered to serve as an educational guide. There are more than 160 registered participants in Faith Connections representing a wide range of

religions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Baha'i.

Melville learned about the Baha'i faith from NSU administrator Lua Hancock, Ed.D. The connection between the pair included discussions on the foundation and beliefs of the faith. Melville even attended a Baha'i celebration of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the faith.

"NSU is an incredibly diverse community made up of people with different religious backgrounds and beliefs," said Terry Morrow, who oversees the program as director of student leadership and civic engagement. "Faith Connections provides an opportunity for NSU students and employees to build meaningful relationships within the context of spiritual exploration."

Visit our Web site at www.nova.edu/studentleadership/spirituallife for more information about Faith Connections. ■



NSU SINGS, AND CELEBRATES, THE BLUES

The soulful sounds of the blues resonated across our main campus this past November as NSU again hosted the South Florida International Blues Festival. The 2008 event brought the largest crowd ever. More than 7,000 people attended the free, three-day festival, which is now in its third year.

The crowd welcomed performers including Grammy-nominated blues artist Kenny Wayne Shepherd, The Delta Guitar Slingers, Southern rocker Anthony Gomes, and Janiva Magness. Magness is a two-time winner of the Blues Music Award for Contemporary Female Artist of the Year and a nominee for the 2009 Blues Music Award for the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year Award.

Founded in 2007 by blues enthusiasts Randy Pohlman, Ph.D., dean of NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, and Robert (Bob) Sellani, D.B.A., associate professor at the Huizenga School, the annual event is now the premiere blues festival in South Florida.

"It's a great way to bring blues to South Florida and the community to NSU," Pohlman said. "Blues is a uniquely American form of music that appeals to all types of people."

In addition to the professional talent appearing throughout the weekend, the Blues Festival also showcased the musical talents of students from two local area high schools. The University School Blues Band and Hialeah Senior High School Blues Band opened the festival on Friday evening with performances on the main stage.



Jason Ricci, playing the harmonica at the South Florida International Blues Festival

A canned food drive to benefit the Cooperative Feeding Program was held during the three days of the festival. More than 40 NSU students from around the university and 20 community members volunteered their time to help others and create awareness of the silent epidemic of hunger and poverty in Broward County. More than 20,000 cans were collected and \$2,100 was raised.

NSU will once again host the South Florida International Blues Festival on its main campus this November 6, 7, and 8. The 2009 festival promises to be packed with some of the best blues talent in the country.

Visit www.southfloridainternationalbluesfestival.com for more information. ■

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL ALUMNI REUNITE ON STAGE

Featuring memorable numbers from musical theater classics such as *Guys and Dolls*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *A Chorus Line*, NSU's University School recently presented the *Performing Arts Alumni Re-Union Show: The Tradition Continues*, starring former students from four decades of the school's history.

The show brought together alumni including professional actors Seth Gabel and Josh Gad, both from the class of 1999. Gabel, of television's *CSI* and *Dirty Sexy Money*, was chosen as one of *People* magazine's Sexiest Men Alive in 2007. Gad, who performed in films *21* and *The Rocker*, recently won a Tony for his role in Broadway's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The pair—and about 50 additional performing arts alumni and 20 current students—came together for a unique, one-night performance on December 27, 2008, at the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale.



The cast of University School's *Performing Arts Re-Union: The Tradition Continues* show gets things started during the first stage of the show, "Beginnings," which featured musical excerpts from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver!*, *Godspell*, *Hair*, *Pippin*, and *A Chorus Line*.

"It was just a great way to revisit with friends and current students and be a part of it again," Gad said.

Led by organizers including 1994 alumna Nicole Prouty,

the cast, crew, choreographers, directors, and pit members learned music, dance moves, and dialogue in their respective cities before reuniting to recreate their favorite musical memories. Of course, this meant numerous emails and conference calls, culminating in a 15-hour rehearsal the day before the unprecedented performance.

"It was an exciting and very creative show," said Dave Walker, University School band director. "They're all very talented people, and they have worked so hard. It's tremendous that they pulled off something like this."

Visit www.uschool.nova.edu/arts for more information about University School's Department of Performing Arts. ■

around campus

EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY AT ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The name says it all.

For the past 11 years, the Nova Southeastern University community has come together each January to recognize achievements, honor distinguished community activists, and award notable alumni on one night: the Celebration of Excellence.

The celebration, hosted by Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., NSU president, includes the presentation of the university's highest honor, the President's Community Award, which is bestowed on individuals whose leadership and support provide the foundation for continued growth of the university. At this year's event, held on January 22 at the Signature Grand in Davie, Lorraine Thomas was awarded the President's Community Award for her generosity in helping children.

Thomas and her late husband, Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy's International, established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 1992 to increase adoptions of children waiting in foster care systems throughout North America. Dave and Lorraine Thomas have been benefactors of the Children's Home Society of

at the Center for Psychological Studies and the Lorraine Thomas Business Student Scholarship.

"She has been involved in many areas here at the university, mainly with things that people don't see, such as scholarships for students in the fields of psychology and business," Ferrero said. "It's a continuing legacy and a continuing gift."

This year's Celebration of Excellence also honored Distinguished Alumni Award winners from the university's various schools, colleges, and centers. These annual awards are given by the deans of each of NSU's colleges and centers.

2009 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES INCLUDED

■ Jeffrey Albert, D.M.D., 2004 College of Dental Medicine

A dentist with the Palm Beach County Health Department's dental division, Albert is considered a leader in providing lower income individuals with necessary dental services.

■ Somy Ali, B.S., 2002 Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Ali is a human rights advocate and documentary filmmaker dedicated to serving women and children across the globe.

■ Matt Dane Baker, D.H.Sc., 2007 College of Allied Health and Nursing

Baker is the dean of the School of Science and Health at Philadelphia University, as well as a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard.

■ Nikolas Camejo, M.S., 1984 Oceanographic Center

As president of E3nnovations, a sustainable economic development group, Camejo is instrumental in developing and implementing projects using energy-efficient, sustainable technologies that use renewable energy sources.

■ Mary Charbonneau, O.D., 1999 College of Optometry

An optometrist and humanitarian who has completed missions to provide eye care to the needy people of Central and South America, Charbonneau is the president for Northeast Florida Optometric Society.

■ Joan M. Cook, Ph.D., 1999 Center for Psychological Studies

An assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine, Cook is an internationally recognized expert on trauma among geriatric populations.

■ Tyler Cymet, D.O., 1988 College of Osteopathic Medicine

As the associate vice president for medical education for the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Cymet is part of an organization responsible for setting new policies and advancing the state of osteopathic medical education.



This year, NSU honored 17 distinguished alumni.

Florida and helped build a temporary home for children in Fort Lauderdale. The I. Lorraine Thomas Emergency Home also serves as a Children's Home Society emergency shelter for children removed from their home as a result of abuse and neglect.

"If we had it, we'd share it," said Thomas of her and her husband's philanthropy. "Once you start making money, you have to learn to give back a little. I'm very fortunate, so if I can spread a little fortune around, it's just the thing."

A resident of Broward County for more than 25 years, Lorraine Thomas has also been a longtime supporter of NSU. She received the Humanitarian of the Year award from NSU's Center for Psychological Studies in 2002. In 2003, she gave a gift of \$500,000 to the university's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship and lent her name to the R. David Thomas and I. Lorraine Thomas Dean's Office Suite in the Carl DeSantis Building, which is home to the Huizenga School. Thomas has also benefited NSU students through the Lorraine Thomas Endowed Scholarship

■ Gaby Esteves

Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale
Nova Southeastern University

A graduate of the museum's Studio School, Esteves is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

■ Maria Jose Fletcher, J.D., 1998

Shepard Broad Law Center

Fletcher is the supervising attorney for the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center and the director of Lucha, a women's legal project.

■ Seth Gabel

University School

Gabel is a television and film actor whose credits include roles on the television shows *CSI*, *The Closer*, *Sex and the City*, and *Nip/Tuck* as well as in the film *The DaVinci Code*. In 2007, he was cast in his first regular series role as Jeremy Darling in ABC's *Dirty Sexy Money*.

