
COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Spring 4-1-2009

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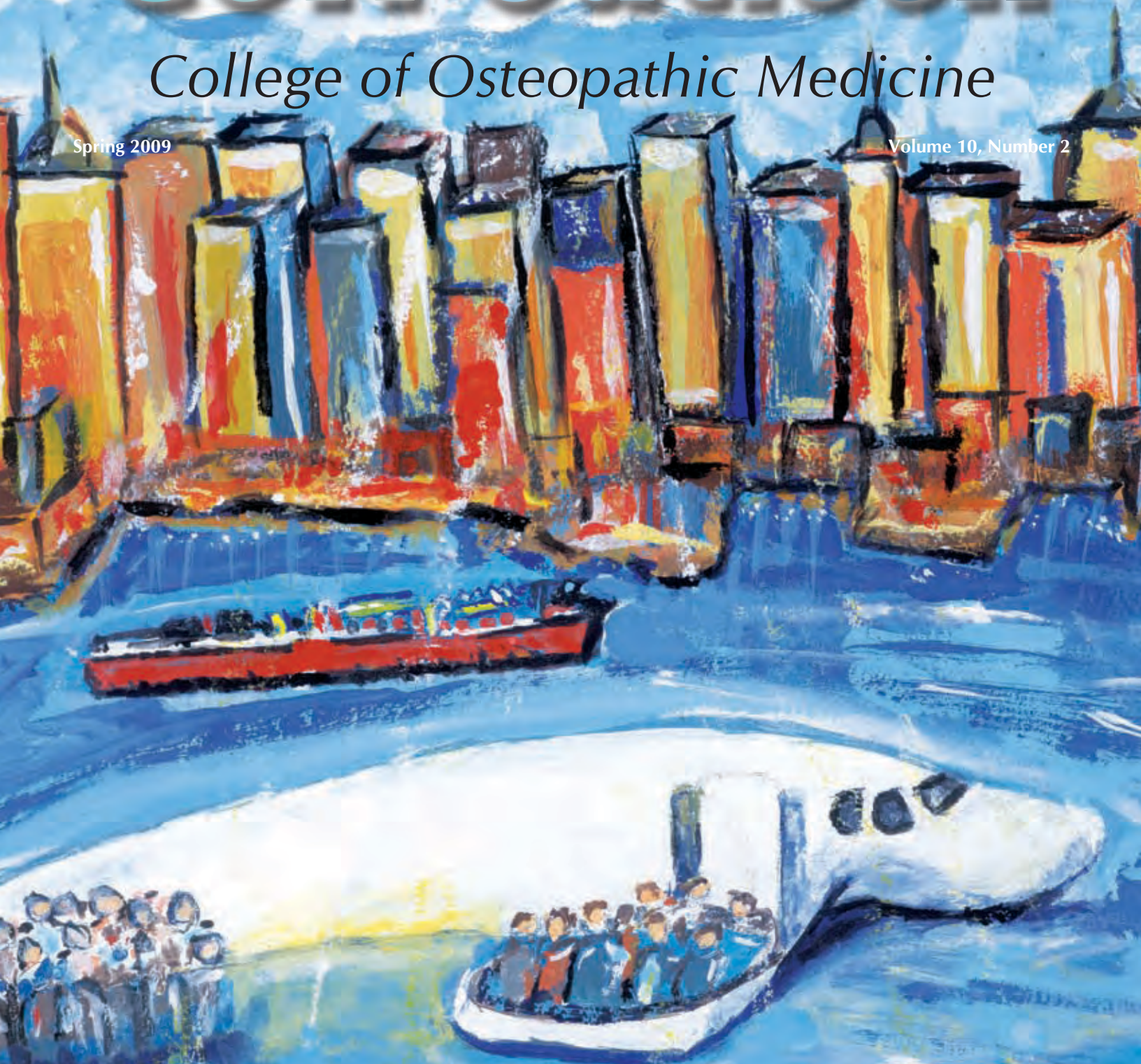
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Spring 2009

Volume 10, Number 2



MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON: Alberto Panero Shares His Compelling Story

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...Biomedical Informatics Program...Pediatric Immunization Conference...Alumni Association Honors Dr. A. Alvin Greber

Dean's Message



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

In the previous issue of *COM Outlook*, I shared what I felt were some of the more significant successes our college had achieved since I became dean in July of 1998. In this issue, I'd like to look toward the future and talk about what's looming for us on the horizon at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine and in terms of our growing reputation as a prominent medical school.

Over the past several years, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine has experienced some of the highest increases in applicants both percentage-wise and numerically of any established college of osteopathic medicine. I'm proud to report that as of 2009, we actually rank number one in both categories. The average increase of applicants to colleges of osteopathic medicine is approximately 7 percent; however, applications to NSU-COM have surged an impressive 23 percent.

In my opinion, the reasons for this applicant upsurge can be traced to a combination of factors, such as the quality of our students and faculty as well as the success of our graduates. Another contributing factor is the perpetual pursuit of excellence by the Health Professions Division and Nova Southeastern University, which has allowed us to bring together research, scholarly activity, high-quality clinical services, and—most importantly for any academic institution—the highest standard of education that can be delivered.

In an effort to provide our students with the most up-to-date educational opportunities available, we are increasing the usage of simulated patients, which involves computerized mannequins that are capable of mimicking most human functions and delivering true-to-life scenarios that swiftly change to meet instructors' goals. In fact, the college recently purchased a cutting-edge I-Stan human patient simulator to enhance the students' learning experiences and help them become more proficient in various hands-on skills before they enter the clinical arena.

We also have one of the most proficient standardized patient programs in the country. The program, which has grown in scope over the years, provides our students with the opportunity to humanize the practice of medicine through interaction with highly-trained live patients who are taught to not just mimic disease but also traits such as fear and anger when faced with the realities of debilitating illnesses. In the future, I see these educational components becoming a greater part of who we are and what we do.

In addition to the aforementioned areas, we are continuing to increase our involvement in international medicine and work toward the globalization of osteopathic medicine. We now have a clinical rotation in Argentina, which is a country that just a few years ago did not even recognize the osteopathic medical profession. We are also working with Ecuador, Portugal, and other countries that are interested in having reciprocal relationships with NSU-COM and its public health, biomedical informatics, and osteopathic medicine programs.

Our Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics program, which actually encompasses medical (clinical) informatics, public health informatics, and bioinformatics, is rapidly becoming a paradigm for the future of health care. Currently, we are one of the few schools in the country—and the only osteopathic medical school in the nation—to offer this degree program, which is international in scope. We are already present in countries such as India, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia and are receiving frequent inquiries from other parts of the globe interested in having us bring the program to them. Because these types of programs represent the wave of the future, there has already been a push by the American Medical Informatics Association to establish a fellowship in the biomedical informatics field for physicians to help them become better trained in areas such as research, electronic information, and improved patient care through the use of medical informatics.

In addition, the success of our public health program has become increasingly evident as we are now graduating more physicians with a M.P.H. degree than any other medical school in the country. These multifaceted D.O.s, who are completing their residencies and entering various fields of practice, are beginning to have a positive impact within the nation's health care workforce. As a result, our future reputation will be partly based on the impact these physicians, who possess vital public health knowledge, have upon the delivery of health care and their influence on health care policy.

