

Winter 2008

## Horizons Winter 2008/2009

Nova Southeastern University

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WINTER 2008-2009

# HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



**NSU Points to  
Today's Hottest Careers**

**ALSO INSIDE:** *Autism Council Supports Families Looking for Answers • Fostering Leadership at NSU*



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**FEBRUARY 11-14**

Reconnect with former classmates and rediscover the changing NSU campus!

This year's homecoming celebration will include

- Fourth Annual Blues and Bubbly Alumni Event, featuring the Joey Gilmore Band
- continuing education courses and lectures
- Community Fest
- President Ferrero's Third Annual Tailgate Event, featuring the unveiling of the NSU Shark Fountain
- NSU men's and women's basketball teams vs. Lynn University

For more information, visit [www.nova.edu/studentengagement/homecoming](http://www.nova.edu/studentengagement/homecoming)  
or call the NSU Alumni Association at 800-541-6682, ext. 22118.

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To the Friends and Family of NSU:

After one decade as president of Nova Southeastern University, I continue to remain as excited about NSU and the value of our contribution to students, the community, and society as a whole as the day I arrived on campus. By any yardstick, the growth and success of NSU have been stunning. However, the past is only prologue to what, by all indications, will be an even more exciting future. This issue of *Horizons* presents some snapshots in time that hint at just how exciting that future will be.

For example, I draw your attention to the article about the appointment of our first-ever vice president for research and technology transfer. It represents much more than just news of another administrative appointment. In aspiring to become one of the region's most significant research centers, we are beginning to think in a much more strategic fashion about research and its applications. Gary Margules, Sc.D., will be our go-to person to develop new collaborative partnerships with corporations and other research institutions. He will also explore the development of products from our growing research efforts in such fields as cancer, HIV, stem cells, pharmaceuticals, and ocean conservation. Thus, we are entering a whole new entrepreneurial arena with the potential for enormous benefits for all.

In the article about the Holographic Professor, you will be introduced to an imaginative new way of presenting instructional content. It is a product of our Innovation Zone, an all-in-one resource for faculty members teaching online that has produced more than 9,000 online courses last year. As a possible harbinger of things to come, delegates at an important educational conference greeted the arrival of the Holographic Professor with two standing ovations.

Technology has also facilitated development of new online resources for teachers available through our joint use NSU-Broward County library. An online toolkit makes available useful curriculum and research guides and special topic summaries found in more than 250 databases. See the article entitled "Alvin Sherman Library Offers Educators Interactive Toolkit" for more details.

Regarding NSU's growth as an institution, nothing better illustrates our transformation than the tripling of our residence hall capacity during the past two years. Here in *Horizons*, you will read about how the tempo of campus life is quickening as a result.

These glimmers suggest that our achievements tomorrow will dwarf those of the past. I can only imagine the success that NSU will be enjoying in the future.

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

# HORIZONS

is produced by the  
Office of Public Affairs at  
Nova Southeastern University  
3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

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# academic notes

## HOLOGRAPHIC PROFESSORS: NSU DESIGNS DISTANCE EDUCATION OF THE FUTURE

Although practical uses for holograms may seem like something out of a science fiction movie of the week, this advanced technology is being used by Nova Southeastern University's Innovation Zone (IZone) in an online learning approach known as the Holographic Professor.

The approach involves broadcasting a recording of a "virtual instructor" through an online course. It is also one of the many advances being made at NSU involving student engagement in distance education. According to educational literature, active and participatory learning models directly affect student engagement and learning outcomes in distance education.

The Holographic Professor motivates learners by providing both instructional content and a simulated instructor facilitation that has been previously unavailable. It is being used at NSU as a communication tool and even as a guide through an entire online doctoral student orientation program.

Through the resources of NSU Digital Media Production, producing the Holographic Professor involves creating a recording of an instructor in front of a "green screen." The recording is then edited and incorporated in an online course in a similar way to methods used by television news studios to project weather patterns behind reporters.

The Holographic Professor recently generated academic buzz at the Blackboard World Conference attended by representatives from leading academic institutions. Alex Strzyzewski and Loy Campbell of IZone were invited to present the Holographic Professor for "Best of Client Innovation" in online course development at the conference. More than 300 participants attended the session and gave IZone two standing ovations.



IZone, a unit of NSU's Office of Information Technologies and Digital Media, is also a fairly unique concept in higher education, acting as an all-in-one resource for faculty teaching online since its creation in 2000. With faculty-provided content, and by using industry-standard integrated learning systems, IZone produced more than 9,000 online courses last year.

For more information, please visit [www.nova.edu/izone](http://www.nova.edu/izone). ■

## LAW CENTER WELCOMES NEW DEAN

For the first time in more than a decade, the Shepard Broad Law Center at NSU is under new leadership. Athornia Steele started in August 2008 as dean at the Law Center, replacing Joseph Harbaugh, who stepped down from the position after 13 years as NSU's distinguished law school dean.

A former assistant attorney general for Ohio from 1977 to 1980, Steele came to NSU from Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio, where he was a member of the faculty since 1980. He had three stints as an associate dean (1993–1994, 1998–2003, and 2004–2005) and served as interim dean from 2003–2004. He was also a visiting associate professor of law at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Virginia, from 1984–1986.

Steele is active in the legal education community and currently serves on the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar Committee on Law School Administration. He also served on both national and regional planning committees for the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Academic Support Workshops from 1993–2001, chaired the Minority Affairs Committee of LSAC, and is a current member of the LSAC Board of Trustees. Steele has also been involved with the Association of American Law Schools.

"The Law Center is ideally situated to continue to build its reputation and take its place among the nation's top law schools," said Ray Ferrero, Jr., NSU president. "I am confident that Dean Steele will provide the leadership needed to achieve these goals." ■



# academic notes

## COLLABORATORS IN CHANGE: NSU THERAPY CLINIC AND ITS CLIENTS

Students know the Family Therapy Clinic at NSU's Brief Therapy Institute as a live-supervision training facility. South Florida residents know it as a highly affordable provider of brief systemic therapy services. Run by the family therapy program at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), the clinic appointed a director who keeps family at the center of everything she does.

Arlene Brett Gordon, Ph.D., is a licensed marriage and family therapist and a certified family life educator. She has been a member of the university family since 1981, starting as a first-grade teacher at the University School, where her daughter was a student and her mother was the school secretary. In 1990, Gordon enrolled in the family therapy program at SHSS.

She has taught for various campus centers, but mostly for SHSS. Gordon also initiated ongoing training programs in New York and Florida for social service professionals who help families with extreme challenges. These trainings promote solution-focused therapy practices driven by her knowledge of child development. As director of a clinic guided by systemic philosophy, Gordon is also a researcher, teacher, and clinician.

"The clinic helps clients resolve relationship conflicts in ways that benefit everyone involved," she said. "We see our clients as collaborators in change for finding solutions that work best for that particular family. We work with individuals, families, couples—anyone who wants to work with us to improve their lives."

Family therapy is based on very different principles than other mental health practices, Gordon explained. "Systems therapists ask, 'What is the client's relationship to the problem? What would their



life look like when the problem is solved?" You're thinking of your collaborative relationships with others instead of thinking only about yourself."

To increase the community's access to family therapy, Gordon opened the clinic to clients on Saturdays, when more families are able to come for sessions. "We can't always fit clients into our schedules," Gordon said. "Systemic therapy teaches us to meet clients where they are, so it makes sense to help them come for services with the least possible disruption of their family schedules."

For more information, visit <http://shss.nova.edu/BTI>. ■



## FISCHLER SCHOOL'S DOCTORAL DEGREE LICENSED IN NEW JERSEY

Nova Southeastern University's Fischler School of Education and Human Services has been granted licensure by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education to offer our Doctor of Education degree program in that state. Classes will commence in Trenton in fall 2009. The Fischler School is currently licensed to offer programs in 23 states, Puerto Rico, and one dozen foreign countries.

This new site will allow the Fischler School to service more than 1,400 NSU bachelor's and master's degree recipients living in New Jersey as well as 300 current students. NSU alumni in the state include 896 K-12 teachers and administrators, 44 superintendents of schools, 50 speech-language pathologists, and 3 community college presidents.

The Doctor of Education degree program offers students a menu-driven approach to customizing their educational experience with nine different concentration options and 12 minors, flexible curriculum choices, and multiple instructional delivery options. The five main components of the program are the core seminars, the concentration, the research elective, the electives/minors, and the applied dissertation. Students may elect to take their core seminars online or at one of our many instructional sites, including the new Trenton facility. With the approval of the New Jersey licensure, NSU now has the opportunity to help that state's educators develop their skills and knowledge, allowing them and their students to compete effectively in a global society.

To learn more about our efforts in New Jersey, please visit [www.FischlerSchool.nova.edu/NewJersey](http://www.FischlerSchool.nova.edu/NewJersey) or call 888-465-2861. ■

## LEARNING TO THINK LIKE A RESEARCHER: MENTORED RESEARCH IN THE FARQUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

“You come in here with a skull full of mush, and you leave thinking like a lawyer.”

—Professor Kingsfield, *The Paper Chase*, 1973

He may have been extreme, but Professor Kingsfield—the intimidating law professor from the film *The Paper Chase*—was right about one thing. The learning process is sometimes about changing the way you think. In terms of research, that means learning relevant methods and investigation systems that will allow you to argue your case in the “courts” of research, such as peer-reviewed journals and academic conferences.

For undergraduate students in NSU’s Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, learning to “think like a researcher” includes classroom and laboratory activities, research-driven internship components, and options like the Clinic Exploration Program, which allows students to shadow health science professionals. But perhaps nothing instills research skills and a love of investigation as much as independent research under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

“Independent research is intensive and demanding and gives students a much greater appreciation for what is required in future careers,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. “Undergraduate mentored research is a critical component for student academic and professional development.”

Research fosters critical thinking skills, a message emphasized by groups such as the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), which co-published a 2005 report, *Joint Statement of Principles of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities*. “Undergraduate research is a comprehensive curricular innovation and major reform in contemporary American education and scholarship,” the groups stated.



TERRY-ANN DAWES

Many NSU students engage in research with or without receiving academic credit, often through independent studies and internships. All research projects require substantial time, commitment, and resources from both students and faculty members.

Terry-Ann Dawes graduated from NSU in spring 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in biology. Two and a half years ago, at the end of her sophomore year, she embarked on a research project as part of the college’s undergraduate Honors Program, which requires completing an honors thesis in the junior and senior years.

Dawes had a general idea of what she wanted to do based on an inorganic chemistry class with Dimitri Giarikos, Ph.D., an associate professor in the college’s Division of Math, Science, and Technology. It took three months of literature review to find a suitable research topic, but Giarikos helped narrow possibilities to studying the effectiveness of using ruthenium-based compounds in DNA biosensors. “He was very, very helpful,” Dawes said. “I had never done research, and he helped me organize my time.”

Giarikos also introduced Dawes to the “real-life” process of science. “In course labs, things work out fine. In research, it’s different,” admitted Giarikos. Adapting when faced with problems, he said, helps strengthen critical thinking skills.

After two years of research, Dawes presented her work at the Undergraduate Student Symposium, an annual interdisciplinary showcase of NSU research held each April and sponsored by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. As part of the Honors Program, she completed and defended a thesis. Dawes also presented her research at the April 2008 American Chemical Society conference in New Orleans.

Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences students can also submit papers to the *Farquhar Student Journal* to undergo a review process guiding them through editing and rewriting stages. “Students take ideas from start to finish,” said Michael D. Reiter, Ph.D., the journal’s editor in chief and assistant director of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences. “The work they do is important.”

The college continues to build new partnerships within NSU and with universities and research centers across the country. The venture with the NSU Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research in Plantation, Florida, allows broader research collaboration. The college also works with the Indiana University School of Medicine—Northwest and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the joint Intercampus Undergraduate Student Externship Program gives undergraduates academic credit for a summer spent alongside top researchers in laboratories.

“In the long term, it is my hope that students in all undergraduate disciplines experience direct involvement in research relevant to their field,” said Rosenblum, who noted that faculty members also benefit. “Professors improve their teaching by seeing students practice and apply the lessons from classrooms. Most important, however, is the intrinsic return to see students connect to the discipline in a new way.” ■



# academic notes

## ABOVE AND BEYOND THE PRACTICE OF SPORTS MEDICINE: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO REHABILITATION

Fatigue and burning muscles frequently plagued Nova Southeastern University NCAA Division II cross country track runner John Besharat. But without the help of NSU's Sports Medicine Clinic, Besharat, 20, would never have been able to determine that the symptoms were part of something more—a severe iron deficiency. He believes that the diagnosis allowed him to avert even more serious medical problems.

The Division of Sports Medicine clinic offers a multidisciplinary approach to treating sports-related health issues. The sports medicine team includes physicians representing several specialized areas of care including primary care sports medicine physicians and neuromuscular medicine physicians. The team is also composed of athletic trainers, physical therapists, nutritionists, sports psychologists and strength and conditioning trainers.



ELIZABETH SWANN, PH.D.

Typically, the comprehensive medical care NSU provides its student-athletes is of the caliber available to NCAA Division I athletes and professional sports teams. That quality care is provided in NSU's state-of-the-art University Center, the university's premier multipurpose sports, recreation, wellness, and entertainment venue.

Members of the NSU community and the community-at-large are also able to take advantage of services offered to athletes. This includes access to board-certified family physicians and specialists.

"In most collegiate sports medicine departments, care of the student-athlete is provided by an athletic trainer and a consulting physician," said Larry Starr, M.Ed., ATC, LAT, CSCS, assistant athletic director of athletic training/sports medicine at NSU.

"Our program is unique in that we have varied disciplines on staff. In the Sunshine State Conference, the colleges primarily use consultants—here, the physicians are in-house." For example, team physicians include two NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine assistant professors, Andrew Kusienski, D.O., who is also division chair of sports medicine, and Heather McCarthy, D.O., an assistant professor.

Team members also include students who have completed 1,000 clinical hours in NSU's Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP). This on-the-job training helps both the students and the athletes.

According to Elizabeth Swann, Ph.D., ATC, LAT, ATEP, program director and associate professor, more than 100 students from her program, in addition to those enrolled in the physical therapy, physician assistant, and osteopathic medicine programs, participate in monthly "grand rounds." These are case study presentations providing interaction with the sports medicine team's medical professionals.

"We are unique in that our undergraduate athletic training students perfect their skills under the direction of certified athletic trainers and gain clinical experience through NSU clinics and at high schools in Broward County," Swann said.

"As an athletic trainer, I have to know something about the psychology, nutrition, strength, and conditioning of the athlete, but I am not an expert. It's these multiple disciplines that allow us to accomplish our mission, which is to provide more effective health care for the student-athletes," said Starr, the assistant athletic director.

NSU's sports medicine program addresses athletes' mental well-being and nutritional balance in addition to physical agility.

If an athlete were suffering from fatigue brought on by an eating disorder, for example, Marilyn Gordon, M.S., a registered and licensed dietician/nutritionist, would be called upon to manage the nutritional aspects of this athlete's health care.

Stephen A. Russo, Ph.D., the clinic's director of sports psychology and assistant professor at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies, would address an eating disorder from a psychological standpoint.

Having previously worked at a university with NCAA Division I sports teams, Russo understands the importance of having a multidisciplinary sports management team available to support student-athletes and students in general. "Cross-disciplinary collaboration works for both the athlete and the students," he said. "It allows us to respond to many different situations."