■ Josh Gad

University School

Gad is a film, television, and stage actor who has appeared on the television show *ER*, in films *The Rocker*, *Crossing Over*, and *21*, and on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning role of William Barfee in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

■ Tyon Hall, M.S., 2004

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

A national presenter with the Gottman Institute for the Loving Couples, Loving Children program in Seattle, Hall trains mental health professionals to work with low-income couples using the Gottman theory.

■ Bonnie Hathcock, M.B.A., 1989

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Hathcock is the senior vice president and chief human resource officer at Humana and is responsible for the organization's human resources practices, recruitment and retention, organizational development, professional development, and associate information services.

■ Johnathan Kabot

Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies

As an exceptional student education instructor at the Baudhuin Preschool, Kabot educates children with autism. He is a graduate of NSU's University School and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education degree at NSU.

■ Michael Kaplan, Pharm.D., 1999

College of Pharmacy

As the president of Medic Pharmacy and Surgical, Kaplan is responsible for the overall operation and management of the full-service pharmacy and medical supply center. He is a preceptor for fourth-year NSU pharmacy students who complete rotations in geriatric pharmacy care at Medic Pharmacy.

■ Frederick Moxley, Ph.D., 1997

Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences

As the director of research for network science for the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, Moxley is the adviser for all academic research and curricula development.

■ Tony Zeiss, Ed.D., 1979

Fischler School of Education and Human Services

As the president of Central Piedmont Community College, the largest college in North Carolina, Zeiss is responsible for leading more than 70,000 students on six campuses. ■



Lorraine Thomas was presented with the President's Community Award by Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., NSU president (right) and George Hanbury, Ph.D., NSU's executive vice president/COO.

President's Community Award Winners

- 2009 I. Lorraine Thomas
- 2008 Claire and Dan Marino
- 2007 Frank Till, Jr., Ed.D., and David H. Rush
- 2006 Alvin Sherman and August Urbanek
- 2005 Wayne and Marti Huizenga
- 2004 August and Toni Paoli and Morton and Geraldine Terry
- 2003 Jim & Jan Moran
- 2000 Robert and Millicent Steele
- 1999 William and Norma Horvitz
- 1998 Leo Goodwin, Sr.
- 1997 Abraham L. Mailman

Shark Spirit Reaches



New Heights



During the 2009 Homecoming ceremonies on February 11, Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., NSU president, unveiled a magnificent, 17-foot-high, bronze sculpture of a mako shark. Housed at the entrance to the Don Taft University Center, the leaping shark, representing the university's mascot, rises above a bronze wave of water in a 10-foot-high fountain. Weighing 3,000 pounds, the creation also contains 76 individually sculpted teeth welded into the shark's mouth and cast in polished stainless steel.

(continued on page 36)



*A new home for the arts,
bigger dreams for*



NSU talent

BY DAVID AMBER

For Monica Lynne Herrera, dreams of a career in musical theater are becoming a reality—without even leaving South Florida.

Herrera, 20, is a theatre major at Nova Southeastern University, where expanding arts programs, esteemed faculty members, new facilities, and community partnerships



Left: Students experimenting in the lighting lab

Below: Students running the tech booth to ensure quality sound and communication with technicians



NSU is the only four-year university based in Broward County that offers bachelor's degree programs in the performing arts, dance, and music. These programs are available through the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, which recently added the Division of Performing and Visual Arts to house multidisciplinary undergraduate degree programs in art, dance, and music, in addition to Herrera's chosen major of theatre. The college also offers related minors and is implementing a bachelor's degree program in arts administration, which complements students' creative experiences with management training. In addition, the university's theater productions offer a wealth of opportunities for students to perform on campus.

While the college's new arts curriculum is essential to the success of this expansion, equally valuable is its excellent faculty of practicing artists, Michael Caldwell, D.M.A., director of the Division of Performing and Visual Arts, explained.

Arts students benefit from the college's insistence on maintaining smaller class sizes. "The arts require quite a bit of time and effort," Caldwell said. "We're unique because we have a very supportive environment." While arts programs at some other universities may be larger and older, students may also feel more anonymous. NSU's arts programs enable undergraduates to participate in activities, such as advanced theater productions, that they may not otherwise engage in until after graduation.

That sentiment is echoed by students like Herrera. "We have a lot of support for the arts from the school and its faculty. That was really influential in me coming to NSU," she said about her experience so far at the university. "They're excited that we're here. And that makes me excited to be here."

While developing and advancing these programs, NSU has the opportunity to respond to today's arts trends and the current need for arts training. "Being

are fast transforming the school into a major center for the visual and performing arts.

Last fall, Herrera was on stage for *Opening Night*, the inaugural production at the university's 250-seat Performance Theater. This venue is part of the new Performing and Visual Arts Wing at the Don Taft University Center that opened in October 2008 on NSU's main campus in Fort Lauderdale. In February, Herrera also performed in the winter musical *Baby*. As if acting, singing, and dancing aren't enough, her interests also include directing—another goal that her NSU coursework can prepare her to achieve.

Clearly, NSU is moving Herrera closer to realizing her dreams. "It was the right choice," she said of her decision to join the university's growing performing and visual arts programs.



Left: Barbara Ryan, M.F.A., professor, instructing student Christina Franco during life drawing class

Below: Jennifer Donaldson, D.M.A., leading piano instruction class in the Yamaha keyboard lab

new is a really good thing. We can carefully craft a mission and vision,” Caldwell said, as they recruit talented students with grants, meet with high school advisers, and reach out and respond to potential students.

Programs like arts administration also help balance students’ creative enterprises with practical management skills. “One of the things we have to acknowledge is that not everyone is going to be a practicing artist,” Caldwell said, highlighting the need to develop competent arts administrators who understand the business.

A key part of NSU’s developing arts programs is the expansion of teaching resources. The new Performing and Visual Arts Wing at the Don Taft University Center is supporting the faculty and students with a performing arts center, black box theater, more than 20 cutting-edge art and dance studios and classrooms, orchestra and choral rooms, and scene and costume shops. These resources enhance education for students while integrating the arts into the campus and community fabric.

“This positions us to enhance cultural life, both at NSU and beyond,” Caldwell said.

Beyond the classroom, the university’s connection with the region’s vibrant arts community includes theater, music, and visual arts partnerships and collaborations.

The Don Taft University Center’s Black Box Theater is home to The Promethean Theatre, a professional theater company based in Miami. This on-campus venue will also serve as a future center for many experimental and innovative student productions. NSU’s partnership with the Broward Center for the Performing Arts enables the on-campus Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center to bring a diverse annual performance schedule to the university and the community at large.

The university also hosts the annual South Florida International Blues Festival and is home to Ars Flores, NSU’s orchestra in residence, a unique assembly of professional South Florida musicians who pair with and mentor talented secondary school students.

On-campus galleries in the Don Taft University Center and the Alvin Sherman Library provide exhibit space that brings museum-quality art into the daily lives of the university community. While the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, through a recent merger with NSU, encourages students and university employees to explore the world-class exhibits of this local venue.

“We have been increasing our focus on the arts at NSU for several years. But, 2008 reflects a significant step forward for our performing and visual arts programs,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. “We’re building outstanding programs and a rich and diverse faculty, and they’re bringing the university—and South Florida—into a new era.” ■



A FRIEND IN PAIN LEADS TO A CAREER TREATING OTHERS IN NEED

BY JULIE LANDRY LAVIOLETTE



In the late 1990s, while physical therapist Amy Stein was completing her master's degree at Nova Southeastern University, a friend began complaining of a mysterious discomfort following her hysterectomy. With Stein's interest in pain management alternatives to surgery and pharmaceuticals, she was immediately on the hunt for an accurate diagnosis and treatment for her friend and others suffering with pelvic pain. The diagnosis, a pelvic floor dysfunction, was difficult to pinpoint and seemed even harder to treat without surgery or medication. But, the challenge pointed Stein toward what she knew and believed in—physical therapy—for treatment solutions to this disorder and others like it.

After graduating from NSU's College of Allied Health and Nursing in 1999 with a Master's in Physical Therapy degree, Stein moved to New York and worked for a rehabilitation center where she could treat her patients with pelvic floor dysfunction. Seeing more and more patients with this condition, Stein recognized the need for a facility that specialized in its treatment. In 2003, she opened her own practice.

