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# COM Outlook Summer 2011

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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# COM Outlook

Summer 2011

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Unexpected  
ADVENTURE!**

**OMS-II Joshua Kretchmar  
Visits Japan Hours After  
Cataclysmic Earthquake**





## Dean's Message

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., F.ACOFP dist.

When the class of 2011 graduates stepped across the stage to accept their hard-earned diplomas on May 29, it marked the 13<sup>th</sup> class I had watched reach this personal and professional milestone since I accepted the appointment as dean of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1998.

In my opinion, the past 13 years have been incredibly productive and only serve as a phenomenal prelude to what we anticipate for the future at both the college and university level. Over the years, the merging of Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, which occurred in 1994, has reaped huge rewards as we've become a well-recognized entity within and outside of the United States.

In addition to becoming the seventh-largest private not-for-profit university in the country, NSU was one of just 115 U.S. colleges and universities in the country to earn The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2010 Community Engagement Classification, which is a significant honor.

These accomplishments serve as prime examples of what can happen when two good universities merge to become a great one. When I began my deanship in 1998, the College of Osteopathic Medicine had a faculty comprising about 45 individuals, including those teaching the basic sciences. Today, the number of full-time faculty members has more than tripled to about 140. Additionally, the amount of grant dollars the college receives has skyrocketed, with NSU-COM awarded over \$25 million in external funding over the past six years.

The depth and breadth of knowledge our faculty possess has also grown exponentially as we've developed new programs and incorporated cutting-edge technology into our curriculum. I'm also proud to report we now have three Fulbright specialist scholars and three Harvard Macy medical education scholars among our administrative team.

I've mentioned many of the following accomplishments in previous messages, but they bear repeating. For example, we graduate more physicians with an M.P.H. degree than any other medical school in the country, and we have the only preventive medicine residency in the osteopathic profession—and the only one in Florida. Similarly, we are home to the only biomedical informatics program in the profession and within the state.

In retrospect, what this college has accomplished over the past 13 years is mindboggling. Thanks to the steadfast support we've received from faculty and staff as well as HPD and NSU administration, we've witnessed the creation of an annual predoctoral research fellowship, the expansion of our OPP fellowship, and the establishment of a multitude of programs, centers, and institutes that have earned us additional esteem.

Over the past several years, NSU-COM has added both a Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics degree program and a joint D.O./D.M.D. degree program, which is the only active program in the country working toward providing practitioners that can work in medically underserved areas and provide both dental and medical care in an economically feasible manner. We also created acclaimed entities such as our Geriatric Education Center, the Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (formerly known as CBAP), and the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME). In our "spare" time, we also added the administrative responsibilities of two NSU programs that were formerly housed in other colleges: the Master of Public Health Program and the Lifelong Learning Institute, which is profiled in this issue of *COM Outlook*.

We've also established symbiotic affiliations with multiple international medical schools, expanded our international medical outreach programs, and allowed our fourth-year students to participate in life-altering international clinical rotations. These enhancements have brought to our campus a greater understanding of diseases that used to be unknown in the United States but are now appearing on our shores, as well as a better understanding of the concept of a global health care community.

All of this illustrates phenomenal growth, which I believe is unmatched by any institution in such a short time from both a college and university standpoint. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that as of May 2011, the college offered 60 internship, residency, and fellowship programs that provide 680 postgraduate training positions through its CEME, which is an outstanding achievement.

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Dean

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Scott Colton, B.A., APR**

Director of Medical Communications

### EDITORIAL CONTACT

**Scott Colton**

(954) 262-5147 (phone)

(954) 262-3887 (fax)

[scottc@nova.edu](mailto:scottc@nova.edu)

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Confronting controversial social issues is something the college's Medical Students for Choice interest group does with pride. The organization comprises students who are committed to becoming future pro-choice physicians and providers.



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When a horrific 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck northeastern Japan on March 11, OMS-II Joshua Kretchmar was already on a preplanned flight to Tokyo to gain firsthand knowledge of the country's advanced medical system.



### Lifelong Learning Institute Offers Bountiful Benefits 28

Earlier this year, a vital resource for the South Florida senior community called the Lifelong Learning Institute received an energy infusion when its administrative oversight was transferred from NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to NSU-COM.



### Reluctance Leads to Acceptance for Dr. Samuel Snyder 30

Rebellion seems to be a rite of passage for most teenagers, so it should come as no surprise that Dr. Samuel Snyder initially balked at the idea of becoming a physician simply because it was the career path everyone expected him to pursue.

### Graduation 2011: Camaraderie and Accomplishment 34

Senior Week provided an abundance of opportunities for the class of 2011 to receive well-deserved awards and get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities.

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## HPD Chancellor's Communiqué

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

In 2003, the year before Dr. Morton Terry—the founder and former chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division—passed away, we began executing a strategic plan regarding the overall direction we intended to pursue within the next 10 years at the Health Professions Division. From our early days as Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, before we merged with Nova in 1994, we served as trailblazers, opening the first osteopathic medical school in the southeastern United States in 1979. That was followed by the establishment of the first new U.S. pharmacy school in 18 years, the first optometry school in Florida, and the first new U.S. dental school in 28 years.

We always had the ability to look toward the future, to ensure our students had the opportunity to obtain their education from a college that possessed the highest form of technology and curricular enhancements such as simulation, small-group learning, and things of that nature. I'm happy to report that the goals we set back in 2003 have not only been achieved; they have been surpassed.

Nearly a decade ago, I remember sitting with Dr. Silvagni and Dr. Terry as we discussed the marketing strategy we needed to implement since a growing number of our osteopathic medical school graduates were now practicing in regions throughout the United States that previously had very small alumni populations, such as Utah, Washington, Oregon, California, New Mexico, and Texas. Therefore, we needed to enhance our student recruitment efforts in those states.

I don't know if I would call it foresight, but we always knew that new medical schools, both allopathic and osteopathic, as well as other health professions colleges such as those we have here at NSU, would be created in the state of Florida. From a vantage point of being one of the first universities to provide many of these professional programs in the state, we also knew we would have the distinct advantage of having already established a high-quality, performance-based reputation.

Consequently, we're seeing the results of the planning process we initiated nearly a decade ago. Nevertheless, even as we grew the College of Osteopathic Medicine to a class comprising 235 students annually, we made sure we were still meeting what I would call our responsible obligations to the citizens of Florida by producing more primary care physicians than any other college of medicine in the state.

We've also witnessed a change in our student demographics. In the not-too-distant past, the college's student population was 60 percent Floridian and 40 percent out of state. Today, those numbers have reversed, and we're now 40 percent Floridian and 60 percent out of state, which is a huge shift.

It should also be noted that matriculation figures for the college in terms of so-called underrepresented communities have changed as well. We now have a significant number of Asian/unrepresented Asian/Indian students attending or about to be matriculating into the College of Osteopathic Medicine due to the stellar reputation we've established as a forward-thinking educational institution. Much of the credit for this success is due to the NSU-COM administration's wisdom in sending out its experts and liaisons to the various undergraduate schools, where they meet with the pre-professional advisers and make them aware of all the attributes the college has to offer future applicants.

When I attend the Committee on Admissions meetings, I have an opportunity to see what schools the applicants have applied to, both allopathic and osteopathic. As you can imagine, it's especially gratifying to see so many of them having a desire to make NSU-COM their first choice. Both the MCAT scores and GPAs they possess are qualitatively superior, which means they could have easily been accepted at multiple medical schools throughout the nation. I think that's a testament to our leadership, and particularly the faculty members that teach at the college.

In a world where social media technology allows the instantaneous sharing of information, there's no question the word is out concerning NSU-COM's hard-earned standard of excellence. In fact, it's a characteristic that equally applies to all our programs here in the Health Professions Division.

When students truly know their professors are there for them on a daily basis, it makes a big difference in their educational experience. It doesn't make the curriculum any easier, of course. However, because our educational paradigm is so academically and technologically robust, the students are fully aware and appreciative of the fact that we've provided them with the knowledge and skills they will need to become compassionate, first-rate physicians.

Whenever Dr. Terry used to review files in the Committee on Admissions meetings, his ever-present question was, "Would you have this person be your doctor?" In my opinion, we're answering yes to that question every day.





# Medical Outreach Trip to Ecuador Provides Breathtaking Experiences

By OMS-II Belinda Collias

The first views of the beautiful city of Quito literally took our breath away as our bus ascended straight up a rumbling dirt road from sea level to 10,000 feet within minutes. We were about to embark on an unbelievable adventure, and as we soon found out, there would be much more than the altitude to acclimate to in Ecuador during our spring-break medical outreach trip this past March. Among the active volcanoes, lush rainforest, and mystical jungle hikes, we encountered some of the kindest, most-stoic, and impoverished people any of us had ever had the opportunity to treat as patients.

Our team, which consisted of 18 medical students and 10 health care preceptors, traveled by bus to several regions throughout the country. Upon arriving at each new site, we set up a comprehensive outpatient clinic for the day, treating upwards of 100 patients. Most of the rural communities we visited offered us their local school to work out of, which often consisted of rudimentary concrete buildings with only three or four classrooms. We would then convert each room into a different station to provide various aspects of care.

Patients started out in the family medicine area, led by Dr. Nadine Chipon-Schoepp, before accessing other services they required. Dr. Harold Laubach ran his own full laboratory with a microscope he carried all the way from home, giving us the ability to perform tests for various pathogens and communicable diseases and treat them accordingly. Our two volunteer dentists from Vermont, Dr. Bettina Laidley and Dr. Roger Reckis, performed dental exams and surgery in the room next door, which was a service many patients—especially children—were in dire need of. We also offered OB/GYN exams, prenatal care, and OMM with Dr. Elaine Wallace, the last of which provided patients with very direct, immediate relief of their painful symptoms and was much appreciated. Last but certainly not least, students took turns operating our small pharmacy and dispensing treatment for ailments ranging from common skin rashes to serious infections.

As first- and second-year medical students, learning about different specialties from each of these unique preceptors, all of whom are passionate about their work and using their medical skills to help underserved populations, was very inspirational. Dr. Wallace, the college's executive associate dean, has been leading the Ecuador outreach trips for eight years and has established strong alliances and friendships with the organizations and Ecuadorian health partners we collaborated with at each site. One of the first lessons we all learned was to adapt to the surroundings and make the best of a setting with limited resources. Dr. Wallace taught us by example and years of experience that it's necessary to be flex-

ible, think on your feet, and make use of whatever you have to get the job done. Without the modern medical amenities we were used to in the United States, we just had to improvise at times.



Many of the patients we saw presented with typical afflictions that are common in that region of South America and easily treatable, such as worms, pests, and STIs. There were some cases we encountered, however, that most of us as medical students had only read about in textbooks. One patient presented with hirsutism, a congenital condition of excessive hair growth in women that creates a “werewolf-like” appearance. Several cases of malaria were identified as well and referred for treatment. We all returned with a much greater knowledge of tropical medicine and diseases and their treatments. We also gained plenty of practice conducting patient histories and physical exams (en español, no less!).

Throughout the course of the week, our “clinic on wheels” traveled from the urban atmosphere of Quito to the more rural highlands and deep into the jungle, where we hiked through the cloud forest and swam in waterfalls in between our patient care days. One of the best parts of the trip was the camaraderie that came with sharing this experience together. At the end of a long day of patient care, we would sit together and talk and laugh over a good meal about the day's events. “We became like a big family,” OMS-II Matt McDiarmid said.

But the friendships weren't limited to our group—some of the volunteers reached out to patients we saw at the outreach sites and have kept in touch with them after returning home. OMS-II Jackie Lorenzo is currently organizing a fund-raising project so one 12-year-old girl, who was born with a congenital heart defect, can receive desperately needed surgery. The trip affected and inspired us all differently, but students and preceptors alike, not one of us could say we had left Ecuador unchanged.



# CBAP Changes Name to IDEP: Analysis of a 10-Year Metamorphosis

By Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.

Project Director, Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

To better reflect what the institute does and the nature of the field, the college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) recently changed its name to the **Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (IDEP)**.

The center was established in 2001 immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the Palm Beach County anthrax incident. The original name—Center for Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction (CBWMD)—was created to coincide with the issues of the times as well as the new and emerging manmade threats that were being confronted in both the U.S. and global society. The center's mission in its emerging years was to provide resources, information, and continuing education related to disasters for those residing in the surrounding region and throughout Florida.

Early on in its development, the center received a three-year grant from the Florida Department of Health to provide continuing education programs related to emergency preparedness for school nurses statewide. During a three-year period, the center's faculty members trained over 1,000 school nurses. This innovative training, which was offered during the development of the emergency preparedness discipline, provided school nurses with one day of interactive learning and one day of tabletop exercises. In addition to this focused statewide training, the CBWMD faculty and staff members provided CME programs locally and began developing plans to expand the training into the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

As the reality of a new century began to unfold, and the number of both manmade and natural disasters appeared to grow with increasing numbers of fatalities, the federal government opened a new division with a new assistant secretary focused specifically on *all-hazards preparedness*. This term, which included all types of disasters, began to take shape and meaning with the creation of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (formerly the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2004 the new ASPR secretary issued two RFPs (requests for proposals) for the development of both a nationwide curriculum in the area of all hazards preparedness for colleges and universities and the development of a standardized competency-based curriculum for continuing education and continuing medical education in this new and emerging discipline.

NSU-COM applied for both initiatives and received significant funding for both curriculum development and continuing education program development. The two- and three-year respective funding initiatives enabled the CBWMD to change its name to the Center

for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) to better reflect the times. Over the next few years, the center trained over 1,200 students in the health professions pipeline and over 256,000 professionals through its online and face-to-face programs.

NSU-COM remained committed to the center's original mission; however, in 2008, federal funding from the ASPR was made eligible only to schools of public health, not public health programs. Nevertheless, the center continued to provide local, state, national, and international training, which included the development of the only online Medical Reserve Corps Competency Training Program in 2008. CBAP faculty and staff members continued to network with the Florida Public Health Institute, the State Association of Community Health Centers, and the Florida Department of Health to plan and deliver both online and face-to-face programs and training resources. In addition, the center's focus on preparedness for vulnerable populations enabled it to work closely with the NSU-COM Geriatric Education Center to provide programs on elderly preparedness. I also worked closely with the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) to train faculty nationally on the incorporation of all-hazards preparedness into the curriculum of 19 allied health fields.

In 2010, the CBAP continued its growth and development with the acquisition of a new grant award from the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences to develop customized training in the area of hazardous materials for offshore oil riggers, law enforcement, and the maritime industry. This five-year grant initiative was unique in that it was submitted in November 2009 before the BP oil spill.

Our CBAP faculty and staff presence has grown exponentially, becoming a truly outstanding interprofessional group of professionals who are responding to local, state, national, and international needs in the growing discipline of emergency preparedness. As a result of a strategic planning process, it was decided to rename CBAP so it would be more aligned with this growing academic discipline.

The new name—Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness—more accurately identifies this new field while also tying in perfectly with the new M.S. degree program in Disaster and Emergency Preparedness being submitted by the institute in the next year. As a result of the major disasters, both natural and manmade, we have seen in the last 10 years, the institute can continue to make significant contributions in education, both at the pre-service and in-service levels of a rapidly growing field.



## STUEY Success!

### Dr. David Boesler Wins NSU Professor of the Year Award

**David Boesler, D.O.**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine, received the coveted Professor of the Year Award at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (STUEY) Awards ceremony, which was held April 12 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on campus. The STUEY Awards, which were established in 1999, serve as a celebration of NSU's best in leadership, inclusion, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, and involvement.

Dr. Boesler, who enjoys interacting with and imparting his wisdom to NSU-COM students, was nominated by the college's Student Government Association. Excerpts from his nomination entry clearly illustrate why Dr. Boesler was named as this year's Professor of the Year.

*"August 6, 1828. That's a date I want you to memorize," Dr. Boesler bellowed to the first-year class of medical students on the first day of lecture. "Really?" I heard one exasperated student whisper, "We have to memorize a date? This isn't history class." Dr. Boesler continued, "This is the date A.T. Still, M.D., founder of osteopathic medicine, was born. It is to him you owe your presence here."*

*As we would learn, history plays an integral role in medical education, a tradition Dr. Boesler continues in the classroom, through his commitment to the osteopathic student community, and through the integrity he displays as the professor of a cornerstone of osteopathic education.*

*Dr. Boesler subtly weaves the legacy of Dr. Still into the practical reality of the modern osteopathic physician. His affable Midwestern nature and purposeful engagement with students stimulate independent thought. His style says, "Be relaxed. Think it through." Passion is a word tossed about often to describe good teachers. Unfortunately, passion does not always translate into effective learning. Conversely, good teachers are not always passionate. Dr. Boesler excels at both.*

*He is committed to immersing himself in the medical student's world. He is one of the few faculty members who keep track of students' schedules, adjusting his course accordingly. He weekly stays after hours in the lab to help students who want to work on what they are learning in class. He also is the academic adviser for the Student American Academy of Osteopathy, American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Sigma Sigma Phi Honors Society. Involvement like this with students' lives invariably leads to empathy for their situation and gains their trust. In turn, involvement inspires confidence in his teaching.*

Other NSU-COM STUEY nominees were as follows: **John Geake, D.O.** (Alumni of the Year), **Robert Hasty, D.O.** (Cocurricular Adviser of the Year), **American Medical Women's Association** (Graduate Organization of the Year), **Lindsay LaCorte** (Student of the Year), **Shelby Clinton** (Staff Person of the Year), and **NSU-COM SGA** (Student Government of the Year).