With the iron deficiency now behind him, cross country runner Besharat, a sophomore, helped the Sharks place seventh at the NCAA Division II South Regional Championship last season. He recently earned the "Coach's Award" and is studying to become a sports medicine physician. ■

## AUDIOLOGY PROFESSOR'S INVENTION HELPS THOUSANDS OF USERS

Many of us have experienced that annoying ringing or humming in our ears after attending a concert or dancing the night away at a nightclub. Fortunately, that bothersome sound, which only the person who is suffering can hear, is temporary. But for some people, that noise is a permanent part of their lives. They suffer from a condition known as tinnitus, which is the internal ringing or humming of the ear.



Tinnitus severely affects about 1 to 2 percent of the population. For those people, the noise is so unbearable they can't sleep, relax, or function effectively. Luckily for them, Paul B. Davis, Ph.D., an NSU associate professor of audiology, has invented a hearing device that may help them greatly reduce the symptoms of their condition.

Davis, who joined the College of Allied Health and Nursing's Department of Audiology earlier this year, has been researching

tinnitus for nearly two decades. During that time, he invented Oasis, a medical device with earpieces connected to a sound generator that's used for Neuromonics Tinnitus Treatment. This treatment combines music and natural sounds, such as a shower or the ocean, to help replace tinnitus noises and retrain the brain. The six-month treatment reduces tinnitus symptoms quickly and treats the causes of the condition, which can be anything from prolonged noise exposure, middle or inner ear diseases, head injuries, or certain types of medications. Neuromonics is clinically proven to be effective for more than 90 percent of tinnitus cases, and it provides long-term relief. No medication or surgery is required.

"This device is very important because it can help patients get relief quickly and painlessly," Davis said. "It will ultimately help them improve their lives. It can't take away the tinnitus, but it can take away the negative effects."

Since Oasis was put on the market two years ago, more than 2,300 patients worldwide have begun treatment, Davis said. The device and six-month treatment program cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000, which is similar to the price of a pair of mid-range hearing aids and around half the cost of Tinnitus Retraining Therapy, another type of tinnitus treatment. Oasis is currently available in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. It's also available on campus at NSU's Hearing and Balance Clinic. Patients must have a diagnostic assessment by an accredited audiologist before the Food and Drug Administration-approved device can be dispensed. Some insurances will pay for part of a patient's treatment, while the federal government will cover the entire cost of treatment for eligible veterans.

To learn more about Oasis, please visit the Hearing and Balance Clinic. It is open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please call (954) 678-2273. ■

## DIVERSE GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS AT THE LAW CENTER

Teaching in a Maryland public school, Bianca Alexander has grown concerned with what she sees on a daily basis: teachers who are unsatisfied and students who are unhappy. She has observed teachers being made to teach subjects in which they are not certified and special-education students not receiving the services they need. So, Alexander wanted to learn more about the legislation that affects the public school system. To do that, she is now working toward a Master of Science in Education Law at NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center, one of three unique master's programs offered by the Law Center designed to educate non-lawyers on complex legal issues they encounter in their fields.

"What I'm learning in the courses is that you cannot put a band-aid on some very controversial issues facing school districts,"

said Alexander, who completed the education law certificate program and plans to graduate with an M.S. in Education Law degree in summer 2009. "I want to seek ways to fix these types of problems, or at least work on improving them by taking a look at legislation and the common issues school districts confront. The education law program is helping me get there."



Nearly 120 students are currently enrolled in the three master's degree programs, which started in 2001 with the M.S. in Health Law. The M.S. in Education Law program was launched in 2006 and graduated its first class in January 2009. An M.S. in Employment Law program was initiated in 2007, and its first class will graduate in July 2009. ■

# around campus

## STUDENTS STEP UP INTO POLITICS

As a 17-year-old, Shane Johnson assisted his 90-year-old grandmother to the polls so she could vote in the 2004 presidential election. Now 21 and a senior business administration major at NSU, Johnson is taking the lesson learned that day—the importance of taking part in the election process—and spreading that message to his classmates.

In 2007, Johnson started Step It Up, a nonpartisan political initiative designed to encourage student involvement in the 2008 election season and beyond. With assistance from the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement and the Office of Residential Life and Housing, Step It Up has registered hundreds of NSU students to vote, several students volunteered in political campaigns, and the political dialogue among students on campus has risen.

“The tagline is ‘educate, engage, and empower.’ I feel that there’s always room to be more informed, whether you’re the most politically active person or you haven’t been involved in politics at all,” said Johnson, explaining why he started the Step It Up campaign. “In our generation, young adults should step it up to the next level, educate themselves, and get involved in the political process.”



To encourage political engagement, Johnson and the Step It Up campaign have hosted speakers, including NSU alumna Brenda Snipes, Ed.D., Broward County supervisor of elections, as well as panel discussions on the presidential candidates and voter registration drives. A shuttle service providing transportation to the polls for students was established for election day.

“Students are getting involved and learning more about the political process and candidates,” said Johnson. “They are seeing how their voice and their vote can affect elections.” ■

## CAMPUS PHARMACY PROVIDES CONVENIENCE AND QUALITY SERVICES

Not many universities provide their faculty and staff members and students with the luxury of picking up their prescription and over-the-counter medications on campus. But at Nova Southeastern University, having access to a full-service pharmacy is one of the many perks we enjoy. Operated by NSU’s College of Pharmacy (COP), this campus pharmacy is also a convenient place for the local public and patients of NSU’s Health Care Centers to pick up their medications.



The pharmacy offers Medication Therapy Management, call-in prescriptions, customized compounding medications, up to a 90-days’ supply of medications, and affordable medicines. Located at the NSU Health Care Centers, the pharmacy is staffed by bilingual COP faculty members, pharmacists, pharmacy students, residents, and pharmacy technicians.

“This group of professionals is providing patients with top quality care,” said Andrés Malavé, Ph.D., dean of NSU’s College of Pharmacy. “Many of them have been educated by the highly qualified faculty at the College of Pharmacy. Our college offers a comprehensive, four-year program that is educating the next generation of pharmacy professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to advance patient care with a strong understanding of the principles of drug therapy.”

The campus pharmacy staff members help patients identify and resolve potential medication problems, coordinate care for customers and patients seeing multiple providers, and develop medication plans that help patients get the most benefit from their treatments. The pharmacy also provides other services, including diabetes management, anticoagulation management, osteopathic education and wellness programs, alternative medicine, and compounding prescriptions.

The pharmacy accepts most insurance plans and is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To schedule a private Medication Therapy Management consultation, or to phone in your prescriptions, please call (954) 262-4550. For more information about programs and services, visit the pharmacy online at <http://pharmacy.nova.edu>. ■

## LIVE AND LEARN: ON-CAMPUS HOUSING IS HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Days before attending his first class at Nova Southeastern University in fall 2007, Jean Torres was set to be a commuter student. After all, he lived less than 10 miles away in Miramar with his tight-knit family of four brothers, one sister, and parents who wanted their son—the first in the family to go to college—to stay under their roof. “I even had my commuter parking decal,” he recalled.

But on the day his classmates began moving into the residence halls, Torres had a change of heart. He researched on-campus housing, talked it over with one of his brothers, and, at two o’clock the next morning, made the decision to live on campus. Two days later, with the blessing of his parents, Torres moved into The Commons, the newly opened residence hall on NSU’s main campus.

Torres is not alone in seeking out the advantages of living on campus. The campus resident population at NSU has nearly tripled over the past two years, thanks to the opening of two new residence halls that allow NSU to now house 1,492 students. The first new hall, The Commons, opened in fall 2007 with 525 beds. The Rolling Hills Graduate Apartments opened this past July, providing 373 beds for graduate students in two buildings. Originally erected as a hotel, but renovated by NSU, it is located less than one mile west of the main campus.

As a result of the larger on-campus community, NSU has seen an increase in participation in student clubs and organizations, more student programs and events, and an overall increase in student engagement. Even though undergraduate students from Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties are not required to live on campus, one-third of on-campus residents come from the tri-county area.

For Torres, who was entering his junior year as a transfer student from Miami-Dade College, the last-minute decision to live in the halls also stemmed from a desire to become a part of the campus community. “I wanted to get involved in school, and I was aware that it would be more difficult if I was a commuter,” Torres said. He soon joined the Pre-Dental Society and the Student Government Association and was hired as an orientation leader. He also got involved within the residence halls, becoming vice president of the Residential Student Association. This year, Torres is a resident adviser (RA) in The Commons.

“When you live on campus, your resources are so close to you,” Torres said. “You have a million opportunities to do whatever you

want with your education.”

The halls themselves offer plenty of resources. Both The Commons and Rolling Hills Graduate Apartments have themed housing, which enables students with similar interests, or those in the same academic program, to be housed on the same residence hall floor. Themed floors in The Commons include Leadership I for freshmen, Leadership II for upperclassmen, the Greek Village, Business and Entrepreneurship, the Quiet Community, and the Global Village. The Rolling Hills Graduate Apartments

has floors for students studying law, humanities and social sciences, psychology, and the health professions.

“Our mission in the Office of Residential Life and Housing is to provide residential students with a safe and comfortable environment where they can live and learn,” said Anthony DeSantis, NSU’s director of housing. “The growth of our on-campus population will provide our campus with more school spirit and overall involvement in and out of the classroom.”

Other recent campus additions have also made living in the halls more desirable. The University Center—complete with a food court; 110,000-square-foot workout facility that includes a pool, a 4,500-seat arena for concerts and NSU athletics events; and a performing and visual arts wing—provides dining, recreational, and entertainment options just steps from most of the halls. Right next door is the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center, the largest library building in Florida. New this year, the men’s and women’s soccer teams played their games on fields right

behind The Commons and Goodwin Hall, giving residents front-row seats to Sharks athletics.

For most students, though, it’s simply the experience that draws them to the residence halls. “I am often amazed how many times that I talk to people, even adults in their later years, that say, ‘I met my best friend the first day I moved into the halls,’” said Brad Williams, Ed.D., dean of student affairs. “I don’t think you can replicate that anywhere else. There’s something special and almost magical about the relationships you build in a residence hall.”

It’s a magic that entranced Torres, as he takes what he learned as a resident last year and passes it along to residents on his floor in The Commons. “Living with people, you get to know them on a different level,” he said. “It teaches you about different cultures, different religions, how people like to be treated. I believe it teaches you a lot about life.” ■



# around campus

## A DAY FOR CHILDREN

For many children, the first time they have seen a dentist or optometrist is at NSU's annual A Day for Children health fair, held on campus each September. For parents, it is also an opportunity to become educated about their child's health. Many parents are not aware a child should first see a dentist at age 1, or as soon as the first tooth erupts, and do not know that their child should have his or her eyes examined between 6 and 12 months of age.

NSU has been helping children at A Day for Children since 2002. The fair, which is free to the public, provides health care for children from birth through age 15 and includes screenings for vision, medical, speech, and behavioral and mental health, as well as opportunities for physical and occupational therapy.



The services, provided through NSU's Health Care Centers, showcase the university's clinical programs and feature more than 75 booths representing different disciplines within the university and community.

"This is the premier health event for children in Broward County," said Robert Oller, D.O., CEO of NSU's Health Clinics, who launched the event seven years ago. "We had 500 people the first year. Now we get more than 7,000 people and screen at least 5,000 children."

Florida Kid Care, the state children's health insurance program, also attends the event to enroll hundreds of families into free or low-cost health insurance. The insurance covers children's medical and dental care, along with prescriptions, eyeglasses, medical emergency transportation, dental cleanings, and x-rays.

In addition to the health screenings, A Day for Children provides a variety of entertainment options for children, including a bounce house, face painting, storybook characters, supervised sports activities, arts and crafts, games, and food.

New activities in 2008 included free children's haircuts provided by Jig Saw, and a Teddy Bear Clinic sponsored by Broward Health to help children better understand how hospitals help people. Additional services included fingerprinting by Davie Police and Fire Departments and free safety demonstrations on installing child car seats. The League of Hearing also provided amplified telephones, and the Epilepsy Foundation gave out free bicycle helmets. ■



## A LIFE FILLED WITH PURPOSE— RONNIE OLLER

"I'm an advocate of anything that helps children," said Ronnie Oller, who volunteered for A Day for Children when her husband,

Robert Oller, D.O., CEO of NSU's health clinics, first founded it. Ronnie Oller then became chair three years ago. "When I took over A Day for Children, I was glad to find South Florida health services for children that most people didn't know existed."

Under her leadership, A Day for Children has grown to include more than 200 volunteer members of the university faculty, staff, and students, and several members of the community and county-based organizations.

"This is not only a clinical day, but also an educational and fun day," says Oller. "Everyone at this event is defining and celebrating a safe and medically happy life for every child. This is what I enjoy doing."

Volunteerism and community service is nothing new to Oller. She has given back to her community, primarily children, all of her adult life. Her drive and ambition is due, in part, to a tumultuous childhood. While she chooses not to focus on her past, she is clear that her childhood has had a profound influence in her determination to provide a nurturing environment to as many children as possible.

For 12 years, Oller owned and operated a day nursery for the underserved. Privately and federally funded, her day care provided food, shelter, and education for more than 115 children during that time span.

Oller's life achievements have led to honors by several organizations. Those awards include recognition by the American Women's Business Association as Advocate of the Year, and more recently, the Presidential Award in recognition of more than 4,000 volunteer hours.

Most recently, Oller was honored during the South Florida Sixth Annual Speaking of Women's Health Conference, hosted by WPBT Channel 2, as an individual who has truly enriched our community through her volunteer efforts. ■

## NEW, 50-METER POOL MAKES WAVES AT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

When NSU's University School embarked upon the largest expansion project in its 35-year history in 2007, the University School family dove into unfamiliar waters in more ways than one. The plan was to construct a unique, contiguous campus environment by joining the lower, middle, and upper schools with covered walkways, green spaces, and world-class amenities common to students of all ages.

One of those amenities is the new, \$5 million Aquatic Center, which includes an Olympic-sized pool and diving well, the largest water volume pool in Florida. This is the new home to University School's Suns swimming and diving teams and numerous school recreational activities. In addition to University School meets, it is planned that the complex will host regional and state competitive swimming, diving, and water polo events.

The 50-meter competition swimming pool includes a moveable bulkhead capable of dividing the pool in half for competitions and multiple practices. The attached diving well has three springboards.

"The new aquatic complex will give us the opportunity to build a highly competitive, year-round swimming program," said Head Swimming Coach Pam Hickson. "Additionally, we will be able to host larger meets, which could attract additional swimmers to our school."



Currently, the Suns varsity and middle school swim teams have almost 100 members. Both groups have competed in state championships and have included nine students who made it onto the Academic All-American Swim Team in the last three years.

The construction of the aquatic center is part of a wider effort to boost the athletics program at University School and is one of the projects in a multiphase, \$50 million construction plan. ■



## ALVIN SHERMAN LIBRARY OFFERS EDUCATORS INTERACTIVE TOOLKIT

For educators, there's more than meets the eye at Nova Southeastern University's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

The joint-use Broward County-NSU facility offers school administrators and teachers unique, online resources they can tap into simply by having a free Alvin Sherman Library card. Library staff members regularly host training sessions that focus on the facility's more than 290 databases, which include curriculum guides, research guides, special topic summaries, and plenty of teaching aids.

"The Alvin Sherman Library bridges the gap between academic research and traditional public library resources for educators," said Lydia Acosta, vice president for information services and university librarian. "This vital service helps to enhance lesson plans and provides the latest techniques to fuel the academic experience for students and educators alike."