Her now thriving business, Beyond Basics Physical Therapy, is located in the heart of Times Square. And her book, *Heal Pelvic Pain: The Proven Stretching, Strengthening and Nutrition Program for Relieving Pain, Incontinence, I.B.S. and Other Symptoms Without Surgery*, was released in August 2008. With five physical therapists, including fellow NSU alumna Stacey Futterman, M.P.T. (1996), and additional muscle strengthening and pain management services like acupuncture and yoga, Stein's practice helps about 100 patients each week.

What originally drew you to physical therapy?

I was interested in sports when I was younger. I also was interested in the medical field, but I wanted that continuous one-on-one contact. Physical therapy gave me that.

How did you help your friend with pelvic pain to get properly diagnosed?

I initially went to a couple of my professors at NSU. They suggested pelvic floor dysfunction. At the time, there was not a lot of research on the topic. NSU had a problem-based learning system in which you diagnosed a problem based on symptoms. So, I took the problem to class, and I kept researching it. That's how it helped me to help her.

What led you to open your own practice?

I realized that there was a huge need for this type of therapy. At the time, there was hardly anyone treating this disorder. Now, there are about 15 others in New York City, and maybe one in every major city, but not in the rural areas. I get a lot of calls nationally and internationally from people looking for pelvic floor specialists.

How has your practice expanded?

We treat men, women, and children with pelvic floor dysfunction, orthopedic problems, and women's issues. But, 95 percent of our patients have pelvic floor dysfunction. It's a very specialized area of physical therapy.

What led you to write a book on pelvic pain?

I don't consider myself a very good writer, but I had a patient with irritable bowel syndrome whose condition I was able to improve 100 percent through physical therapy and a nutrition plan. She was a literary agent, and she was so impressed with the results that she said I had to write a book. She helped me with a book proposal, and for the next year and a half, I wrote a book.

Pelvic floor dysfunction is under-diagnosed by health care providers, and many patients are put on medications when they aren't needed, or they have unnecessary surgeries. One of the main purposes of my book is to help get the word out there, for this patient population to know that there is hope and that

there may be a better option than medications and surgery. Therefore, it is essential to get proper diagnoses and proper treatments.

What are some of the techniques you use in treating pelvic floor dysfunction?

There are two different physical therapy programs and techniques we use to treat pelvic floor dysfunction. One is for patients experiencing weakness with no pain. The weakness displays itself as incontinence. We can teach these individuals to strengthen and control those muscles through biofeedback and Kegel exercises. Biofeedback is a tool we use for teaching the patient how to locate, activate, and release the pelvic floor muscles. It visually shows the patient on a screen when, and to what intensity, they are activating those muscles.

The second patient population is more complicated and not talked about as often. We see more patients with pelvic pain and Irritable Bowel Syndrome or IBS. These patients come to us with bladder, bowel, and/or sexual dysfunction. For these issues, we help patients through stretching, relaxation techniques, and manual therapy. With this population, the muscles seem to be more tense and tight. So, we teach them to relax the muscles and control muscle spasms.

Why do you offer nontraditional therapies such as acupuncture and yoga through your practice?

I feel that a holistic approach is better for this specific patient population. The diagnosis is often difficult to hear. We also refer patients for stress management and mental health help. The majority of physical therapists offer traditional therapy, but I think the multidisciplinary approach is an emerging and useful trend.

What should someone studying physical therapy know now?

The changes in health care are making it more challenging to open and maintain a private practice. Having this niche has helped me. I would recommend that anyone going into the field try to find a specialization.

Looking back, would you have done anything differently in your training?

I would have liked to work in a hospital. That would have enabled me to complete rotations in different areas.

You have a thriving practice and a book out. What's next?

I'm back at NSU, working on my doctorate in physical therapy online. I'd also like to expand my practice, and I've started doing some public speaking.



How did your experience at NSU help you in your career?

It helped me become more independent. That's what NSU promoted by encouraging me to continue research on my own. My professors guided me, but they wanted me to seek things out on my own. We also worked in groups, which helped me learn how to work well with others.

What advice do you have for NSU students?

Work hard to reach your goals, but enjoy your life. At NSU, I feel like I had a good balance in that sense. It was hard, but I really enjoyed my classmates. Some of my closest friends are fellow graduates. ■



Abe Fischler:

EDUCATIONAL VISIONARY

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

The lesson that led Abraham “Abe” Fischler, Ed.D., to become one of the nation’s most successful and respected leaders in education wasn’t taught to him in the classrooms of Columbia University, where he earned his doctoral degree in education. And he didn’t learn it as a professor at the University of California—Berkeley or Harvard University. Rather, his philosophy on life and education was instilled in him long before his 22 years as the second president of Nova Southeastern University. It emanated from a simple question he asked his father when he was only 10.

1979 15th Anniversary Celebration:
The Fantastic Four (left to right): Alexander Schure, chancellor
and CEO; Mary McCahill, chairman of the board; Abraham S.
Fischler, NSU president; and James "Mr. Nova" Farquhar



"I asked my father why we were here. He said, 'to leave the world better than you found it.' And I asked him, 'How do you do that?' He responded, 'You have to find a way to make a difference.'"

In the lives of many and in the landscape of learning, Abe Fischler has made a difference. He is a true visionary in the field of education and will forever be recognized for his contributions to Nova Southeastern University.

"He sustained a vision during some rocky times, but it's a credit to Abe that we are where we are today," said Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., who became NSU's fifth president and chief executive officer in 1998.

It could be said that the concept of what would become Nova Southeastern University began in 1961 when Abe Fischler met Arthur Wolfe at Harvard University. Wolfe, then the assistant superintendent of Broward County Schools, visited Harvard where Fischler was an assistant professor at the Graduate School of Education. Wolfe's mission was to speak with some of the best minds in education, social studies, science, and other areas. He had been given the task of developing an educational model for South Florida named "the Nova concept," which involved creating a place where new educational practices would be invented, implemented, and evaluated.

At the time, Fischler was also appointed by Harvard to direct a summer program at a school in Massachusetts where they were utilizing team teaching. For four weeks, Wolfe discussed the creation of a Nova Complex, a collaboration that would provide education through a person's entire educational life, from birth through the senior years. The pinnacle of the complex would be an independent university.

Five years later, as this concept was beginning to take flight, Nova came calling for Fischler, who was now a professor at the University of California—Berkeley. He was offered the position of the director of science education for the fledgling Nova. "The thinking was that Nova could become the M.I.T. of the South. And, with my science background, it seemed like a good fit," Fischler said.

In July of 1970, Fischler became the second president of what was then known as Nova University of Advanced Technology.

"I looked around and recognized, 'We have the opportunity to make a difference here,'" he said. "We changed the name to Nova University, and we changed the orientation. We were going to become a practical university, helping people do what they wanted to do, but better."

The idea would be to bring education to people where they were located, when they wanted it, and when they needed it. Fischler's idea of this learning module required an innovative approach to distance education.

As much a savvy businessman as he is an educator, the visionary Fischler created an education model that was also low on overhead, gathering colleagues from Harvard and Berkeley to join in the endeavor. He would pay the professors' expenses and fly them to meet with "clusters" of students in a library or in a hotel meeting room.

"We didn't have to provide buildings. Most of the time, we were able to find places to meet," Fischler said. "We didn't have computers. We used the telephone and the airplane—that was our distance learning technology."

For this educator, the chance to help Nova grow was the opportunity to do something new. He longed for work that could

focus on a different approach to teaching. He had already lived in the world of a structured university environment.

"Before coming to Nova, I was a successful, tenured professor at Berkeley. But, there was something missing in my life." Fischler uses a golf analogy to further drive home his point: "Berkeley was shooting a 68 in golf. Whether I stayed or left, I realized they'd still be shooting 68, so I really made no difference."

These early days of Nova University demonstrated that quality education could be delivered in a distance format.

"Then, we evolved,"

Fischler said. What is now known as Nova Southeastern University has grown to an enrollment of more than 28,000 students with more than 103,000 alumni. NSU is the largest independent institution of higher education in the Southeast and the sixth largest independent institution of higher education nationally.