## Ferrero, Assaf Honored at 26<sup>th</sup> Annual HPD Bal Fantastique



Camaraderie was the theme of the evening at the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Bal Fantastique**, which is a gala dinner/dance that honors the vision of Morton Terry, D.O., who, along with numerous other dedicated individuals, created a renowned health care teaching facility called the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD). This year's event, held March 26 at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale, also honored the invaluable contributions of Ronald G. Assaf (*pictured above left*), chair of the NSU Board of Trustees, and Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., NSU chancellor and CEO, who were presented with the HPD Distinguished Service Award for their numerous contributions to the Health Professions Division's success.

## GREAT GEC Symposium Focuses on Closing the Gap in Elder Care

On March 11-12, the college's Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) held its **Fourth Annual Inter-professional Geriatrics Symposium** in Fort Myers, Florida. The program was co-hosted by Lee Memorial Health Systems and its Gerontology and Older Adult Services Program, which is a GREAT GEC consortium partner. This year's conference, which focused on the theme *Closing the Gap in Elder Care*, attracted over 135 attendees to the Royal Palms Yacht Club.

The first day was devoted to interprofessional geriatric practice care providers, while the second day revolved around caregivers and the issues and challenges they face. To ensure a cohesive flow of information, the symposium's interprofessional theme was integrated into each of the sessions. In addition to the podium presentations, HPD-GEC faculty members, students, and GEC consortium partners presented sessions throughout the two days. The conference also benefitted from its close working relationship with various community partners in terms of planning and implementing the event.

Sessions topics included "Health Care Reform and Financing," "Neuromuscular Disorders in the Elderly," "Sexuality and Aging," "How to Choose the Right Caregiver," "Technology to Age in Place," and "Daily Living: Increasing Elder Mobility."

## SOMA Commemorates Active Semester, Looks Toward the Future

By OMS-I Mark Liwanag, M.P.H.  
SOMA Chapter President

The NSU-COM chapter of the **Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA)** has had many great achievements in the past few months and has much to look forward to in the upcoming academic year.

In April, over 40 SOMA members traveled to Washington, D.C., for D.O. Day on Capitol Hill to meet with their senators and representatives to discuss osteopathic medicine and the issues troubling both students and physicians. NSU's SOMA chapter, which had one of the highest student turnouts of all the COMs, would not have achieved such success without generous support from NSU-COM alumni and physicians across the country.

Earlier this year, the chapter was recognized for its achievements at the national level, with OMS-II Kobi Hano, our chapter's past president, being awarded the prestigious Officer of the Year honor. The NSU-COM chapter was also awarded the SOMA Sam Award in recognition of its dedication to political activism. In addition, two NSU SOMA members were elected to national positions. Hano was appointed as foundation associate director of scholarships and grants, while OMS-II Natalie Wessel was appointed as AOA foundation liaison.

The chapter has many events to look forward to in the upcoming year. We will kick off the year with our annual Osteoblast event to welcome incoming students, promote student clubs, and have a good time before the school year begins. We also look forward to our student membership drive. In addition, SOMA, along with its updated test packet, will be offering copies of *Netter's Atlas of Human Anatomy* as an incentive to prospective members.

In late October, SOMA members will be attending OMED 2011, which will be held in Orlando. We expect a high turnout of NSU SOMA members and hope to see you there.



## SDA Participates in Healthy Skin Initiatives

By OMS-II Alice Lin



NSU-COM students and Broward General dermatology health experts at the hospital's skin cancer screening event. (Photo provided through the courtesy of Downtown Photo/Fort Lauderdale.)

During the past semester, members of the **Student Dermatology Association (SDA)** participated in a number of events promoting skin health, sun protection, and early prevention screenings.

On April 27, SDA members spoke to students at Nova High School about sun protection and acne. With the advent of spring, the organization aimed to raise awareness about preventable skin damage and dispel common acne myths to help students put their best face forward. High schoolers were intrigued to discover the true causes of acne were bacteria and oil—not dirt. They were also relieved to learn that French fries and chocolate do not cause breakouts.

“Community outreach events such as this are an excellent way to raise awareness of skin health,” said OMS-III Matthew Uhde, who serves as SDA president. “As future practicing clinicians, we understand how essential it is to instill healthy living habits in adolescents.”

On April 30, SDA members attended the annual NSU-Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Health Fair, where they provided sunscreen, sun-protection tips, and general information about the Broward General Medical Center Annual Skin Cancer Screening to over 300 attendees. The

SDA table was especially popular as patients were receptive to the opportunity for dermatologists to examine new or changing moles. Patients were also thrilled at the opportunity to utilize their newfound knowledge and tools for sun protection thanks to the educational handbook and sunscreen samples that were provided.

Additionally, on May 14, SDA members assisted and observed as Broward General's dermatology residents and dermatologists screened over 70 patients for suspicious moles, growths, and potential skin cancer cases at its annual skin cancer screening event. Many of the patients said they look forward to this event and are sure to mark their calendars when the date is set for next year. “It's a pleasure to know patients are independently initiating preventative care methods for better health and well-being,” Uhde stated.

These information sessions and screenings were aimed to prevent the most common cancer in the United States by educating sun worshippers in Florida on how to protect themselves from the sun's harmful UV rays. The acne prevention and treatment information session was targeted toward promoting healthy self esteem and a positive body image in high school students.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Steven Bronsburg, Ph.D., M.H.S.A., CTTS**, AHEC Program assistant director of tobacco cessation and training, recently earned his Ph.D. in Information Systems from NSU's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.

**Scott Colton, APR**, director of medical communications, earned his public relations accreditation from the Public Relations Society of America following a rigorous one-year educational process. Established in 1964, the accreditation program is the profession's only national postgraduate certification program. It measures a public relations practitioner's fundamental knowledge of communications theory and its application as well as establishes advanced capabilities in research, strategic planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Three individuals from **Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU)**, which is a member of NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, received the following accolades: **Janis Coffin, D.O.**, received the Academy of Medical Educators' Outstanding Teaching Award; **Kirk Munsayac, D.O.**, was elected chief resident for 2011-12 by his peers; and **Jennifer Malcolm, D.O.**, was the recipient of the Resident of the Year Award by GHSU – Medical College of Georgia.

**Linda Maurice**, director of the NSU-COM Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), appeared on a recent episode of NSU's public service TV show *Dateline Health* to discuss the LLI and the services it provides its members. During the program, which is hosted by Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., HPD chancellor, Maurice and LLI instructor Dr. Judith Etzion talked about the types of courses taught at the LLI, which encompass everything from classical music, history, and politics to art, philosophy, and religion.

Because NSU-COM takes pride in being on the cutting edge of medical education, the college will begin using **electronic textbooks** in its fall 2011 curriculum. To accomplish this initiative, both NSU-COM and College of Medical Sciences' faculty members submitted a list of required textbooks for their courses. The college then collaborated with Vital Sources, Inc. to compile the list and obtain license access for the students. Key features of e-books include the students' ability to have direct download capability, being able to highlight and make notes in the actual textbooks, receiving updated versions of the textbooks, and owning the textbooks.



## NEWS BRIEFS



On April 7, eight NSU-COM students interested in pediatrics attended the **I Care I Cure Childhood Cancer Foundation's Learn at Lunch** medical research event held at Morton's The Steakhouse in Fort Lauderdale. During the event, Katherine Matthay, M.D., of the University of California San Francisco spoke about her innovative targeted childhood cancer research, which is focused on "131 I-MIBG Imaging and Therapy for Neuroblastoma." According to the organization's board president, Beth-Ann Krinsky, "I Care I Cure invited the medical students to encourage young scientists to pursue research in the area of targeted therapy treatments for pediatric cancers, with the idea being if more really bright brains work on the problem, we will get closer to a solution." *Pictured above are second-year students Jaya Jagmohan, Sheevani Bhalsod, and John Yoon.*



**Stephen R. Winn**, executive director of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA), received the William D. Miller Award from the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine at its annual meeting held April 13-16 in Baltimore, Maryland. The award is presented to individuals who make an outstanding contribution to advancing the osteopathic profession. Winn, who is a veteran legislative and government affairs consultant, has served as FOMA executive director since 1984 and played an important role in helping to ensure that D.O.s became fully recognized in Florida and beyond.

On May 7, **OMS-IV Jamie Hale-Hollenbeck** and **Brooke Walls D.O.**, a dermatology resident at Largo Medical Center, organized and directed the inaugural Sun Coast Miles for Melanoma 5K Run/Walk, which was sponsored by the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) and took place in Largo, Florida.



During the event, which featured 150 race participants, over \$5,000 was raised to benefit the MRF. In addition, 34 participants took advantage of the free skin cancer screenings that

were provided. Many ran to honor loved ones who lost their lives to this deadly skin cancer, while others were melanoma survivors who ran to raise awareness. Volunteers consisted of other NSU-COM residents and students, including Julian Ngo D.O., Chris Cook, D.O., Leah Shama, D.O., and OMS-III Ali Grob.

## Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 2011 **AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health**, which comprises the Glades Rural Education and Community Health (REACH) Fair and the Hendry/Glades Community Health Fair, marked the 10-year anniversary of one of NSU-COM's sustained efforts to bring medical care to rural communities in Florida. This year, NSU students from various health professions disciplines across four NSU campuses worked together during the weekend of March 5-6 to provide care to hundreds of locals in the towns of Belle Glade and Clewiston, with NSU health care services provided under the auspices of the Palm Beach County Health Department and the Hendry/Glades Health Department, respectively.

This Florida Rural Medical Mission is a partnership where the NSU-COM Area Health Education Centers Program, the Everglades AHEC, NSU-COM's AMSA chapter, the CL Brumback Health Center, Hendry Regional Medical Center, the local health departments, and two very active community planning committees organize and run the events.

The health fair provides Health Professions Division students an opportunity to put what they've been learning into practice in a clinical setting and gives them an opportunity to help organize an integrated health care operation. The medical outreach endeavor represents a multidisciplinary effort incorporating audiology, dental, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physicians' assistants, and osteopathic medical students into a unified system that is integrated with the local health care systems. Patients at the fair could not only seek medical care but also receive various health screenings, health and medication counseling, and dental and ophthalmology screenings.

With the 11<sup>th</sup> Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health already entering its early planning stages, the event represents NSU's commitment to integrated, comprehensive health care as well as its dedication to providing reliable, continuous care to underserved communities. For many of the patients, it was not their first time attending the fair; in fact, many have brought their families from neighboring areas to the event for years, with the student volunteers representing their only access to health care.



# Rural Medicine Retreat:



## Education and Recreation

On June 10-12, the college's Department of Rural Medicine hosted its annual conference and recognition weekend for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and administrators from its network of rural/underserved training partners. These clinical centers participate in the education of NSU-COM medical students and afford them the opportunity to render service in medically underserved communities.

The Rural Medicine Retreat, held at the Lago Mar Resort Hotel and Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was coordinated and hosted by James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean of professional relations and chair of the rural medicine department, and Delia Celestine, M.P.H., assistant professor of public health and rural medicine administrative director. The retreat, which is part of the college's AHEC mission to extend academic resources to rural/underserved safety net sites throughout the state, brings NSU-COM faculty members together with primary care physicians and other providers from various community health centers, the Florida Department of Corrections sites, and private physicians' offices to provide continuing education on vital health issues.

A number of relevant topics were presented at this year's retreat, including

- "Giving Effective Feedback" – Janet Hamstra, Ed.D
- "Health Information Technology" – Arif Rana, Ph.D., M.Ed.
- "Treating the Tobacco Addiction" – Dennis Penzell, D.O., M.S.
- "Creating Global Physicians" – James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.
- "AHEC Update" – Gustavo Saldias, M.P.H.

## NSU-COM Students Participate in Politics During Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee

On April 13, NSU-COM students and D.O.s from throughout Florida attended the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association's (FOMA) 17th Annual Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee. During the day, attendees were able to meet with state senators, representatives, and other Florida legislators.

"We were lucky enough to be in the Florida Capitol during a week filled with discussions of bills that are affecting patients' rights and the practice of medicine, not only for physicians but for many other medical disciplines," said OMS-II Austin Bach, who serves as president of the college's FOMA student chapter. "This experience helped to broaden our perspective of medicine, giving us a greater appreciation of what is done on the legislative side of medicine and how we, as physicians and future physicians, truly have to step up to the plate in order to fight for our patients' as well as our rights in the practice of medicine."



During Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee, NSU-COM students had the opportunity to meet with several Florida legislators. Pictured with the NSU-COM students are Representative Ronald Renuart, D.O., Senator Eleanor Sobel, and Senator Mike Fasano.



## Undergraduate Awards

On April 4, a number of awards and scholarships were presented to both students and faculty members at the annual Undergraduate Student Awards Ceremony. Students were honored in areas such as research, academic excellence, and service. In addition, several faculty members were presented with Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching abilities.



## Amarnani, Westafer Receive Dr. Matthew Terry Scholarships

OMS-I Sharien Amarnani and OMS-II Lauren Westafer were the recipients of the Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to NSU-COM students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner. Pictured below at the awards ceremony (from left) are Lauren Westafer, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Sharien Amarnani.



## Klein, Railsback, Win Dr. Bradley I. Silverman Scholarship

OMS-II Joshua Klein and OMS-III Jaclyn Railsback were named the recipients of the Sixth Annual Dr. I. Bradley Silverman Memorial Scholarship, which was established in 2006 to honor outstanding NSU-COM students who participate in cancer-related community service and showcase compassion, commitment, and other laudable traits exemplified by Dr. Silverman. In addition to earning well-deserved recognition, Klein and Railsback each received \$1,500 cash awards.

Dr. Silverman, who passed away in 1999, was a member of NSU-COM's charter graduating class in 1985. During his career, he became passionately involved in the breast cancer field and went on to become chief of surgery and then chief of staff elect at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center. Pictured (below from left) are Stanley Silverman, Joshua Klein, and Marilyn Silverman. Stanley and Marilyn Silverman are the parents of Dr. Bradley Silverman, the scholarship's namesake.



## Hardworking Foursome Honored with Burnell Research Awards

Four NSU-COM students—OMS-III and predoctoral research fellow Jaclynn Moskow and first-year students Sharien Amarnani, Louis Michaelos, and Eric Pitts, were named the winners of the Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards, which are presented to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science. The students received \$500 cash awards as well as elective research credit on their transcripts.

Moskow was honored for her research project entitled "The Relationship Between Motor Function, Endocrine Function, Inflammation, Mood, and Cognition in the Geriatric Population," while the triumvirate of Amarnani, Michaelos, and Pitts were recognized for their project entitled "Local Tissue Water Variations Among Different Races Measured via Tissue Dielectric Constant." Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A., chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, served as the research faculty adviser to Moskow; Harvey Mayrowitz, Ph.D., professor of physiology in the

College of Medical Sciences, served as the research faculty adviser to Amarnani, Michaelos, and Pitts.

The award was created in December 2000 when Dr. Burnell provided a \$50,000 endowment to the college for the purpose of recognizing student research. Following his death in 2005, Dr. Burnell's will included a proviso that upped the endowment to \$125,000. *Pictured (below from left) are Dr. Harvey Mayrowitz, Eric Pitts, Louis Michaelos, Sharien Amarnani, Jaclynn Moskow, and Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., NSU-COM professor of family medicine/public health and associate dean of education, planning, and research.*



## Academical Society Awards

Ten conscientious second-year students were honored for their contributions to their individual academical societies (listed in italics) as well as their commitment to fellow society members: They are

**Susanna Chan** (*William G. Anderson, D.O.*)

**Calvin Krom** (*Louisa Burns, D.O.*)

**Courtney Allen** (*Robert Klein, D.O.*)

**Jaime Baynes** (*Fred Lippman, Ed.D.*)

**Sara Ancello** (*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.*)

**Carolina Vasquez** (*Bradley I. Silverman, D.O.*)

**Kristopher Kline** (*A.T. Still, M.D., D.O.*)

**Kori Ascher** (*Morton Terry, D.O.*)

**Stefanie Haynes** (*James Turner, D.O.*)

**Tara Nowakhtar** (*Ross Zafonte, D.O.*)



## McClymont Garners David Spector Memorial Award

**O****MS-II Aldene McClymont** was the recipient of the David Spector Memorial Award, which is presented annually to a first- or second-year osteopathic medical student who has participated in research pertaining to the prevention or treatment of substance abuse.