Recently, the Alvin Sherman Library hosted more than 180 Broward County elementary school principals and area superintendents for informational training on the library's electronic resources in a customized, interactive computer lab session. This event resulted in the scheduling of ongoing database training for their teachers, media specialists, and students. Individual schools are now organizing their own training. More than 60 teachers from Cooper City Elementary School kicked off this school year by participating in personalized training by Alvin Sherman Library staff members.

Helping teachers and students access the most contemporary knowledge is just one more way NSU and its Alvin Sherman Library help the educational process in Broward County. ■

# around campus



## A MERGER OF ART AND EDUCATION

The Museum of Art—Fort Lauderdale (MoA—FL) became part of the expanded creative campus of Nova Southeastern University this past July. The respective boards of trustees of the two institutions unanimously agreed to a merger that will further enrich educational programming in the visual arts for Broward County residents and visitors. The museum now serves as a key venue for students to explore the visual arts.

“NSU is honored to make the Museum of Art part of its expanded campus,” said Ray Ferrero, Jr., NSU’s president. “This merger is an important complement to our academic mission on two fronts. First, our new degree program in the performing and visual arts at our Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. The art major and programs in art administration will receive support from the museum that includes internships, speakers, and exhibitions. Second, an important element of our academic mission is to serve the community and foster inquiry and intellectual growth.”

The museum will continue to work closely with the Fischler School of Education and Human Services in the joint development of curriculum guides that will be distributed to teachers of Broward County schools.

Founded in 1958 as the Fort Lauderdale Art Center, the museum is located in downtown Fort Lauderdale in a 75,000-square-foot facility designed by American architect Edward Larrabee Barnes. The museum’s collections were largely created through the charitable donations of its patrons, which accounts for the eclectic nature of its holdings. The museum is best known for the depth of its CoBrA Collection, the Glackens Collection, and its collection of contemporary Cuban art.

As part of an arrangement made two years ago, approximately 30 percent of the museum’s collection of 6,000 objects is stored on NSU’s main campus. This will lead to future opportunities to further collection research capabilities.

“The NSU and museum campuses together become sites for innovation in the arts, a catalyst for new ideas, and a hub for cross-disciplinary collaboration,” said Irvin Lippman, executive director of the Museum of Art.

Over the past three years, the museum has attracted more than 1 million visitors at its several successful high profile exhibitions including *Saint Peter and the Vatican*; *Diana: A Celebration*; *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs*; and *Cradle of Christianity*.

“The merger will serve as a world-class complement to the cultural and learning experiences we deliver to the broader community across South Florida, as well as to our students, faculty, and staff,” Ferrero said.

An added benefit of the merger is that admission to the museum is free to all NSU students and faculty and staff members. A valid SharkCard (NSU ID card) allows for free individual admission to the museum’s permanent collection and non-ticketed exhibitions. For special ticketed exhibitions, a SharkCard allows admission at the discounted member rate.

Students are eager to take advantage of vital partnerships such as this, as NSU works to create a university-based foundation for a homegrown arts community—producing artists, performers, and future patrons and supporters. Public participation in the arts extends from this strong foundation, which, at its heart, supports the university’s primary goal: to inspire students. ■

## WHEN ENERGY COSTS RISE, NSU KEEPS ITS COOL

When John Santulli is doing his job well, no one ever notices. And that is fine with him.

As NSU's vice president for facilities management, Santulli figures his role is to help keep tuition costs reasonable by "paying FPL as little as possible" for the energy required to air condition more than 2.5 million square feet of enclosed space on NSU's main campus. His purview also extends to getting the biggest bang for the energy buck for an additional 300,000 square feet of space at five of NSU's Student Educational Centers.

Compared to his counterparts at longer-established citadels of learning around the country, Santulli has it easy. Many universities have buildings that date to the 19th century and are extremely hard to retrofit to today's energy efficiency standards. By contrast, the very oldest building on NSU's main campus, the Rosenthal Building, is barely 40 years old. The majority are newer buildings purposefully designed for energy-efficient operation.

Santulli believes that an upfront investment in extra building quality will more than pay for itself in lower operating costs over a building's 50- to 100-year lifetime. Given the dizzying pace of campus construction over his two-plus decades with the university, Santulli has had ample opportunity to put his beliefs to the test.

South Florida's strict building codes, keyed to hurricane protection, "push us in the right direction," Santulli said.

Nikolas Camejo, president of the Sustainable Economic Development Group, has worked with NSU as a consultant and commended the university's vision to expand its energy conservation program. The university's comprehensive approach includes exploring solar energy technologies and alternative fuels, as well as looking for ways to expand water conservation efforts and recycling/waste management.

By extension, NSU's use of green technologies that make economic sense has materialized itself in the design, construction, and operation of the university's buildings. For example, NSU's buildings include highly efficient and durable roofs, walls, windows, and doors and have increased energy services' reliability and redundancy with the use of generators and power monitoring—"all of which improve the health, safety, comfort, and productivity of the learning and working environments at NSU," Camejo said.

NSU also has a complex energy management system that includes everything from room sensors and high-efficiency lighting to extremely energy-efficient air conditioners and thermal energy storage systems.

Last year, FPL rewarded NSU with a \$599,000 incentive for participating in its thermal storage program. The university replaced multiple chillers from several campus buildings with a single, high-efficiency central chiller plant. It produces and stores ice at night, when power is less expensive, and uses it to cool buildings efficiently during the day, when rates are higher. The results are a

reduction in on-peak electricity use and lower electric bills. NSU is now saving \$300,000 annually through this technique.

The \$599,000 incentive was the second largest FPL had ever awarded and represented NSU's second incentive payment. The first, six years ago, was for more than \$200,000.

NSU also participates in FPL's load control program whereby the utility company gives lower rates in return for authorization to limit energy use at peak periods. "Load control doesn't keep us from the business of education because we have generators that kick in. No one ever knows we're on load control," Santulli said.

The energy management system works to cool buildings to 72–75 degrees Fahrenheit. At lower temperatures, air quality suffers because air conditioning units would not operate long enough to remove sufficient moisture from the air, which can encourage mold and mildew growth.



When energy usage in a particular building rises, Santulli has his people look for the cause. Typically, the reason is increased use. "Our classes run from early in the morning to late at night," he said.

In August, NSU's electric bill was \$657,000. Without the most recent in a long series of energy management improvements, a consultant estimated that it would have been 18 percent higher.

Santulli said NSU will continue its quest to keep tweaking the energy management system to produce continual energy savings. How successful is the university? "We are able to buffer most of the FPL rate hikes as they come along," he boasted.

NSU's proactive embrace of technology and its team problem-solving approach have led to productive relationships with utilities and public and private organizations. The university continues to seek out and engage in new ideas, systems, and behaviors that can improve the health, safety, comfort, and productivity of NSU's learning and working environments. ■





a light in the

# dark

## AUTISM COUNCIL SUPPORTS FAMILIES LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

BY JULIE LEVIN

TERRY CRISPINO CAN STILL RECALL GETTING THE DEVASTATING DIAGNOSIS that her two-year-old daughter, Carly, had autism. It was a little more than eight years ago, when the disorder was not yet in the public spotlight. There simply wasn't that much information readily available to parents, and much of it came from others in the same position.

"There really was no centralized place to go for good information. It was by word of mouth, and that was really hit or miss," said Crispino, who beams when she talks about Carly, now 11 years old, who is tackling sixth grade at a private middle school.

Intervention was swift in Carly's case because she was a student at NSU's Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies' preschool program when she was diagnosed, and was then quickly enrolled in MSI's Baudhuin Preschool, an internationally recognized, model program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

But not every parent has that luxury, which is why NSU has taken a pioneering role in recent months to dramatically expand the university's presence in the autism community. The NSU Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism brought together more than 40 people from an array of disciplines at NSU, all working towards the same goal. In addition to the Mailman Segal Institute, other NSU schools and programs participating include allied health and nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, psychology, humanities and social sciences, speech and language, law, special education, and medicine, as well as NSU's University School.

The council's main goal was to create a multidisciplinary, collaborative group that can centralize programs, services, research, and expertise in all areas of autism treatment.

"This is a very far reaching council that is going to make a significant impact both in our university with the professionals that we teach and simultaneously in our community and in our nation," said Roni Leiderman, Ph.D., dean of the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies (MSI).



*Sue Kabot, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, leads a meeting of NSU's Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism*

## GETTING THE COUNCIL OFF THE GROUND

The council is headed by Sue Kabot, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, director of the clinical programs for MSI. One of the first goals of the council was to take a look at the programs and services already being offered by the individual academic disciplines and begin a process of sharing the information to create a more collaborative approach.

“We had a lot of information from departments that we just hadn’t realized we had, in addition to the number of people interested and involved in autism,” Kabot said.

The second part of the plan is to look at future initiatives that can take the group’s work to the next level. These plans include linking together on one comprehensive Web site where the community, parents, and professionals alike can find exactly what type of autism-related help they are looking for from NSU. The current list of topics includes programs for early diagnosis, on-site campus and school programs, therapeutic programs, research, and educational programs—all easily accessed with one click at a computer.

## NEW INITIATIVES

As a result of one of the first initiatives of the council, parents will be able to find help early on through the Unicorn Child Development Clinic at MSI.

The clinic was established through a gift from the Unicorn Children’s Foundation, a \$1 million endowed chair in autism and learning communication disorders shared by both MSI and NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies (CPS). The clinic now offers a state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary autism diagnostic assessment center for children from birth to age five at MSI. It provides parents with a centralized location to have their child evaluated simultaneously by a team of experts.

“The benefit is that the children will be seen by all team members, including those from psychology, occupational therapy,

speech-language pathology, and family therapy,” said Kristen Cunningham, Psy.D., the lead psychologist at the Unicorn Clinic.

According to Cunningham, another unique aspect of the Unicorn Clinic at NSU is the additional family therapy support patients will receive. Counselors will work with the families through the entire screening process, preparing them for what to expect, answering any questions, and helping them access recommended services and interventions.

“Parents are getting reports and recommendations, but they need to know how to proceed from there. We are trying to provide them with extra support so they can access what they need,” Cunningham said.

## TRAINING THE PROFESSIONALS

“There is also increasing interest from our students who are interested in learning and communication disorders because of the increased awareness of this problem and need for more research and effective interventions,” said Karen Grosby, M.Ed., dean of the Center for Psychological Studies. The mission of Grosby’s program is to train school and clinical psychologists as well as mental health and school counselors—professionals who are interested in providing services to children and families, developing tools for early autism diagnosis, and identifying effective existing treatments while discovering new treatments through research.

Because more students are taking an interest, the council will also pave the way for placing better-educated professionals out in the community.

Christine Reeve is director of academics at MSI. She coordinates the roster of undergraduate and graduate coursework in autism and applied behavioral analysis for professionals in education, counseling, child protection, psychology, and more. She said the coursework fits in well with the mission of the council.

“It helps to bring all the people together in one place, facili-

## EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORT FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN GOES MOBILE

The research is conclusive. The early diagnosis and intervention of children with autism spectrum disorder is critical to improving the developmental outcomes. But not every South Florida family has been within easy reach of this support until now.

The first Mobile Autism Family Clinic, a uniquely equipped van, was unveiled by the University of Miami/NSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM/NSU CARD). It will travel to families in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties who cannot access screenings, medical resources, and autism awareness information—all at no charge.

The 23-foot van includes a waiting room, therapy/evaluation room, and a workstation. Clinicians evaluate children and adults in a variety of social, communication, and behavioral contexts in the therapy/evaluation area. It contains video cameras connected to a

monitor in the waiting area, allowing for interactive training opportunities for families.

UM/NSU CARD is a South Florida nonprofit organization committed to providing free family support, outreach, and educational services to children and adults who have autism and autistic-like disabilities or have a loved one with the disorder. CARD’s Broward County office is housed at NSU with clinicians and staff members.





*Charlie Crist, Florida governor, signs the bill that requires insurance companies to pay for approved therapies for children with autism spectrum disorder.*

tating collaboration,” said Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA.

She also points out that many of NSU’s undergraduate and graduate programs already benefit from collaboration with other centers. One example is the ability to minor in autism through the Doctor of Education program at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services. Another is a specialized track in applied behavior analysis offered in partnership with the Center for Psychological Studies.

According to Reeve, the Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism is already looking for ways to provide even wider curricular opportunities.

“It will mean new ways to further collaborate to develop new programs and refine the programs we are already offering,” she said.

Reeve said early discussions by the council are also paving the way for collaboration with the Fischler School to write a new grant that will allow teachers in Broward County to access master’s degree-level courses in autism that will eventually be needed to obtain an autism endorsement for special education teaching certificates.

### **THE CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISEASES**

Through the efforts of NSU’s Fischler School of Education and Human Services, a collaborative program with the University of Miami was established called UM/NSU CARD, or Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. UM/NSU CARD is a community-based program that provides resources, technical assistance, family support, consultation, and professional and parent training for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities. Some of those related disabilities are dual sensory impairments such as deaf-blindness or vision or hearing problems.

Funded by the state through the Department of Education, all CARD services are free. CARD directors said they hope working with the Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism will help raise awareness in the community about the services they offer. ■

### **NSU AT CENTER STAGE OF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY ACT**

Statistics show that one in every 150 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, jumping to one in every 94 for boys. The costs associated with obtaining a diagnosis, interventions, and therapies alone can financially cripple even the most affluent of families, despite the limited, free resources in the community.

Last spring, South Florida families affected by autism opened a window of opportunity that may bring some relief. Nova Southeastern University served as center stage for the good news.

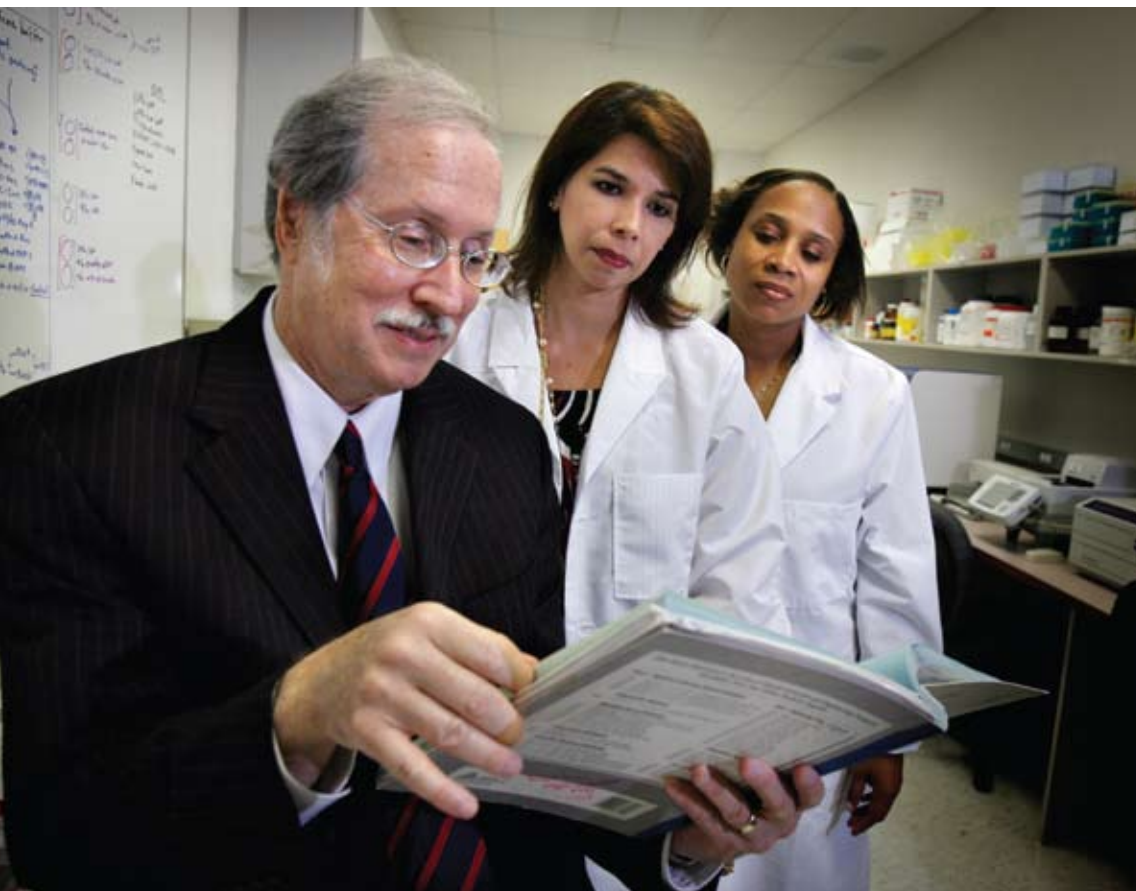
In May, Charlie Crist, Florida governor, signed legislation that will require insurance companies to pay for approved therapies for children with autism spectrum disorder. Under the Window of Opportunity Act, SB 2654, major insurance companies that operate in the state of Florida, and companies with more than 50 employees, will be required to offer coverage for autism-related disorders. The legislation gives insurance companies until January 2009 to negotiate a contract with the state to develop autism-coverage plans before the mandate takes effect in 2010. The legislation also calls on insurance companies to increase consumer awareness of the benefits.