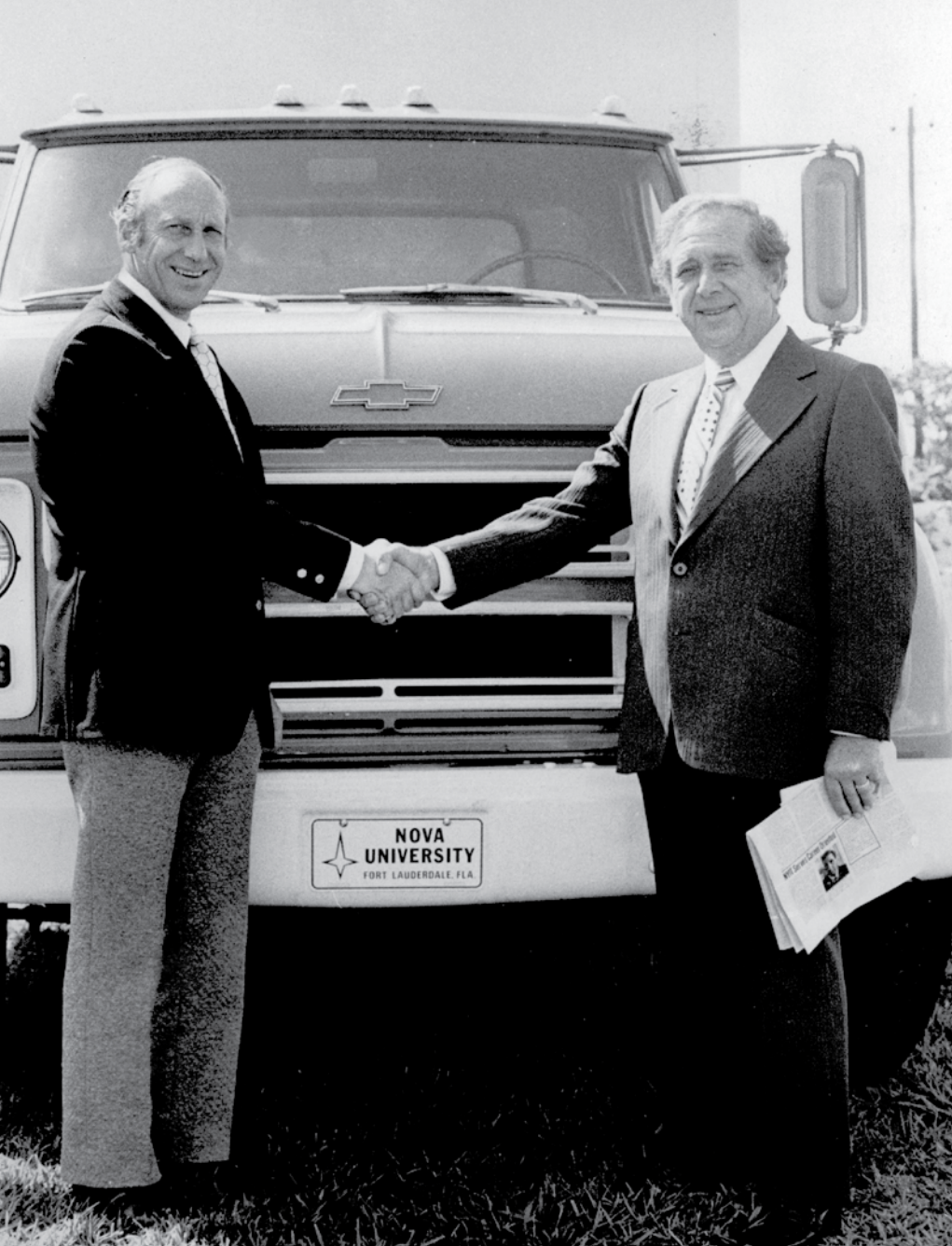
During the course of any discussion about the success of NSU, Fischler mentions the tireless efforts of Ferrero and George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU's executive vice president and chief operating officer. "They have helped to keep the foundation of NSU," he said, adding that they have also moved the university forward in a positive way.

Ferrero, who considers Fischler a "mentor and a friend," believes that NSU would have been a very different institution had it not been for Fischler's fortitude. "It may not have survived," Ferrero said.

Frank DePiano, Ph.D., NSU's university provost and vice president for academic affairs, agreed with Ferrero. "Without Abe Fischler's guidance, support, and absolute tenacious persistence, NSU would not only have failed to grow and mature into the fine academic institution it is now, but might well have not survived at all. He is a visionary in the education field. Thanks to Dr. Fischler,



Abe Fischler, circa 1986



Abe Fischler (left), showing off Nova University's first license plate to a colleague, circa 1973

we have a solid foundation and a dedication to providing our students with an exemplary education.”

During a recent interview on NSU's sprawling, 300-acre campus, Fischler talked about the early brick and mortar days at NSU. He pointed to a large button that he had proudly pinned to his jacket. It said “I Believe in NSU.” “In the early days, there were only a few of us who believed, just a few,” he said. “We had nothing but sand and potential. Now, look at us. I never thought we'd have a library like the one we have or our beautiful Don Taft University Center.”

Fischler says the beauty of the campus is something that he is astounded by every day. But, he also recognizes that the true spirit of NSU permeates far beyond the classroom walls—and even beyond the campus boundaries.

One day, while walking with Nathan M. Pusey, then president of Harvard University, the prominent educator pointed to the hallowed buildings of Harvard and said, “If all these buildings burned down, Abe, there would still be a Harvard. A university is about the interaction between professors and students.” “It was something I never forgot,” Fischler said.

H. Wells Singleton, Ph.D., education provost and dean of the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, said the culture instilled by Fischler and his spirit of innovation continues to

flourish throughout all branches of NSU and, most notably, at the school that bears the former president's name.

At the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, “we have somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 initiatives ranging from an exclusive agreement with the National Association of Elementary School Principals to a small, innovative, husband-and-wife team that workshops on brain research. We are very entrepreneurial here,” Singleton said. “The entire university is the envy of the industry, and it is because of Abe Fischler.”

After his retirement as president of NSU, the educator served on the Broward County School Board from 1994 to 1998. He has been a consultant to the Ford Foundation, various state Departments of Education, and school districts in a number of states. He has also written many articles and publications dealing with science education and advanced teaching methods.

Fischler's motivation to make a difference is still at the forefront of his mind and his efforts. Only days after Barack Obama was elected President of the United States, Fischler submitted a presentation to the White House regarding the need for change in the country's current K through 12 structure. It's a subject he has been writing about on his blog, www.TheStudentIsTheClass.com, and one that has become the focus of his energy.

Fischler said he opened his presentation to the President by saying “if you really want to produce change in education, I am willing to come and help. But, I'm not interested in maintaining the status quo.” He is awaiting an answer to his offer. “There's so much out there that needs to be done,” he said.

As a testament to Fischler's belief that education is the cornerstone of opportunity, it was at his suggestion that his wife, Shirley, began studying law in 1974 at what is now NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center. She graduated three years later in the center's charter class. The couple celebrated 60 years of marriage together on April 9.

“My son, Michael, graduated from the NSU Law Center one year behind his mother,” Fischler said. His other son, Bruce, has a master's degree from NSU. His daughter, Lori, is an international lawyer and business consultant who lives in London. “She's the entrepreneur of the family,” he said.

His grandson, Kenneth, attends the medical school at the University of Miami; granddaughter Danielle is a junior at the University of Central Florida; and granddaughter Mikaela is enjoying classes offered through NSU's Family Center Parenting Place at the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies.

In addition to spending time with his family and remaining an active advocate for education reform, Fischler continues to serve NSU in his roles as president emeritus, professor, and—above all—caring friend. His vision for the next half century of NSU is for the university to honor its original mission, while continuing to move forward. ■

Photos courtesy of NSU Archives

spotlight

HELPING STUDENTS JUGGLE LIFE'S CHALLENGES

BY BOB ROSS

Driven by a desire to “figure stuff out” through creative collaboration, Douglas Flemons, Ph.D., is passionate about helping students who face pressures that they can’t address effectively by themselves.