The award, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash prize, was established in the summer of 2005 in honor of David Spector—an undergraduate psychology student in the NSU Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences who died from an oxycontin overdose in December 2004. Thanks to the benevolence of David's father, Howard, who decided to find a positive outlet for his grief by establishing an endowment fund at NSU-COM, future generations of students now have an opportunity to conduct further research in this field. *Aldene McClymont (center) poses with Howard Spector and Nancy Fagin.*



## Drs. Lori Dribin and H. Murray Todd Earn Golden Apple Awards

**L****ori Dribin, Ph.D.**, professor of anatomy and assistant dean for student affairs in the College of Medical Sciences, and **H. Murray Todd, M.D.**, clinical professor of neurology, were the recipients of this year's Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching skills. Dr. Dribin received her award from the class of 2014, while Dr. Todd was honored by the class of 2013. *Dr. Dribin accepts her award from Louis Michaelos, OMS-I class president.*







# Medical Students for Choice

*“Community Service, Advocacy, and a Unique Public Health Initiative”*

*By OMS-III Emily Young, M.A.T.  
Predoctoral Research Fellow*

Florida has a problem. When compared to other states, it has the sixth-highest incidence of unplanned teenage pregnancy and the second-highest amount of new sexually transmitted infections each year. The statistics imply that we must work to improve reproductive health education and access—and the NSU-COM chapter of Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) has embraced initiatives to do just that.

The college’s MSFC chapter, an offshoot of the national organization, comprises students who are committed to becoming future pro-choice physicians and providers. Being “for choice” means we advocate for access to all comprehensive reproductive health care, including the right for women to make private and informed medical decisions about their own bodies. This year, the MSFC has been extremely busy advocating for South Florida’s reproductive health needs, orchestrating educational opportunities for our local and school community, and performing community service at nearby organizations.

## **ORGANIZATION**

We began the year by working to increase membership and chapter organization. By intensely advertising our chapter during Club Week, membership increased by 330 percent. To organize our new membership, we created a long-term plan for our year’s activities and distributed it to club

members in a 25-page MSFC Member Information Packet. A strong, positive mission unfolded: to focus on prevention and education while protecting women’s rights to make medical decisions if prevention efforts failed. Unique executive board positions were created to foster new leadership, and members of the amazing class of 2013 quickly became involved in a refreshed MSFC chapter.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

To create member investment and learning through service, we partnered with A Choice for Women Clinic in Kendall, Florida, and its clinic defenders from the Miami Clinic Access Project. Starting at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings, we escorted patients to and from the clinic while shielding them from the protests occurring outside the parking lot. To date, we have served the clinic 11 times this year. Our commitment to this clinic’s patients resulted in an invitation for our members to shadow the excellent physician there, and we had 13 medical students scheduled to spend a day observing clinical procedures throughout the recent semester.

## **MENTORSHIP AND NATIONAL SUPPORT**

To further strengthen our club, we recruited Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., administrative director of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum program, to advise us. Coinci-

dentally, Steinkohl shares a birthday with *Roe v. Wade*—the landmark decision in 1973 that declared women have the right to privacy in their medical decisions. She subsequently won the national 2010 MSFC Faculty Mentor Award for her wonderful commitment to our club. Our national MSFC office continued to recognize our chapter by offering us almost \$1,500 in scholarships this year, allowing six of our students to attend the MSFC Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. In recognizing individual NSU members, the national MSFC has awarded four \$1,000 reproductive health externships to our students to spend time shadowing abortion providers during their summers. Lastly, two NSU-COM students have been elected to serve in national MSFC leadership positions: OMS-III Dustin May, who will contribute to the organization's goals as the national president, and OMS-III Emily Young, who will organize southeastern MSFC chapters as the national coordinator.

### **EDUCATION**

For educational enrichment, we held a discussion forum amongst medical students regarding what the term “choice” includes. In the ensuing months, we had a Planned Parenthood speaker discuss Florida's reproductive health legislation and co-hosted a March of Dimes speaker to talk about the importance of genetic testing to promote healthy and wanted babies. We also launched a Reproductive Health Lunch Seminar Series, with first-year students Julie Bemski and Kat Beditz co-presenting the first seminar entitled “The State of Reproductive Health in the United States” during a lunch celebration of the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Dung Nguyen and Francesca Okolie, both OMS-1s, presented the second seminar, which was entitled “Controversy in Reproductive Health: The Medical, Social, and Political Interactions.”

### **ADVOCACY**

Becoming physicians also means becoming community health leaders, so we are currently engaging in advocacy and activism for our future patients. We sent four MSFC members to speak in front of state representatives at the 2011 Delegation Hearings regarding the benefits of family planning services. Five MSFC members from our chapter attended February's televised Planned Parenthood Rally in support of Planned Parenthood's federal Title X family planning funding, where Beditz was honored to serve as one of the rally speakers. In addition, three MSFC members traveled to Tallahassee in April for the Women's Health Matters Lobby Days to speak to elected Florida officials.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

To reach out to our community, the college's MSFC chapter began cohosting Planned Parenthood's Broward Coalition meetings, with over 60 community leaders coming together twice this year to discuss reproductive health care in our county. We also established partnerships with three organizations serving at-risk youths—the Lippman Youth Shelter, PACE Center for Girls, and the Fort Lauderdale Independence

and Education Training (FLITE) Center, as well as with many other community organizations serving community members in need. Our MSFC members formed a subcommittee to assess these organizations' needs, which resulted in the formation of the novel Reproductive Health Seminar Program.

### **A PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE**

The MSFC Reproductive Health Seminar Program has two unique aims:

- to expose health professional students to speaking about reproductive health topics
- to provide comprehensive, skills-based sexual health education to at-risk South Florida youths

Last semester, 24 D.O. and M.P.H. students were recruited and trained as reproductive health educators on how to lead the six activities we wrote into our curriculum. Groups consisting of two or three educators conducted 15 seminars from January to May, and over 100 youths were impacted. Andrea Schaeffer, a first-year M.P.H. student and MSFC member, served as program coordinator of this unique student-led public health initiative. Our next steps include assessing the program's impact on both the youths served and the participating student educators. In the future, we look to expand the program into more community centers, recruit future educators across NSU, and assist in program implementation at other universities.

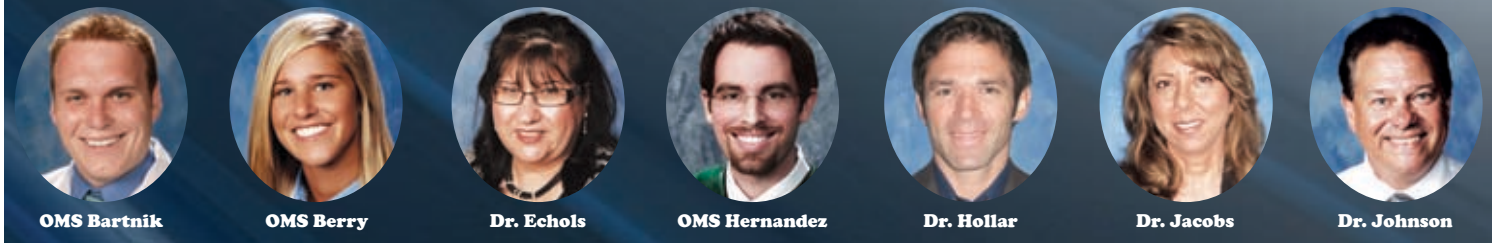
Through education, community service, and activism focusing on comprehensive reproductive health care, NSU-COM's Medical Students for Choice members aim to make positive change to the unfortunate statistics currently attached to Florida. Florida has a problem; however, MSFC members are urgently working to help fix it.

For additional information, please contact Emily Young at [yemily@nova.edu](mailto:yemily@nova.edu).



*Pictured (from left) at the Women's Health Matters Lobby Days event on April 12 are OMS-I Angelina Somoracki, OMS-III Emily Young, and M.P.H. student Andi Schaeffer.*





## Students

**OMS-IV Jakub Bartnik** presented his poster entitled “Single-Port vs. Two-Port vs. Traditional Four-Port Cholecystectomy: Outcomes and Cost Benefit Comparison Analysis” at the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons’ Scientific Session and Postgraduate Course held March 30-April 2 in San Antonio, Texas.

**OMS-III Shauna Berry** presented her coauthored research poster entitled “Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex Function and Health Literacy in Persons Treated for HIV Infection” at the Sixth International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence on May 23 in North Miami Beach, Florida. Berry coauthored the poster with **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor of psychiatry and public health and chair of the Department of Psychiatry. The conference was cosponsored by the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care and the National Institute of Mental Health.

**OMS-II Max Citrin** presented his clinical research on the topic “Carotid Endarterectomy: Closure Technique Does Not Affect Restenosis Rate” at the Florida Vascular Society 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions held April 28-May 1 in Palm Beach.

**OMS-IV Marlow Hernandez, M.P.H.**, added another research accolade to his collection when he was named the winner of the ACP Clinical Poster Competi-

tion, which was held in conjunction with the Florida Chapter American College of Physicians (ACP) Scientific Meeting held March 12-13 in Orlando. His award-winning project was entitled “Evaluation of SPECT Imaging Appropriateness Criteria Using Clinical Outcomes.”

**OMS-III Erika Simmerman**, who is an OPP fellow, presented her research entitled “Cervical Ribs and OMT” at the A. Hollis Wolf Case Presentation Competition at the American Academy of Osteopathy’s Annual Convocation held March 16-20 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**OMS-III Matthew Uhde** had his coauthored article entitled “Neurofibromatosis Type I: A Case Report and Review” accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology*.

**OMS-III Emily Young, M.A.T.**, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in April from the Sun Coast Osteopathic Foundation in Largo, Florida. In addition, Young and the NSU-COM March of Dimes Coalition of Student Leaders were awarded the March of Dimes Florida Chapter \$3,000 Community Award, which will be used to fund their proposed project entitled “The PEDS Program: Prematurity Exposure and Education on Development for Students,” which will occur during the 2011-12 school year. **OMS-I Angelina Somoracki** will serve as program coordinator of this project. Young also won the first-place prize of \$500 in the

art competition portion of the HPD Talent Show, which was held March 30 at NSU’s Miniaci Performing Arts Center. Young was honored for her pottery and pastel art submission.

## Faculty

**Marti Echols, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of internal medicine and assistant dean of medical education, was awarded a \$5,000 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Medical Education Research Mini-Grant to fund her project entitled “An Analysis of Factors Which Predict Success on Clinical Skills Exams.” Dr. Echols coauthored the project with **Natasha Bray, D.O.**, and **Heidi Lane, Ed.D.**

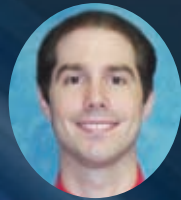
**Lucas Hollar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health, will be overseeing a \$30,000 contract received by the Master of Public Health Program to conduct a return on investment (ROI) evaluation for Broward House. Dr. Hollar will lead the ROI evaluation of Broward House’s Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS, Special Projects of National Significance, and Recently Incarcerated Substance Abuse Housing (RISAH) II programs. The ROI evaluation will be supported as needed by faculty members within the M.P.H. Program and at least one graduate student. The timeframe for this evaluation spans from May 2011 to May 2012.

**Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of preventive medicine, psychiatry/behav-

ioral medicine, and biomedical informatics, made both an oral and poster presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Sexual Health held June 12-16 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. Her oral presentation entitled “Sexual Communication and Seroadaptation Practices Among HIV-Negative MSM Aged 40 and Older in South Florida, United States” was coauthored with **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine. Her poster presentation was entitled “Defining Safer Sex Practices from Older Gay and Bisexual Men’s Perspectives.”

**Ian P. Jeffries, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of pediatrics and a neonatologist at Miami Children’s Hospital, presented his coauthored research poster entitled “Can Changes in Clinical Practice Decrease the Incidence of Candidemia in Very Low Birth-weight Infants?” in late April at the Society for Pediatric Research in Denver, Colorado.

**Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and director of NSU’s Women’s Health Center, had his coauthored article entitled “Using One Question to Identify Women at Risk for an Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancy” published in the *American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists Summer Newsletter*. The article was co-written with Mark B. Sobell, Ph.D., and Linda Carter Sobell,



Dr. Kusienski



Dr. Mulligan



Dr. Ownby



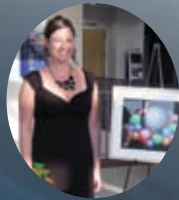
Dr. Pandya



OMS Simmerman



OMS Uhde



OMS Young

Ph.D., from the NSU Center for Psychological Studies.

**Andrew Kusienski, D.O.**, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Sports Medicine, along with **Stephen Russo, Ph.D.**, director of sports psychology, participated in an absorbing panel discussion entitled “Firsthand Look at Sports-Related Brain Injury” at the International Forum for Innovations in Diagnosis and Treatment of Mild/Moderate Brain Injury held May 5 on the NSU campus. **Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP**, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, who helped coordinate the event, provided an insightful prerecorded video segment on the topic “Doctors as Storytellers” that featured Dr. Mulligan interviewing Neal Baer, the executive producer of *Law & Order: SVU*.

**Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP**, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, had her coauthored research project entitled “At-Risk Family: Correlation Between Drowning and Child Abuse/Neglect in Broward County, Florida” accepted for oral presentation on May 12 at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Danang, Vietnam. Over 400 experts from 50 countries joined together to discuss the epidemic of child drowning and present valuable research at the symposium. She also had her article entitled “Mass Casualty Triage: An Evaluation of the Science and Refinement

of a National Guideline” published and approved for AMA Physician’s Recognition Award Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup> in the June issue of *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. In addition, Dr. Mulligan coauthored a study entitled “Residents’ Concerns and Experiences with New Media” that was presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies and Asian Society for Pediatric Research Joint Meeting held April 30-May 3 in Denver, Colorado.

**Naushira Pandya M.D., CMD**, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, provided lectures on the topics “Caregiving in the United States” and “Sexuality and Aging” at the college’s Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Symposium held March 11-12 in Fort Myers, Florida. She also discussed the topics “Imaging in the Frail Elderly” and “Abnormal Laboratory Tests in Long-Term Care: A Case-Based Approach” at the American Medical Directors Association’s (AMDA) annual conference held March 24-27 in Tampa. In addition, she discussed “Oral Health in the Elderly” at the American Dental Education Association Annual Session and Exhibition in San Diego, California, on March 11, and “Osteoporosis: New Innovations in Prevention and Treatment” at the Insight Therapeutics Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 11. Dr. Pandya, who was elected to the AMDA’s Board of Directors as a Florida President’s Council representative, also was elected to the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County’s Board of Directors.

## Preventive Medicine Residents Present Final Research Projects



2011 preventive medicine residency graduates **Hose Haber, M.D., M.P.H.**, and **Angela Shelton M.D., M.P.H.**, presented their final research projects on June 6. Dr. Haber’s project was entitled “Treatment Outcome of Radiotherapy Alone Versus Surgery Alone for Prostate Cancer in Florida, 1994-2002,” while Dr. Shelton presented on the topic “Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Florida, 2004-2009.” The NSU-COM/Palm Beach County Preventive Medicine Residency is a dual program offered through the health department and the college’s Master of Public Health Program under the supervision of Gabriel Suciuc, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., associate professor of public health and chair of the residency program’s Oversight Research Committee. *Pictured above is Dr. Suciuc with Drs. Haber and Shelton.*

## Students Triumph at Broward General Research Competition

On March 7, the **Broward General Medical Center Trauma/Critical Care Research Committee** hosted the inaugural **Trauma/Critical Care Student Research Competition**. The event, which was held at NSU’s Health Professions Division, was attended by students as well as faculty and staff members from both NSU-COM as well as Broward General Medical Center.

Following the event, Michael Parra, M.D., Edgar Rodas, M.D., FACS, and the participating students attended an awards dinner at Morton’s The Steakhouse. Drs. Parra and Rodas serve as co-directors of the Broward General Trauma/Critical Care Research Committee, which involves over a dozen students at a time working on several research projects simultaneously at the Level 1 Trauma



**Broward General Research Competition (continued)...**

Center. The research competition served as a showcase for all the successes the group has achieved over the last two years. The goal is to invite other regional medical schools to participate in the event next year.

Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, NSU-COM dean, Natasha Bray, D.O., NSU-COM assistant professor of internal medicine and director of medical education at Broward General, and Ivan Puente, M.D., FACS, director of the Broward General Level I Trauma Center, served as event judges, selecting the following award recipients:

**Best Case Report, Audience Award**

**OMS-IV Maria Farrell**

*“Surviving a Transfixing Cardiac Injury Caused by a Stingray Barb”*



*Maria Farrell with Dr. Parra.*

**Best Original Research**

**OMS-II Ashley Startzman**

*“Management of Nonunions with Allograft Cellular Matrix Containing Viable Mesenchymal Stem Cells”*



*Ashley Startzman with Dr. Parra.*

# Faculty Members Receive Chancellor’s Research Grants



**O**n May 24, a number of NSU-COM faculty members, in collaboration with other NSU faculty researchers, were awarded cash endowments in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chancellor’s Faculty Research and Development Grant program, which was created in 1999 to provide funding to faculty members in their efforts to secure additional resources for research activities. Each spring, awards

of up to \$10,000 are provided to full-time faculty members based on the quality of their applications. Following are the projects that feature NSU-COM participation:

*“Interventional Study of Text Messaging to Improve Medication Adherence in T2DM”*

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

*“Cultural-Linguistic Adaptation of a Health Literacy Intervention for Hispanics”*

**Robin Jacobs, Ph.D.**

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

**OMS-I Cristina Avila**

*“Early Detection of Aging-Related Alterations in Endogenous Brain Fluctuations”*

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

**Siddharth Pandya, D.O.**

*“Simulated Patient Assessment Research and Collaboration (SPARC)”*

**Heidi Lane, Ed.D.**

*“Molecular Monitoring of Microbial Symbiont Changes in a Marine Sponge Over Time”*

**Jay Fleisher, Ph.D.**

*“American Heart Association 2011 CPR Retention: P.T., O.D. Students, and Public Safety”*

**Kevin Nugent, REMT-P**

*“The Effectiveness of Diagnosis and Treatment of Thoracic Outlet Syndrome”*

**Yasmin Hussain-Qureshi D.P.T.**

**Heather McCarthy, D.O.**

**Jay Fleisher, Ph.D.**

**OMS-III Lindsay LaCorte**

**OMS-II Wendy Song**

*“Prevalence and Correlates of Post-Traumatic Growth in Pediatric Burn Survivors”*

**Deborah Mulligan, M.D.**

## Submitted Grant Proposals

*“P3C3: Primary Care and Public Health Approaches to Obesity Prevention for Children and their Communities”*

Submitted by **Danielle Hollar, Ph.D., M.H.A.**, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and adjunct assistant professor of public health (principal investigator), **T. Lucas Hollar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health; **Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H.** and **T.M.**, professor of pediatrics/public health and director of the Master of Public Health Program, and **Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A.**, assistant professor of public health (co-investigators), to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

**Requested Amount: \$6.2 million**

*“Interdisciplinary Center for Leadership Education in Autism and Developmental Disabilities”*

Submitted by **Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP**, professor and chair of pediatrics, to the *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration*

**Requested Amount: \$4,632,446**

*“Broward County Coalition to Reduce Violent Crime and Improve Health Outcomes”*

Submitted by **Charles Blackledge, Jr., M.P.H.**, coordinator for interprofessional research and Outcomes Assessment, Project HOPE, to the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

**Requested Amount: \$200,000**

*“Policy Impacting Behaviors and Quality of End-of-Life Care: How Medicare Reimbursement Rules Impact Disparities in Access and Use of Hospice Services Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities”*

Submitted by **Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., LCSW**, associate professor of public health, to the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

**Requested Amount: \$198,798**

*“Geographic Information Systems Data-Inspired Initiatives for Practice, Access, and Health Improvements”*

Submitted by **T. Lucas Hollar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health (principal investigator) and **Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A.**, assistant professor of public health (co-principal investigator), to the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

**Requested Amount: \$140,000**

*“An Analysis of Factors Which Predict Success on Clinical Skills Exams”*

Submitted by **Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.**, assistant professor of internal medicine and assistant dean of medical education, to the *American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine*

**Requested Amount: \$5,000**

## Impressive NSU-COM Participation at AACOM Annual Meeting

A number of faculty members and students showcased their talents at the Joint AACOM and AODME Annual Meeting held April 13-16 in Baltimore, Maryland, by presenting seminars, serving as facilitators, or showcasing posters.

NSU-COM-conducted seminars included *“Geriatric Medical Education: The Ideal Model for Interprofessional Education”* by **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, and **Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**, *“Interprofessional Education—The Key to Unlocking the Door in Health Care Reform in the 21st Century”* by **Dr. Cecilia Rokusek**, *“End of Clerkship Simulation Experience”* by **Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.**, and **Heidi Lane, Ed.D.**, and *“The Variable Influence of Health Care Reform on Osteopathic Medical Students’ Career Specialty Choices”* by **OMS-IV Vi Song Tring**.

In addition, six poster presentations were submitted:

*“An Analysis of Factors Which Predict Success on Clinical Skills Exam”*

**Drs. Marti Echols and Heidi Lane**

*“Training Primary Care Providers to Assume a Role in Genetic/Genomic Medicine”*

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

*“An Intermodel for Integration of All-Hazards Preparedness Education into the Osteopathic Curriculum”*

**Dr. Leonard Levy and Kelley Davis, Ph.D.**

*“The Realities of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disasters and Opportunities for Interprofessional Education”*

**Dr. Kelley Davis**

*“Using CurrMit for Curriculum Evaluation”*  
and

*“Using Technology for Student Remediation”*

**Dr. Marti Echols**

## New Grant Awards

*“AIDS Project Los Angeles, Inc.”*

Received by **Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP**, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, from *AIDS Project Los Angeles, Inc.*

**Amount: \$33,469**



Over the past several months, NSU's Division of Clinical Operations, which is overseen by Robert Oller, D.O., the division's CEO, coordinated and/or played a significant role in a broad range of activities throughout the first half of 2011.

## Boomers and Beyond

The Sixth Annual Boomers and Beyond Health and Wellness Expo, which centered on the theme *A Healthier YOU Starts Today*, was held April 3 at NSU's Health Professions Division and attracted over 1,000 attendees. The free event, which is geared toward individuals in the 40-and-over age range, offered an array



of health screenings, including peripheral artery disease, body-mass index, glucose, blood pressure, bone density, cholesterol, fall risk, foot health, memory, mental health, skin health, and social wellbeing. Wellness information on topics such as diabetes,

eye health, nutrition, and medication management was available to the attendees, as were numerous other opportunities to learn about prevention and disease management. The Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elderly (SHINE) program was present to educate people about health insurance matters, while the Broward Sheriff's Office's *Operation Medicine Cabinet* allowed people to turn in old medications for safe disposal.

## NSU-FOMA Health Fair

On April 30, the NSU-Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Health Fair for children and adults was held at the Tower Shops/Home Depot Shopping Plaza in Davie. The event, which was sponsored by NSU's Health Professions Division and FOMA's Student District Society, provided a range of health care screenings in conjunction with the Memorial Health Care healthy screening bus.

## Clinic Exploration Program

The Clinic Exploration Program (CEP), which is housed within the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, once again inaugurated a new group of undergraduate students by offering them an opportunity to shadow



medical professionals in many of NSU's medical and health clinics. Program participants gain a broad perspective that shows how various medical fields work together as well as

a practical, up-close review of several medical career options. All NSU undergraduate students may take part in the CEP, no matter what major they pursue. Each rotation lasts two hours per week, for

three weeks. Because this is a volunteer program, member commitments are flexible and voluntary. To date, over 400 undergraduate students have taken part in the program. *Pictured (from left) at a CEP end-of-year celebration are: Naomi D'Alessio, Ph.D., associate dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences; Robin L. Sherman, Ph.D., CEP adviser and associate professor and associate director in the college's Division of Math, Science, and Technology; David Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., dean of NSU's College of Optometry; Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division; Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences; Robert S. Oller, D.O., chief executive officer for NSU clinical operations; and Linda Rouse, O.D., Chief of Operations for the College of Optometry's Eye Care Institute.*

## Electronic Medical Records

The Division of Clinical Operations currently utilizes two electronic medical record systems for medical documentation: Axium for dental services and NextGen for the rest of the university's health care centers. Both systems have been configured to help train residents, students, and staff members through the clinical information support channel within the university's intranet, SharkLink. This allows the division to provide the teaching elements for future providers of health care in the utilization of electronic health care systems.

## Suicide and Prevention Newsletter

NSU's Office of Suicide and Violence Prevention published its inaugural quarterly newsletter to provide insight about individuals who may be at risk of injuring themselves or others. In addition, the office is in the process of completing a video presentation for online students and staff members concerning the warning signals of suicide.

## Free Dental Services for Children

On February 7, over 100 low-income children received free dental services from NSU's College of Dental Medicine. Known as *Give Kids a Smile*, the event provided services such as X-rays, exams, cleanings, prophylaxis, fluoride treatment, sealants, and restorations to children who have been referred to the College of Dental Medicine from the Boys & Girls Clubs, local elementary schools, and churches. *Give Kids a Smile* is an annual national event sponsored by the American Dental Association. The idea is to provide free dental care to children who do not have dental insurance or Medicaid. In fact, many of these children have never seen a dentist before. In 2010, the College of Dental Medicine provided \$125,000 worth of dental care during the event.

## Wellness Day

More than 200 students, as well as faculty and staff members, attended NSU's Wellness Day, which was held March 30 on the Alvin Sherman Library quad. The event included a range of activities such as trivia games, fitness and Zumba challenges, and a free and healthy lunch. Prizes including T-shirts, water bottles, and backpacks were distributed to those who participated in the Wellness Day games. In addition, NSU-COM students were on hand to answer health questions and check both blood pressure and the resting heart rates of attendees.

# Melnick Memories: Looking Back...at Our Communications

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



All of my adult life, no matter what I was otherwise engaged in, I always dabbled in writing, editing, publicity, and publications. Of course, I figured to do the same when I assumed the deanship of SECOM. But it did not take me or Mort Terry long to realize that our growth demanded a full-time expert in this field—a professional.

We conferred, looked around, and felt that **Robert Klobnak**, director of communications for the American Osteopathic Association, was ripe for a change of jobs. Not only was he highly skilled in writing and editing, he also complemented those talents with successful activity on placement and follow-up. While in the long service of the AOA, he was responsible for testifying—successfully—in states with limited or unsatisfactory licensure for osteopathic physicians. If any one individual deserved credit for getting the profession unlimited licenses from the reluctant states, it was Bob. In addition, he was executive director of DOCARE, a mostly-military veterans' group within the AOA, with a philanthropic bent for the osteopathic profession, and again, he was the sparkplug for a very successful enterprise. Both Mort and I knew him well. We dangled the position before him, and he accepted.

With his background, Bob hit the ground running. He did publicity for us, developed publications, and initiated *Focus on Health*—a weekly interview television show on medical subjects that was moderated by me. Nobody had to tell him what to do; he was the consummate director of communications.

Soon, the workload became too much and Bob needed an assistant. He hired **Ronald Oldano**, a young, energetic writer who worked with Bob in all aspects of communication and turned out to be an excellent choice. When Bob retired in the 1990s to his home in the West, Ron succeeded him and was a great contributor to our institution. At one point Ron became our director of development. Unfortunately, we lost Ron to an occupational hazard: He married a senior in SECOM, and when she graduated to an internship, he, of course, went with her.

In 1992, **Sara Schoninger** (later known as Sara Brenner) came on board as assistant vice chancellor for marketing and

communications. She carried on the tradition of the department, handling publicity, establishing and editing publications, and continuing with television production.

One memorable work occurred, I believe, during Sara's tenure: We created a two-hour video recording of professional quality entitled *The Child, the Physician, and the Courts: An Overview of Child Abuse*. It featured, among others, a social worker, a district attorney, and two outstanding osteopathic physicians. They were Martin Finckel, D.O., a pediatrician from the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, who was a national (now international) authority in the field of child abuse, and Mark S. Finkelstein, D.O., a pediatric radiologist. Mark, of course, was the son of our own Daniel Finkelstein, D.O., himself a radiologist. The resultant video was spectacular, and we placed copies of the tape in our library, in the libraries of local colleges and universities,

and distributed it to other colleges of osteopathic medicine.

Although not yet history, we cannot overlook **Scott Colton**, who presently serves as director of medical communications for NSU-COM and editor and graphic designer of the award-winning *COM Outlook*, which he created in 2000. This splendid publication has become another most successful venture in communications for our college

Since joining the college in 1999, Scott has been involved in all facets of medical communications, ranging from writing/designing various publications and coordinating media outreach to creating marketing DVDs and assisting other colleges within NSU's Health Professions Division.

All of these communicators made a great contribution, for communication is a highly important and essential part of medical practice and for the operation of a medical school. I thank them all.

And—oh yes—I almost forgot: For the first 10 or so years of SECOM's existence, I taught the sophomores an 18-hour course in medical communication, stressing the essentials of medical writing and medical speaking.

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*(Dr. Melnick is the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (now NSU-COM). His insightful columns serve as a humorous and important bridge to the past and remind us of how far our college has come in a relatively short period of time.)*







**David N. Bimston, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery, and **Richard M. Harrell, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, recently launched the Memorial Integrative Endocrine Surgery practice at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. Drs. Bimston and Harrell, who are an endocrinology/endocrine surgery team with extensive experience in thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, and endocrine pancreatic disease, offer patients a multidisciplinary, one-stop-shopping approach to surgical endocrine care.

**William E. Bruno, Jr., M.D., FAAP**, clinical associate professor of pediatrics and president of the Broward County Pediatric Society, had his letter to the editor about National Infant Immunization Week, which took place April 23-30, published in both the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and *The Miami Herald*. "My hope was to give a positive twist to the vaccine and immunization issue and try to counter the 'star-studded' array of negative TV time and press," Dr. Bruno explained. "I have been a pediatrician since 1969 and witnessed the benefits of vaccines and immunizations, which far outweighed their downside, if there is actually any. Parents still trust and listen to their pediatrician, so we need to do more to promote immunizations and inform other families as if we were talking to our own families and do it with passion and confidence."

**Michelle Doldren, Ed.D., M.P.H.**, adjunct assistant professor of public health and research scientist at the HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, was selected to participate as a member of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Special Emphasis Panel at the National Institutes of Health. Members of the NIMHD Special Emphasis Panel conduct face-to-face reviews in assessing applications that employ novelty in efforts to enhance activities that are essential in alleviating health disparities.

**James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of public health, assistant dean of professional relations, and Chair of the Department

of Rural Medicine, was appointed to the Health, Education, and Public Policy Reference Committee by the president of the Florida Medical Association (FMA). The committee develops policy recommendations for the FMA House of Delegates to act upon during the organization's annual July meeting. Dr. Howell also serves as a delegate for the Palm Beach County Medical Society and is a longtime member of the FMA Council on Public Health.

**Doris Newman, D.O.**, associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice, was elected to serve a three-year term as an American Academy of Osteopathy's (AAO) Office of Trustee member. During the annual AAO convocation held March 16-20 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Dr. Newman presented the annual residency program directors' workshop, chaired the Postdoctoral Standards and Evaluation Committee, and assisted with the annual NMM/OMM residents' in-service training exam.

**Robert Oller, D.O.**, professor of family medicine and CEO of the NSU Division of Clinical Operations, served on the planning committee for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Diabetes Mellitus, which was coordinated by the American Diabetes Association Southeast Florida Division March 25-26 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida.

**Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP**, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, served as the workshop director for the program "Creating Professionalism in the Clinical Educator" at the spring meeting of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians held in March in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D. R.D.**, professor of family medicine/public health and executive director of education, planning, and research, was the featured expert in the May 20 article featured in the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* entitled "Food Prices Are Rising: Here's How to Save \$1,000 on Groceries in a Year."

**David Thomas, M.D., J.D.**, professor of surgery/public health and chair of the Department of Surgery and the Division of Correctional Medicine, was honored with an APEX Award for Publication Excellence in the New Magazines and Journals category for his work as co-scientific editor of *Correctional Health Today*, which is published by the American Correctional Association.

## Faculty/Staff Promotions



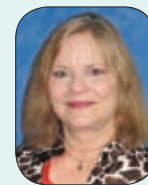
**Natasha Bray, D.O.**, assistant professor of internal medicine, was recently named director of medical education at Broward Health in Fort Lauderdale. She will continue to serve as program director of the Broward Health Internal Medicine Residency at Broward General Medical Center.



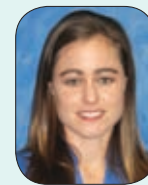
**Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S. Ed, FAAFP, FACOPF**, associate dean of clinical and graduate medical education, who has been with the college since 1999, was promoted from associate to full professor of family medicine.



**Leslie Jones, B.S.**, a longtime NSU-COM staff member, was recently promoted from student services coordinator to assistant director of student services.



**Heidi Lane, Ed.D.**, assistant professor of internal medicine and director of patient-centered education, assumed the position of medical educator for the Department of Medical Education.



**Heather McCarthy, D.O.**, assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, was named medical director of the simulation and standardized patient laboratories.

## Introducing...New Faculty



Dr. Cook



Dr. Rana



Dr. Sklar



Dr. Sprague

**Robert Buchsbaum, M.D.**, who began his stint as a forensic pathology fellow on July 1, earned his M.D. degree at Ohio State University. He served 20-plus years of active duty in the United States Air Force (USAF) before recently retiring. During his time with the USAF, Dr. Buchsbaum served as a pathologist at 88MDG Wright Patterson Medical Center, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

**Karen Butler, M.D., Ph.D.**, who joined the college on July 1 as a correctional medicine fellow, received her M.D. degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Roseau, Dominica, West Indies. Prior to joining NSU-COM, Dr. Butler was in private practice.

**Nicole Cook, Ph.D.**, who received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of Miami, joined the Master of Public Health Program in February 2011. Prior to joining NSU-COM, Dr. Cook was the senior director of epidemiology at the Health Choice Network in Miami, Florida.

**Michelle C. Duhaney, D.O.**, joined the college as a geriatric fellow on July 1. Dr. Duhaney received her D.O. degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her family medicine residency at Broward General Medical Center, serving as chief resident in 2009. Prior to accepting the geriatric fellowship, she was employed at La Clinique Soleil/Hollywood Medical Clinic.