The Baudhuin Preschool at the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies, located on NSU’s main campus, served as a host site for the governor’s ceremonial bill signing to communicate the newly passed legislation throughout Florida. Present at the signing were several lawmakers including the bill’s lead sponsor Steve Geller, state Senate democratic leader; Miami Dolphins legend Dan Marino; families of children with autism; NSU deans and administrators; and advocate groups including UM/NSU CARD and staff and family members of the Baudhuin Preschool.

The Baudhuin Preschool serves in partnership with Broward County Schools to provide a rich variety of activities and experiences within a language-based environment to Broward County families for free.

## NSU'S TOP RESEARCH OFFICER MAKING NEW DISCOVERIES

BY JULIE LEVIN AND KEN MA



A quiet and unassuming gentleman who prefers a business suit over a lab coat is now responsible for Nova Southeastern University's fast-growing research. Gary Margules, Sc.D., a brilliant research administrator formerly with the University of Miami, played a vital role in boosting that institution's research to the national level. Now at NSU, Margules brings decades of research experience and a desire to lead the university on the road to research prominence in his new role as the vice president for research and technology transfer.

In this position, Margules oversees \$48 million in externally funded research projects from NSU's many colleges. The funding, which is constantly growing, comes from various sources (including the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Science Foundation, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and private foundations) for faculty research in areas ranging from cancer medications, stem cell replacement teeth, and coronary heart medications to coral reef restoration, hurricane predictions, and substance abuse management—just to name a few.

Margules, who is tasked with directing research and expanding funding resources, is also responsible for obtaining patents and turning research into commercial products, a process known as technology transfer.

"When I heard about NSU's plans to expand its research with great conviction and commitment, I knew it was a solid opportunity for me to be a part of this exciting venture," said Margules, 57, who became NSU's top research officer in January 2008. "NSU is a highly respected institution that's building something significant with its investment in research."

Part of that investment includes the university's plans to build the Center for Collaborative Research, a 208,000-square-foot wet research laboratory that will be adjacent to NSU's Health Professions Division on its main campus near Fort Lauderdale, Florida. At more than \$70 million, this state-of-the-art lab, where chemicals and drugs are tested, will be an interdisciplinary center for medical, pharmaceutical, dental, and oceanographic research.

The research facility will be one of the largest wet laboratories in Florida, and it will also house the U.S. Geological Survey, which is

partnering with NSU, University of Florida, and Florida Atlantic University to work on the Greater Everglades Restoration project, the largest public works program in U.S. history.

Margules is hoping to use his expertise to help guide NSU's research to the next level, and in doing so, bring further esteem to the university's academic mission.

"Research enhances every component of a university's mission, including education, patient care, and public service. It's important we cultivate it in a progressive manner that will benefit everyone," he said.

### MAN OF SCIENCE

A lifelong student of science, Margules understood the value of research at an early age. His love for the natural world helped him earn a bachelor of science degree at the University of Miami. He later earned both an M.S. degree and a Doctor of Engineering Science degree in chemical/bioengineering from Columbia University in New York City.

Filled with a vast amount of technical knowledge and expertise, Margules became a high-level research administrator at companies such as Semmed Medical Ventures of Ohio, Pfizer Hospital Products Group of New York, and Cordis Research Corporation in Miami. He eventually left the private sector in 1992 and joined the University

of Miami's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute as the director of technology planning and assessment. In 1995, Margules became UM's assistant vice provost for technology transfer and industry research.

The latter position at UM required him to transform research ideas into products with commercial appeal. He hit the jackpot when a UM researcher and his two Venezuelan colleagues discovered a method to revolutionize the way biopsy specimens are processed. The trio found a way to use microwave energy to process specimens in hours, instead of days, so patients could get their results much quicker.

Margules and his team helped the researchers get patents for their discovery, license their method, and market the final product. It was a commercial success.

Luis Glaser, Ph.D., who was UM's provost and executive vice president during most of Margules's tenure, said Margules was able to organize what was then a disorganized technology transfer system at the Coral Gables-based university. "He created a process by which we identified things that we wanted to look at," said Glaser, who was Margules's former supervisor.

Margules's reputation for identifying and promoting research has been noticed throughout Florida.

Jack Sullivan, CEO of the Florida Research Consortium, calls Margules a "research leader." Sullivan, whose organization is a statewide public-private group that advocates for more research at Florida's universities, said that Margules is committed to helping shape legislation that benefits research and is instrumental in promoting research conferences throughout Florida.

"Gary [Margules] is a dynamic leader who will do great things for the research and commercialization enterprise at Nova Southeastern University," Sullivan said.

## COMING TO NSU

Margules's accomplishments soon caught the attention of NSU's leaders. His name was familiar to Ray Ferrero, Jr., NSU president, who felt the university needed someone with a strong expertise in technology transfer to help NSU grow into one of the region's most significant research centers. Buoyed by research dollars, Ferrero saw many palpable ideas at the university that would lead to products. Margules, he thought, would be the perfect fit in NSU's research master plan.

"I felt it was time for the university to have somebody who was, in fact, charged with two responsibilities in the area of research—to foster research in the various academic centers and be monitoring and accounting for it," Ferrero said.

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division, calls Margules a future thinker.

"He looks beyond today and into the future for an opportunity to create collaborative research partnerships with multiple numbers of new corporate and intellectually superior research institutions," said Lippman, adding that NSU already enjoys agreements with the Scripps Research Institute.

## A PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE

BY JULIE LEVIN

Ten years ago, Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., Nova Southeastern University president, made a bold move to stimulate research throughout the university. Working with the university's Board of Trustees, Ferrero created the President's Faculty Research and Development Grant, an award program that helps promote new and existing faculty research by awarding up to \$10,000 per recipient.

The board members approved \$2 million as seed money for the president's new initiative. Since then, 466 faculty members and 59 students have shared 175 awards totaling more than \$1.6 million.

"It was the right time to foster those initiatives, and they have been highly successful," Ferrero said.

The awards have been used to conduct groundbreaking research in areas such as cancer, AIDS/HIV, mental health, autism, writing and literature, and brain injuries. Grant money also included interdisciplinary research to promote project collaboration among researchers from NSU's 16 different academic units.

One of those collaborative researchers is Jeffrey Kibler, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies, who has been awarded two president's grants, and is a co-investigator on a third.

The second of his two grants, a \$10,000 award given this year, is an interdisciplinary study Kibler is conducting with Mindy Ma, Ph.D., an assistant professor of psychology at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. The pair is working on a project that examines teasing, self-concept, and locus of control among overweight children.

"These grant funds bring together talented people from across the university," Kibler said.

In addition to advancing faculty research, the president's grant also offers research opportunities for students such as Kavita Joshi, M.S., who serves as a co-investigator on Kibler's grant. "This provides an exceptional opportunity for students to get experience with the grant writing process and support their own research," he said.

Like Kibler, many faculty members compete each spring for the grants by submitting proposals, which are then read by a panel of 50 faculty members. The panel looks for several criteria, such as whether the project is deemed scholarly and represents a new or expanded activity for the university. Special attention is given to activities that incorporate an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach.

Hui Fang Huang "Angie" Su, Ed.D., professor of mathematics education at NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services, has received several grants for projects including Project A+, or Autism + Mathematics = Communication.

"It provided us with the seed money to start this important research," Su said. "Our collaboration experts from the Baudhuin Preschool at the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies and the College of Pharmacy provided valuable resources, input, and statistical analysis that contributed greatly to the outcome of the project."

The grant has also provided seed money for many faculty members who were able to expand their research budgets by obtaining other grants. After the first six years of the president's grant, faculty winners were able to secure 16 non-NSU research grants totaling more than \$1.2 million. The president's grant has also led to 174 academic presentations, 86 publications and book chapters, and 30 submitted research proposals.

"The grants are an incredible value to the community, but particularly to the creation of new knowledge coming out of NSU," said Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division. ■

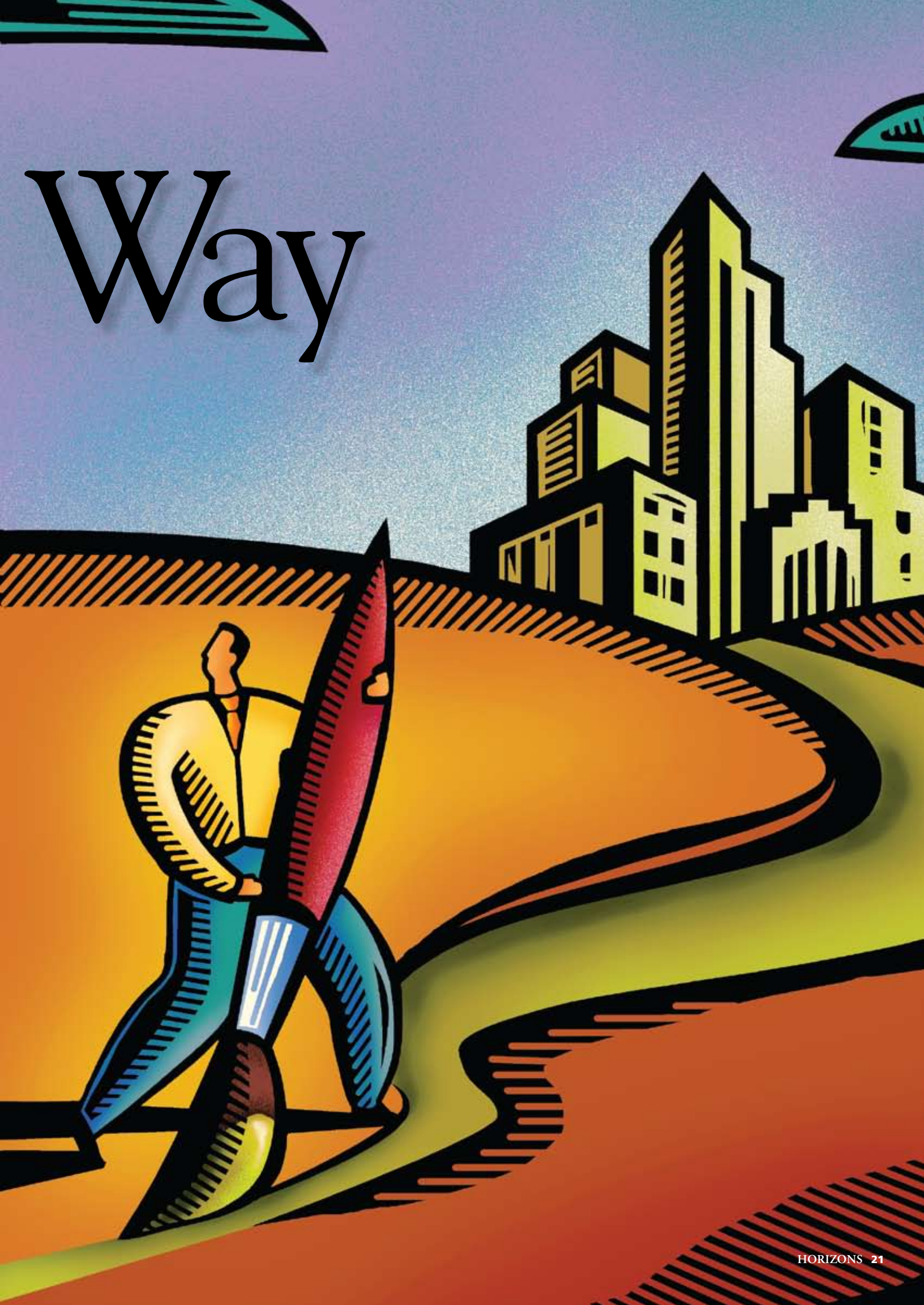
# Paving the

## NSU Prepares the Next Generation of Leaders

BY ALAN HANCOCK

In the debate on whether leaders are born or made, it's clear where Nova Southeastern University stands: Leaders *can* be developed, and college is the perfect time to acquire the skills that can turn individuals into leaders on campus, in the community, and beyond. Through its Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement in the Division of Student Affairs, the university provides opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills, explore life's purpose and meaning, and contribute to the community.

# Way







Vivian Martin Del Campo (left) and Renato Balducci worked with Habitat for Humanity on NSU's "Leaders Gone Wild" spring break trip.

"Our goal is to create an environment where students feel a sense of belonging, empower them to make an impact on campus and in our community, and facilitate their growth as leaders and individuals," said Terry Morrow,

director of the

Office of Student Leadership

and Civic Engagement. "The university provides interactive experiences that help students reflect on ethics, diversity, and the value of community engagement."

For Benne Constant, a junior pre-pharmacy major, his leadership skills were tested when he sought to start a new student organization on campus. A native of Haiti who has lived in Miami since he was five years old, Constant saw the need to improve the image and leadership qualities of his fellow young minority men. "There are too many men in today's society who don't want to take initiative and do what is set forward for us," said Constant. "Men need to step up to the plate on campus and in the community."

Constant's answer to the issue was to start an NSU chapter of MALES, which stands for Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence, and Success. A fairly new national organization that has existed for just over a decade on a handful of campuses, MALES strives to improve the quality of life on campus and in the community by promoting and inspiring civility, inclusiveness, and nonviolence in personal and professional relationships.

When first getting the NSU chapter off the ground, Constant needed help. Damion Martells, an area coordinator in the Office of Residential Life and Housing and a member of the MALES alumni board, provided guidance. But, Constant also enrolled in the Emerging Leaders Certificate Program offered by the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. "The program showed me how to get everything started," he said.

While the Emerging Leaders Certificate program helped Constant launch a new organization, it can also help students who are already campus leaders and heading established groups. Sharein El-Tourkey, a junior marine biology major, came to NSU with experience leading groups in high school and immediately became involved on campus, joining the Student Government Association and rising to president of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. She is currently working with other student leaders to create a hunger coalition at NSU to combine all the hunger-related initiatives to make them more effective.

"The Emerging Leaders program helped me learn how to adapt different styles of leadership, how to lead different kinds of people," El-Tourkey said. "Also, it helped me in dealing with conflict within the organization and leading by example when resolving conflicts."