All in all, the sturdy infrastructure that has been built here at NSU-COM through our students, administration, faculty, and staff that help us achieve new levels of excellence and achievement on a daily basis, are creating a future greater than any of us could ever predict. Hopefully, the changes I've discussed will result in the type of quality health care every American deserves.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Silvagni, DO". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "DO" clearly visible at the end.



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

One of the great privileges I've had in my life was the experience of being a student who was educated by quality academicians and leaders in my field. Often, you have this unusual sense as a student of both excitement and anxiety based upon taking exams and getting good grades as you pursue your professional dreams. But now there is an added element of anxiety since this is the first time in the

history of not only our students' lives but their parents' lives that such a deep and worrisome economic downturn has gripped both the nation and the world.

Based on informal discussions I've had with representatives from some of the student government associations here at the Health Professions Division, it's readily apparent that the current economic situation is on their minds. In the previous issue of *COM Outlook*, I talked about the changes in health care I felt would be taking place over the next few years. I received a great deal of feedback from the students, who wanted to know if I really think there's going to be a significant change.

However, before I discuss this issue in greater depth, I want to offer up some optimism to our student body. Nova Southeastern University, through its president, deans, administrative officers, and board of trustees, continuously analyzes the external factors that affect issues relating to financial aid. These include everything from the costs of presenting education on this campus and upgrading our technology to maintaining the library at the highest standard possible. I'm proud to say the leadership here at NSU is providing strong economic stewardship that ensures our students enjoy an exceptional educational experience.

I hope our various student groups derive a great sense of comfort from the fact that we have such strong leadership. Because we are a private university, we can react with greater designed haste than other educational institutions that are controlled by state legislatures or other governmental bodies, which is a privilege we have as a private, not-for-profit institution. The reason I'm bringing this subject up is because we are aware of and are responding to the latest questions being asked by students, such as, "Is there going to be financial aid available to the extent that I need it?"

The one thing all students who attend our medical school and other Health Professions Division colleges should recognize is that historically, whenever you have an economic downturn, recession, or depression, you always have an increased interest

in the core professional services that are being provided to the general public. Health care is one of those core services. As a result, the application numbers are increasingly higher than they have been in previous years in all our programs.

There is a sense of anxiety being transmitted by our students. Not surprisingly, because of the current economic climate, there are a number of conditional questions being asked with increased frequency by the American public about basic things such as should I go out to dinner, take a vacation, or buy a new television or computer?

My message of hope to our students is that we're all in this together. The university's leadership is very cognizant of the current pressures, and we've worked with all the lending and funding agencies to ensure that financial aid subsidy streams continue to flow. We've also had discussions with various policymakers on the state and national level regarding the ongoing needs of higher education, particularly the health professions.

Relating back to my previous message in *COM Outlook* about the future of health care in America, you already see in the \$787 billion stimulus package that was passed by Congress in February that there is a huge expenditure for the implementation of electronic medical records (EMR). This relates to issues such as reducing medical error and enhancing efficiency. Fortunately, we are way ahead of the curve at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and our other health professions schools. Not only are we instituting EMR in all our clinical services, but we have incorporated a great deal of simulation into our academic presentations.

Our emphasis on both electronic medical records and simulation has proven to be a wise move because it goes to exactly where the policymakers are taking us. And that is going to lead to a reformation of our health care delivery system, whether we go to a universal style of health care or some other method. You are already starting to see proof that there's going to be a strong emphasis on prevention and what we would call the primary care venues of the health professions, particularly in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The creation of more family physicians, internal medicine physicians, pediatricians, OB/GYNs, general surgeons, etc., is already indicated. If you look very carefully at the stimulus package, that's where the policymakers are heading. They're spending a lot of money on trying to modernize the health care system and focus on prevention.

The economic situation may look bleak in the short term, but it's important to look toward the future with the hope and belief that things will indeed improve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Lippman Ed.D." in a cursive style.



Nova Southeastern University

Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.
President/CEO

Health Professions Division

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

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.
Dean

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Nova Southeastern University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
3200 South University Drive
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications

COVER ILLUSTRATION
Brandee Evans
HPD Graphic Designer

Please direct all editorial inquiries to
Scott Colton
(954) 262-5147 (phone)
(954) 262-3887 (fax)
scottc@nova.edu

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COM Outlook Editorial Board
Pablo Calzada, D.O.
Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.
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11 Read-On Program Proves Rewarding for Participants

The community-based Read-On program is a collaborative effort between Sigma Sigma Phi and the Pediatrics Club that involves NSU-COM students visiting local elementary schools to encourage children to read while also helping to alleviate their fears of going to a doctor's office.



16 Biomedical Informatics Program: Cutting-Edge Education

Remaining at the forefront of educational innovation is something NSU-COM has become quite adept at over the years. In addition to housing renowned programs in osteopathic medicine and public health, the college added a third program to its academic mix in 2006—the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics.



19 Debbie and Donna Chase Share Tight-Knit Bond

The family atmosphere that exists throughout the Nova Southeastern University campus is more than just a celebrated philosophy; it's also a truism in the case of the mother and daughter duo of Debbie and Donna Chase, who have been happily employed at NSU-COM for a combined 13 years.



20 Miracle on the Hudson: The Alberto Panero Story

When U.S. Airways Flight 1549 took off from LaGuardia Airport in New York on a cold but clear afternoon on January 15, 2009, fourth-year student Alberto Panero, who was cozily nestled in seat 16F, had nothing more pressing on his mind than taking a much-needed nap. Then a flock of geese intervened.



26 PONG Sheds Light on Pediatric Vaccination Concerns

In January, the College of Osteopathic Medicine hosted a national conference on immunization titled Protecting Our Next Generation (PONG), Ages 0-3 that featured nationally recognized authorities who discussed health issues impacting our most vulnerable population—young children.



35 Dr. A. Alvin Greber Receives Living Tribute Award

Dr. A. Alvin Greber, who has worked at NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division since 1989, received the Alumni Association's Living Tribute Award, which honors outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the osteopathic profession.

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Notice of Accreditation/Nondiscrimination

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



On January 8, Larry Wickless, D.O., president elect of the American Osteopathic Association, visited NSU-COM to meet with the students and discuss issues of importance relating to the osteopathic medical profession. Pictured (from left) are Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, Dr. Larry Wickless, and Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean for alumni affairs.

Osteopathic Medical School Applications Reach Record High

The number of applicants to AACOMAS, the application service for 24 of the nation's 25 osteopathic medical schools, neared 12,450 as of February 6, reflecting an increase of 6.9 percent over the prior year and setting a record for the third consecutive year. Additional applicants to the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center College of Osteopathic Medicine apply through the Texas Medical and Dental Application Service and are not included in this total. These 12,448 applicants have submitted a total of 92,069 individual college applications to fill 4,613 first-year seats at the 24 colleges and three branch campuses.



In January, OMS-IV Tiffany Sizemore visited Banyan Creek Elementary in Delray Beach, Florida, to conduct an informative "show and tell" about physicians for a kindergarten class. During her visit, Sizemore discussed topics such as what physicians do, showed them some of the tools of the trade (e.g., stethoscope, otoscope), and helped ease their minds about their fears of going to a doctor's office. "They were very gifted children who had a ton of questions ranging from "What are CAT scans" to "What is the difference between a bacteria and a virus?" she said. "I was impressed by how inquisitive and smart they were."