**Jaime Jorge, M.D.**, joined the college on July 1 as a correctional medicine fellow. Dr. Jorge received his M.D. degree from San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in Caguas, Puerto Rico. Prior to joining the NSU-COM faculty, he served as medical director in the Department of Corrections at the St. Lucie County Jail, where he was responsible for the medical care of over 1,300 inmates.

**Francisco Laboy III, D.O.**, who recently completed his sports medicine fellowship training at the college, joined the Department of Sports Medicine on July 1 as a full-time faculty member. Dr. Laboy, who received his D.O. degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, worked as a personal fitness trainer/post-rehabilitation specialist for several years, designing and implementing individualized fitness/post-rehab programs.

**Luis Martinez, D.O.**, who earned his D.O. degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2008, joined the college as a sports medicine fellow on July 1. Prior to joining the fellowship program, Dr. Martinez served as chief intern at St. Petersburg General Hospital before completing his family practice residency training at the same facility.

**Maxwell McClure, D.O.**, joined the college as a psychiatry resident on July 1. Dr. McClure received his D.O. degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2009 and completed his psychiatry internship at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, North Carolina.

**Arif M. Rana, Ph.D., M.Ed.**, became a faculty member in the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics program on April 4. Dr. Rana received his Ph.D. in Biomedical

Informatics from the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey in 2010 and his M.Ed. from Rutgers University in 2006. Prior to joining the NSU-COM faculty, Dr. Rana worked as a faculty academic adviser at Rutgers University and as a curriculum specialist at the University of Pennsylvania.

**David B. Shapiro, D.O., J.D.**, who received his D.O. degree from Touro University, joined the college as a psychiatry resident on July 1. Prior to receiving his D.O. degree, Dr. Shapiro earned his law degree from the University of Memphis School of Law and served as assistant district attorney general in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Elliot M. Sklar, Ph.D.**, who received his Ph.D. from Florida International University in 2008, recently joined the college's Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness. Dr. Sklar has served as a principal investigator in managing all facets of research and health services delivery for children in Miami-Dade Public Schools.

**Peter A. Sprague, D.P.T.**, who previously served as director of rehabilitative services at the Tamarac Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Tamarac, Florida, recently joined the college as a faculty member in the departments of osteopathic principles and practice and sports medicine. Dr. Sprague received his B.S. degree in Physical Therapy from Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut, and his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from the University of St. Augustine for the Health Sciences in St. Augustine, Florida.

## Faculty, Staff Members Enjoy Graduation 2011 Festivities





# NSU Overview: A Tradition

## NSU Students Participate in Space Shuttle Endeavour Lab Experiment



Heidi Mederos (left) and Richard Sung (right), biology majors at NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, participate in a NASA Space Shuttle Endeavour experiment under the supervision of Dimitri Giarikos, Ph.D. (center).

As **NASA's Space Shuttle Endeavour** traveled through space on its final mission in May, two freshman students were hard at work in the laboratory, conducting research as participants in a microgravity experiment on board the shuttle.

**Heidi Mederos** and **Richard Sung**, biology majors at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, participated in an experiment investigating the role of microgravity on the growth and formation of tin crystals in space. Mederos and Sung are freshmen in the college's Undergraduate Honors Program and the Dual Admission Program for dental medicine. They have been working under the supervision of **Dimitri Giarikos, Ph.D.**, associate professor at the college and research coordinator for the Endeavour experiment. The students conducted a multitude of control experiments using varying centrifugal forces, temperatures, and chemical concentrations.

## Women's Golf Team Claims Third Straight National Title

After four days and 72 grueling holes against the strongest competition in the country at the **2011 NCAA Division II Women's Golf National**

**Championship**, held last May in Allendale, Michigan, the epic three-year story comes to an end with the NSU women's golf team claiming its third straight national title. The Sharks carded a four-round 1,157 (+5) on the 6,111-yard, par-72 The Meadows course.

Not only did NSU claim its third straight team title, but for the second year in a row, a Shark player laid claim to the individual national title as Taylor Collins turned in a record-setting performance over the four-day, posting an NCAA Division II Championship record for best score in relation to par after four rounds with a 10 under 278.

In addition to Collins' NCAA championship and course records as an individual, probably the next most impressive accomplishment was Collins, Sandra Changkija, and Abbey Gittings claiming the top three individual spots. Heading into the final championship round, Collins was the individual leader at 13 under par with rounds of 68, 69 and 66. Battling the course conditions on the last day, she finished with a final round of 75 (+5), but held on to win the individual title by eight strokes with a 10 under 278.



Pictured are Amanda Brown (associate head coach), Nicole Whitmore, Sandra Changkija, Taylor Collins, Fredrika Hakansson, Abbey Gittings, and Kevin Marsh (head coach).

## Dr. George Hanbury Installed as NSU's Sixth President

**George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.**, was officially installed as NSU's sixth president on April 21 at an elaborate investiture ceremony held in the Don Taft University Center. "I am honored and humbled by the position and responsibility NSU's Board of Trustees has entrusted me to lead this great university," said Dr. Hanbury, who also became the university's executive



# of Growth and Achievement

operating officer effective July 1. Dr. Hanbury has been the university's senior operating executive since joining NSU in 1998. He previously served as city manager and chief executive officer for the cities of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Portsmouth and Virginia Beach, Virginia, and as an assistant city manager for the cities of Virginia Beach and Norfolk, Virginia.



## New Physical Therapy Program Launched at Tampa SEC

The College of Allied Health and Nursing launched a new physical therapy program on April 27 at NSU's Tampa Student Educational Center. It is the university's first physical therapy program in the Tampa Bay area. Launched as a hybrid program, which combines classroom instruction with online classes, the new program comprises 20 students.

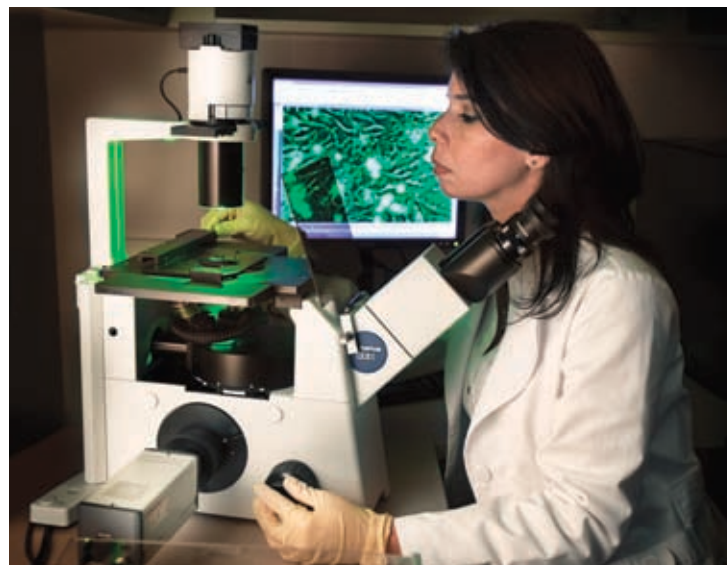
The program, which officially commenced May 31, offers students a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (D.P.T.). The college also introduced the occupational therapy and cardiovascular sonography programs during the grand opening, which took place on the third floor of NSU's Tampa SEC. Both programs are expected to start in 2012. "This innovative D.P.T. program provides qualified, nontraditional students, such as working adults, the opportunity to become physical therapists," said Mary Blackinton, P.T., Ed.D., GCS, associate program director of the NSU physical therapy program in Tampa. "Furthermore, our blended learning design creates a strong, interactive learning community supported by the outstanding technological resources of NSU."

## NSU and Immunotec Launch Clinical Trial in Autism

NSU and the nutritional supplement company Immunotec are conducting a new research study to determine the effects of a supplement to improve behaviors in children with autism spectrum disorder. The two-year study will investigate the effects of a cysteine-rich whey protein isolate in children diagnosed with autism. The primary function of this research is to establish whether taking a 90-day diet of cysteine-rich whey proteins will have a positive effect on autistic behaviors.

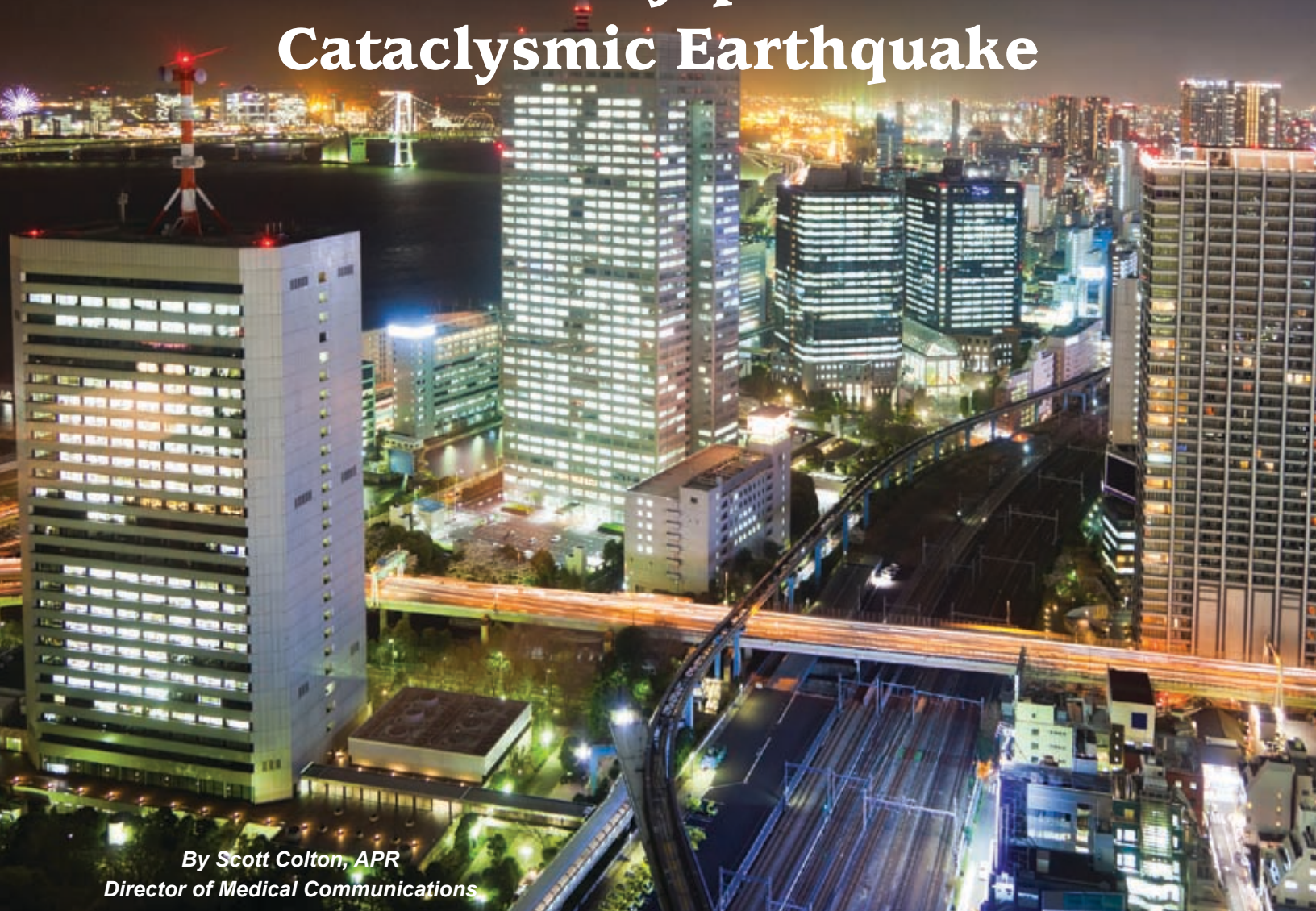
Improvements in affected behaviors may result in an enhanced quality of life for both children and their families. During the clinical study, there will be an analysis of the children's exhibited behaviors. Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder currently affecting as many as 1 in 110 children in the United States. The conventional treatment for autism is centered on special schooling, behavioral therapy, and other conventional medical treatments. Whey protein isolate is a derivative of dairy product manufacturing and is commonly used as a dietary supplement or food additive ingredient.

The NSU-Immunotec study's principal investigator is **Ana Maria Castejon, Ph.D.** (pictured below), who is an associate professor at NSU's College of Pharmacy. Dr. Castejon is conducting the study with co-investigators at NSU's Mailman Segal Center of Human Development. These researchers have vast experience in children with developmental disorders, specifically in the area of autism behavior.





# Unexpected Adventure: Inquisitive Kretchmar Visits Japan Hours After Cataclysmic Earthquake



By Scott Colton, APR  
Director of Medical Communications

*When a horrific 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck northeastern Japan on March 11, OMS-II Joshua Kretchmar, Ph.D., was already on a preplanned flight to Tokyo to gain firsthand knowledge of the country's advanced medical system.*

Over the past decade, Joshua Kretchmar has spent a significant amount of time living and working in Southeast Asia doing public health work, conducting field research, and teaching at various medical schools and hospitals. That humanistic inclination continued until December 2005 when he was mobilized from the U.S. Army Reserve, deployed to combat as a captain in the U.S. Army, and commissioned to participate in a combat mission in the South Philippines.

"I definitely have a working familiarity with medical care as an observer, provider, and patient in Southeast Asia," said Kretchmar, who has made frequent trips to Japan and plans to return to Southeast Asia to practice austere medicine, which is the provision of medical care without access to modern investigations or technology, once he earns his D.O. degree from NSU-COM. "I often visit developing countries of Southeast Asia to work on various public health initiatives

and try to stop by Japan on my way to or from these countries to build friendships and relationships there as well.

"I hope to set up a base practice in geriatrics and rural medicine in Japan so I can coordinate austere medical missions to the developing world while assisting in Japan's own areas of shortage and/or need," added Kretchmar, who personally funds his various public health outreach trips. "My Japanese colleagues are also eager to help the developing world that is three hours from their shoreline in so many directions. Even though Japan has the most advanced medical system in the world and provides free or close-to-free health care for all citizens, it will soon face health care problems of its own due to its enormous aging population, a shortage of pediatricians, and a chronic physician distribution problem."

Based on his desire to practice medicine in Southeast Asia and Japan, Kretchmar had made plans to travel to Japan



during his NSU-COM spring break and work with various physicians and clinics from March 11 through March 23. However, when he boarded his flight, the earthquake and resultant tsunami had yet to wreak their havoc on an unsuspecting population.

“By the time I landed, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was on the verge of collapsing, and more than 10 thousand people had been swept into the sea,” he explained. “While most of the foreign population clamored to get out of the country, the Japanese adopted a stoic resolve and met every challenge with a grace one could never understand without witnessing it. Emails from overseas kept telling me to ‘get out,’ with talk of food shortages, imminent dangers, and media reports of various horrors. This was in stark contrast to what I witnessed, where everyone who survived was clothed, sheltered, and housed almost immediately.”

According to Kretchmar, reports of widespread food shortages were also blown out of proportion. “People would come in the morning and stock up on supplies, so the store shelves were barren by the end of the day,” he said. “The media photographed this, as did I, but they claimed it was a shortage. The stores were replenished every day, and the process started again. In fact, there was not a day I or anyone could not get food.”

Upon his arrival in Tokyo, Kretchmar’s initial plan was to visit nearby Sendai. However, with most of the roads to Sendai rendered virtually inaccessible from Tokyo in the days immediately following the earthquake, Kretchmar devised an alternate plan. “Due to my prior experience in this area, I had both the time and the ability to assist, so I worked for several days doing minor logistical support before proceeding southward to Kyoto to observe a family practice clinic.

“The comparison with American clinics was surprising,” added Kretchmar, who earned an M.A. degree in Literature and a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Cultural Criticism from the University of Texas Arlington. “Though this was a very modest clinic with one doctor, one nurse assistant, and one secretary, it was equipped with digital X-ray equipment, basic in-house laboratory testing equipment, and beds where patients could rest during in-office IV infusions or recover from in-office procedures.”

From Kyoto, Kretchmar headed to Fukuoka in the Kyushu Islands, where he had prearranged appointments to observe a family practice and gastroenterology clinic and do volunteer geriatric work. “The gastroenterologist I met there had done a second residency in Sweden and then brought both the equipment and training to Japan,” he said. “Today, Japan commonly offers expedient and cheap colonoscopies.

“He told me physicians come from around the world to train and learn the Japanese way, ‘except from the States.’ When I asked why, he said he didn’t know if it was true, but one American doctor had told him that reimbursement was both easier to obtain and higher for both hospitals and doctors in the United States if the procedure was done in the hospital,” he added. To be sure, Japanese patients are screened and re-

leased in a few hours, at minimal cost, with little discomfort.”

Because most of his prearranged travel plans were located south of the earthquake/tsunami region, Kretchmar was able to navigate freely throughout southern Japan. “I also did volunteer work in a geriatric and dementia facility, where I learned a great deal about the Japanese system, both its pros and cons, its love and care for its elderly, and its respect for its doctors,” he said. “The system is amazing when you consider that one of the most technologically advanced health care systems in the world is free to the poor and elderly and offers services on a sliding scale for others, never exceeding a 30 percent co-pay. Given the low cost of care in the first place, the co-pay is comparatively inconsequential.