Having completed the Emerging Leaders Certificate program, El-Tourkey is now in the Academy of Student Leaders at NSU, a leadership think-tank



NSU students host local nursing home residents for a night of dinner and dancing at the annual Senior Prom.

composed of some of the university's most prolific student leaders. "By being with other leaders, we learn [new approaches] and reinforce what we already know," El-Tourkey explained. Members of the Academy of Student Leaders also serve as mentors for students in the Emerging Leaders Certificate program.

NSU also enables leaders to help each other through Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society. Being a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, on most campuses, is simply an honor to be received. But, NSU's society, which started in 2006, is actively working to teach leadership on campus. "They are working on planning different events that will provide leadership opportunities for other students," Morrow said.

While the Emerging Leaders Certificate program, the Academy of Student Leaders, and Omicron Delta Kappa are all fairly new to NSU, the idea of developing leadership skills in students has been around for awhile. When Brad Williams, Ed.D., now the dean of student affairs at NSU, started working at then Nova University 20 years ago, there were limited opportunities for students to develop leadership skills.

"We learned very quickly that we had great students with a lot of enthusiasm, but they had no leadership skills," Williams said. "So, we developed a student leadership institute, and every single summer, for years, we did a leadership retreat where I would take the president and vice president of each club and organization and do three days of leadership training. It was basic grassroots training like 'How to Run an Effective Meeting,' but it was very useful and provided a foundation for

students to grow their leadership skills."

This leadership training provided through the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement aims for those leadership skills to reach beyond the campus boundaries and into the community. Last spring, students took part in the first alternative spring break trip run by the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. Calling the trip "Leaders Gone Wild," the six student participants traveled to Albany, Georgia, to help build houses with Habitat for Humanity. When bad weather canceled the home construction activities one day, the students searched for another way to serve. A local church was in need of volunteers to help with their soup kitchen, so the students spent the morning serving food to the needy.

Renato Balducci, who moved to the United States from Brazil four years ago, went on the trip as a way to meet new people and travel out of Florida for the first time. He was also quickly awed by the impact he and the group could make helping to build homes. "We met the family while working on their house. You are building their dream," said Balducci. "The owner of the house was surprised that I was from Brazil and here I was in Georgia, helping him. He had me sign one of the pieces of wood." The trip inspired Balducci, a junior studying marine biology, to take on a leadership position and he has applied to start an NSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

The Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement also works with students to become civically active through Project SERVE (Student Enrichment Reinforced Through Volunteer Experiences). In the 2007–2008 academic year, 16,512 community service hours were completed by undergraduate student organizations through Project SERVE. In addition, NSU undergraduate and graduate student organizations contributed nearly \$75,000 to community organizations. Students also collected 1,275 books to donate to children in Africa, distributed more than 1,000 DVDs to U.S. military personnel serving overseas, and delivered 1,157 canned food items to Kids in Distress.

*Continued on page 43*



*Sharein El-Tourkey (yellow shirt) and other student leaders took part in NSU Make a Difference Day this past October.*

# spotlight

## A QUIET WARRIOR FIGHTS FOR PEACE

BY MARA L. KIFFIN

What combined forces would compel a young woman to travel alone to a country where rape and mass slaughter have resulted in the deaths of more than 300,000 people? That's the question that lingers in the air when one meets NSU doctoral student Careen Hutchinson, who disregarded her own safety and journeyed more than 7,000 miles to learn about the genocide in Darfur. Hutchinson, who is currently enrolled in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution program at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) and serves as president of the SHSS Student Association, has a petite appearance and soft-spoken manner that conceal the fierce conviction that drives her.

As someone who has worked with Hutchinson on several projects, Debra Nixon, Ph.D., associate chair in the Department of Family Therapy, assistant professor of family therapy, and faculty adviser for the SHSS Student Association, admits she is not surprised by the courage and tenacity that led the young woman to Africa. "Hutchinson is on a mission to educate the lesser-concerned or the unenlightened," Nixon said. "She has an incredible commitment to disenfranchised and traumatized populations."

Honggang Yang, Ph.D., dean of SHSS, said Hutchinson has earned the respect of the SHSS faculty and student body because of her willingness to think outside of the box in order to explore difficult subject matters, such as ethnic cleansing, sexual assault, and religious intolerance. "Hutchinson is a wonderful student leader and thoughtful organizer at SHSS," Yang said. "She has initiated three campus colloquiums on critical global issues over the recent academic years and is committed to the peace process."

Hutchinson has always had an interest in the dynamics of conflict, but it was not until she saw the 2004 film *Hotel Rwanda*, which depicts the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, that she realized where her true passions lie.

"I watched that movie five times consecutively," Hutchinson admitted. "I was struggling to understand how this could happen. I kept saying to myself, 'I don't remember hearing about the genocide. How much of this was in the news? Why didn't I read about it?' Then, I wanted to speak to the man who saved all of those people."



Acting on impulse, Hutchinson called the Rwandan Embassy to see how she could contact Paul Rusesabagina, whose heroic actions were the subject of the movie. While she was not able to contact Rusesabagina, she did speak with the Rwandan Ambassador, who was eager to share information with her.

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“He was glad that someone wanted to learn more about the genocide, and he was willing to come to campus and be part of a symposium about Rwanda,” she said.

Tapping into all of her resources, Hutchinson began a grassroots effort to organize a public forum to highlight the Rwandan conflict. The 2006 collaboration between NSU’s Fischler School of Education and Human Services, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Division of Student Affairs resulted in “Genocide in the 21st Century: Colloquium on Rwandan Genocide.” The forum, which boasted standing-room only, put human faces on the unspeakable atrocities by featuring two survivors of the mass killings, as well as Rwandan Ambassador Zac Nsenga, United Nations Representative Jose M. Da Silva Campino, and several NSU faculty members, who spoke in roundtable discussion.

The event received tremendous support from the NSU and local communities, and it lit such a fire in Hutchinson that when she heard about the rape of women and genocide in Darfur, she immediately began making plans to visit the region.

While working on the next forum, “Global Crisis in the 21st Century: Darfur Crisis,” Hutchinson called her contacts from the conferences and arranged travel to Sudan. Undaunted by feelings of uncertainty and the possible threat of violence, she traveled alone to Africa in the summer of 2007, and she stayed with a family in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan and of Khartoum State. “I wanted to know about the local people and to hear stories of survival, so I needed to go there and see what they were doing to survive. And I wanted to get some perspective to see if any of it made sense because there was not a lot of understanding about the crisis,” she explained. “But upon reflection, some of the situations I was in could have been dangerous.”

For her own safety, Hutchinson was not permitted into Darfur, but she talked about the conflict with Sudanese locals, journalists, scholars, and people who had fled from Darfur. After talking with some of the contacts, she began to understand how one’s self identification plays a role in societal conflicts.

“I was surprised that some Sudanese, mostly the northerners, considered themselves Arab. I thought of them as black because they looked like me. They called themselves ‘Arab’ because the black Africans in Darfur are the ones being victimized and killed,” she explained. “What really shocked me is that many of the people in Khartoum did not believe that women are being brutally raped; they said, ‘Oh those Darfurians are just loose women.’”

Hutchinson was also taken aback when the local people insisted that she was not black nor African but white. “Even though some Sudanese are of a lighter complexion than me, they still thought of me as white. It’s a thought process,” she said. “They associate blackness with slavery and with evil so they do not call themselves black. There are so many subgroups and separations in Sudan.”

Hutchinson’s culture shock did not end there. She said that she could not have envisioned the meager conditions under

which most people lived: “You cannot imagine poverty until you have visited a third-world country like this. Flies were everywhere, and the people don’t even seem to notice. Most of the streets are unpaved with garbage piled up. It was unbelievable.”

Hutchinson also had to deal with the strict Muslim custom of having her arms and legs covered, even in the extreme heat: “I almost got arrested because I had on a short sleeved top. My arms were exposed. I found out that women must have their arms covered to the elbow. I didn’t know why everyone was staring at me until the secret policeman starting yelling at me. My interpreters told me that they were asking if I was an American. Once they realized that I was, they left me alone, assuming I didn’t know any better.”

Hutchinson discovered that the government controlled every aspect of its citizens’ lives and the lives of their guests. Although her movements were restricted and she was not allowed to speak with a class of university students, she still gathered valuable information and returned home with a renewed admiration for the United States.

“Going there gave me an appreciation of what we have here,” Hutchinson stated. “As an American citizen, I have faith that my government will protect me when I travel abroad. But, they do not have faith in the government. They have faith in their tribe. National identity is an American concept. In Sudan, people depend on their tribe.”

In spite of the challenges, Hutchinson was able to find humor in her surroundings. “I received so many marriage proposals!” she said with a laugh. “All the men wanted to marry an American so that they could come to the United States.”

In addition to giving her significant insight into the culture of a nation in conflict and the minds of some of its people, the trip provided considerable substance for her academic interests. Hutchinson found a parallel in the subject of identity and the part that it has played in Darfur, as it has in other international atrocities, such as in the Holocaust and Rwanda. After completing her coursework, she plans to write her dissertation on the impact of identity in these conflicts and its role in the victimization of people who were black Africans, Jews, or members of the Tutsis tribe. She hopes her scholarship leads to her long-term goal of working as a U.S. ambassador in an African nation: “I want to work with the next generation of peace makers to make a difference in the lives of local people and help them in their fight for peace.”

When asked if she ever wants to return to Sudan, Hutchinson replied, “I would love to go back and get all of the success stories. The stigma of rape is so great that a husband will reject his wife after she’s been raped. Although there are terrible stories coming out of Darfur, there is a beauty in how we survive as human beings. I would love to report a few of the positive stories of hope and survival.”

If her tenacity and fearlessness are any indication, Careen Hutchinson may indeed one day make such a report. ■



BY BOB ROSS

Even in today's sour economy and competitive job market, demand continues to outweigh supply for certain positions. If you are a college student preparing for your first "real" job, or a more established professional considering a career change, the goal is to find a field and position that can provide personal satisfaction, adequate compensation, and job security.

The academic programs offered at Nova Southeastern University prepare students for an unlimited variety of career opportunities. But, knowing what are considered "hot jobs" based on the current market is invaluable for today's job seekers. The 10 hot jobs identified here meet the criteria mentioned above—and, best of all, NSU can prepare you for every one.

### Occupational Therapist

Occupational therapists (OTs) help people live as fully and independently as possible. OTs teach and train patients with disabilities to enable them to maximize their life skills and abilities. The majority work in hospitals or visit patients at home. Nearly one-third work in schools, where they might help autistic children.

This career choice made *U.S. News & World Report's* 2008 list of the "31 Best Careers."

"Our graduates rarely have difficulty finding desired positions, and some employers offer signing or tuition reimbursement bonuses," said David Pallister, J.D., OTR/L, interim chair of NSU's Occupational Therapy Department. An aging population and demands by third-party payers to see functional rehabilitation improvement are driving growth in this field, Pallister said.

Average salaries in the Miami area are reported to be around \$64,200. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the mean wage of \$43.15 an hour in the Naples-Marco Island area translates into a desirable \$89,750 annual salary there.

*U.S. News* describes occupational therapy as a "challenging career field that's best for creative, practical people who find satisfaction in small successes."

### Pharmacist

Florida will require an infusion of 780 new pharmacists annually through the year 2016. The proliferation of pharmacies in retail locations, such as Wal-Mart and Publix, is just one reason for this. Hospitals, long-term care facilities, the pharmaceutical industry, academia, and even prisons also increase the state's need for pharmacists. NSU has graduated 2,400 of them during the past two decades.

The role of pharmacists is dynamic and evolving. In addition to dispensing pills, "today's pharmacists are frequently involved in medication therapy management, patient consultation, and the administration of immunizations as an integral part of the health care team," according to Goar Alvarez, Pharm.D., NSU director of pharmacy operations.

*U.S. News & World Report* also included pharmacists on its list of "31 Best Jobs" in 2008.

Today, newly credentialed pharmacists "have more choices than ever," said Alvarez.

### School Psychologist

School psychologists work within the educational system to help students resolve emotional, social, and academic problems.

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that school psychologists will be among the five fastest-growing doctoral-level occupations through 2012," according to Gene Cash, Ph.D., NCSP, associate professor and president of the National Association of School Psychologists.

"It is a growing field because many who entered the field after a landmark federal handicapped education law was enacted in 1975 are retiring in the next five years," Cash added.

NSU operates the largest school psychology degree program in Florida. With national certification, an NSU graduate

can work in any of 29 states. On a 10-month contract, a school psychologist with a master's degree can make \$55,000 per year and increase earning potential with a doctorate or 12-month contract. Despite a Miami-Dade County budget crunch that put the positions of its school psychologists in jeopardy, Cash sees "steady growth and ready absorption of graduates, particularly for training positions."

### Physical Therapist

Physical therapists help people improve their mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries, aging, or disease. The Bureau of Labor Statistics considers this to be an extremely high-demand occupation, with an estimated growth rate of 27 percent projected for 2006 through 2016. The increasing elderly population, particularly here in Florida, is driving demand. At the same time, new treatments and techniques are expanding the scope of physical therapy practice.

The job requires a master's degree and pays an average of \$66,000 annually. Six in ten physical therapists work in hospitals or physical therapy offices.

Stanley Wilson, PT, Ed.D., CEAS, associate dean of NSU's Department of Physical Therapy, says he receives an average of 10 emails daily from companies soliciting NSU students for jobs. He notes, "We usually have to limit the number of companies who would like to participate in our career fairs."

### Registered Nurse

A Florida Center for Nursing survey last year showed that vacancy rates for registered nurses exceed nine percent in Sunshine State hospitals,

nursing homes, home health agencies, public health agencies, and hospices. The need, always chronic, is expected to grow even more urgent in the future as Florida's population ages and grows.

A major impediment is a lack of nursing program capacity. NSU is doing its part to help remedy this situation. In 2004, the university began its nursing program with 36 students. Most recently, the program admitted 240 students in Fort Lauderdale, Kendall, and Fort Myers. There are between 400 and 600 applicants for each class.

One reason for NSU's nursing program's popularity is "We ranked second for pass rate on the state exam of more than 100 R.N. programs in Florida," according to Diane Whitehead, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.N., Ed.D., dean of the Nursing Department in NSU's College of Allied Health and Nursing.

Baptist Health South Florida offers full scholarships to 80 NSU students, according to Deborah S. Mulvihill, corporate vice president and chief nursing officer for Baptist Health. Those who accept the scholarships agree in return to work in a Baptist Health Miami-area hospital for at least three years.

### Physician Assistant

A physician assistant (PA) practices medicine under the supervision of a licensed physician. Nearly half of PAs practice primary care medicine, often in rural settings or otherwise medically underserved areas. The rest enter medical and surgical specialties or sub-specialties, some extremely exotic.

"PAs are involved in every segment of medicine," according to William H. Marquardt, M.A., PA-C, DFAAPA, chair of NSU's Physician Assistant Department. In the past 40 years, Marquardt has seen what was once a limited opportunity for a handful of ex-military medics to stay in the health care field expand into a full-fledged profession.

Most students enter NSU's program with bachelor's degrees. They graduate 27 months later with master's degrees in medical science and the ability to earn \$75,000 or more per year. NSU has one of the larger programs in the state, offering classes on the main campus as well as in Fort Myers, Orlando, and (beginning June 2009) in Jacksonville.

"Practicing under the supervision of a physician doesn't mean a doctor is standing over your shoulder," Marquardt said. "You might be practicing in one location and stay in contact with a doctor in the next town by phone."

Marquardt is pleased that "most students have jobs well before graduation."