“The worst thing a student with a personal problem can do is to continue to hold it at arm’s length, trying to control or abolish it. Confusion and anxiety feel crummy,” said Flemons, a professor of family therapy who directs Nova Southeastern University Student Counseling.

Five years ago, Flemons was asked to become the director of Student Counseling and take it to the next level. A soft-spoken, unassuming Canadian with an academic resume that is today 20 pages long, Flemons is also known around campus as the creative force behind the Shark Shuffle, a 5K race/walk in which NSU students who finish get to enter a drawing for a \$500 Deans’ Active Scholar grant. Last year, the students among the 765 finishers competed for 27 grants.

Flemons has an eclectic background. His main area of study as an undergraduate was Chinese philosophy. After graduating, he spent five years as an independent video producer. Then, his fascination with the writings of systems theorist Gregory Bateson inspired him to study family therapy at the University of British Columbia. There, he earned a master’s degree in counseling psychology before heading off to Texas Tech University to study with Bradford Keeney, family therapy and Bateson scholar. When Keeney came to NSU, Flemons followed him, completing his doctoral dissertation here in 1989.

One of Flemons’s books, co-edited with his wife and colleague Shelley Green, Ph.D., is provocatively titled *Quickies: The Handbook of Brief Sex Therapy*. In this case, “brief” refers to the solutions-oriented approach to therapy. Flemons maintains that psychological therapy “does not have to be long and arduous to be effective.” His enthusiasm for brief therapy and taking on new challenges made him the ideal candidate to lead NSU Student Counseling.

Upon accepting the assignment, Flemons assembled a topnotch group of professionals that today includes four full-time staff counselors and a psychiatrist. He also works closely with Scott Poland, Ed.D., associate professor at NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies, as well as a psychology postdoctoral student and a doctoral psychology student to develop and deliver suicide- and violence-prevention training to employees and students across campus.

Researchers working with national data estimate that every year one university student in 10,000 takes his or her life. Flemons and Poland are committed to creating an NSU safety net, educating the entire university community on how to recognize distressed individuals and how to access NSU resources, particularly Student Counseling, for help.

“Figuring out how to administer Student Counseling was analogous for me to doing therapy with a client,” Flemons said. “Both involve resource-based synergy, respect, and a searching for possibilities.” It was a process that started with “hiring wonderful people who like to work collaboratively,” Flemons said, adding that for five years he’s been “fine-tuning the process.”



Douglas Flemons, Ph.D.

Under his direction, NSU began going above and beyond to make mental health help available to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A student in crisis at three o’clock in the morning can receive immediate crisis counseling over the phone as the prelude to a longer-term counseling relationship. Typically, the crisis team gets one to three calls each week.

Student activity fees support the counseling operation. NSU is progressive in offering up to 10 free sessions per year with a qualified counselor. “Most students get into a better place after four

to six sessions,” Roxanne Bamond, Ph.D., assistant director of Student Counseling, said.

Leonard Gralnik, M.D., Student Counseling’s medical director and psychiatrist, is available on-site to see students at modest rates. Fees are usually covered by the students’ insurance. “If not, we find a workable alternative,” Bamond said. “Like in hospital emergency rooms, nobody is refused service.”

In 2008, NSU Student Counseling saw a total of 1,400 clients—up from 1,250 the previous year. At any given time, the caseload may run from 250 to 350 students.

Shortly before Flemons became director, on-campus students began receiving the support of a counselor who lives and works in the residence halls. The first step in inviting a student into treatment often involves recognizing the need for help. So, the counselor-in-residence continually tunes in to see how students are doing, reaching out to those who might be in need. The counselor-in-residence and the 24/7 crisis line are just two branches of the safety net Flemons’s team maintains for NSU students.

Another involves exceptional outreach, including orientations for students in each academic program and workshops to help them adjust to the challenges and opportunities of coming to school, juggling competing demands, and staying centered. One such workshop on stress management, entitled “How to De-Caffeinate Your Life,” makes the point that multitasking is “a myth.” Staffers offer comfort and advice to overwhelmed students who feel that they can meet the demands placed on them only by continuing to push themselves beyond their limits—eschewing essential sleep, rest, and exercise.

“There’s no such thing as multitasking,” Flemons insists. “Our brains don’t operate that way. For example, when you drive and carry on a cell phone conversation simultaneously, you are, research suggests, operating with the same effectiveness as you would with a .08 alcohol level. Even a juggler has to let go of one ball to grab onto the next one. Keep adding balls and, sooner or later, the juggler will drop one.”

Observing the principle of what he calls “sequence-tasking,” Flemons says that we all have more success when we break seemingly impossible tasks into digestible, individually do-able bits. “It allows us to get moving again.”

Additional outreach sessions are held to teach NSU employees how to recognize the signs of students at risk, what to do to help, and how to access NSU resources.

Back when he was teaching full-time in the family therapy program, Flemons put to work his desire to “figure stuff out” by designing and teaching a course on academic writing. This was in response to his graduate students who complained of being frustrated when the standard undergraduate composition courses they’d taken had left them confused and paralyzed.



Flemons conferring with fellow staff members of NSU Student Counseling

“If you see confusion as the enemy, you rob yourself of the opportunity to find clarity. And when you think you need to have your ideas all figured out in your head before you write them down, you set the stage for that notorious malady: writer’s block,” Flemons said.

Flemons’s advice to his students is to divide writing into two separate tasks—creating and editing. When in “creation mode,” students worry only about getting words down on paper or onto the computer screen. Later, in “edit mode,” thoughts can be refined and connected to other thoughts. In presenting this approach, Flemons recalls author William Zinsser’s maxim that “there is no such thing as good writing, only good rewriting.”

Flemons got so interested in this topic that he wrote a book about it, *Writing Between the Lines*. His muse has taken him all over the academic landscape, with authorship extending to books on the logic of hypnosis (*Of One Mind*) and the interweaving of Gregory Bateson’s ideas with Taoism to create a unique way of conceptualizing and practicing family therapy (*Completing Distinctions*).

Flemons said he is motivated not by dry intellectual curiosity, but by the “juicy curiosity” that comes into play when “sizzling collaborative creativity” results in the invention of something wholly new.

The wide range of his academic projects, plus his proven ability to orchestrate Student Counseling innovations, leave no doubt that Flemons is very good at figuring stuff out. Adds Brad Williams, Ph.D., dean of student affairs: “Douglas runs Student Counseling with such creativity and sensitivity to student needs that we’ve been really fortunate to have him. People talk about the importance of collaboration, but he really walks the talk.”

For more information on NSU Student Counseling, visit www.nova.edu/studentcounseling or call (954) 262-7050 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week). ■

spotlight

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD: MAKING THE GRADE IN IRAQ

BY JULIE LEVIN

Life in a war zone can be emotionally and physically demanding. Active members of the U.S. Army are often bogged down by long hours and the near constant anxiety of being in harm's way. For Jason Brushingham, a sergeant first class with the Army National Guard, war-time challenges also included the pursuit of his Master's in Business Administration degree.

"I wanted to finish it. I had been working toward my master's degree for a long time," said Brushingham. And his hard work has paid off. As the culmination of a journey that began in 2002, Brushingham, 33, will graduate from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University this spring.

While the M.B.A. program can be completed in as little as 12 months, family and career responsibilities prolonged graduation for this married father of two young children. Among the obstacles he faced were two long deployments with the National Guard, the most recent assignment sending him to Iraq for a 10-month tour that ended in May 2008. It was during that stretch, based in a combat zone, that Brushingham completed his final two M.B.A. courses.

"If I had any personal or free time, it was spent working on coursework or corresponding with my family," said Brushingham, who is now stationed at the National Guard Armory in Fort Worth, Texas.

But finding free time was not an easy feat. Stationed in the southern part of Iraq with the 3rd Battalion 144th Infantry Regiment, Brushingham's priority was to properly equip five companies of soldiers. He often worked seven days a week, sometimes 12 to 14 hours a day. Days off were few and far between.