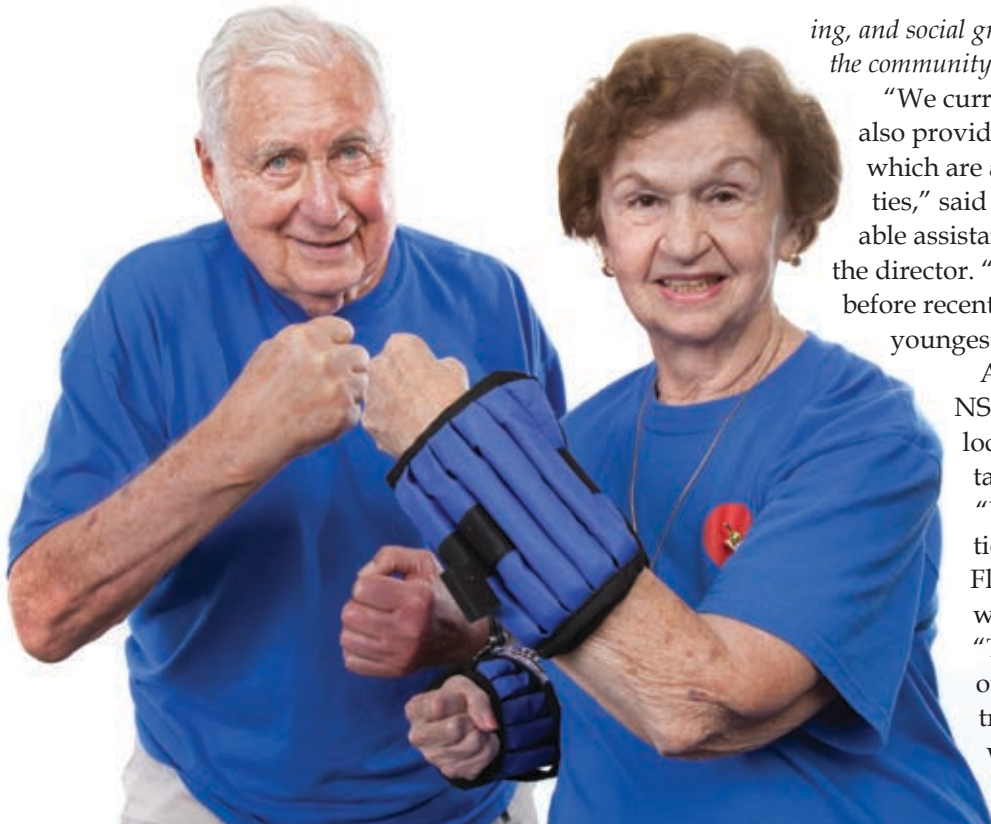
“Perhaps more amazing is the easy access patients have to doctors,” he added. “Patients do not need appointments as doctors set aside ample time for walk-ins. Doctors’ offices open early and stay open late. Additionally, there are virtually no lawsuits or lawyers involved in Japanese health care, and drug companies are kept on an ever shorter leash. The cost of care seems to be significantly less than in the United States. That being said, costs are rising since Japan is tied to the world economy, where costs are escalating, and physicians are unhappy at government restrictions regarding what tests or procedures they can perform as the country tries to pay for a system with a shrinking economy. Physicians are also unhappy because they’re seeing their own salaries drop and are witnessing the beginnings of a litigious culture. A pediatrician was sued several years ago in a well-publicized case, and though this was a statistically insignificant event, almost no Japanese physicians are willing to go into pediatrics at the current time. So the Japanese health care system is not perfect—just close.”

After completing his volunteer work in southern Japan, Kretchmar returned to Tokyo, which was still enduring daily aftershocks. To his surprise, almost all the trains were running on time and all businesses from Tokyo southward were operating as if nothing had occurred. “Most businesses were up and running within 48 hours of a quake that would have liquefied the infrastructure and buildings in any other country,” said Kretchmar, who spent his remaining time in Japan with friends participating in activities one would normally enjoy there such as dining out and frequenting the ubiquitous “onsens” (natural hot springs).

“My Japanese friends maintained the calmest of exteriors, although all of them described feelings of anxiety followed by numbness,” Kretchmar stated. “One friend said to me, ‘I feel like I went from a color photograph to a black-and-white one. I can’t see any colors now.’ Everything seemed more orderly than ever as people fortified their stoicism for what the media said might be coming (e.g., additional quakes, further radiation leakage, and food shortages). But I am not Japanese—and stoicism is not a quality I possess in abundance. So I did another 48 hours of volunteer work to work off my restlessness and agitation at the media before heading back to the United States.”



# Lifelong LEARNING Institute—



ing, and social growth that enriches the lives of its members and the community.

“We currently have 126 members on campus, but we also provide classes at nine satellite locations, most of which are assisted living/independent living facilities,” said Maurice, who coordinates all activities with able assistance from Heike Dose, the LLI’s assistant to the director. “Our longest member came here for 30 years before recently going to an assisted living facility. Our youngest member is 58, while our oldest is 92.”

Although there are many variations of NSU’s Lifelong Learning Institute located locally, regionally, and nationally, Maurice takes pride in the fact that the LLI is unique. “Very few have heard of a similar organization that has such a far reach into the South Florida community bringing classes to those who can’t get to the campus,” she stated. “This allows us to provide educational outreach to hundreds of seniors who cannot travel to our campus. Most of the people who are on-campus members live within a 25-minute driving radius and either drive themselves or carpool. Our on-campus

**E**arlier this year, a vital resource for the South Florida senior community called the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) received an energy infusion when its administrative oversight was transferred from NSU’s Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The shift from Farquhar to NSU-COM proved to be a savvy strategic decision, especially since the College of Osteopathic Medicine has a nationally funded Geriatric Education Center (GEC), which mirrors many of the LLI’s goals, under its auspices. “Many people don’t understand what we are all about because we’re new to NSU-COM and the GEC,” said Linda Maurice, who serves as director of the Lifelong

Learning Institute. “People assume that because we’re in the college, we must be a medical program, which simply isn’t the case.”

Established in 1977 as the Institute for Retired Professionals, the organization was renamed the Lifelong Learning Institute in the fall of 2006. The LLI’s recently revamped mission statement, which was the result of a comprehensive strategic planning process that occurred once the institute came under the NSU-COM umbrella, succinctly encapsulates its purpose:

*Nova Southeastern University’s Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) provides a vibrant educational environment for mature adults in South Florida. Programs promote intellectual stimulation, physical well be-*

ing, and social growth that enriches the lives of its members and the community.”

To become an on-campus LLI member, the annual fees currently run from \$475 for a single membership to \$825 for a couple, although the term “couple” can represent an eclectic array of combinations, such as married individuals, domestic partners, roommates, or friends to encourage joint membership. To ensure that potential members truly enjoy the LLI experience before signing up, Maurice invites them to attend four classes for free before making a final decision.

## LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE OFFERS BROAD-BASED ACTIVITIES

The Lifelong Learning Institute maintains a year-round schedule divided into two periods: The eight-month fall/winter/spring period runs from October through May, with four days of classes and activities each week, Monday through Thursday. The four-month summer period runs from June through September with one class a day, three days a week.

Each day of activities at the Lifelong Learning Institute is divided into three parts:

- 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. – academic session
- Lunch, which the members often bring from home
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. – academic session

# Bountiful Benefits for Seniors

Membership fees are funneled directly into the institute to provide remuneration to an interesting array of guest lecturers that provide seminars and interactive sessions to members or a broad range of topics. These informational seminars address areas such as art, music, literature, philosophy, history, politics, creative writing, current events, science, and health care. "We offer an eclectic mix of educational sessions to appeal to all segments of our membership" Maurice explained. "For example, we have a former *Sun-Sentinel* journalist who comes in monthly to discuss media, politics, and ethics."

In addition to paid outside lecturers, Maurice frequently recruits students and faculty members from the NSU community to provide seminars—free of charge. "We've been fortunate to have great participation within the university in regard to providing insightful educational sessions to our members," Maurice stated. "For instance, two professors from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences provide a discussion on current events. We also host lectures from master's and Ph.D. students from other departments at NSU, including the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences."

Beyond classroom-based lectures, LLI members also have the opportunity to participate in field trips to museums and other places of interest as well as get-acquainted open houses at the beginning of the fall and winter semesters. Due to the innumerable educational and social opportunities offered at the LLI, members can become as actively involved as they wish.



By Scott Colton, APR  
Director of Medical Communications

Being actively involved as "lifelong learners" is a major reason why individuals become LLI members. In fact, one of the most attractive perks available to members is the opportunity they have to audit courses in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. "Currently, LLI members can audit two classes for free a semester, but we're looking at expanding the auditing option to include other NSU colleges because it's a great way to promote intergenerational learning."

According to Maurice, the Lifelong Learning Institute represents disparate things to members. "For many of our members, coming to the LLI is of paramount importance because it represents a phase of exploration in their lives after retirement," she explained. "Through their interactions at the LLI, many of our members start new careers and develop new interests. One of our members had never written anything other than a business letter in his life. However, after he got involved in one of our peer-led programs on creative writing, he blossomed. He started writing on a regular basis and ended up publishing a book at the age of 72."

During a visit to the LLI's satellite facility in Boca Raton, Maurice witnessed a minor miracle involving one of the lethargic live-in residents who suddenly sprung to life at a specific session. "I once brought in a lecturer who discussed and played swing and jazz music," she said. "A man in the audience was usually unresponsive, but he started to tap his feet and begin responding. He used to be a musician with Benny Goodman, and the music just woke him up. Going into these facilities encourages us to remember that many of these older adults have led fascinating lives."

As the Lifelong Learning Institute looks to the future, plans are underway to diversify the membership and take the institute to even higher levels of excellence. "In the short-term, we'd like to continue what we do," Maurice stated. "We are appreciated and loved by many people in and around the tri-county area. But a primary goal is to maintain and increase our quality while also increasing the number and variety of programs we offer. We truly want our members to feel as if this is their home away from home."

*Academic sessions* involve lectures by NSU and other community educators and experts, as well as lectures, workshops, and discussion groups led by LLI members.

*Lunch activities* allow LLI members to socialize in an informal setting. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from NSU often come to share lunch with LLI members. These experiences are valuable to both groups, providing a unique intergen-

erational exchange of ideas and insights. At lunch, connections are made that bridge the rich life experiences of LLI members and the awakening interests of students in the university community.

A low-impact afternoon exercise class also is provided at a small additional fee twice weekly throughout the year following the last class of the day.



# DESPITE EARLY RELUCTANCE, DR. SAMUEL SNYDER ENJOYS WORKING IN THE "FAMILY BUSINESS"

By Scott Colton, APR, Director of Medical Communications

*Rebellion seems to be a rite of passage for most teenagers, so it should come as no surprise that Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, initially balked at the idea of becoming a physician simply because it was the career path everyone expected him to pursue based on his medical lineage.*

To say Dr. Snyder was born into medicine is anything but an understatement. With the renowned and respected pediatrician Arthur Snyder, D.O.—a longtime NSU-COM faculty member who retired in 2006—as his father, and due to his frequent interactions with other family members who were physicians, medicine was an ever-present part of his life.

Dr. Snyder, who serves as associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was born in Philadelphia and lived with his parents and two older sisters in an apartment directly above his father's pediatric office. Consequently, interacting with patients was something Dr. Snyder became quite comfortable with from an early age. "My mom worked with my dad as his office manager," he explained, "so it was a very common thing for patients to be walking in and out all the time, especially since we lived right above the office."

At the age of four, the Snyder clan relocated to North Miami Beach, Florida, at the urging of a trailblazing osteopathic physician and family friend named Morton Terry, D.O., who would later go on to establish Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1979 and the Health Professions Division at Nova Southeastern University in 1994.

However, clouds of discontent would soon appear on his adolescent horizon. Although he spent much of his spare time



working in his dad's office doing various odd jobs such as filing and stocking supplies, Dr. Snyder was not smitten with the idea of following in his family's physician-laden footsteps. "Working with my dad did not instill in me the desire to become a doctor," he admitted. "In fact, I rebelled against it. All I kept hearing from everyone was that I would become a doctor when I grew up, but that certainly wasn't my master plan."

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES VS. MEDICINE

Although he had a basic interest in science, Dr. Snyder was much more intrigued with the idea of pursuing a career in the humanities, specifically the philosophy of religion. Placing all the physician-in-the-making prognostications to rest, at least temporarily, Dr. Snyder enrolled at Princeton University in New Jersey, graduating cum laude in 1973 with his A.B. degree in Religious Studies. "I was actually thinking of going for my Ph.D. in religious studies or literature," he stated. "But before I made a final decision, I decided to take some time off to travel across the country with some friends."

During his educational hiatus, Dr. Snyder took a trip to his hometown of Philadelphia that allowed him to spend time with his uncles, all of whom were doctors. One uncle in particular, who served on the internal medicine faculty at Jefferson Medical College, convinced Dr. Snyder to accept a job as an audiology technician at the college's affiliated hospital. It would prove to be a life-altering event.

"I was in my early 20s and had begun to weigh what my professional future would look like because I really enjoyed the job," said Dr. Snyder, who would eventually become the 11<sup>th</sup> physician (7 D.O.s, 4 M.D.s) in his family. "My entire family was in Philadelphia, except for my parents and sisters, so I decided to stay and take some premed courses."



Dr. Snyder shares some quality time with his children, Joe and Emily.

Dr. Snyder's family was obviously overjoyed at his decision to pursue medicine over religion; however, his change of heart was primarily based on the precepts of practicality and simple economics. "At the time, the job market for a person with a Ph.D. in humanities was not very good," he explained. "The reality was sobering because I could enroll in one of the great graduate programs at an elite university, earn my Ph.D.—and then get a low-paying job at a junior college in North Dakota. So I decided to bite the bullet, take my premed courses, and apply to Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM)."

Although he was accepted into PCOM, the medical school experience proved to be both strenuous and perplexing. "I struggled through medical school because I did not have a strong science background," said Dr. Snyder, who received a National Health Service Corps scholarship to attend PCOM. "The kind of reasoning you use in humanities when you're studying the philosophy of religion and the religious use of languages is so vastly different from the way you use language in medical sciences. It was a difficult transition for me to make, and it definitely took me a long time to find my way."

However, Dr. Snyder also admitted to being his own worst enemy at times. "I had to make up for a lot of deficiencies because I wasn't very serious-minded as a student," he stated. "For instance, during my first two years of medical school, my attendance was really poor. In fact, I didn't even know PCOM had a mandatory attendance record or dress code."

Despite his PCOM trials and tribulations, Dr. Snyder earned his D.O. degree in 1980, spending the next three years honoring the requirements of his National Health Service Corps scholarship by working in underserved communities located in a Health Professional Shortage Area. First up was a two-year stint at U.S.P.H.S. Indian Hospital in Clinton, Oklahoma, followed by a one-year assignment at Covenant House Health Services in Philadelphia.

"The time I spent in the Indian Health Service was incredibly interesting from both an educational and cultural standpoint," he said. "I worked in the Cheyenne and Arapaho catchment area of Oklahoma and enjoyed it immensely. It was also the first time I began to feel like a doctor. I knew I could help these people and bring something positive to them while also receiving a lot from them in return.



*Dr. Snyder, circa 1955.*



*Bar Mitzvah at age 13.*



*Groovy in his teenage years.*



*Hirsute is an apt description.*



*Relishing the joys of parenthood.*

I went to their festivals and spent a lot of time with them outside the clinical environment, which was a great experience for me."

His two-year stint in Oklahoma did more than just awaken his healing instincts; it also led him to pursue his postgraduate training in internal medicine. "Up until that time I really wasn't sure what I was going to do," he said. "I enjoyed taking care of the whole person and being a part of my patients' lives, which I didn't see as a possibility if I were too narrowly focused. So once I completed my commitment to the National Health Service Corps, I returned to Pennsylvania and did my internal medicine residency training at Metropolitan Hospital in Springfield."

Prior to starting the residency program, Dr. Snyder took the time to read a textbook entitled *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* that would have a profound effect on his future. "Once I began my residency, I began to see that if I understood nephrology, that would be the key to helping me truly understand internal medicine," he said. "As I got to know the doctors at Metropolitan Hospital, I discovered that the smartest and best ones were nephrologists. The nephrologists I had as role models took care of the whole person medically, but they also had the closest relationships with their patients. Patients that have chronic kidney disease and are on dialysis can have a relationship with a nephrologist that's actually very close and intense, medically speaking. That's really what drew me to this narrow subspecialty field."