### Marriage and Family Therapist

Marriage and family therapists work with individuals, couples, and families by incorporating the family system to address mental and family problems effectively. Today, 50,000 marriage and family therapists treat more than 1.8 million people. The effectiveness of brief, systematic interventions make this a favorite of insurance companies. Another growth driver is renewed public awareness of the value of family life and concern about stresses on families.

“As brief systemic therapists, our services address a variety of client needs,” said Tommie V. Boyd, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Family Therapy. “We engage all clients to be proactive in their own change.”

NSU has one of the largest and most respected master’s- and doctoral-level programs in the family therapy field. Boyd reports that 95 to 98 percent of graduates have jobs in mental health settings. “I receive calls from employers every week who ask about our graduates,” she said.

“Our systematic approach also opens employment possibilities with schools, hospitals, and private businesses.” She added that most graduates initially go to work for agencies or other organizations “and often develop their own private practices, consult, or teach. This gives them control and allows them flexibility over their schedules.”

### Mental Health Counselor

America will need 30 percent more mental health counselors between 2006 and 2016. Under managed care systems, insurance companies are increasingly providing for reimbursement of counselors as a less costly alternative to psychiatrists and psychologists. Also, the Veterans Administration is clamoring for them because they are 50 percent understaffed in the psychological services area.

Last year, *Money* magazine included mental health counselors on its list of “Top 50 Professions.”

“A critical need exists in community agencies. Graduates may find themselves also working in hospitals, for a psychiatrist, or independently for themselves. I have not had any students coming to me six months after graduation saying that they still lack a job,” said Shannon Ray, Ph.D., LMHC, lead faculty member in mental health counseling.

NSU offers this M.S. degree on the main campus and at its Miami-Kendall, West Palm Beach, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville student educational centers, as well as completely online.

### Special Education Teacher

The Bureau of Labor Statistics assigned this profession a “faster growth than average” label after calculating that 15 percent more special education teachers will be needed between 2006 and 2016.

This high demand is due to earlier diagnoses of learning disabilities in younger students. In addition, the percentage of foreign-born special education students is expected to grow as teachers become more adept at recognizing disabilities in that population. Also, educational reforms, such as the FCAT here in Florida, require higher standards for graduation.

As a result, special education teachers face excellent employment prospects, according to Steve D. Thompson, Ph.D., program professor at NSU’s Fischler School of Education and Human Services.

### Anesthesiologist Assistant

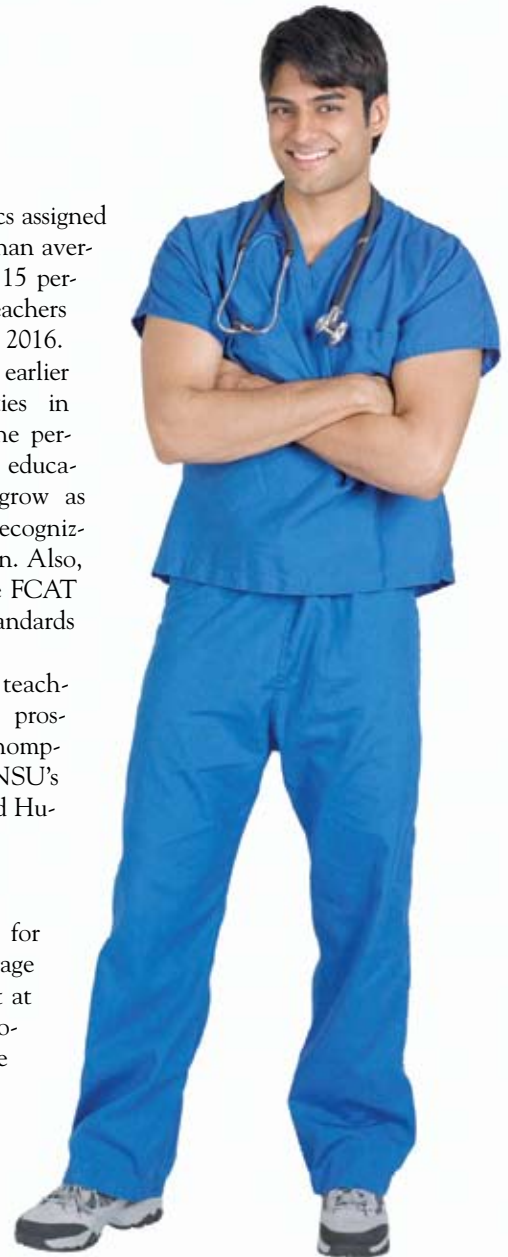
Imagine a degree program for which graduating students average 10 to 15 job offers, salaries start at \$120,000 a year, and sign-on bonuses of \$30,000 to \$50,000 are the norm.

That’s what the marketplace told the 19 members of NSU’s first anesthesiologist assistant (AA) class they were worth when they graduated in August. Students come out of the 27-month program with master’s degrees in health science.

“An applicant accepted to an AA degree program meets the prerequisites to get into medical school. The responsibility of providing anesthesia is a critical need of medicine,” said Robert Wagner, M.M.Sci., AA-C, RRT, assistant professor and director of NSU’s program.

AAs function under the medical direction of an anesthesiologist in 18 states and the District of Columbia. Florida began licensing AAs in 2004. NSU was quick to start its AA program in 2006 as the fourth accredited program of its type in the United States and first and only such program in Florida.

Both the U.S. Department of Health and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services predict a shortage of AAs over the next decade. ■





## TALKING ACROSS CULTURAL LINES

BY LISA BOLIVAR AND  
FELECIA HENDERSON

As one of approximately 800 African American students attending Austin's University of Texas (UT) in 1975, Debra Nixon and other black students created their own community within the 39,000-student population. Nixon, Ph.D., now an assistant professor and associate chairperson of the Department of Family Therapy in NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, confesses that she did not recognize how much of a cocoon she had created for herself.

That is, until the day she walked by a lighter skinned black woman—whom she knew—without speaking. “My school-mate, Clair, called out ‘Debra?’ before I recognized that I was walking right past her. As I think about the way she called my name, I suspect that this happened to her a lot. In those days, we realized we were filling a quota and were not wanted, so we created our own community in which only persons of color showed up on our ‘speaking’ radar.”

Today, Nixon's priority is to get people talking to each other across cultural and racial lines. The experience is cathartic, she said, for herself and for those who come to monthly “Diversity Dialogues,” which she began in February 2006 on NSU's main campus. These forums are designed to invite an open discussion about all aspects of diversity. Nixon believes that a diverse community is a strong community, but fears many people view inherent differences as somehow bad or wrong.

While Nixon's epiphany at UT was instrumental for her own understanding, the idea for this open dialogue evolved from her faculty experiences. “I teach a state-required diversity course for

people training to be family therapists,” Nixon said. “I was finding that the course was more than informational, it was transformational. Not only was the class changing the students, it was changing me.”

Students began having epiphanies of their own. “We were having such a great time with lots of dialogue from all kinds of students who never thought they had a prejudiced bone in their bodies, as well as those who knew they had problems with others. I shared with my colleagues how students were reacting, admitting to the class things that they'd never normally say to other people.”

Curious about the transformations Nixon described, Honggang Yang, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, suggested that Nixon make the dialogue a campus-wide discussion. He has become one of its most dedicated attendees.

“I think these conversations are valuable to the faculty and staff, because it allows them to be part of the multicultural student discussions,” Yang added that everyone learns from open dialogue. “Faculty members are learning how to approach a diverse classroom, making room for these multicultural voices to be heard.”

According to Nixon, the monthly discussions continue to grow and often change composition. What began with mostly NSU staff and faculty members now includes students, alumni, and even participants from the local Broward County community.

“Our group's discussion takes many forms of diversity: religious, gender, social class, etcetera,” Nixon explained. “We have African



DEBRA NIXON, PH.D. (CENTER)

## STILL WORKING FULL-TIME, NSU STAFF MEMBER STAYS YOUNG AT 97

BY MICHELLE SOLOMON

Sylvia Rubin reaches up to the shelf in her small office where, among pictures of her one grandchild and two great grandchildren, she keeps an unframed photo of herself. It was taken at her 90th birthday party, held in Nova Southeastern University's Chancellor's Dining Room six years ago.

In the picture, she's holding a black and white photograph of a much younger Sylvia Rubin. She recounts that the earlier image was captured in the 1940s when she worked as a welder during World War II in Portland, Oregon.

"I was never afraid of hard work," said Rubin, who has worked for NSU's Health Professions Division (HPD) for decades. Her tone lightens a bit. "But, let me tell you about the birthday party."

Those who know the oldest, full-time staffer at NSU will tell you that she remembers dates, times, and details like they were yesterday. The birthday party, which Rubin described as "a grand affair," was hosted by her colleagues at HPD's Office of Admissions and Student Affairs, where she works. She ticked off the specifics, "It was December 21, 2002. Even the newspaper wrote a story about it," she said. "I remember the headline: '90-Year-Old Keeps on Truckin'."

On Christmas Day 2008, Rubin celebrated her 97th birthday, and she's still truckin'—working Monday through Friday. Her office doubles as a mail room. "I do a little bit of everything," she said. But, her main task is sorting the mail because, as Rubin puts it, "I know everyone."

She started in the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs almost 28 years ago, shortly after Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine opened in 1981. Her daughter, Beth, who is now 60 years old, was working at the time as the school's first secretary to Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.S.C., the founding dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"The dean needed someone to help with a grant they were expecting," Rubin recalled. She began her career with NSU as a temp, and remembers the day when Melnick asked her if she would like to take on more responsibilities. "I looked at him like he was crazy. I was 70 years old."

After mulling it over, she decided to say yes. "I thought that it would keep me busy, and I could use the money for bingo. Now my daughter doesn't work here anymore, but I'm still here," she said, emphasizing the hint of irony.

Rubin hasn't slowed down. She drove herself to work until she was 80 years old, but hung up her car keys when the commute from her condominium in Aventura to NSU's main campus in Fort Lauderdale got to be too much. Her daughter, Carole, who is now 72 and retired, drives her mother to work each morning.

Rubin can't remember a time when she didn't work. Her father died when she was 12 years old, and her mother was left alone with six children. "We all had to work," she explained.

She attended City College of New York for just a few years before she became a career secretary for Irving Berlin's Music Publishing Company. She then worked in a law office, followed by a stint as a secretary to one of the Rockefeller's executives in the garment manufacturing industry.



Rubin has put in countless hours of labor between her early days in New York and her job today at NSU.

Marla Frohlinger, M.H.S.A., executive director for student services and professional coordination at HPD's Office of Admissions and Student Affairs, said, "She's still important to our family here. She sees the vitality of everyone in the department, and she's part of it. I think that keeps her looking forward to each day."

For those who come to Florida to retire, Rubin said, "good for them. But, I love the university setting. It's so different from anything I ever did before. I think I just like the action." ■

# Osteopathi



# Podiatric Medicine

BY KEN MA

## What We Don't Know Might Cure Us



For Roger Alvarez, the decision to study osteopathic medicine was based on a belief that he could make a difference in his patients' lives by using a holistic approach to treat them.

Alvarez, a fourth-year medical student at Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, was attracted to osteopathic medicine's non-traditional way of seeing patients. He liked the fact that osteopathic doctors spent a lot of time with their patients, looking at how one part of their bodies affected another.

"This type of medicine drew me in and resonated with my personal views of health," Alvarez said. "Part of the appeal of osteopathic medicine comes from the recognition of something missing from traditional medicine."

For most people, however, osteopathic medicine is a foreign term they aren't familiar with, even though the profession has been around since 1874. Despite the unfamiliarity, the profession has grown exponentially in the last decade thanks to its unique approach to health care.

Osteopathic doctors look at the patient's entire body to diagnose a problem. They do so by examining the whole patient and asking questions about social, environmental, and cultural factors that might affect the patient's condition. These physicians also practice osteopathic manipulative treatment, when necessary, to heal patients. Manipulation is

the doctors' use of their hands to correct the muscles, nerves, and bones that make up the body's musculoskeletal system. Osteopathic physicians believe this system affects many ailments.

Students who graduate from osteopathic medical schools are given a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree, or D.O. Those who complete their medical training at allopathic medical schools are given a Doctor of Allopathic Medicine degree, or M.D.

Both D.O.s and M.D.s must pass similar national licensing

examinations in order to practice. Like M.D.s, D.O.s become specialists in a variety of areas such as cardiology, emergency-room medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, family medicine, and oncology, among many others. The only major differences are that D.O.s use osteopathic manipulative treatment and take a more holistic approach to treat patients compared to allopathic physicians, and relatively more D.O.s go into primary care than M.D.s.

Like allopathic medical schools, student enrollment at osteopathic medical schools has increased partly because of the national shortage of physicians. The need for doctors, along with the nontraditional approach of osteopathic medicine, has attracted students like Alvarez.

As a result, the number of applicants for spots at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, and to osteopathic medical schools across the country, has been on the rise this decade.

Roughly 1,977 applicants applied for 181 spots at NSU's medical school in 2002, according to statistics from NSU's Health Professions Division. In 2008, that number nearly doubled to 3,463 applicants for 231 spots. In 2002, there were 36,107 applicants to osteopathic medical schools throughout the country, according to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). In 2008, the applicant pool more than doubled to 83,392 applicants.

Despite the rising popularity of osteopathic medicine, many people are still not familiar with it.


### Public Confusion

Although both osteopathic and allopathic doctors go through rigorous training that includes medical residencies, which can last from three to seven years, the M.D. degree is a lot more recognizable to the public.

There are several factors that influence osteopathic medicine's lack of public awareness. First, are the numbers. In 2006, there were 921,904 M.D.s practicing in the United States compared to 58,940 D.O.s, according to the latest data from the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association.

"A major factor that has contributed to osteopathic medicine's lack of visibility among the lay public is simply the relatively small size of our profession," said Lawrence Jacobson, D.O., vice dean of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. "Many communities this day still have not had an osteopathic physician practicing medicine in their vicinity."

Because of its relatively small size, Jacobson said, the profession has not, until recent years, grown to a point that has



allowed it to become more vocal in expressing opinions on national health care issues. Moreover, osteopathic medical schools, now numbering 25 nationally, have been focused on producing good physicians instead of cutting-edge research. Critical research would help the profession garner more national prestige, said Jacobson, adding that the trend is changing.

The lack of marketing and public relations is another factor, said Steve Winn, executive director of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.

Even the media gets confused with osteopathic medicine sometimes. In 2006, *Newsweek* magazine used the headline “Hero M.D.” on its cover in big bold print, even though the story was about Richard Jadick, an osteopathic physician. John Strosnider, D.O., former president of the American Osteopathic Association, who passed away last year, had said that when he was dean of New England University College of Osteopathic Medicine—Maine’s only medical school—the media would occasionally report that the state had no medical school. Similarly, Florida’s media frequently fails to report the existence of the state’s two osteopathic medical schools: NSU and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton.

## Transitions

“Osteopathic medicine’s obscurity made it hard to attract applicants in the past,” said Sam Snyder, D.O., chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at NSU’s medical school. “Fifty years ago,” he said, “D.O.s were stigmatized as cultists who did not offer a full array of medical services.”

Osteopathic doctors were not allowed to practice in civil service jobs

until 1963 and not allowed to serve as medical officers in the U.S. military until 1966, according to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). “In Florida, members of the Hillsborough County Medical Association once made it unethical for its members to consult with a D.O.,” Winn said.

D.O.s were not allowed to practice in all 50 states until 1973, according to AACOM.

But that was then.