Viewpoints Shared at Osteopathic Degree Designation Forum



On February 5, NSU-COM hosted a lunchtime forum about AOA Resolution #306, which reaffirmed the osteopathic degree designation as D.O. Over 175 students and faculty members attended the event, which featured three speakers who presented their various viewpoints and answered questions. Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni argued that the osteopathic degree designation should be updated to O.M.D. in order to accurately represent osteopathic physicians' total scope of practice as fully licensed doctors and surgeons. Dr. Howard Neer, who is a past AOA president, cautioned that a change may prove costly, as it may require a reeducation of the public and a change of state/federal laws. However, Dr. David Thomas pointed out that only administrative changes will be necessary to change the degree designation, and that this is simply a lobbying issue within the profession.

COMmunications

- **Beau Braden, D.O.**, who serves as the chief intern in Palmetto General Hospital's Internal Medicine Residency Program, coauthored an article entitled "In-Process Modification Yields Improved Teaching Outcomes for International Emergency Medicine" that was published in the November 2008 issue of the *International Journal of Emergency Medicine*.
- The **Department of Sports Medicine** rendered sideline care to the U.S. Soccer Federation during the first week of February in Sunrise, Florida, when the under-17 women's team and the under-15 girls' national teams competed against Germany.
- Second-year students **Hilary Gerber** and **Heather Ruff** were selected to participate in the college's 2009-10 Predoctoral Research Fellowship Program. During their fellowship year, which will commence on July 1, Gerber and Ruff will have the opportunity to develop an individualized training program, engage in all aspects of the research process, and collaborate with others involved in the research field.
- OMS-II **Matthew Farbman** was awarded the FOMA Seltzer Legislative and Healthcare Policy Award during the 106th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention held February 21-24 at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale.



In February, OMS-I Elvis George was killed in a car accident while on the way to meet his parents for dinner. In his moving eulogy, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni discussed the profound impact George had on the college in the relatively short time he was part of the class of 2012. "While his time was short, his impact was enormous and serves as an example for many other young people and more importantly, to future physicians," he said. "Elvis had the personal qualities, the dedication, and the scholastic ability we look for at the College of Osteopathic Medicine."



David Rush, who served as a longtime member of the Health Professions Division Board of Governors and the NSU Board of Trustees, passed away in February at the age of 87. Rush was a respected businessman who served as president and CEO of A.B.J. Incorporated and Rush Holdings, Inc. Throughout his career, he received several gubernatorial appointments such as serving as chairman of the Florida High Technology and Industry Council, chairman of the Florida High Speed Rail Transportation Commission, and as a member of the Southern Technology Council.

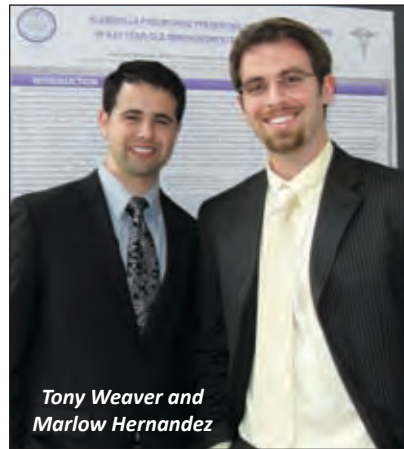


OMS-I Nitin Wadwha (left) presented his coauthored research poster entitled "The Five Most Common Misdiagnoses: A Review of Autopsy Findings and Malpractice Data" at the American College of Preventive Medicine's annual meeting, which took place February 11-14 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza in Los Angeles, California. The poster's coauthors were OMS-II Chad McDonald, OMS-II Marlow Hernandez, OMS-II Yana Gofman, OMS-II Shawna Suchencki, and Wayne Schreier, Ph.D.

The American Osteopathic Association 19th Annual Leadership Conference on Osteopathic Medical Education, which was held January 8-10 at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, attracted over 160 medical educators from the nation's 25 osteopathic medical schools, who convened to discuss current topics impacting osteopathic medicine. Subjects discussed included CMS funding issues, evaluating core competencies, osteopathic distinctiveness, dually accredited residency programs, ERAS, and changes in the national licensure examinations. Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni served as co-chair of the event, which was attended by many NSU-COM faculty members.



The AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which encompasses the Glades REACH Fair in Belle Glade and the Hendry/Glades Community Health Fair in Clewiston, took place during the weekend of February 14-15, 2009. This year marked the Eighth Annual Glades REACH Fair and the Sixth Annual Hendry/Glades Community Health Fair, which serve as interdisciplinary HPD humanitarian medical missions comprising students and faculty from audiology, dental medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, medical sciences, physical therapy, public health, and the physician assistant programs from Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, and Orlando. A comprehensive overview of this year's AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health will appear in the summer 2009 issue of *COM Outlook*.



Second-year students Tony Weaver and Marlow Hernandez presented a case report entitled "Klebsiella Pneumonia Presenting with Candida Balantis in 23-Year-Old Immunocompetent Male" in February at the 35th Annual Eastern-Atlantic Student Research Forum (ESRF) held at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The

ESRF is an annual four-day international symposium that selects medical, graduate, M.D./Ph.D. students, and resident physicians from throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Central/South America to present original basic science and clinical research in multiple biomedical fields. The goals of the ESRF extend beyond formal presentations and include the informal exchange of scientific ideas among students and faculty preceptors, the encouragement of student-initiated research, and the professional development of future leaders in biomedical research.

Behavioral Health Promotion Program News

The Behavioral Health Promotion Program (BHPP) has been involved in a range of research activities during the first few months of 2009. Following is a summary of its activities:

- BHPP team members collaborated on an article entitled “Drug Use and Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men in South Florida: Implications for Intervention Development” that has been accepted for publication in *AIDS and Behavior*.

- M. Isa Fernandez, Ph.D., BHPP director and professor of public health/preventive medicine, is currently serving on the planning committee for the Centers for Disease Control-sponsored National HIV Prevention Conference. She also chaired a CDC special emphasis committee that was responsible for reviewing grant applications for HIV prevention research and served on the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) External Peer Review of DHAP Surveillance, Research, and HIV Prevention Programs. Dr. Fernandez also serves on the External Program Review Panel for the research program of the University of California, San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

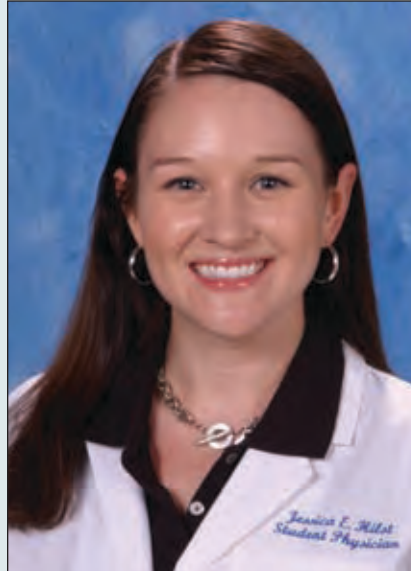
- Robin Jacobs, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health/preventive medicine, served as a reviewer for the Health Resources and Services Administration Special Projects of National Significance grant applications. She also authored or coauthored three articles that appeared in peer-reviewed journals: “Self Silencing and Age as Risk Factors for Sexually Acquired HIV/AIDS in Midlife and Older Women” in the *Journal of Aging and Health*; “Theory-Based Policy Development for HIV Prevention in Racial/Ethnic Minority Midlife and Older Women” in the *Journal of Women and Aging*; and “Theory-Based Community Practice for HIV Prevention in Midlife and Older Women” in the *Journal of Community Practice*. In addition, Dr. Jacobs had two coauthored papers accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals: “HIV-Related Stigma in Midlife and Older Women” in the *Journal of Health and Social Work* and “Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence, Age, and Self-Enhancement Bias” in the *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*.