"Our job was to make sure the soldiers had everything they were supposed to have and that each soldier was properly trained to use the correct systems that were requisitioned for a mission," said Brushingham, who has been with the Guard for 15 years.

But at least two nights each week, Brushingham would get a few hours off duty when he could concentrate on his Huizenga School coursework. The school's executive-style M.B.A. program accommodates working professionals, like Brushingham, by offering classes online at different times of the day, making it possible for students anywhere in the world to complete the program. For Brushingham, that meant studying in cramped quarters that were no more than 8 feet wide and 15 feet long. He said the work was

actually a welcome distraction for him after spending hours each day focused on military tasks.

"To be able to go back to your room and just leave that for a few hours to focus on something else was great," he said.

To participate in the M.B.A. program's live chat sessions, Brushingham would have to stay awake until three o'clock in the morning, which was evening time in the United States. He let his professors and classmates know that there might be times when he would suddenly disappear from the chat to deal with issues that could be as urgent as incoming enemy fire.

"We actually had mortar attacks during one conference call. Bombs were coming in while we were talking. It was a surreal situation," he said.



Jason Brushingham, M.B.A. student

Brushingham enrolled at NSU through GoArmyEd, a military program in which NSU participates that provides soldiers with access to more than 100 degree plans at regionally accredited colleges and universities. Using advanced technology, GoArmyEd enables soldiers to study at times when their responsibilities, schedules, and duty assignments allow.

Stephanie Zedlar, Ed.D., director of military affairs with NSU, said there are many service personnel who use NSU as their host school for their studies. Many of these students are based in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Korea. They range from privates to higher ranking soldiers and are working toward undergraduate and master's degrees. "Most of them are very motivated to complete their studies because they are doing it for advancement within the military, or they are looking toward what they want to do when they separate from the service," she said.

But even with his degree, Brushingham isn't headed for corporate America just yet. He plans to serve another 12 years in the National Guard, incorporating into his military duties the business philosophy, leadership, and interpersonal skills he learned while earning his M.B.A.

As he prepares for another likely deployment this year, Brushingham said his long road to an M.B.A. is proof positive that it can be done under the toughest circumstances. "All it takes is good time management, discipline, and dedication," he said.

Visit www.nova.edu/business for more information about NSU's M.B.A. programs. Visit www.GoArmyEd.com for more information about the GoArmyEd program. ■

NSU'S DERMATOLOGY TEAM TREATS PATIENTS LIKE FAMILY

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

On a recent Wednesday afternoon, it's business as usual at the Dermatology Center at Nova Southeastern University's Health Care Centers—standing room only.

Patients in the waiting room come in all shapes and sizes. Today, a double stroller carries a one-year-old boy and his three-year-old sister, two foster children brought in by a caregiver because of a rash on the young boy's face. A student in scrubs from the College of Allied Health and Nursing is waiting to be seen for patches of dry skin on the underside of her arms. And a man in his 80s, who sits with his walker while his wife reads to him from a magazine, has arrived for a follow-up visit. Doctors will check on a precancerous skin lesion he had removed a few weeks ago.

One by one, they are called in to a door on the left, while others leave from a door on the right. Beyond the door and into the hallways, it's a hustle and bustle of activity. A first-year resident confers with the attending dermatologist about a patient he's just seen. He'd like a second opinion on a dark mole on the woman's leg. This patient is one of nearly 200 who are seen weekly at NSU's on-campus dermatological center. Many of them come because of skin problems, but some are seeking ways to enhance their appearance. The center has state-of-the-art equipment to help treat everything from embarrassing pimples and annoying wrinkles to skin diseases that can lower quality of life—or even threaten one's life. The center is a place where patients can begin their road to recovery or find their fountain of youth.

"The spectrum of skin diseases we treat covers just about everything from skin cancers to acne to eczema," said Tracy Favreau, D.O., the center's director and assistant director of the Dermatology Residency Program at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"We're prepared to treat anything."

Robert Preziosi, a professor of management at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, has been a patient at the center for 10 years, where he has been treated for skin cancer. While it is convenient for Preziosi to visit the center because it is on the campus where he works, he said it's not the primary reason he selected the center for his skin assessments.

"There are a lot of dermatologists I could go to. The center has the same equipment and uses the same techniques I've experienced at other places. But, they just do everything better here," Preziosi said.

What he said he likes most is the feeling that a team of doctors, not just one specialist, is tending to his needs. "As scientific as medicine is, it is nice when there is another perspective that someone can offer. You get that here," he said. NSU is a university with on-campus health clinics, and therefore, patients are seen by a team of dermatology residents, as well as attending dermatologists including Favreau and Carlos Nousari, M.D., the former codirector of immunodermatology at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and a nationally and internationally recognized authority in immunodermatology (the study of autoimmune diseases and how they affect the skin).

"The teams are composed of faculty members, physicians, residents, or pre- and postdoctoral students under direct faculty supervision. It is structured this way so the team spends more time with each patient for consultation and for answering each and every question," said Robert Oller, D.O., CEO of NSU's clinic operations.

Residents are part of the NSU College of Osteopathic residency program in dermatology and are also integral in day-to-day patient interaction. Julian Moore, D.O., a first-year dermatology resident, feels his time at NSU has already made him a better doctor.

"My experience here is richer than I could have ever imagined. Florida, in terms of the overall general

(continued on page 36)



Julian Moore, D.O., treats a patient. Moore, a first-year dermatology resident, said that his time at NSU has already made him a better doctor.



Tracy Favreau, D.O., examines patient Robert Preziosi at NSU's Dermatology Center. Preziosi has been a patient at the center for 10 years, receiving treatment for skin cancer.

alumni journal

WHAT COULD NOT DESTROY HER MADE HER STRONGER

BY ALAN HANCOCK

The symptoms started just as Meaghan Edelstein was beginning the second semester of her second year of law school. There was bleeding, exhaustion, and extreme pain. Weeks went by before the problem was finally diagnosed: Edelstein had advanced cervical cancer. At age 28, she was given a 20 percent chance of survival.

That was in February of 2007. Edelstein dropped out of law school and immediately began intense chemotherapy and radiation treatments. She also had multiple surgeries as she fought for her life.

Fast-forward to December 2008. On stage in front of family, friends, professors, and classmates, Edelstein—now cancer free and a vocal advocate for cervical cancer awareness—received her degree from the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University.

“Cancer takes so much from you. But, I wasn’t going to let it take away my chance to be an attorney,” she said.

Edelstein’s battle with cancer was a difficult one. Misdiagnoses by numerous doctors before the cancer was discovered had her in excruciating pain and going days at a time without sleep. It wasn’t until Edelstein checked herself into an emergency room that a CT scan revealed a tumor on her cervix. The tumor had grown so large that it had crushed her uterus and ripped open her kidneys. Once she was stable enough to travel, she was transferred from South Florida to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in her hometown of Boston to undergo treatments. Five months later, in July 2007, doctors declared Edelstein cancer free.

Then came the difficult task of moving forward. One month after being deemed cancer free, Edelstein reenrolled at NSU’s Law Center.

“I was terrified of going back to school,” she said. “So much had happened that I worried, ‘Am I going to remember everything? Am I going to be the same person?’ I figured if I didn’t go back right away, I would never go back. So, I decided I was just going to go for it.”

It turns out that Edelstein didn’t have to worry because she quickly adjusted to her return to law school.

“She managed somehow to defy all the odds and come through intact. People don’t readily recover from that type of cancer,” said Michael Richmond, a professor for whom Edelstein

served as a teacher’s assistant. “She was always a very good student. When she came back, she realized that something very special had happened with her, so she took advantage of having a second shot.”

In the summer of 2008, Edelstein created a blog called “I Kicked Cancer’s @ss” to chronicle her experience. Her initial purpose of writing the blog was to find a therapeutic release, to be able to tell her story and move forward. But it also quickly became a resource for others dealing with the disease.

“Even though cancer was a terrible experience, it brought a lot of good things into my life,” Edelstein said. “I want to help other people. When I was sick, I felt really lonely and couldn’t find anyone who went through what I was going through. Now, I constantly hear from people who have advanced cervical cancer who are so excited to find my blog. It’s a resource for them, helping them to think, ‘Okay, I’m about to go on this awful adventure. What kind of things do I have to expect? And there’s someone who lived. And they’re living a good life, and they graduated from law school!’ I want to give that to people.”