### THE ROAD TO NSU

After completing a nephrology fellowship in 1988 at Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia, Dr. Snyder remained in his hometown, accepting a position at Nephrology Associates and serving as an instructor at Thomas Jefferson Medical College before returning to South Florida in 1995. "I didn't have any intention of returning to Florida to practice at the time, but when an opportunity suddenly materialized, there were a number of reasons why I felt it would be a wise decision to make," said Dr. Snyder, a prolific writer who has penned several screenplays as well as a medical thriller. "My parents were getting older, plus I wanted to pursue other interests, such as writing. I enjoyed what I was doing in Philadelphia and was working with people I totally respected and loved, but I never got used to the brutally cold winters even though I was up there for 25 years."





In early 1995, Dr. Snyder became a full-time faculty member at NSU-COM, serving as an assistant professor of internal medicine for an eight-month period. However, his desire to establish nephrology as a subspecialty at the college was not met with enthusiasm by the existing leadership. As a result, Dr. Snyder returned to private practice, working with a local nephrologist in Coral Springs for several years before opening his own practice in Plantation in 1998.

Following a three-year stint at South Broward Nephrology and Hypertension Associates, Dr. Snyder returned to NSU-COM to assume the position of chair of the Department of Internal Medicine in February 2005. "I have been very happy here professionally," said Dr. Snyder, who remained associated with the college as a clinical assistant professor and director of the Division of Nephrology during the preceding decade. "I love education and being part of a place where everybody shares the same mission."

In his role as chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Snyder maintains a demanding and multifaceted schedule. His jam-packed agenda includes spending three half days in the NSU Internal Medicine Clinic, visiting about 15 dialysis patients at several dialysis clinics located throughout Broward County, providing student lectures, and working one week a month at Broward General Medical Center as a general internist, where he provides training to OMS-III students and residents. He also supervises all internal medicine-based content in the second-year systems courses, chairs the Student Progress Committee, and acts as program director of the Mount Sinai Medical Center Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency.

Dr. Snyder has gradually enhanced the Department of Internal Medicine since rejoining the college in 2005 by incorporating such elements as an annual departmental retreat to chart a course for the department's future. Although he knows it will take time, he anticipates a day when the department will be able to offer a broader scope of services. "As I see it, we need two more general internists

to fully staff our outpatient clinic," said Dr. Snyder, who is the proud father of daughter Emily, 26, and son Joe, 20. "We should also be looking at adding specialists such as a full-time cardiologist, gastroenterologist, and pulmonologist so we could provide a full spectrum of care, medically speaking. People will travel only within their community to see their primary family doctor, but they will travel across the county line to see a specialist. I believe we want to be that kind of medical center."

Now in his seventh year as chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Snyder admits to being professionally content. However, like most ambitious administrators, he is not about to become complacent. "I want to continually enhance my administrative capabilities and take on additional administrative responsibilities," said Dr. Snyder, who became a health policy fellow in 2008. "I want to see my department grow in both its ability to provide general internal medicine and subspecialty care and enhance its presence in the curriculum. In order to accomplish these goals, we're going to have to adopt some new academic and practice models. Traditionally, our faculty members have spent 50 percent of their time as clinicians and the other 50 percent as academicians.

"We will need to adopt some new models and have faculty members who are either 90 percent clinicians or 90 percent academicians, which will allow them to be more specialized in what they do academically as well as clinically," he added. "Through our internal medicine retreats, we are developing a new process, a bigger vision of where we would like to see NSU go clinically. We see NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center as being a hub of specialists. Ultimately, I'd like to see our clinics become a medical Mecca for people."





# Graduation 2011

## Reflections on My Four Years at NSU-COM

By Marlow Hernandez, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
Class of 2001

In July of 2007, I enrolled at NSU-COM.

Fresh out of college, I did not know much about medicine, business, or public health. Luckily, NSU offered an M.P.H. scholarship for medical students and offered weekend business classes (for a significant price). Although several of the faculty members, and my own family, advised me against taking two master degrees concurrently with the medical curriculum, I was convinced that once you graduated from a doctoral program, it became incrementally more difficult to obtain advanced degrees, unless you choose to stay in academia. And this was my time and my opportunity to “seize the day.”

Coming to NSU was the second-best academic decision I have ever made. The first was to take the M.P.H. and M.B.A. classes along with the D.O. classes. There are three reasons why this is so:

- The faculty and coursework of each program complement each other so your medical education is enhanced and enriched.
- Your extracurricular opportunities are multiplied.
- You develop the stamina and understanding to become competitive and successful in the next step of your career (residency, fellowship, etc.).

Looking back, I walk away with two truths:

- There is always someone that is your superior in some way.

- You must surround yourself with compassionate, knowledgeable, and determined people in order to achieve your personal and professional objectives.

I am convinced I could not have accomplished what I did without my family, my professors, or my faith. Indeed, I was blessed with incredible people and opportunities that in many ways made difficult challenges look easy. Perhaps my proudest accomplishment at NSU is to boast that I have obtained grants and published papers with more than 15 faculty members and more than 30 medical students.

Now, I must admit that what I accomplished is not for everyone. I truly believe you can become a great physician without conducting research or pursuing other graduate degrees. However, you must, in other ways, go above and beyond the basic requirements of a degree program or board examination. You must read beyond the classroom and involve yourself in extracurricular activities in order to become a professional that patients seek, institutions recruit, and future students will admire. In the immortal words of baseball great Dizzy Dean, “When you stop getting better, you stop being good.”

A few names I want to mention: **Cyril Blavo, D.O.**, **Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D.**, and **Robert Hasty, D.O.** Each of these men inspired me and pushed me to new heights. They are leaders in their profession and assets to NSU. They know I am forever in their debt. There are also some NSU alumni, such as **Joshua Lenchus, D.O.**, and **Victor Totfalusi, D.O.**, who have opened doors for the rest of us in the nation’s most prestigious postgraduate programs and professional organizations. Lastly, I must thank the college’s dean, **Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.**, for his vision and support, and **Scott Colton** for making the *COM Outlook* the best COM periodical in the nation, and for allowing me this forum to share my reflections with you.



Indeed there are many others, from **David Boesler, D.O.**, and **Leslie Jones** to **Lynne Cawley** and **Alina Perez, J.D.**, that I must include in this short essay as individuals who make NSU-COM great. There are many more names across three colleges/programs I could mention if I wanted to be thorough in my gratitude. Yet the reason why I wrote this essay was not to make public what I have done and who has been instrumental to me, but rather to instill in you the thirst for self improvement and to display my path as an example of what can be done if you selflessly pursue the study of medicine, remember to genuinely help your peers, and involve yourself in extracurricular activities.

Please feel free to contact me if I can help you in any way at [hmarlow@nova.edu](mailto:hmarlow@nova.edu) for I am, and will remain, a very grateful NSU-COM alumnus.





## **Senior Week: Camaraderie and Accomplishment**

Senior Week provided an abundance of opportunities for the class of 2011 to get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, a jovial dining experience at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. in Fort Lauderdale, and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 29 when 219 D.O., 63 Master of Public Health, and 14 Master of Biomedical Informatics degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) Commencement Ceremony at the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise.

During the ceremony, 856 graduates from various NSU-HPD colleges received their long-awaited diplomas in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Rick Scott, Florida's 45<sup>th</sup> governor, delivered the commencement address. "Congratulations, you're going to feel good about what you do every day," he said. "I got into the health care industry about 25 years ago, and every day you're doing something positive for somebody's life."



# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence

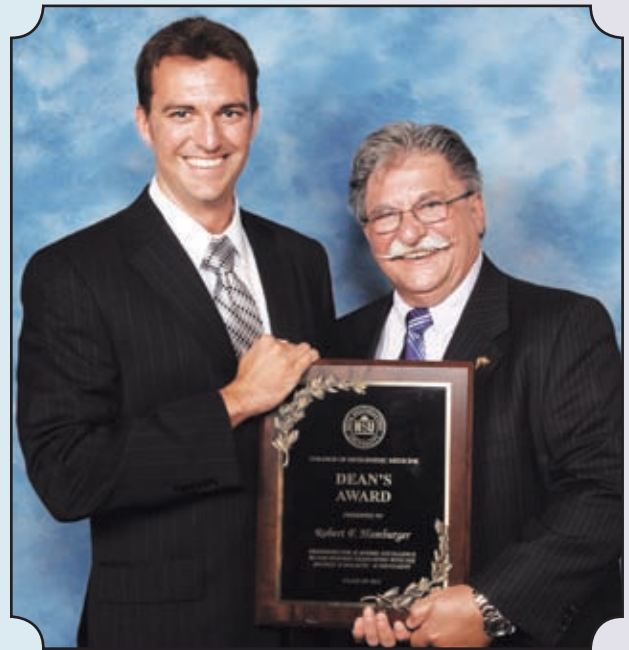


## **Chancellor's Award – D.O. Program**

*Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine osteopathic physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.*

Recipient: **Candace White, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: **Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.**



## **Dean's Award – Osteopathic Medicine**

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

Recipient: **Robert Hamburger, D.O.**

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

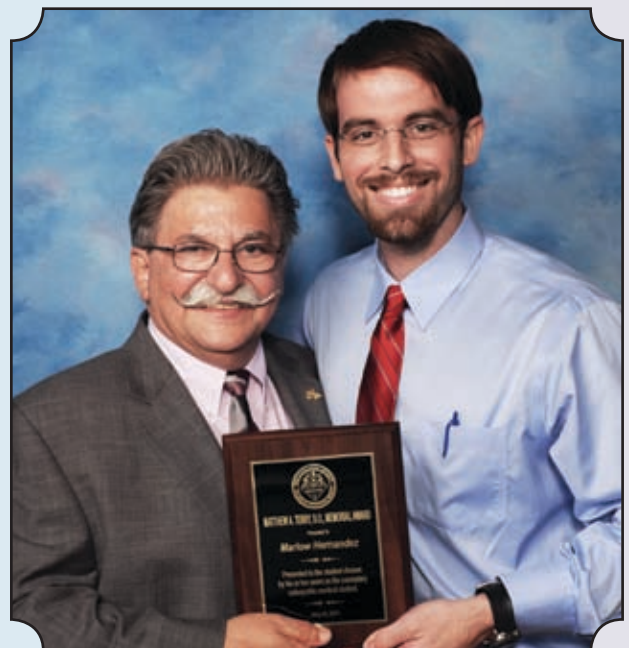


## **Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award**

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

Recipient: **Melody Strattan, D.O.**

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



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

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

Recipient: **Marlow Hernandez, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.**

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



# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



## **Chancellor's Award – M.P.H. Program**

*Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine public health professional—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.*

Recipient: **Jason Garcia, M.P.H.**

Presenter: **Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.**



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

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

Recipient: **Yana Gofman, D.O.**

Presenter: **Gary Hill, D.O.**



## **Alumni Association Award**

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

Recipient: **Hans Hilst, D.O.**

Presenter: **Howard Neer, D.O.**



## **Dean's Organizational Award**

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

Recipient: **Denise Jordan, D.O.**

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

# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



## **Dean's Community Award**

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

Recipient: **Avery Thornhill, D.O.**

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



## **Excellence in Geriatrics Award**

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

Recipient: **Christopher Bailey, D.O.**

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



## **Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award**

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

Recipient: **Justin McNamee, D.O.**

Presenter: **John Pellois, Jr., D.O., M.P.H.**



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

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

Recipient: **James Seltzer, D.O., M.S.B.I.**

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



# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



## **Florida Geriatrics Society Achievement Award**

*This award, which is presented by the Department of Geriatrics and sponsored by the Florida Geriatrics Society, honors a student who has excelled in his/her geriatrics rotation.*

Recipient: **Christopher Bailey, D.O.**  
Presenter: *Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD*



## **Public Health Student Service Award**

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

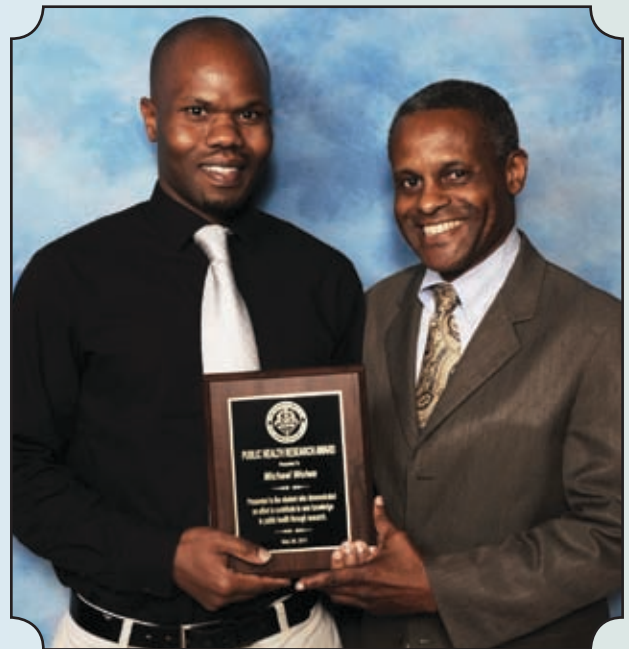
Recipient: **Jason Garcia, M.P.H.**  
Presenter: *Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H.*



## **Dean's Government and Public Policy Award**

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

Recipient: **Matthew Reynolds, D.O.**  
Presenter: *Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.*

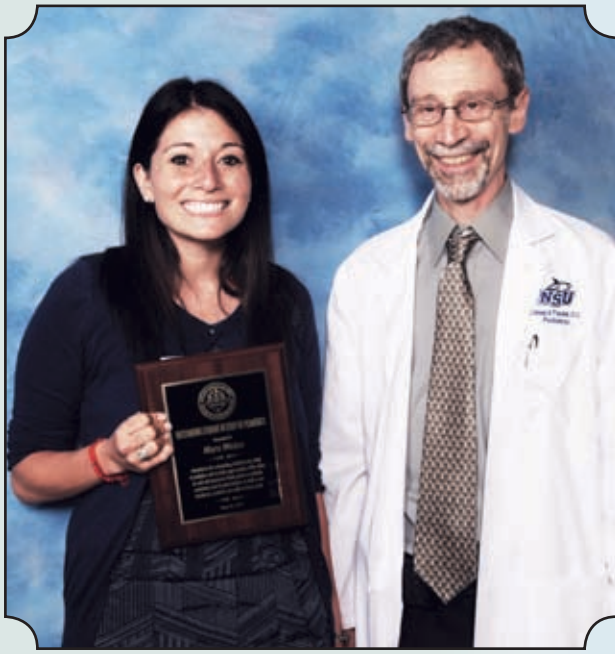


## **Research Award - Public Health**

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

Recipient: **Michael Wolwa, M.P.H.**  
Presenter: *Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M.*

# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



## **Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics**

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

Recipient: **Mara Weiss, D.O., M.P.H.**  
Presenter: **Edward Packer, D.O.**



## **Florida Chapter, American Academy of Osteopathy Award in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine**

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

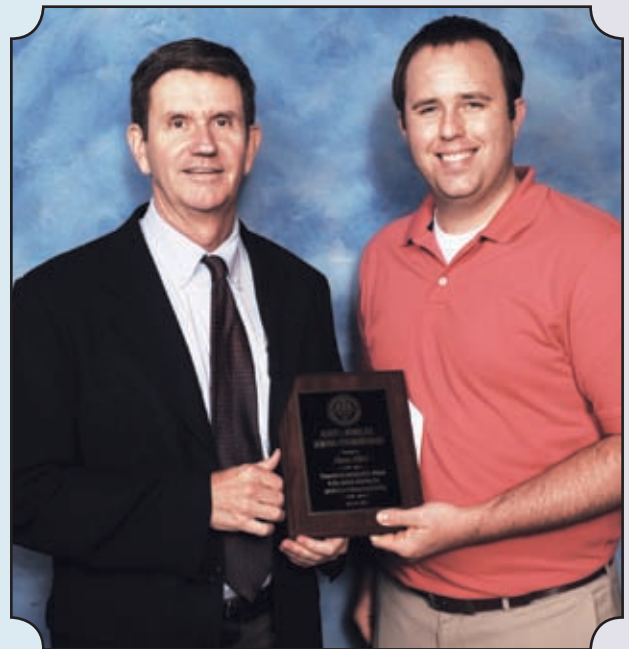
Recipient: **Katiera Rivera, D.O., M.P.H.**  
Presenter: **Mark Sandhouse, D.O.**



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

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

Recipient: **Avery Thornhill, D.O.**  
Presenter: **Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.**



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

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

Recipient: **Hans Hilst, D.O.**  
Presenter: **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**



# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



## **Golden Apple Award (Osteopathic Medicine)**

*Presented by the class of 2011 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.*

Recipient: **Robert Hasty, D.O.**  
Presenter: *Hans Hilst, D.O.*



## **Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service**

*Awarded to a student in the upper third of class in rank who actively organized and participated in at least three children's projects during his or her time at NSU-COM and helped motivate children-related projects at NSU-COM.*

Recipient: **Prachi Kothari, D.O.**  
Presenter: *Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.*



## **Golden Apple Award – M.P.H. Program**

*Presented by the class of 2011 to the M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.*

Recipient: **Alina Perez, J.D., M.S.W.**  
Presenter: *Jason Garcia, M.P.H.*



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

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

Recipient: **Brandon Weeks, D.O., M.P.H.**  
Presenter: *Barbara Arcos, D.O.*

# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



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

Presented to the student who ranks in the top 25 percent of the class, is pursuing OB/GYN residency training, and has obtained the highest grade in the women's health course.