- BHPP team members submitted a grant application to the National Institutes of Health entitled “Mastering Midlife in Gay Culture: Navigating Sex, Drugs, and HIV Risk.” In this mixed-method study, the BHPP team proposes to examine individual, developmental, and sociocultural factors associated with HIV risk and protection among men in midlife who have sex with men and develop a theory-based and developmentally appropriate intervention to reduce risk of HIV risk acquisition in this understudied yet at-risk group.

- Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., assistant director and professor of public health/preventive medicine, participated in the Miami-Dade County Health Department HIV Prevention and Care Program Community Forum focused on promoting HIV testing and access to expert medical care.

Hilst Named Student D.O. of the Year

By OMS-II Lindsay LaCorte, SGA Vice President



In March, OMS-III Jessica Hilst was selected from an extraordinary group of applicants to receive the NSU-COM Student D.O. of the Year award. Hilst is an exceptional student leader who has served her classmates with distinction through her positions as a class representative, SGA executive vice president, and in her current role as SGA president.

Hilst, who is charismatic and approachable, has been a personal advocate for her constituents through her role as a delegate to organizations such as the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, and the AOA House of Delegates. Her dedication to furthering our profession through political advocacy is apparent through her participation in D.O. Day on the Hill and the creation of the SGA Student Advocacy Series. These programs empower students to speak out on issues that affect our education as well as our future careers as physicians.

Hilst also demonstrates her commitment to providing service to the community through her involvement in Sigma Sigma Phi events such as Soupinator and Doctor’s Bag as well as volunteering at local health fairs, participating in the Ecuador medical outreach mission, and much more. Her dedication to health and wellbeing shows through her promotion of the NSU Fit for Life campaign as well as her personal accomplishments in training for and completing a number of 5K and half-marathon events.

She truly cares about the concerns and needs of her colleagues and works to create change that will leave a legacy that benefits future students for years to come. Her enthusiasm for student leadership is a hard-to-control contagion—infecting all those around with energy and encouragement. Likewise, Hilst inspires other student leaders by example, actively participating in NSU-COM programming. On a personal note, Jessica has been invaluable to me as a mentor and a friend. I believe her enthusiasm and dedication to the osteopathic profession will help her in her future career to become an outstanding physician and asset to the osteopathic community.

Cantville, Tring Receive FOMA Student Awards, Scholarships

During the 106th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention, held February 21-24 in Fort Lauderdale, OMS-II Ryan Cantville was presented with a FOMA Student District Society Award for possessing leadership skills, supporting FOMA student district society initiatives, and showcasing significant interest in the osteopathic profession and osteopathic manipulative medicine. In addition to receiving a commemorative plaque, Cantville earned a \$500 cash award. OMS-II Vi Song Tring also emerged triumphant, receiving recognition from the Advocates of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (AFOMA), which presented him with a \$250 AFOMA Believes in You Scholarship Award that is partly based on a student's interest in osteopathic medicine, activities in the profession, and leadership abilities.



Pictured (from left) are Linda Delo, FOMA awards chair and 1986 NSU-COM alumnae, Ryan Cantville, and Anna Hayden, D.O., FOMA president.



Vi Song Tring receives his AFOMA Believes in You Scholarship Award from Anna Hayden, D.O., and Edy Rudnick Pineless, AFOMA president.

Newberry, Weeks Earn \$5,000 Osteopathic Foundation Scholarships

Third-year students Mark Newberry and Woodwin Weeks, both of whom completed a core rotation at Florida Hospital East Orlando, each received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Osteopathic Foundation of East Orlando for demonstrating excellence in leadership and academics. The scholarship is awarded to third-year core medical students from NSU-COM and LECOM-Bradenton based on criteria such as exemplary grade-point average, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and curriculum vitae.



Pictured (from left) are Anna Hayden, D.O., Alicia Bamberg, (LECOM-Bradenton recipient), Woodwin Weeks, and Ronald Burns, D.O.

SOSA and SQDA Coordinate Panel Discussion on Topical Issues



The Student Osteopathic Surgical Association, in conjunction with the Student Osteopathic Orthopedic Association, recently coordinated a panel discussion featuring surgical residents and fourth-year NSU-COM students, who were on hand to share information with the first- and second-year students about various surgical specialties and other topics. The event served as a unique opportunity for first- and second-year students to speak frankly with the panelists about the rigorous process of rotations, matching, and residencies as well as life as a physician.

Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni attended a fundraising event at the home of Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., executive director of education, planning, and research, for the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which was severely damaged during the 2008 Iowa floods. Dr. Rokusek, who serves as honorary Slovak consul, assisted in the recovery and cleanup efforts last year. A special guest at the fundraising event was Slovak ambassador to the United States, Peter Burian.



During the event, Ambassador Burian met with Dr. Silvagni to discuss a possible affiliation between NSU-COM and Slovak medical universities.

Anjali Bhasin, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, and Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, along with first-year student Kaylesh Pandya, participated in a health fair coordinated by the South Florida Hindu Temple in Davie, Florida. The trio, which saw about 150 patients, provided blood pressure and diabetes screenings, shared medical advice, and dispensed information regarding NSU and its various health clinics.



Pictured in their white coats at the South Florida Hindu Temple health fair are Dr. Pandya, Dr. Bhasin, and OMS-I Kaylesh Pandya.

OMS-I Nonna Kozlenko, who is pursuing a dual M.P.H. degree, gave a presentation on “Techniques for a Better Memory” at the Classic Residence by Hyatt in Plantation retirement community as part of the health and wellness lecture series coordinated by NSU’s Lifelong Learning Institute. She also gave a presentation for the Broward Homebound Program about the results of a survey conducted by the Lifelong Learning Institute regarding caregiver issues in the local community.



Nonna Kozlenko shares information with some seniors at the Classic Residence by Hyatt retirement community.

SNMA Celebrates Black History Month in Style

By OMS-II Berry Pierre, SNMA President, and OMS-II Candace White

In February, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) worked diligently to make this year’s Black History Month one to remember by collaborating with other minority health organizations in the Health Professions Division. The goal was to enlighten, uplift, and celebrate the lives of those who dedicated their services to creating equal rights for minorities. This year’s theme was *Renewing the Promise*, which bridged the struggles and strength of great leaders from the past with the vision and dreams of today’s minority health professionals and leaders. The month-long series of events began with the annual black history trivia game that encompassed brain teasers ranging from identifying the title of the Negro National Anthem to naming the first African American female to win the Academy Award for best actress.