The blog, at <http://cancerlost.blogspot.com>, receives more than 25,000 visits a month. It also provides links to resources for those fighting cancer and information on the detection and treatment of cervical cancer.

Although Edelstein has been cancer free for two years now, she still deals with the effects of the disease on a daily basis. She is unable to have children, and she had her kidney removed in April 2009. She also has stacks of medical bills as a result of her medical insurance dropping her after the cancer was detected. Despite the ongoing battle, Edelstein remains positive

and even thankful for her experience.

“Cancer is always going to be a big part of my life. It happened to me for a reason,” she said. “Do I want to go through it again? No. Would I take it back? No. I would never take it back. I’m not going to take a life lesson and put it to the side. It was a gift.”

Having recently received the news that she passed the Florida Bar exam, Edelstein feels confident that her NSU law school education will lead her to more of life’s lessons and gifts—and more ways to give to others. ■



(Left to right) Athornia Steele, dean of the NSU Law Center; graduate Meaghan Edelstein; and Edelstein’s father

THIS LAW FIRM MEANS BUSINESS

BY BOB ROSS

To say that attorney Scott Rothstein has an entrepreneurial bent would be an understatement.

The 1987 graduate of NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center emulates Wayne Huizenga, capitalizing on more than a dozen business opportunities while simultaneously supporting local charities with his generosity. Accordingly, Rothstein's recent decision to have his firm become a corporate partner of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship seems especially appropriate.

Long-time NSU law professor Mark Dobson remembers Rothstein as an especially motivated student. "As a state-certified criminal court intern, Scott tried 10 or 12 cases in one semester. That's the most we've ever had. He was so eager to learn and gain experiences."

The trial lawyer's business card contains the title of chairman and CEO, suggesting that Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler (RRA) is not your father's law firm. Another clue is that RRA's upscale office in the Bank of America building in downtown Fort Lauderdale has no filing cabinets.

Rothstein's rise to prominence began with his and Stuart Rosenfeldt's formation of a seven-person firm in 2002. Rosenfeldt previously served at NSU as an adjunct law lecturer. In seven years, the partners have grown the firm to 60 attorneys with additional offices in Tallahassee, Boca Raton, and New York.

"There's a buzz in the community about them," said Christopher Neilson, president of the Broward County Bar Association.

Robert Levine, assistant dean for career development at the NSU Law Center, says RRA's rise is not about growth for growth's sake. "They've shown very careful growth in key market segments by getting the best talent out there. The attorneys there I know are of high caliber, defined by a strong work ethic and the way they represent their clients."

Among RRA's heavy hitters are 16 NSU Law Center graduates. "They're dynamite lawyers, and they do the law school proud," Levine said.

Along the way, Rothstein and Rosenfeldt recruited partner Russell Adler, a 1986 NSU law graduate and technology guru who, upon his arrival, transitioned RRA to its completely paperless status. Adler is also a 1979 graduate of NSU's University School.

"Technology is one of the structural underpinnings of the firm—part of our secret sauce," Adler said.

He describes Rothstein as a "benevolent dictator" who eschews the typical law firm committee structure because it produces "slow decision making, dissension, resentment, politics, and factions." At the same time, Adler adds, Rothstein "runs our law firm like a business," exhibiting a flair for keeping lawyers and other employees happy through fair treatment. Scant turnover is a testament to the success of his methods.

A traditional law firm "mothers you and gives you rules to follow," Adler said. By contrast, Adler said RRA honors the entrepreneurial spirit by providing "a structure by which attorneys can run their own businesses." In fact, one of RRA's most cherished shareholder perks is having the opportunity to invest in various



(Left to right) Scott Rothstein, Stuart Rosenfeldt, and Russell Adler

business ideas that come to the firm's attention.

One such investment took place after RRA installed innovative software for Qtask, a California-based company. The RRA partners see particular promise in licensing this collaboration tool, which brings teams of people together to manage projects, to other law firms.

RRA investors led by Rothstein have also backed V Georgio Vodka, the Renato watch company, a bank, and three restaurants (Bova Ristorante, Mario's of Boca, and the new Bova Prime on Las Olas Boulevard)—among other transactions. Despite uncertain market conditions, a variety of real estate purchases are currently being explored.

Meanwhile, the investor-owned RRA Goal Line sports management agency represents a unique opportunity for Johnny Williams, a 2001 NSU Law Center graduate and 13-year president of Pro Series, Inc., which presented the Fort Lauderdale Air and Sea Show. Williams presently handles mergers and acquisitions for RRA, but is preparing to shift over to Goal Line after earning his certification to become an agent for NFL players. He says working on this venture will give him "a spectacular opportunity to learn and grow."

Rothstein's success has enabled him to amass \$20 million in residential real estate, a fleet of luxury cars, and a growing reputation as a Republican power broker. He is also becoming known as a benefactor for his reported \$2 million in gifts to local charities in the past year, plus his encouragement to others to give.

Rothstein chaired the Heart Ball in 2008 and 2009. "He is an extremely successful and powerful businessman with a big, giving heart. It is the dream of any nonprofit to have that kind of chair," Maria Hunt, Heart Ball director, said.

John "Footie" Kraus, CEO of Here's Help, echoes this sentiment. Rothstein has generated nearly \$400,000 in the past two years for Here's Help to assist teens with substance abuse problems. "This is not about self-aggrandizement. Scott does it because he's a good person," Kraus said.

RRA attorneys strive to become known as business people who practice law rather than just as members of a typical law firm. And being known as generous businesspeople also has its upside.

Says Adler: "This is what makes potential clients want to associate with us." ■

scoreboard

2008–2009: A BANNER YEAR

BY JEFF KELLEY AND COLLEEN O'CONNELL

Women's soccer player **Hayley Oligane** was named the 2009 James Farquhar Award winner. Recipients of this award exemplify excellence in scholarship, service, and leadership. NSU's staff and faculty members select a graduating senior to receive this honor.

"Hayley is the epitome of a student-athlete and the kind of person we covet at NSU," said Mike Goodrich, head coach of women's soccer. "I will always cherish the contributions Hayley made, not just on the soccer team, but on the NSU campus as a whole."

Oligane has been successful on the soccer field and in the classroom during her four years at NSU. As a junior, she was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-Region First-Team. Additionally, she was named to the *ESPN the Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-District First-Team that same year. Oligane had a breakout season as a sophomore, scoring seven goals and notching three assists while gaining an All-Sunshine State Conference Honorable Mention. She is currently one of only four players in NSU women's soccer history to record at least three goals in a single game.

In the classroom, Oligane has also had much success. Entering the winter 2009 semester, she carried a 3.96 grade point average and was named to the Dean's List seven times. In April 2008, Oligane took first place in the Undergraduate Student Symposium sponsored by NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. Her studies involved genetic research on aquatic animals, specifically the development of testing to identify the endangered Small-tooth Sawfish.

Oligane is a biology major in the Dual Admission program with the College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Hayley Oligane, James Farquhar Award winner

SPRING SPORTS OFF TO A FANTASTIC START

■ Baseball

NSU's baseball team was number 10 nationally in the Collegiate Baseball Division II rankings released on March 23, with a record of 25 wins and 6 losses. Highlighting the Sharks's season was a 21-2 start, which included a school record 13-game winning streak. During that streak, NSU posted wins over then-nationally ranked Valdosta State and West Chester.

Three players have been recognized among the Sunshine State Conference's weekly honors. Senior **Michael Fiers** was selected as the Pitcher of the Week on February 9. Junior outfielder **J.D. Martinez** was named Player of the Week on both February 16 and March 2. Junior **Miles Mikolas** received the team's latest honor on March 23 as the SSC's Pitcher of the Week.

Martinez and Fiers are also among the nation's leaders in several categories according to the NCAA statistics of games played

through March 22. Martinez leads the nation in total bases (105) and is one of two people with a nation-leading 47 runs scored. Fiers is one of seven pitchers to have a nation-leading seven wins on the season. He is also the top pitcher in strikeouts (86) and strikeouts per nine innings (13.65).