Today, M.D.s and D.O.s work side by side at thousands of medical residency programs throughout the country and have joint partnerships and practices together, Winn said. Both types of doctors make the same amount of money, depending on their specialties and the type and location of their practices. The national average for a physician’s annual income is between \$160,000 and \$200,000.

Allopathic and osteopathic physicians also work together at medical schools. A. Alvin Greber, D.O., associate executive dean for professional and extramural affairs at NSU’s Health Professions Division, is a professor of internal medicine at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine, which teaches allopathic medicine.

Tyler Cymet, AACOM’s associate vice president for medical education, graduated from Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1988 before it merged with NSU. He went on to become a professor of general medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, one of the nation’s top medical schools.

## NSU’s Medical School

Like many aspiring doctors, Alva-

rez applied to several medical schools to increase his odds of acceptance. NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine was one of his top choices.

“Unlike some other medical schools I toured, NSU’s students seemed happy to be here,” he said. “Other important factors for me were the impressive facilities and resources such as the medical library, anatomy lab, Master of Public Health degree program, and the Dr. A. Alvin Greber Cardiac Simulation Center [previously known as the Harvey Laboratory].”

Dana Block, D.O., a medical resident in Tennessee who graduated from NSU as an undergraduate and from medical school in 2007, said she chose the school because it scored a 100 percent on her personal checklist of the qualities of a good medical school, including factors like clinical exposure and placement for its graduates.

“My experience at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine was amazing,” she said. “The classroom and clinical curricula are demanding, but rewarding, and they absolutely prepare you for the real world as a physician.”

Second-year NSU medical student Vi Song Tring said his professors make the hard work worthwhile. “They are all role models, and I’m trying my best to select the best qualities that each professor has to offer, so that I may emulate them.”

While the quality of the faculty, administration, and facilities are big reasons why students choose NSU, Jacobson said there are many other factors. “NSU medical students get to participate in international medical missions, provide health care to medically underserved areas, and reach out to the community at numerous health fairs,” as he said.



Applicants are attracted to the medical school's Master of Public Health degree program because they can obtain an M.P.H. degree concurrently with their D.O. degree.

"NSU has an excellent reputation throughout the entire state," Winn said.

## Opportunities and Challenges

The successes of NSU and other osteopathic medical schools have benefited the profession as a whole.

"This evolving exponential growth will give us a greater voice in the debate surrounding the many health care crises that face our nation," Jacobson said. "As a result, the public will come to better recognize osteopathic medicine as a leader in the health care reform for our nation."

Stephen Shannon, D.O., M.P.H., president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, said that D.O.s could get a boost if famous people who were successfully treated by them—such as former President George H.W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush; former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; and retired army general Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. armed forces in Desert Storm—were to promote the profession.

He also said that osteopathic medicine has come a long way since its inception to achieve parity and greater integration with allopathic medicine and that having an equal voice means that D.O.s are playing a much larger role in forming health policies and in

the health care system as a whole.

"Osteopathic medicine has a bright future," Shannon said. "I think osteopathic medicine is increasingly being recognized as an ideal pathway to becoming a physician in the United States."

Success, however, might alter the trade. Winn said that increased integration with allopathic medicine has made the curriculum at some osteopathic medical schools similar to those of allopathic schools. One reason for the blending of curricula is because it's possible for M.D.s to teach at osteopathic medical schools and vice versa.

"The challenge of the osteopathic profession is to remain a distinct profession," he said.

For more information, visit <http://medicine.nova.edu>. ■

## A HELPING HAND IN A HURTING ECONOMY

BY FELECIA HENDERSON



**A**lden Cass's career choice is as unique as the methodology he applies to other life choices. Cass, Psy.D., is a doctoral graduate of NSU's Center for Psychological Studies. His decision to attend NSU really came down to South Florida's uniquely warm weather. Cass had several universities to choose from but, in the end, he wanted a climate that was vastly different from his college town of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Cass is a licensed clinical psychologist in New York City and president and CEO of Competitive Streak Consulting, Inc., a professional services organization that assists companies by

identifying and correcting employee problems before they hamper productivity and job satisfaction. Cass specializes in working with individuals and groups of senior executives, including high-profile CEOs, traders, financial advisers, planners, athletes, musicians, and bankers, helping them to achieve their corporate, career, and personal goals. Additionally, he is in private practice conducting cognitive therapy with both young adults and adults suffering from mental illness and/or addiction.

Considered an expert on the use of psychology in the brokerage industry, Cass has appeared on or in the *Today* show, *Fox News Live*, *New York* magazine, *Business Week*, CNN's *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, CNN's *Moneyline*, CNN's *money.com*, CNBC London, *Financial Times*, *London Financial Weekly*, *Washington Post* Radio, *NY Newsday*, *On Wall Street* magazine, E-Trade "On Air," BBC Radio, Reuter's Business Newswire, *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Absolute Return* magazine.

Cass is a member of a core group of NSU alumni volunteers in New York City who are helping the university's Office of Alumni Relations establish a chapter in the city. Alden volunteered his time as a presenter at the chapter's inaugural Manhattan event in June 2008. He spoke on the topic of strategies for surviving in an uncertain world and job market.

### **HORIZONS: Why did you choose to focus on those who work on Wall Street?**

While I was at NSU, I was sitting poolside one bright sunny South Florida day, where I do my best thinking, thinking about a topic for my Directed Study Research. I was also thinking about a friend of mine, who had just started working for a Wall Street brokerage firm, and how his personality had begun to change. In a matter of months, he went from fun-loving to short-tempered, and he was not focused. It did not make sense; I knew something was not right. It was then that I decided to do my research on whether clinical levels of depression, burnout, and anxiety were present in Wall Street stockbrokers.

### **HORIZONS: How did you get the participants for the study?**

It was done through networking brokers. It is called a "convenience sample," in research terms.

### **HORIZONS: What were the results?**

I did my study using 26 stockbrokers (ages 22 to 32) from seven of the largest firms on Wall Street. My sample did not include women, so the participants just had to be males within the age range making money. To get them to participate, we met after hours in local public places so that their work environment would not affect their responses. My results indicated that 23 percent of them showed clinical levels of major depression and 0 percent of them had ever sought help. 38 percent of my sample showed sub-clinical levels of depression—not impairing so much that they needed immediate help.

My study also found recreational use of drugs and a lack of healthy coping skills. Ironically, those who showed the greatest signs of major depression were also very successful financially. However, in a follow up eight months later, 25 percent of those making the most money at the time of the study were no longer in their jobs.

### **HORIZONS: You've turned your dissertation into a productive practice. How difficult was that?**

After receiving my doctorate, I went into private practice in New York. I found that the brokerage firms were not so willing to have someone come in and begin to analyze their brokers, so I decided to call myself an executive coach as opposed to a therapist. I began to test the market. I did my first patient for free; I don't take insurance. My clientele has been built by word of mouth, by marketing myself, utilizing the Internet, and appearing in three industry-related publications. More important, this year, I published my first two books through Wiley, which enabled me to further target my audience. I bring my practice to them.

I speak a lot about the complicated lives of those on Wall Street, giving examples of what burnout, stress, depression, and anxiety look like. I get a lot of referrals from wives. They begin to see the changes in their husbands, and they see the husbands becoming more involved in things that are not family-oriented and/or destructive, like drug use and alcohol abuse. I wanted to remove the stigma of seeing a therapist on Wall Street. I also use terms like "Lifestyle Portfolio Management" to help them diversify their lives and maintain balance between family, friends, recreation, and work.

### **HORIZONS: Is it necessary to understand or have a background in financial markets in order to understand your clients' issues?**

No it's not necessary, although I speak in terminology that they understand. In my practice, I use the phrase "think bullish thoughts, not bearish thoughts" to help my clients. I also incorporate a great deal of sports metaphors, as most of my clients are avid sports competitors in their free time. Bullish thoughts are rational and positive, whereas bearish thoughts are irrational predictions, expectations,

and beliefs about ourselves, others, and our future. One can positively impact his emotions and consequently, his behaviors, when he can take control over his thought processes and keep them bullish.

### **HORIZONS: How does market performance affect your practice? Is there a significant fluctuation in the number of clients you see based on market performance?**

Yes, there are times when the number of clients fluctuates. When the market is good, I see fewer clients, as they tend to feel as if they don't need any help. When the market begins to drop, they fall back into their old, self-destructive patterns and would rather spend money on frivolous items rather than therapy or coaching. Only in the middle are they really open to change and to work on themselves. At this point, they realize that they have not yet developed the necessary coping skills.

The more time I am able to spend with my clients, the greater their sense of comfort with me. Then, I am better able to assist them with developing strategies for dealing with the unique challenges associated with their profession. My goal for most clients is to improve their job performance, quality of life, effectiveness, and productivity.

### **HORIZONS: What was one of the most surprising things you've heard?**

One of my clients, a hedge fund trader, came into my office. He said he lost \$1 million. Stunned, I asked if I should call an ambulance. As we talked, I realized that the \$1 million was out of a book of \$100 million. As I became more knowledgeable about my clients and what they do, I gained a new perspective on money. Now, these types of numbers don't affect me as much.

### **HORIZONS: What was your experience like at NSU?**

I had a great four years at NSU. I not only worked hard, I got a chance to hang out at the beach and study poolside. I studied with Jose Canseco on Fort Lauderdale beach for a psychopharmacology exam. Where else can things like that happen to you in graduate school? I had great professors. John Lewis, Ph.D., and Eugene Shapiro, Ph.D.,\* were fantastic. They were instrumental in guiding me through the program and the dissertation process.

[Editor's note: A. Eugene (Gene) Shapiro, Ph.D., is professor emeritus and a retired senior associate dean, at CPS.]

### **HORIZONS: What advice would you give to NSU students?**

Learn to balance work and fun. Think out of the box, get into a field that you enjoy, create ways to market yourself—this is key—and stay ahead of the game. ■



# alumni journal

## ALUMNI ADD A NEEDED DASH OF LATIN FLAVOR TO ANIMATION PROJECTS

BY BOB ROSS

Cilantro, a fixture in Mexican salsa and guacamole, has provided inspiration for a trio of imaginative M.B.A. graduates from NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship who have opened an animation studio in Boca Raton.

Cilantro Animation Studios is located far from Hollywood's glitz and glamour. But that matters little to company president Salvatore Cavalieri, a Venezuelan who started Cilantro with a couple of business school classmates three years ago.

Cavalieri sees no disadvantages to operating here as opposed to in Los Angeles. He said Florida has top animation and special effects schools, a broad pool of artists and animators, and a more diverse Hispanic population, which is essential to Cilantro's business purpose. "Moreover, technology allows us to connect to anywhere around the globe in seconds and with no problem."

With Hispanics firmly implanted as the nation's fastest-growing minority, Cilantro aims to surf the crest of this important demographic trend by producing 3-D animation content that bridges the Latino and American cultures. Cavalieri contends that ad agencies and networks are missing opportunities to fully engage viewers when they simply rely on lip-synched translations of English-language material.

"Our philosophy is to create animation that entertains the audience with solid stories that appeal to a fast-changing American demographic. We wish to deliver animation that can be viewed in multi-platforms and delight our customers," Cavalieri said.

The studio has developed three original stories suitable for TV that revolve around Latinos trying to overcome adversity while "doing it in a funny way." For example, *Johnny the Roofer* shows how an American struggles to live with Latinos of different nationalities in Miami. Storylines explain cultural differences and how the characters interrelate with each other. *La Carta* is about a Hispanic family living in the United States for many years whose members believe that they have adapted but discover that they really haven't. *Usay*, an original story developed for children and parents, challenges racism and presents a message of tolerance. "Walt Disney's stories were focused on fantasy," said Cavalieri. "Ours are different because they are based on human experience."

Cavalieri is staking his privately held company's success on "content and stories that have not been touched" elsewhere. They are intended to appeal to non-Hispanic Americans as well by "sliding our Hispanic culture in softly."

Cilantro's animation team is composed of young people called "Cilantrones" who come from Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia. Each brings to the table knowledge of different customs, expressions, and cultural sensitivities. As inspiration for their computer artistry, they use their own personal experiences as well as those of family members and friends. The team is working to generate a look so that every time you see a character, you identify it as a Cilantro character. "At the end of the day, we're storytellers," said Cavalieri. Production takes place in South America, South Korea, and China.



For a young upstart company like this, success is by no means assured. Cavalieri is making the rounds of trade shows to generate excitement for Cilantro's creations. He also created an animation services firm called [www.FlameReaction.TV](http://www.FlameReaction.TV) exclusively for mobile content creation and production. Products include ring tones; customized desktop wallpaper with seasonal



themes (such as Thanksgiving pilgrims interacting with a goofy-looking octopus wearing a pilgrim hat); and “really dumb, though amusing,” short cartoon videos. Beavis and Butt-Head, please take note.

While Cavalieri isn’t too interested in talking about this work, which he describes as “not lifetime characters and stories

to remember,” he notes that it is providing entree to more adventurous projects as technology improvements allow. Most particularly, he is excited about the coming explosion of videos viewable by phone. You can watch 90-second Cilantro videos on such sites as *www.mywaves.com* and *www.myxertrones.com*, among other product outlets, with more than 5 million subscribers downloading content. Cavalieri expects that next year, videos will be longer.

“We got in early. Our foot was in the door in year one,” he said.

Whatever the future holds, Cavalieri credits NSU for enabling him and his partners to “build the business on a firm foundation and not a house of cards.” He and native Mexican Francisco “Paco” Sinta, Cilantro vice president, were classmates, earning their M.B.A.s in 2001. Katty Arzola, Cilantro’s vice president for marketing and sales, is Cavalieri’s wife and a 2000 Huizenga School graduate from Peru.

Tim McCartney, Ph.D., an NSU professor of management who last year became the first Huizenga School professor named to an endowed chair, remembers all three and continues to stay in contact.

“They were all excellent students, willing to learn, with a sense of balance. They were inquisitive, not afraid to challenge their professor, took risks, and had wonderful work ethics,” recalled McCartney. “They brought the class alive.”

Kicking into professorial overdrive, McCartney turned an interview into a teaching moment by articulating three ideas he tries to drive into the head of every would-be entrepreneur. “First, I try to stimulate them to think outside the box in applying what they learn in the classroom in a real way. Second, I try to teach them an important lesson of life—that failure and disappointment are par for the course. And third, I try to instill a sense of integrity and honesty consisting of values that will earn other people’s respect.”

What he recalls of the Cilantro leadership team is that “they responded to it. I have dinner with them from time to time and follow their progress.”

Cavalieri tosses a few bouquets of his own. “NSU’s master’s program was taught by professors who had had their own businesses. I was learning about real-life situations from people who have created companies from the ground up.” He remains involved with NSU, as Cilantro is one of the Huizenga School’s corporate partners.

In five years, Cavalieri would like to see Cilantro as one of the world’s top five animation companies with a feature film in the theaters. Ever on the prowl for a business edge, he invites “experts in the industry of film, TV, and animation to contact us and become part of this goal.”

Cavalieri considers himself a “realistic dreamer.” Yet, only time will tell if his dreams for Cilantro will come true. ■

# scoreboard

## NSU ATHLETICS FALL SEASON REVIEW

BY JEFF KELLEY

The 2008–2009 athletic teams had a banner fall season. Three of the five fall athletic teams contended for Sunshine State Conference titles, with both cross country teams advancing to the NCAA Regional and the volleyball team proceeding to the National Championships.