Later in the month, the SNMA hosted a minority health symposium, which concentrated on various aspects of minority health issues such as the underrepresentation of minorities in

the health professions, ways to increase the numbers, and the successful matriculation of minorities through health professional schools.

To show appreciation for NSU’s diverse student population, the SNMA also coordinated an ethnocultural fashion show to pay tribute to Indian and African cultures, with each model wearing authentic clothing. Garments from India included saris, salwar-kameez, and lehngas, while clothing representing Ghana included kabba and slit.

The month of events began to wind down with the SNMA’s Fourth Annual Black History Month Banquet held in the Chancellor’s Dining Room. The keynote speakers were Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts and Dr. Cyril Blavo, who eloquently reflected on the *Renewing the Promise* theme. The evening was also one for accolades, with the SNMA presenting its inaugural awards for community service (Dr. Weiner Leblanc), faculty member of the year (Dr. Lori Dribin), and staff person of the year (Leslie Jones).

The banquet concluded with the

honoring of the Multicultural Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS), which is the undergraduate organization formed by the SNMA last year along with its advisor, Dr. Deanne Roopnarine. On a befitting note related to the *Renewing the Promise* theme, the SNMA cosponsored an optometry clinic for its MAPS students along with the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA). During the clinic, the students learned to perform basic eye exams and gained historical knowledge about the optometry field. With all the hard work the SNMA team put into planning the various events, the executive board members had to agree that this year’s Black History Month was indeed one to remember.



SNMA Ethnocultural Fashion Show participants

Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship Helps Maitri Kalia Hone Her Investigative Skills

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications



Maitri Kalia

For medical students looking to expand their knowledge base, a wealth of opportunities abound—even in this increasingly grim economic environment. The Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship is just one of the myriad programs providing students such as OMS-III Maitri Kalia with invaluable opportunities to take a year off from their medical school studies following their second year to participate in life-enhancing one-year fellowships.

Kalia, who is in the midst of completing the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship Program at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, is gaining top-notch exposure to clinical research protocols while also receiving lucrative perks that include a \$27,000 stipend, health insurance, and supplementary research and training funds. “I am studying the mechanisms of atherosclerosis, which is a general term for the thickening and hardening of arteries,” said Kalia, who began the fellowship last July. “During my training, I am specifically trying to better understand the particular aspects of the blood vessel that are dysfunctional in people with atherosclerosis and in people who have risk factors for the disease process.

“It’s been a terrific experience because I am able to work closely with

my mentor on studies that allow me to experience the various phases of the development and implementation of a clinical research project, such as recruiting and screening patients, conducting studies, analyzing data, and preparing literature for publication,” she added. “The research I’m doing is so interesting, and from the first time I heard about it I was so impressed and intrigued by it. So to actually be able to start the studies and learn how to conduct them myself has been quite exhilarating. Also, because of the small size of my program at the University of Iowa, which only includes 10 students, I’ve been able to develop strong camaraderie with the other medical students from all across the country. It has been great to interact with and really learn from other medical students that are similarly interested in clinical research.”

Although she hasn’t completely determined which field she will pursue once she graduates from NSU-COM, she says she is thoroughly enjoying the hands-on aspect of her clinical research fellowship. “Each student that participates in the Doris Duke program is involved in some component of clinically based research,” explained Kalia, who earned a master’s degree in biology before attending NSU-COM. “It has been a bit of a transition from my NSU-COM training because as opposed to having a largely didactic curriculum, as we do in the first two years of medical school, my research has involved independently studying current medical literature to better understand cardiovascular diseases and where we are in our knowledge of these disease mechanisms. In the Doris Duke program, we also take at least one didactic course that focuses on issues pertinent to our research fields.”

Because she is so impressed with her fellowship experience, Kalia is on a mission to spread the word to other osteopathic medical students about the benefits of participating in

programs such as these. “After reading this article, I hope other osteopathic students will be encouraged to apply to these types of programs,” she said. “I recently gave a presentation to a few students at NSU-COM about yearlong fellowship programs. In preparing for this presentation, I was surprised to learn that few D.O. students had previously participated in yearlong research programs. Although I was initially inclined to believe that only a few D.O. students were getting accepted, I instead learned that these low numbers might actually reflect the fact that so few D.O. students are applying to these types of programs, which I think is quite unfortunate. I would strongly encourage other osteopathic medical students to partake in these enrichment opportunities; I have learned so much during my time here.”

As she approaches her final months in the fellowship, Kalia is excited by the prospects that lay ahead and appreciative of what the program has provided her. “Because this program is specifically geared toward encouraging medical students to pursue academic medicine as physician scientists, the faculty and staff members are extremely knowledgeable and helpful in guiding you on how to successfully pursue the research career path,” she stated. “It’s been wonderful having the support of such dedicated people who are helping me mature personally, academically, and professionally.”



Maitri Kalia and members of her Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship class sharing a good time at a dinner function.

Read-On Program Proves Rewarding for Elementary School, NSU-COM Students

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications



The college's Sigma Sigma Phi student chapter is an osteopathic honor and service organization dedicated to helping the community through a variety of student-initiated projects such as Read-On, which involves NSU-COM students visiting local elementary schools to encourage children to read and alleviate their fears of going to a doctor's office.

Read-On, which is a collaborative effort between Sigma Sigma Phi and the Pediatrics Club, has proven to be an extremely popular program for all involved according to OMS-II Prachi Kothari, who serves as vice president of the Pediatrics Club and co-chair of the Read-On program. "The teachers love it, as do the kids. The NSU-COM students love it as well because it's relaxing and they're interacting with children who are eager to hear what they have to say," she explained. "Most of our students who volunteer for the Read-On program have some interest in pediatrics, so it's a great chance for them to interact with and learn how to speak to children, which is something we don't get to experience in the college classroom or when we're shadowing physicians."

Recently, Read-On volunteers visited Silver Ridge Elementary and Nova Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary, both in Davie, Florida, to read to various

first- and second-grade classes from books such as the *Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor*, *Gregory*, *the Terrible Eater*, *The Busy Body Book*, *ABC Doctor*, *The Boo Boo Book*, and *My Amazing Body*. In addition, NSU-COM students share information about water safety and drowning prevention that is provided by NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy.

"There are usually over a dozen NSU-COM students who participate each time, and we go in as a group of two students per classroom. What we're trying to do is encourage children to read and get them familiar with going to a doctor's office so they're not so scared when they have to go," she said. "We help get them familiar with the idea of who the doctor is and how the doctor can actually help them. In terms of fitness, because there's such a push to alleviate childhood obesity, we added a number of books in the past year about exercising and being physically fit because we really want to get the message across to them early.

"We let them tell stories about their experiences of going to the doctor's office and what they want to be when they grow up," she added. "They love sharing their stories. That's actually the best part to me because I enjoy seeing them get so excited to share and hearing them say things like, 'Oh, when I was in the doctor's office this is what happened to me.'"

OMS-II Sagir Bera, who serves as treasurer of Sigma Sigma Phi and treasurer of the Pediatrics Club, feels the Read-On program is an invaluable teaching tool because, "It provides the schoolchildren with an opportunity to see us in our scrubs and wearing our white coats," he explained. "Many children have a fear of doctors, so when they see us in a casual environment and we're playing with them and reading to them, it makes them feel a lot more comfortable. The kids are paying such close attention to everything we say, and they all want to ask questions. No matter

how bad of a day you're having, when you step into the classroom and see a sea of smiling faces, you feel great."