■ Softball

NSU's softball team has made a splash on the national scene in the first half of its 2009 season. The Sharks have been ranked as high as number two in the Division II Top 25 Poll. Meanwhile, junior **Dani Caron** was selected as the Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division II National Pitcher of the Week on February 25, marking her as the first player under Lesa Boneé, head coach, to receive national weekly honors.

Junior **Lauren Lopez** has been honored twice by the Sunshine State Conference as Player of the Week. Lopez, who has been stellar in her debut season with the Sharks, was the SSC's Player

of the Week on February 16 and March 23. Lopez is also among the nation's leaders for batting average (fifth, .504) and triples (tied for second, 7.0) according to the NCAA statistics of games played through March 22.

■ Men's Golf

The men's golf team captured two titles in its first four events of the spring season. NSU was first in a 19-team field at the Eloc Inc., Intercollegiate held in California, March 22–24. The Sharks also took first out of 17 teams at the First Federal Southeastern Collegiate in Georgia, March 14–17. NSU has been nationally ranked during the season, including reaching number four in the March 25 rankings.

Greg O'Mahoney has been SSC Golfer of the Week three times, earning the honor on March 2, March 23, and March 30.

■ Women's Golf

NSU's women's golf team has ranked as the top team in the nation throughout much of the spring season. Through their first four spring competitions, the Sharks won three events and tied for second in another. NSU claimed titles at the Lady Braveheart Classic, February 8–10, in California; at the Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational, March 8–10, in Florida; and at the Hoya Women's Golf Invitational, March 30–31, in Georgia.

Two Sharks have received SSC Golfer of the Week honors. On February 16, **Taylor Collins** was selected, and, one month later on March 16, **Sandra Changkija** also earned the distinction.

■ Rowing

The first half of the NSU rowing team's spring season was highlighted by the nine wins the Sharks claimed at the Division II Duals, March 27–28, in Florida. The Varsity 8 led the way, winning



NSU men's track team members

both its races—one against Central Oklahoma and the other against Florida Tech.

For its performance in the Division II Duals, the NSU Varsity 8 was honored as the SSC Boat of the Week on March 30. The Varsity 8 consisted of **Marissa Stickles**, **Samantha Moriarty**, **Amber Bishko**, **Megankate McDonald**, **Cindy Fong**, **Rachel Garbaj**, **Kayla Schock**, **Elizabeth Hurley**, and **Emma Jordan**.

■ Tennis

With a schedule that has included six Division I teams, the NSU women's tennis team started the season 12-5, posting wins over Division I opponents Mt. St. Mary's, Pittsburgh, and Bucknell University.

The Sharks have been ranked in the Campbell/ITA Division II Poll during the season, including a number 11 national ranking.

■ Track and Field

Both the men's and women's track and field programs have had student-athletes meet NCAA provisional qualifying standards. Freshman **Kyley Jorgensen** became the first Shark of the 2009 season to meet a standard. She ran 12.10 in the 100 meters at the FAU Twilight Invitational on March 21, meeting the standard of 12.12. For the men, **Michael Wilson** met two standards at the Hurricane Invitational, March 20–21, provisionally qualifying in the 100 and 200 meters. Wilson ran 10.64 in the 100 meters, which is just 0.01 faster than the standard of 10.65. In the 200 meters, he posted a time of 21.38, meeting the standard of 21.48. ■



NSU women's rowing team members

SHARK SPIRIT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

(continued from page 17)

The sculpture was commissioned by NSU's Pan-Student Government Association and created by famed international wildlife sculptor Kent Ullberg. Ullberg is one of the world's most respected wildlife sculptors, whose list of museum, government, corporate, and private clients spans four continents. His marine and wildlife sculptures rank among the largest and most acclaimed works of art in the world.

On the evening of the sculpture's unveiling, NSU also announced the naming of its 366,000-square-foot University Center in honor of businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Don Taft in recognition of a substantial gift from the Taft Foundation.

"We are deeply gratified that the Taft Foundation has honored NSU with this gift. Don Taft joins a number of distinguished citizens, philanthropists, and organizations who all share a common belief in NSU," Ferrero said.

The Taft Foundation's gift will be used to build an addition to University School's Noel P. Brown Sports Center, which will also serve as the future home of the Special Olympics Broward County, of which Taft is a major supporter.

"I am thrilled to have my name associated with such an outstanding university. I am pleased and proud that the foundation's gift will also be used to benefit an organization I hold dear, the Special Olympics Broward County," Taft said.

Taft has spent more than 50 years as a leader in business, having founded, owned, and managed both private and publicly traded companies. His business expertise has been applied across a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, distribution, wholesale, retail, and entertainment. His philanthropic and charitable endeavors have led him to support many of South Florida's most worthwhile causes. He is also an active member and contributor to the Jack and Jill Center of Broward County and is an honored member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

After the shark statue unveiling and the Don Taft University Center naming announcement, the evening culminated with a surprise gift of \$100,000 from renowned artist and marine scientist Guy Harvey. Harvey is the creator of the world's largest indoor shark mural, which is featured inside the Don Taft University Center. He is also the founder of the Guy Harvey Research Institute (GHRI), which partners with NSU's Oceanographic Center.



Don Taft, businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist

The GHRI conducts high-quality, solution-oriented, basic and applied scientific research needed for effective conservation, biodiversity maintenance, restoration, and an understanding of the world's wild fishes.

Taft's and Harvey's generous gifts and enthusiastic participation in this unveiling revealed more than an impressive statue. They signified a brighter future for NSU. Contributions like these support meaningful research and help provide quality programs and facilities for the university community. ■

NSU'S DERMATOLOGY TEAM TREATS PATIENTS LIKE FAMILY

(continued from page 31)

dermatology experience, is incredible, and not only for surgical dermatology because there is so much skin cancer, but also because of the high interest in cosmetic surgery," said Moore, who came to NSU after four years at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, where he completed a postdoctoral fellowship in dermatology and radiation oncology.

Favreau and the residents of the dermatology center also spend time at the Specialty Care Center, which is part of Broward Health. This center serves a large population of underserved and uninsured individuals through grants, giving a chance to people who otherwise wouldn't be able to be treated by a specialist.

"We see very difficult cases there," Favreau said. One of the most intriguing was a recent case of leprosy. The man had what she knew from her studies to be classic signs of the disease: "saddle nose and the cartilage around his ears was missing in areas, which made it look as if he had multiple piercings, even though he did not."

A biopsy confirmed the leprosy diagnosis, and the man is being treated with medication and is expected to fully recover.

"I believe the one thing that stands out about NSU's clinic and our teaching facility in general is that we have the know-how to handle serious diseases, and we're also very equipped to do some cosmetic treatments. It's a potpourri of the best of everything," Favreau said. Additionally, because the center is in a university setting, patient costs are kept reasonable.

Residents also learn more than just academics in the dermatology program. Favreau, who has a reputation of being a gentle and precise mentor, said that she has very high standards, but one in particular. "I tell the residents that they should treat every patient as if they were a family member. It is also important for them to remember that they can really make a difference in someone's life," she said.

Visit www.nova.edu/healthcare/medical/dermatology.html for more information on the dermatology center. ■

Give them an inch,
and our students will give back to the world.



Candace White, a second-year student at Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, is a passionate advocate for helping those less fortunate than herself. Despite the many academic demands of being a medical student, she willingly spends the little free time she has volunteering with local high school participants of Medical Explorers, a program for students interested in the health care field, and at health fairs throughout South Florida. White has also dedicated many volunteer hours on enriching medical outreach missions to Jamaica and Nicaragua.


"Having the opportunity to work with classmates and physicians to problem solve and determine what diseases or problems may be occurring with patients is exciting," said White, who also served as president of her class during 2008. "The ability to take our learning beyond the classroom is a truly life-changing experience."

White and more than 28,000 students at NSU are exposed to invaluable, hands-on experiences—giving them the perspective they need to make an impact in the world. The Office of Annual Giving supports the colleges, schools, and programs at NSU. By making an annual gift, you can help NSU continue to create learning opportunities that benefit our students and the communities they serve.

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