Recipient: **Marie Luksch, D.O.**

Presenter: *Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.*



## **Research Award – Osteopathic Medicine**

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

Recipient: **Marlow Hernandez, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.**

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



## **Dean's Award – M.P.H. Program**

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

Recipient: **Joseph Sconzo, M.P.H.**

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



## **Rose Community Service Award**

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

Recipient: **Berry Pierre, D.O., M.P.H.**

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



# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



## **M.S.B.I. Student Service Award**

*Presented to the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program student who demonstrated commitment to community service.*

Recipient: **Josean Malcolm, M.S.B.I.**  
Presenter: **Jennie Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**



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

*Presented to the graduating student who ranks in the top 50 percent of the class and organized and participated in the greatest number and variety of activities related to the field of women's health.*

Recipient: **Claudia Knight, D.O.**  
Presenter: **Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.**



## **Clinical Service Award**

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

Recipient: **Alan Turner, D.O.**  
Presenter: **Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S. Ed**



## **Donna Jones Moritsugu Award**

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

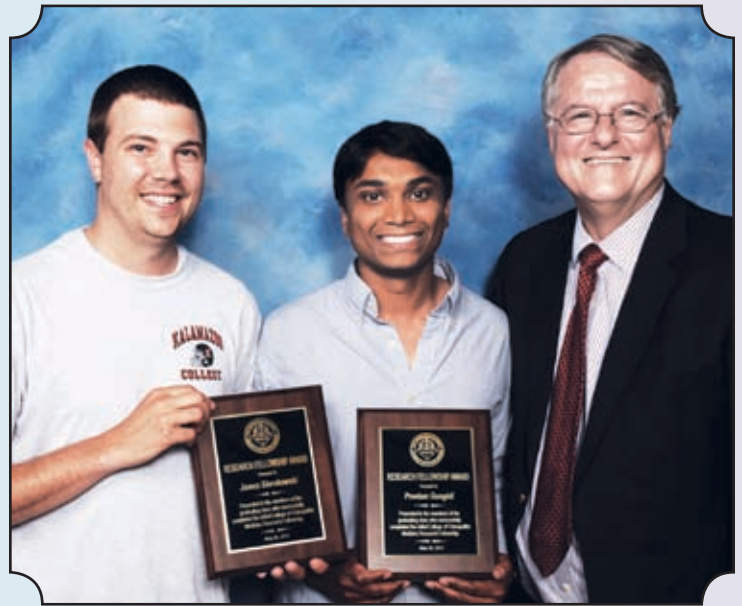
Recipient: **Lauren Barbato**  
Presenter: **Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.**



# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



**Sigma Sigma Phi** is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity whose main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. To earn membership consideration, Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Amanda Bailey, D.O., Christopher Bailey, D.O., Sagir Bera, D.O., Dilini Daswatta, D.O., Prasanna Durairaj, D.O., Tara Haston, D.O., Marlow Hernandez, D.O., Hans Hilst, D.O., Minh Ho, D.O., Erik Jacobson, D.O., Aisha Khan, D.O., Tiffany Kirner, D.O., Prachi Kothari, D.O., Natalie Lazarovits, D.O., Bryan Lee, D.O., Poonam Mathur, D.O., Samya Mohammad, D.O., Berry Pierre, D.O., Avery Thornhill, D.O., Cynthia Tsai, D.O., and Candace White, D.O.



## **Research Fellowship Award**

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

### Recipients

**Preetam Gongidi, D.O., and James Sierakowski, D.O.**

Presenter: G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H.



Membership in the **Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society** is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity (honorees are listed chronologically). *Following are the individuals who earned entry into the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society:* Amanda Bailey D.O., Christopher Bailey, D.O., Christina Bergeron, D.O., Matthew Cascio, D.O., Rayhanur Chowdhury, D.O., Christina Cirillo, D.O., Tzvi Doron, D.O., Melissa Felinski, D.O., Nadine George, D.O., Yana Gofman, D.O., Robert Hamburger, D.O., Cherise Khani, D.O., Rachel Kramer, D.O., Poonam Mathur, D.O., Justin McNamee, D.O., Samya Mohammad, D.O., Benjamin O'Connell, D.O., Adam O'Mara, D.O., Dale Robinson, D.O., Stacey Seastrom, D.O., Melody Strattan, D.O., and Jackie White, D.O.



## **Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates**

*Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2008 to May 2011.*

### Recipients

**Michelle Covilli, D.O., Anthony Esposito, D.O., Alean Frawley, D.O., Kalif Kendig, D.O., Ingrid Rachinski-Calle, D.O., M.P.H., and Katiera Rivera, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.



# Graduation 2011: Awards of Excellence



The **Commissioning Ceremony** which was established in 2005 to honor and showcase support for graduates who will be doing medical tours of duty in the armed services, is held annually to facilitate the promotion of these young officers from the rank of second lieutenant (army and air force) or ensign (navy) to the rank of captain (army/air force) or lieutenant (navy). These young men and women have attended NSU-COM via the armed services Health Professions Scholarship Program. The graduates have committed to serve in the armed forces of the United States for a minimum of eight years as part of their scholarship obligation. Most will be pursuing graduate medical education opportunities within the armed services after leaving NSU-COM. This year's ceremony was presided over by Major General Lie-Ping Chang, D.O., of the U.S. Army.

## United States

### Army

Captain Gadiel Alvarado, D.O.

Capt. Elizabeth Goorley, D.O., M.P.H.

## United States Air Force

Captain Brian Rauch, D.O.

Captain Justin Warix, D.O.

Captain Joseph Zeal, D.O.

## United States Navy

Lieutenant Tonya Bolton, D.O.

Lieutenant Lauren Dozier, D.O.

Lieutenant Ruston Hess, D.O.    Lieutenant Jorge Salgado, D.O., M.P.H.

Lieutenant Kurt Wukitsch, D.O.

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

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine biomedical informatics professional— a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.

Recipient: **Bryan Cook, M.S.B.I. (not present)**

## **Research Award – Biomedical Informatics**

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

Recipient: **Tamara Batterjee, M.S.B.I. (not present)**



The **Gold Humanism Honor Society** honors senior medical students, residents, role-model physician teachers, and other exemplars who have demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service and was organized to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and its constituent institutions. *Amanda Bailey, D.O., Daniel Bays, D.O., Sabine Delinois, D.O., Delali Blavo-Mitchell, D.O., Watson Ducatel, D.O., Prasanna Durairaj, D.O., Maria Farrell, D.O., Tara Haston, D.O., Hans Hilst, D.O., Shawn Iverson, D.O., Erik Jacobson, D.O., Bhavesh Joshi, D.O., Neil Kirschbaum, D.O., Bryan Lee, D.O., Poonam Mathur, D.O., Berry Pierre, D.O., Andrew Schmidt, D.O., Stacey Seastrom, D.O., Avery Thornhill, D.O., Robinson Trevil, D.O., Vi Song Tring, D.O., Tony Weaver, D.O., and Luly Zimmerman, D.O.*



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

Recipients: **Delali Blavo-Mitchell, D.O., M.P.H. (student)** and **Kenneth Johnson, D.O. (faculty member, not present)**

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



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



**Betty Baker, D.O.** ('88) passed away on May 1 after staging a courageous multi-year battle with uterine cancer. Dr. Baker's love for the osteopathic medical profession was exemplified in the following statement she made in an April 2004 *COM Outlook* interview: "Money is not my motivation for being a physician," she stated. "It's the satisfaction

I get from knowing I am helping someone that keeps me going. Every time I get frustrated and think about quitting, you know what happens? Some patient will come in and say, 'Dr. Baker, I don't know what I'd do without you. Please don't ever leave me.' Hearing a patient say that is my ultimate reward."

**Jon Burdzy, D.O.** ('98), who serves as an NSU-COM clinical assistant professor of family medicine, recently joined the family practice of Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida in Fort Myers.



**Lieutenant Amber N. DeChambeau, D.O.** ('07) was named the Chief of Naval Air Training Flight Surgeon of the Year in January 2011. After receiving her D.O. degree from NSU-COM, Dr. DeChambeau completed an internship at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, in 2008 before reporting to Naval Air Station Pensacola

(NASP) in Florida for aviation indoctrination. In March 2010, Dr. DeChambeau was accepted as a candidate to be the flight surgeon for the 2011-12 Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team. In addition to her most recent award, Dr. DeChambeau was named Training Air Wing Four Flight Surgeon of the Year, Chief of Naval Air Training Flight Surgeon of the Year, and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Award. She also has received the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Pistol Marksmanship Medal.

**Robert Gruber, D.O.** ('86) currently serves as director of spinal diagnostics and therapeutics at the Laser Spine Institute in Tampa Bay, Florida. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine. He also is a member of the International Spinal Injection Society, North American Spine Society, and the American Society of Interventional Pain.

**Will Kirby, D.O., FAOCD** ('00), clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, participated in a live anti-aging Web event coordinated by Neutrogena and TotalBeauty on April 20 that was featured on *TotalBeauty.com*. Dr. Kirby is a board-certified dermatologist based in Beverly Hills, California, who specializes in anti-aging and aesthetic/cosmetic dermatology as well as laser medicine. He frequently lectures at national medical conventions, has published multiple articles in medical journals,

and serves on the editorial advisory boards for *Skin & Aging* and *Healthy Aging* magazines.

**Michelle Powell, D.O.** ('99) is the owner of House of Life Family Practice in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she utilizes a holistic approach to patient care, emphasizing a person's overall wellness rather than one or two specific health concerns or illnesses.

**Peter Tomasello, Jr., D.O.** ('91), clinical assistant professor of surgery, was named chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, which is a Level I trauma center. Dr. Tomasello, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, is the first D.O. to serve as chief of orthopedic surgery at Memorial Regional.

**Peter Albert Woods, Jr., D.O.** ('95) is working as an emergency physician and chairman of emergency medicine at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.

GRADUATION 2011 PHOTOS





# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fund-raising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact **Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.**, in the Office of Alumni Affairs at **(954) 262-1029** to rectify the matter. For example, the college has received a number of donation cards with credit-card pledges where no name is listed. The Office of Alumni Affairs cannot process the credit-card donation without a name indicated, so if you have not received a letter of thanks from NSU-COM but know you have made a credit-card contribution, please contact Ms. Cawley at the aforementioned phone number.

## 2011 Donors

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

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

*Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)*

*Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)*

*Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)*

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

*Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)*

*Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)*

*Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)*

*Dr. Soling Li ('00)*

*Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)*

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

*Dr. Annette Da Silva ('96)*

*Dr. John Drabing*

*(In memory of Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.)*

*Dr. Andrew Gross ('93)*

*(in memory of Arthur and Helen Klaus)*

*Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)*

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

*Dr. Theodore Aquino ('09)*

*Dr. Tye Barber ('06)*

*Dr. Michael Baron ('88)*

*Dr. Elizabeth Biggers ('06)*

*Dr. Joel Biggers ('06)*

*Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)*

*Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)*

*Dr. Bruce David ('88)*

*Dr. Linda Delo ('86)*

*Dr. Joanna L. Greenblatt-Drowos ('04)*

*Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)*

*Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)*

*Dr. Melinda Greenfield ('94)*

*Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)*

*Dr. Joy H. Kang ('10)*

*Dr. Kern Koos ('98)*

*Dr. Mitchell and Carol Pace ('87)*

*Dr. John R. Presutti ('93)*

*Dr. David Rabaja ('94)*

*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)*

*Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)*

*Dr. Jill Ross ('07)*

*Dr. William H. Stager ('89)*

*Dr. Howard Stein ('85)*

*Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)*

*Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)*

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

*Dr. Intiaz Ather ('09)*

*Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)*

*Erica Burch ('10, M.P.H.)*

*Delia Celestine*

*Dr. David Cressy ('93)*

*Dr. Diana J. Graves ('86)*

*(in honor of Harold Laubach, Ph.D.)*

*Rodger Jackson ('05, M.P.H.)*

*Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)*

*Joseph Mcloughlin ('03, M.P.H.)*

*Dr. Damilola Olupona ('10)*

*Dr. John Tole ('03)*

## Cumulative List (1999-2011)

### Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

*Drs. Andrew J. Hanley and  
Evangelos G. Poulos*

*David Kimmel Foundation/Mr.  
and Mrs. Stephen Mason/  
Harry Wendroff, CPA  
(in memory of Dr. David Levine)*

*Dr. George Linsey*

*Mr. Howard Spector*

*Dr. Paul Winner*

*Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)*

### Heritage Circle

(Represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.)

*Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)  
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)*

*Dr. Albert Whitehead  
(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)*

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

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

*Dr. James W. Howell ('94)*

*Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni*

*Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner*

### Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

*Abbott Laboratories*

*Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)*

*Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)*

*Dr. John N. Harker ('89)*

*Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)*

*Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)*

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

*Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)*

*Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)*

*Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)*

*Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)*



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

*Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson*

*Dr. Raymon Priewe ('86)*

*Dr. Joel Rush ('85)*

*Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)*

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

*Dr. Michael Baron ('88)*

*Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)*

*Dr. Charles Chase ('89)*

*Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)*

*Dr. Robert Crook ('88)*

*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)*

*Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)*

*Florida Osteopathic Medical Association*

*FOMA District 16*

*Florida Society ACOFP*

*Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)*

*Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)*

*Dr. Andrew Gross ('93)*

*Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)*

*Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)*

*Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)*

*Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)*

*Dr. Steven L. Hazelnorn ('98)*

*Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)*

*Dr. Gregory James ('88)*

*Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)*

*Dr. William and Rita Levin*

*Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)*

*Dr. Soling Li ('00)*

*Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)*

*Dr. Mitchell and Carol Pace ('87)*

*Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)*

*Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)*

*Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)*

*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)*

*Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)*

*Dr. Michael Ross ('88)*

*Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)*

*Ms. Geraldine Terry*

*Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)*

*Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)*

*Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)*

*Dr. John Windsor ('89)*

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

*Dr. David Adler ('92)*

*Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)*

*Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)*

*Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)*

*Dr. James Beretta ('88)*

*Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)*

*Broward County Osteopathic Medical  
Association*

*Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)*

*Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)*

*Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)*

*Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)*

*Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)*

*Dr. Bruce David ('88)*

*Drs. Felix Fernandez/Ravi Mehan ('00)*

*Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)*

*Dr. Brad Glick ('89)*

*Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)*

*Dr. John Gordon ('92)*

*Dr. Thomas Green ('98)*

*Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)*

*Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)*

*Dr. James T. Howell*

*Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)*

*Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)*

*Dr. Walter J. Kay*

*Dr. Robert Klein ('91)*

*Drs. Jared and Susan Lechtenstein ('01)*

*Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)*

*Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)*

*Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin*

*Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)*

*Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)*

*Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)*

*Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)*

*Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)*

*Dr. Todd Schwartz ('88)*

*Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)*

*Ms. Mary Smith*

*Ms. Lorraine Snyder*

*Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)/Dr. Robyn  
Zelnick ('87)*

*Dr. David Spight ('99)*

*Dr. William H. Stager ('89)*

*Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)*

*Dr. Aye Unnoppet ('00)*

*Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)*

*Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)*

*Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)*

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

*Dr. Bridget Bellinger ('86)*

*Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)*

*Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)*

*Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)*

*Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo*

*Dr. Edgar Bolton*

*Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)*

*Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)*

*Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)*

*Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)*

*Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)*

*Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)*

*Dr. Annette Da Silva ('96)*

*Dr. Alan David ('92)*

*Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)*

*Dr. Linda Delo ('86)*

*Dr. John Drabing*

*Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)*

*Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)*

*Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)*

*Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)*

*Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)*

*Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)*

*Dr. Diana J. Graves ('86)*

*Dr. A. Alvin Greber*

*Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)*

*Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)*

*Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)*

*Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)*

*Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)*

*Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)*

*Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)*

*Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)*

*Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)*

*Dr. James Liang ('99)*

*Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)*

*Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer*

*Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)*

*Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)*

*NSU-COM Class of 1994*

*Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)*

*Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)*

*Dr. Anthony Ottaviani*

*Dr. Edward Packer*

*Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)*

*Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)*

*Mr. John Potomski*

*Dr. David Rabaja ('94)*

*Dr. George Ramie ('96)*

*Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)*

*Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)*

*Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)*

*Dr. Steven Sager ('90)*

*Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)*

*Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)*

*Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)*

*Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)*

*Dr. William Sjovall II ('96)*

*Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)*

*Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)*

*Ms. Louise Todaro*

*Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)*

*Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)*

*Dr. Ira Weiner*

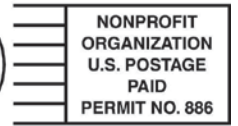
*Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)*

*Dr. Margaret Wilkinson*





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



## 2011 Calendar of Events

### **July 27-31, 2011**

#### ***FSACOFPP Annual Convention and National Family Practice Update***

Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida

### **September 16-18, 2011**

#### ***FOMA 2011 Mid-Year Seminar***

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida

### **October 30 - November 3, 2011**

#### ***AOA 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition***

Orlando, Florida

### **December 2011**

#### ***Medical Outreach Trips to Argentina, Bangladesh, Lesotho (Africa), and Peru***

For additional information, please contact Dr. Robin Jacobs at [rjacobs@nova.edu](mailto:rjacobs@nova.edu).