Of course, when you're dealing with children, the general rule is to expect the unexpected, which proved to be an apt dictum when Bera was visiting a local elementary school with his classmates one day. "We had two students in their scrubs who were reading to a group of children, and I was walking in and out of the different classrooms to make sure everything was going okay," he recalled. "I walked into one class and started talking to the teacher, who was standing off to the side of the room, to see how things were going. All of a sudden the teacher stopped talking and looked at one of the girls sitting in the back of the class who was starting to cry. The teacher went over to see what was wrong, and the girl told her she thought I was a doctor who had come to take her away and give her a shot."

As the teacher attempted to calm the frightened girl down, Bera calmly told the student, "Don't worry, I'm just here to read."



Looking Back...at Our Bookstores



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

As I look back to 1980, I am pretty sure that Mort Terry and I did not have bookstore high on our priority list. You know—classrooms, curriculum, buildings, faculty—these were the important things. But at some point we realized the nearest outlet for medical books was way down at the University of Miami. We knew we would have to do something for our incoming students;

after all, they did have to get books.

So what do good, intelligent, masculine—and confused—husbands do when they have a problem; they turn to their wives and say, “Go to it.” Essentially, that’s how the SECOM bookstore was born. Geraldine (Jerry) Terry and Anita Melnick, strong supporters of the new medical school and always willing to pitch in to help it along, became its prime operators.

We assigned them a small room in what would become the Dr. John S. Hull Administration Building (the former nursing home building facing 164th Street). Then, these two great ladies, without much business experience and no knowledge of a book operation, went to work.

Where to buy medical books? They soon found out. How much markup covers your expenses? They learned this, too. How many copies to order (not every student buys every book required)? This, also, they figured out. How to find which books each instructor required for a course? This answer also presented itself. Along the way, they found a major wholesaler/distributor that was willing to help in supplying the information they needed. Soon, they were in full operation—small and one-on-one, but functioning. Their concentration was on books—the essential product—but they gradually added some of the tangential items usually found in college bookstores.

The bookstore grew as the school did, with rapid expansion and more and more details to figure out. Eventually, we enlarged their quarters as they needed it to meet increased demand.

Interestingly, while doing all their shared work, Jerry and Anita became real friends with many of the students, even at times becoming confidantes and advisors, not only about books but with their personal lives.

Then SECOM purchased the former Southeastern Hospital buildings, and it meant a big move. In the lobby of that building, just inside the entrance (and to the right), was a large unoccupied lobby space. Everyone agreed it was ideal for the bookstore in terms of location, size, and convenience. As a result, we erected a glass wall with



entrance and exits doors making an enclosed bookstore facing the lobby. The newest bookstore went into business. And Jerry and Anita increased their work hours.

Some time later, Melba Yandel, mother of then-student Steven, who graduated in 1989, came in to volunteer with the ever-increasing and time-consuming task. She was not only dependable and capable, she proved indispensable and, in short order, she was offered a full-time job in the bookstore, eventually managing it, with additional help, while Jerry and Anita semiretired from their “voluntary” occupation.

When the merger with Nova University occurred in 1994, and then the campus was moved to Davie in 1996, the decision was made to integrate the preexisting bookstore into the NSU bookstore on the NSU campus. NSU administration devoted a large area to medical books and supplies and created for it a separate sales and checkout counter with its own display cases. The NSU bookstore manager arranged for Melba to take over the medical component of that operation, and she remained involved for several years until she relocated to join her son on the West Coast of Florida.

Born out of need, operated with vigorous amateur help, and then gone but not forgotten, the bookstore was an essential part of expanding and growing up—and a part worth remembering.

Thank you, Jerry and Anita.



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

Barbara Arcos, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, has been named interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Arcos replaces Ralph Wood, D.O., who relocated to West Virginia in March.

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, participated in NSU's Black History Month commemoration by presenting a seminar on "Kente Cloth." The presentation was hosted by the Black Occupational Therapy Caucus at NSU on February 7 and held in the Hull Auditorium of the Terry Building. Dr. Blavo, who was born in Ghana, discussed the origins of Kente Cloth as well as the traditions and cultures associated with the fabric.

Sally Bragg, M.S.N., James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., and Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., who are all affiliated with the college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP), coauthored an article that appeared in the March 2009 issue of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*. The article, which summarized the center's genesis and progress, was entitled "Interdisciplinary Approach to All-Hazards Preparedness: Are You Ready? How Do We Know?"

Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., FAAFP, associate professor of family medicine and public health and assistant dean of clinical operations, and **Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H.**, associate professor of family medicine and public health, had their article entitled "The Obesity Epidemic: Are Minority Individuals Equally Affected?" accepted for publication in *Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice*. Dr. Calzada also coauthored the article "Management of Obesity: A Challenge for the Family Physician" in the October 2008 issue of *Osteopathic Family Physician News* and was appointed as treasurer of the Florida Society of the ACOFP.

Robert Contrucci, D.O., clinical associate professor of surgery, has taken on a new teaching duty by serving as a faculty member and contributing author to *Lifeclassroom.com*, which is a new educational Web site. Over the past several months, he also participated in two national teleseminars on "Hearing Loss and Hearing Related Disorders" and "Snoring and Obstructive Sleep Apnea."

Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., FAAFP, FACOPF, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME, discussed the topic "Osteopathic Distinctiveness from the Medical School Perspective" in January during the AOA/AACOM 19th Annual Leadership Conference on Osteopathic Medical Education held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



Dr. Arcos



Dr. Blavo



Ms. Bragg



Dr. Calzada



Dr. De Gaetano



Dr. Echols



Dr. Hamstra



Dr. Morris

Morton Diamond, M.D., professor of public health and medical director of the Physician Assistant Program at NSU's College of Allied Health and Nursing, published a textbook titled *Davis's PA Exam Review: Focused Review for the PANCE and PANRE*.

Marti Echols, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and assistant dean of medical education, recently presented a lecture on "Using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to Improve Study Skills in the Health Professions" to faculty members from NSU's College of Allied Health and Nursing. She also presented a workshop on "Using Concept Mapping to Improve Understanding of Medical Science Knowledge" at the American Association of Medical Colleges' Southern Group on Educational Affairs Regional Conference, which was held in early April in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, was given the added responsibility of handling the college's professional development agenda. In this role, Dr. Hamstra will work closely with NSU-COM department chairs, faculty, and alumni in creating professional development programs that promote the continued advancement of academic, administrative, and leadership knowledge and skills.

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the NSU Women's Health Center, was a quoted expert in a recent *WebMD* article entitled "Do's and Don'ts of Traveling While Pregnant." He also was quoted in an article entitled "Third Trimester Worries" that appeared on the *iparenting* Web site.

Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean for education, planning, and research, has been approved as a Fulbright Specialist candidate by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, FACOS, who served as executive dean for professional affairs of the Health Professions Division before passing away in May 2008, and his wife, Marie, were honored by the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association (BCOMA) in December 2008 for their numerous contributions to the osteopathic profession both locally and nationally. In January, Dr. Morris was posthumously honored by the American Osteopathic Association's Council on Continuing Medical Education "for his unwavering dedication to the osteopathic profession" at the 19th Annual Osteopathic Medical Education (OME) Leadership Conference and CME Sponsors Conference held in

Faculty Focus

Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Morris, who served as the longtime chair of the AOA Council on Continuing Medical Education, received a crystal memorial, which was presented to his widow, Marie. In addition to the aforementioned accolades, Dr. Morris was named to the AOA Mentor Hall of Fame last October.

Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor and associate dean for alumni affairs, received the Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians during its annual convention held in Washington, D.C., March 4-8. Dr. Neer was recognized for his outstanding dedication and longtime support of the osteopathic family medicine profession.

Anthony Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H., FACOI, FCCP, regional dean of NSU-COM's West Coast Academic Center at Largo Medical Center, received the FOMA Lifetime Achievement Award at the 106th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention held February 21-24 in Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Ottaviani, who is a past president of the FOMA, the American College of Osteopathic Internists, and the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society, received the award for his lifetime dedication and outstanding leadership as an educator and mentor as well as for his commitment to provide quality health care to the citizens of Florida, the osteopathic profession, and the FOMA.

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, participated in the American Thyroid Association National Thyroid Cancer Workshop entitled *Frontiers in Thyroid Cancer: ATA Guidelines in Clinical Practice* held in January in Miami, Florida. In February, she presented a lecture on "Management of Stroke and Post-Polio Patients" at the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, and also presented a talk on "Diabetes: The Nuts and Bolts" during NSU's Homecoming CME event. She also was quoted in an article about osteoporosis in long-term care in the publication *Caring for the Ages* and presented lectures on "Stroke Prevention in Octogenarians" and the "Use of Amiodarone for Atrial Fibrillation in the Elderly" at the American Medical Directors Association Annual Symposium held March 5-8 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

John Pellosie, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM, assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health, was appointed as vice chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine.

Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., associate professor of behavioral medicine, has accepted a three-year editorship of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Invitational Theory and*



Dr. Neer



Dr. Ottaviani



Dr. Pandya



Dr. Pellosie



Dr. Shaw



Dr. Silvagni



Dr. Thomas



Dr. Wallace

Practice, which deals with topics related to educational psychology. In this role, he will be responsible for handling matters such as selecting associate editors, appointing editorial board members, reviewing manuscripts, corresponding with authors about review decisions, and editing accepted manuscripts.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP *dist.*, NSU-COM dean, had his book review of Dr. Bob Levoy's *222 Secrets of Hiring, Managing, and Retaining Great Employees in Healthcare Practices* published in the February issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

David Thomas, M.D., J.D., professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, received the Hope Is a Vaccine Award from the Global Alliance to Immunize Against AIDS for his pioneering work in the fight against AIDS in U.S. prisons.

Khin Tu, M.D., associate professor of anatomy in the College of Medical Sciences, was named to the NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness Advisory Council. He also was promoted to the rank of clinical associate professor in the College of Dental Medicine's Department of Oral Surgery and NSU-COM's Master of Public Health Program.

Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc., professor and associate dean for academic administration, recently received her master of science degree in criminal justice with a specialization in behavioral sciences from NSU. She also has been appointed to a four-year term as chair of the Examination Review Committee (ERC) for the COMLEX Level 3 exam. In April, Dr. Wallace received the 2009 Cultural and Humanitarian Award from The Opera Society, which is an affiliate of the Florida Grand Opera. The accolade is bestowed upon individuals who have made significant and substantial contributions to the community in areas such as the arts, business, health, and education.

Attention: Clinical Faculty

Are you receiving email announcements from the College of Osteopathic Medicine? If not, you may be missing out on wonderful opportunities to participate in free college/university programs, seminars, and events and receive information on a variety of complimentary perks such as access to our electronic library, NSU Perkline, etc. If you would like to receive periodic emails, please submit your email address to Debbi Steinkohl, chair of the Clinical Faculty Development Subcommittee, at steinkol@nova.edu. We value your contributions to our students' education.

Community Physicians Assist with Applicant Interviews

The College of Osteopathic Medicine would like to express its sincere thanks to the community physicians listed below who took time out of their busy schedules to interview this year's prospective students. "Thank you for graciously volunteering your time to help us select the best possible candidates for the upcoming osteopathic class," said Ellen Rondino, NSU-COM admissions counselor. "It is very evident that you have a dedication for the profession, the community, and NSU."

- Dr. Robert Cohen
- Dr. Harry Cooper
- Dr. Bruce Farkas
- Dr. Steve Gorin
- Dr. Donald Howard
- Dr. Louis Isaacson
- Dr. Robert Meek
- Dr. Fred Srebnick



FOMA Convention Faculty Presentations

A number of NSU-COM full-time and clinical faculty members made presentations at the 106th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention, which was held February 21-24 at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. They are:

Natasha Bray, D.O. – "Hepatitis Review"

Robert Hasty, D.O. – "Prevention of Medical Errors"

Anna Hayden, D.O. – "Health Care Policy Fellowship Update"

Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H. – "Dispelling Myths:
Evidence-Based Treatment of Fibromyalgia"

Susan Ledbetter, D.O. – "Nutritional Considerations in the Elderly"

Anthony Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H. – "Medical Treatment
of Sleep Apnea"

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD – "Hypercalcemia: Systemic
Evaluation and Management"

Joel Rose, D.O. – "Medical Ethics Review" and
"Risk Management"

Diane Sanders-Cepeda, D.O. – "Frailty"

Christopher Siano, D.O. – "I've Got a Fever: A Hot Pediatric Topic"

William Silverman, D.O. – "Obesity/Diabetesity"

William Stager, D.O. – "Incorporating OMT in Your Practice"

Monica Warhaftig, D.O. – "Domestic Violence"

Dr. Charlie Bender Savors Volunteer Preceptor Role



In his more than 50 years as a family practitioner, Charlie Bender, D.O., has done everything from delivering babies and suturing wounds to treating stomachaches and sore throats—and then there was the septic lion (more about that later).

Dr. Bender, who graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1958, says he always had a desire "to take care of people," so it's not surprising

to discover he enjoys giving back to the profession. For the past 12 years, in addition to being an active family practitioner at Sunrise Cardiology Associates in Sunrise, Florida, Dr. Bender has served as a volunteer preceptor in the college's Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum program and, more recently, the Clinical Practicum course.

"I enjoy teaching NSU-COM students because they are highly motivated and eager to learn," he explained. "They are also some of the highest caliber students I have ever seen. I love it when a student asks me a question to which I don't know the answer. I respond by saying, 'We'll both research this, and by next week we will both know the answer.'"

Because he enjoys having the opportunity to share what he knows with the next generation of osteopathic physicians and takes his volunteer teaching tasks so seriously, he abides by the following mantra:

The mediocre teacher tells.

The good teacher explains.