### VOLLEYBALL—CHARTING A WINNING COURSE

When Steve Wilcosky, head coach, took over the helm of the Nova Southeastern University volleyball program prior to the 2006 campaign, he inherited a team that had yet to claim a postseason match or advance to the NCAA tournament. The genesis of his rebuilding effort focused on changing the mentality of his players and bringing in the right mix of student-athletes who could help the Sharks ascend to unattained levels of success. Coming off a 2007 season that featured a 16-match turnaround, NCAA South Regional appearance, and a second-place finish in the Sunshine State Conference are evidence of Wilcosky's vision in "Charting a Winning Course" for NSU volleyball.

Wilcosky led the Sharks volleyball team into un-chartered waters in his third year at the helm for Nova Southeastern University in 2008. Not only did NSU secure its second consecutive NCAA bid, but it captured its first-ever NCAA Division II South Regional Title to advance further than any team in program history.

The Sharks took an unusual path to the South Regional title, winning as the sixth seed in an eight-team field. After sweeping SSC rival Lynn University out of the court in the opening round, NSU was forced to pull off a thrilling comeback in the semifinals, overcoming a two-set deficit to Saint Leo University. After the Sharks dropped the first two sets against West Florida, the team methodically climbed back into the match and pulled off the upset to capture its first South Regional Championship.

The team ran out of magic in its NCAA Division II Quarterfinal match (Elite 8) vs. national power Truman State in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Sharks post-season run marks the furthest the team has ever advanced, falling just three victories shy of a national title and finishing its season ranked number 20 in the nation at 24-12.

The Sharks captured numerous honors for the first time ever in 2008. The accolades include Valia Petrova being named AVCA National Player of the Week and Petrova and Emily Carle earning the first All-America honors in program history.

### CROSS COUNTRY—CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF

NSU, which earned its first-ever regional ranking in school history one year ago, had arguably its best season in program history under Bryan Hagopian, first-year head coach.

Led by defending Sunshine State Conference Runner of the Year and team captain Eskender Abdalla, the Sharks returned

with 50 percent of the men's team from a season ago. A four-time SSC Runner of the Week in 2007, Abdalla became the first NSU harrier to be named runner of the year. He posted five top-10 finishes in the Sharks' six regular-season races and finished 18th out of 127 runners in the men's 10k regional meet.

The Sharks's smallest group—its senior class—had a lot to do with how successful the Sharks are this season. The class consists of Abdalla and Robert Maughan, two runners who were both in their fourth year of competition on the collegiate level. Also returning to the squad were sophomores John Besharat, Jeffrey Palmer, Joseph Pena, and Agustin Rey.

Palmer became the biggest surprise of the season, posting a victory, three second-place finishes, and a top-10 finish in five races. For his effort, he was tabbed to the 2008 All-SSC Cross Country team and All-South Region team. He crossed the finish line in second place at the UT Early Bird Classic, finished second in the Florida Tech Invite, 10th at the UF Mountain Dew Invitational, first in the FLRunner.com invite, and second in the SSC Championships. He won three SSC Runner of the Week awards in 2008 and set a new personal best in his past three races.

Junior dual-sport athlete Tara Haddock (who also plays women's basketball) will anchor the women's team in 2008. One of only two returnees, Haddock played a key role in the Sharks's regional appearance one year ago. With a plethora of



TARA HADDOCK

new-comers arriving, NSU will also depend on upperclassman Alice Henley to guide the young Sharks to another regional appearance in 2008.

### **WOMEN'S SOCCER— REACHING FOR NEW HEIGHTS**

After back-to-back third-place finishes in the Sunshine State Conference, the NSU women's soccer team looked to reach new heights in 2008. This wasn't an easy task since the squad already made consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances in the last two seasons.

For example, last season, the Sharks were one red card and one goal away from defeating the eventual NCAA Division II National Champion, the Tampa Spartans. With that in mind, the ingredients were in place for an ever bigger batch of wins this season.

All discussions of the NSU women's soccer team begin and end with All-Americans Stephanie Quinones and Shurell Burton. Quinones, a midfielder whose ball control, passing, and playmaking ability made her a prime recruiting target for numerous Division I teams, has co-captained the Sharks the past two seasons. In 2007, Burton set new NSU career records for goals scored and points. Together, these two make perhaps the most formidable offensive one-two punch in the South Region.

The biggest question mark for NSU was on defense, as they lost co-captain defenders Jenny Turner and Jahmila Williams to graduation. This year's recruiting class of seven included three defenders whom Head Coach Mike Goodrich hopes can fill the void left by Turner and Williams.

The team concluded its season 8-5-3 after battling the injury bug all season. Quinones was named to the All-SSC second team and Academic All-District and joined Burton on the NSCAA/adidas All-South Region team.

### **MEN'S SOCCER— POISED TO MAKE A RUN**

In 2007, the NSU men's soccer team featured 17 newcomers and 15 freshmen. With that fact in mind, the squad had a successful season, ranking as high as second in the nation in Division II, and falling only in penalty kicks to perennial power Lynn University in the Sunshine State Conference tournament semifinals.

Losing just one starter from one year ago, the 2008 version of the men's soccer team was poised to make a run at an SSC championship. Returning to the pitch is SSC Player of the Year Romain Onteniente, along with All-South Region performers Aly Hassan and Craig Heenighan. Onteniente and Hassan formed the most



ROMAIN ONTENIENTE

dynamic duo of forwards in the SSC. Hassan made an appearance for the United States U-20 National Team in an exhibition against Guatemala over the summer, while Heenighan, the Sharks's captain for the second straight year, continued to bring his leadership and two-way ability to the NSU midfield.

The Sharks finished the season with a 10-9-1 record. Onteniente, who garnered his second straight First Team All-Sunshine State Conference nod, led the Sharks with 11 assists, which also tied him for second among the SSC's overall leaders. He also scored nine goals, including two game-winners, and registered 29 points. He currently ranks fourth among NSU's all-time career leaders in goals (32) and points (83) and is tied for 10th with Tony Yannnakakis in assists (19). ■

Lyndon  
Junior  
Communications

## THERE'S NO TELLING HOW FAR YOU CAN GO WHEN YOU START AT NSU.

*What began in 1964 with a handful of students and some very big ideas, has become the sixth largest independent, non-profit university in America.*

In just four decades, Nova Southeastern University has grown to encompass 27,000 students, 110,000 alumni, a stunning 300-acre campus in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and a presence in 9 countries around the world.

empower them to share their knowledge on a very personal level, and a challenging curriculum prepares undergraduate students for future success. In fact, 70 % of NSU's pre-law and pre-med students get accepted to law and medical schools.



NSU has earned worldwide recognition for renowned graduate programs in areas including medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, law and psychology. But for many of our students the foundation of their college education begins with a bachelor's degree from NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

NSU covers the entire spectrum of a classic Arts & Science education, with everything from state-of-the-art research labs to world-class performing arts space. And innovative programs including Dual Admission, Honors, Study Abroad and our Distinguished Speaker Series add even more depth to the undergraduate experience. But it's the diversity of our student body that truly sets NSU apart. Students come from 70 countries, bringing with them a wide-range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and a world of life experiences.

Here, the faculty is comprised of noted scholars from all circles of academia who remain actively involved in the academic arena through grants, published books, peer articles and speaking engagements on every continent. Small classes

With world-class facilities, innovative academic programs and opportunities for active involvement, NSU provides a rewarding undergraduate experience. Which may explain why so many NSU undergraduates choose to attend graduate school here, too.



[www.nova.edu](http://www.nova.edu)

Fort Lauderdale-Davie, Florida (Main Campus)

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin. Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

## NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

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For the last eight years, NSU students have joined elderly residents from local nursing and rehabilitation centers for dinner and entertainment—an event called the Senior Prom. The Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement sponsors the prom, which pairs 40 NSU students with 40 seniors.

Through the exploration of diversity, NSU students are also encouraged to become effective leaders for individuals of different backgrounds and beliefs. On the NSU Spiritual Life Council, students from different faiths work together to broaden perspectives and support spiritual expression. The annual Diversity Summit, a day-long conference on campus, provides students with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively lead and succeed in a diverse society.

“As our nation becomes increasingly

diverse, leaders must be able to understand and value diversity,” Morrow said. “Students are learning the challenges and opportunities involved in staying true to your own core beliefs and convictions while remaining open and respectful of those who hold different viewpoints and values.”

The skills learned through NSU’s leadership and community outreach programs stay with the individuals beyond their college years. As students graduate and move into their professions, they can become and remain leaders of their organizations and in their communities.

“I recently received a phone call from someone who came to the first leadership retreat we did 20 years ago,” said Williams, who remains active in leadership development at NSU by teaching a leadership class. “He told me, ‘I’m in the industry now, but I’m still using some of the same

tools we learned back in the day.’ It just shows that the equipping of leadership skills is absolutely critical.”

That’s something that Constant wants to see from the members of his organization, MALES. Lessons on leadership “are life lessons,” he said. “My members can take what they’ve learned and pass it on down to their sons.”

For El-Tourkey, the lessons in leadership will help her as she begins her career. “Leadership is very important in marine biology, especially when you’re trying to lead a research team,” she explained. “You have many eccentric scientists all trying to work together, and it’s difficult to find cohesion among the group. So when someone steps up and is able to be a leader and can lead the team and cultivate a sense of belonging among the team, that’s very important.” ■

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## GARY MARGULES

*Continued from page 19*

### LOOKING AHEAD

One of Margules’s goal is to strengthen NSU’s relationships with research entities and other research-oriented universities such as the Florida Research Consortium, BioFlorida, Enterprise Development Corporation, University of Miami, University of Florida, and Florida Atlantic University, among others.

Another one of his goals is to shepherd the university’s research-related capital improvement projects, such as the Center for Collaborative Research and the Academic Village, which is slated to be built at the current University Park Plaza site. The village will be a mixed-use, high-tech research park that will bring together the best scientific minds from academia, government, and industry.

The Academic Village will add up to two million square feet of research, office, retail, and residential space, as well as a new hotel conference center. A teaching hospital could also be added to the development. It’s expected to generate millions of dollars in tax revenue and create more high-tech jobs in South Florida.

“It will be a great economic and research boon to this region’s development,” Margules said.

Since building research facilities requires extensive funding, Margules wants to tap into federal, state, and private funds by increasing the amount of grant proposals the university submits. To help facilitate this process, he is helping create a grant writing laboratory at the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center to assist students and faculty members with grant writing.

He would also like to see growth in NSU’s clinical research activities, particularly in the health sciences. Clinical research is using the knowledge gained from basic and applied research to conduct further research, mostly on humans, to treat diseases or dysfunctions. Basic research is the quest to gain scientific knowledge, while applied research is the quest to produce results that can be applied to real-world situations.

Some of NSU’s research strengths, Margules said, come from areas such as the College of Dental Medicine and the Oceanographic Center.

At the College of Dental Medicine, researchers Peter Murray, Ph.D., and Franklin Garcia-Godoy, D.D.S., M.S., are using stem cells in regenerative dentistry to grow replacement teeth for patients. The pair

said they are a decade away from accomplishing their goal.

Researchers from the National Coral Reef Institute at NSU’s Oceanographic Center are making strides in environmental and marine research. Under the direction of researcher Alison Moulding, Ph.D., more than 400 juvenile corals have been raised from larvae and are being kept at an indoor aquarium at the Oceanographic Center. When these corals reach a maximum size, they will be used to rehabilitate damaged reefs off Broward County’s coastline.

There’s a lot on Margules’s plate, and he’s excited because he sees unlimited research potential for NSU. The university, he said, already has the four “Ps” of research—the people, a plan, and potential products and patents—to become a research leader in turning ideas into products that will cure diseases and make life better for people.

Perhaps the most important element of NSU’s research is the scientists in lab coats who spend each day looking into microscopes and conducting experiments. They now have an advocate in the soft-spoken gentleman who wears a business suit. ■

## TALKING ACROSS CULTURAL LINES

Continued from page 30

American, Caribbean American, Latino groups, Colombians, Puerto Ricans, white Americans, and Asians. And, we have gay community representatives. One of our students is a priest, I'm an ordained minister, and members from the Jewish community have joined us."

The outcome frequently depends on the success of getting people to talk to one another and capitalize on their diverse talents instead of using their differences to diminish each other. "We call it a redemptive exchange of ideas," Nixon said.

Nixon revealed that her methods are working better than an institutionalized attempt to force people to accept each other. "We know from Affirmative Action that you just can't make people do things;

it doesn't work. What you get is resentment and backlash," she pointed out.

In an effort to take the diversity dialogues to another level, she proposed an initiative she calls "Do Something Different." This challenges participants to act outside of their normal behavior—whether that means interacting with someone who is obviously from a different culture or being nice to someone in a situation in which normally they would be less than charitable.

Forcing herself to behave outside of her normal actions is something doctoral candidate Michelle Manley, 45, said profoundly changed the way she approached life. Manley, who is working on her doctorate in marriage and family therapy, also manages WNSU Radio X 88.5 FM. She

watched student employees struggle with the radio station's diversity, so she brought Nixon's concepts to work with her.

Manley said of the 15 students who work for her, several have alternative sexual orientations, while others have never been near a gay person. That made for uncomfortable situations.

"These are difficult conversations, but they need to occur," she said. "That is why you are here at a university, to get exposed to new ideas and form new relationships."

Manley, who says she has grown as a person through the Diversity Dialogues and the challenges posed by Nixon, sees those techniques as the binding force that will not only unite NSU students but can be applied to society at large. ■

*Nova Southeastern University; Ray Ferrero, Jr., president;  
Board of Trustees; Alumni Association; Gold Circle; and President's Associates  
congratulate those honored at*

*Nova Southeastern University's 11th Annual Celebration of Excellence  
January 22, 2009*

**President's Community Award Recipient:  
Lorraine Thomas**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Gaby Esteves**  
Museum of Art—Fort Lauderdale

**Maria Jose Fletcher, J.D., 1998**  
Shepard Broad Law Center

**Seth Gabel**  
University School

**Josh Gad**  
University School

**Tyon Hall, M.S., 2004**  
Graduate School of Humanities  
and Social Sciences

**Bonnie Hathcock, M.B.A., 1989**  
H. Wayne Huizenga School of  
Business and Entrepreneurship

**Johnathan Kabot**  
Mailman Segal Institute  
for Early Childhood Studies

**Michael Kaplan, Pharm.D., 1999**  
College of Pharmacy

**Frederick Moxley, Ph.D., 1997**  
Graduate School of Computer  
and Information Sciences

**Tony Zeiss, Ed.D., 1979**  
Fischler School of Education and Human Services



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## KEEP IN TOUCH.

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Over the next few months, you will receive a postcard, phone call, or email from the Alumni Directory's publisher (PCI Data Company), giving you the chance to update your contact information and/or purchase a directory. Or, you can contact PCI directly at 866-927-9323. If you have additional questions, contact the NSU Alumni Association at 800-541-6682, ext. 22118, or [alumweb@nova.edu](mailto:alumweb@nova.edu).

## YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A SHARK!

NSU depends on its engaged alumni members to carry the university's spirit into the world. That's why the NSU Alumni Association has active chapters across the United States and in Canada. These chapters provide communication channels and programming to meet the needs of NSU graduates like you. By becoming involved in your local chapter, you will have an opportunity to reconnect with former classmates, network with fellow graduates in diverse industries, remain involved with the university, and meet new people at social events. NSU's alumni chapters host quarterly networking, educational, recreational, and community service events.

To find a regional or professional NSU alumni chapter near you, please email [alumweb@nova.edu](mailto:alumweb@nova.edu).

The NSU Alumni Association hopes you have enjoyed receiving *Horizons*, the official magazine of Nova Southeastern University, as part of your free association membership.







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