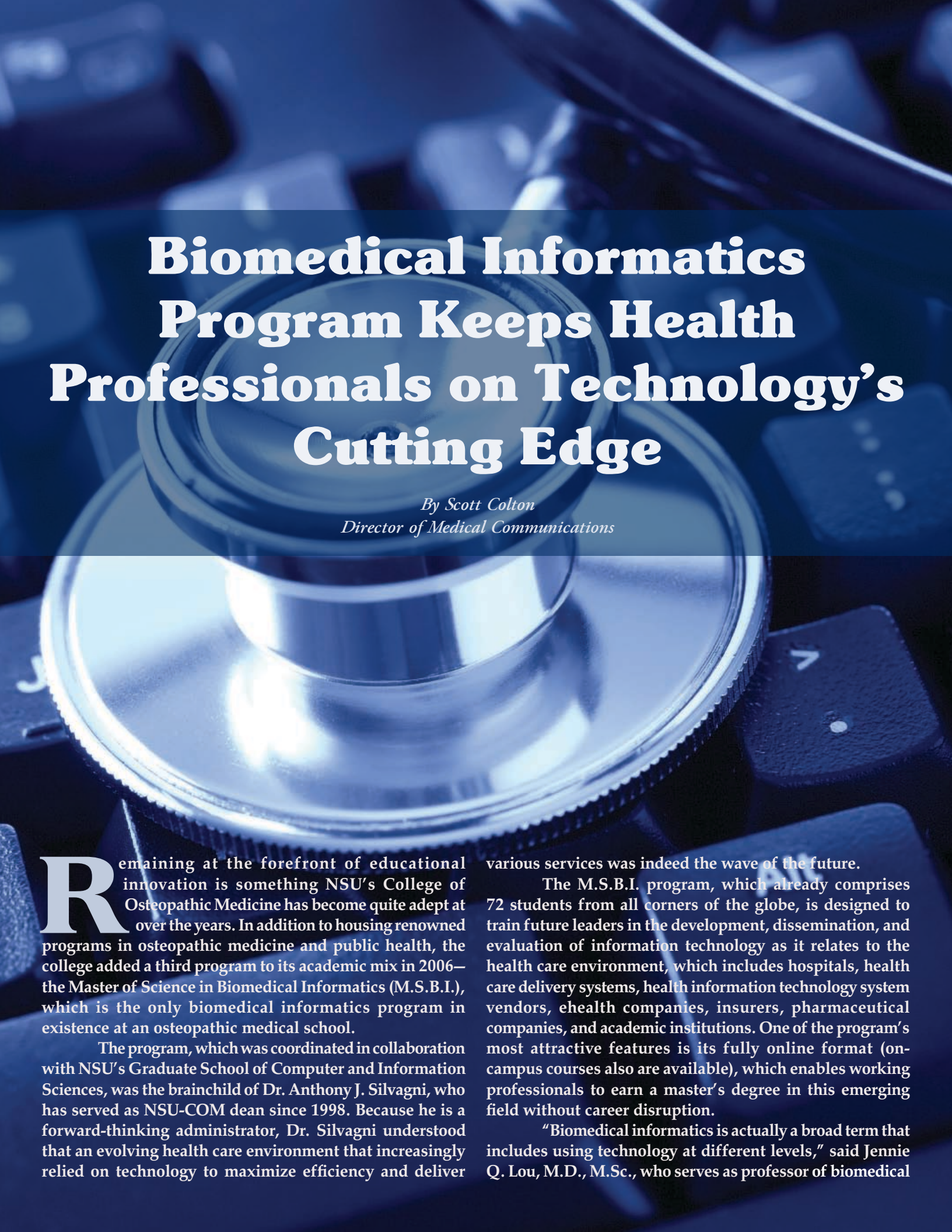
The superior teacher demonstrates.

The great teacher inspires.

In a career filled with exhilarating high points, Dr. Bender says his most fulfilling medical experiences occurred in the early 1970s when he worked in a Medicaid clinic. "I was a complete physician," he stated. "I delivered babies, worked in the emergency room tending to all types of injuries, and even served as first assistant at my patient's surgeries."

His most unusual case, however, was the aforementioned sick lion. "The lion was the pet of a friend back in the days when you could have animals like that on your farm," he recalled. "The lion had sepsis, and my friend asked if I could help. We ended up giving it daily penicillin shots for two weeks."

Treating lions...definitely not a typical day in the life of a physician.



Biomedical Informatics Program Keeps Health Professionals on Technology's Cutting Edge

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*

Remaining at the forefront of educational innovation is something NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine has become quite adept at over the years. In addition to housing renowned programs in osteopathic medicine and public health, the college added a third program to its academic mix in 2006—the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.), which is the only biomedical informatics program in existence at an osteopathic medical school.

The program, which was coordinated in collaboration with NSU's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, was the brainchild of Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, who has served as NSU-COM dean since 1998. Because he is a forward-thinking administrator, Dr. Silvagni understood that an evolving health care environment that increasingly relied on technology to maximize efficiency and deliver

various services was indeed the wave of the future.

The M.S.B.I. program, which already comprises 72 students from all corners of the globe, is designed to train future leaders in the development, dissemination, and evaluation of information technology as it relates to the health care environment, which includes hospitals, health care delivery systems, health information technology system vendors, ehealth companies, insurers, pharmaceutical companies, and academic institutions. One of the program's most attractive features is its fully online format (on-campus courses also are available), which enables working professionals to earn a master's degree in this emerging field without career disruption.

"Biomedical informatics is actually a broad term that includes using technology at different levels," said Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., who serves as professor of biomedical

informatics, public health, and internal medicine and director of the biomedical informatics program. "Bioinformatics means we're studying and utilizing information technology at molecular and cell levels, such as using information technology in sequencing. The second echelon is the individual patient level, which is medical/clinical informatics. The upper level is public health informatics, which is using informatics at a population level. Those three prongs fall under the umbrella of biomedical informatics."

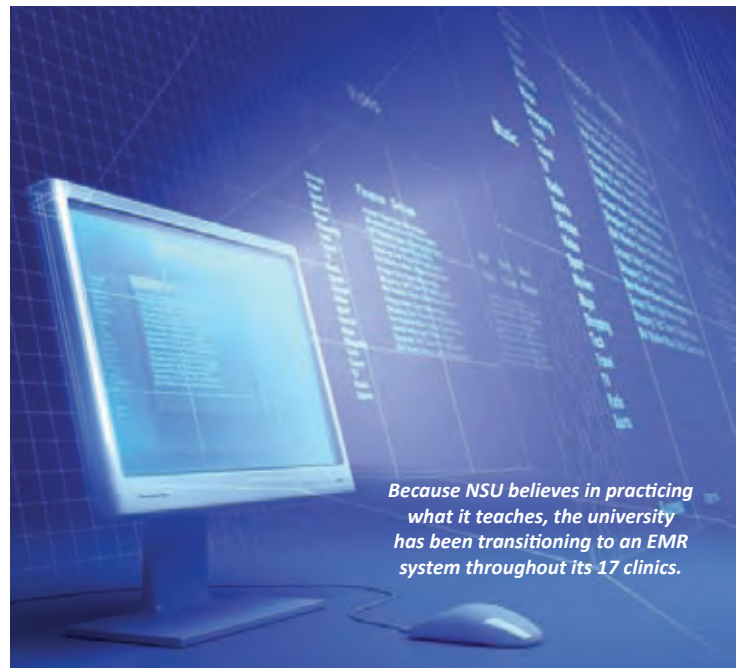
Because the country's health care system is facing uncontrolled costs, compromised patient safety, and a lack of utilization of information technology applications that have the potential to improve the situation, the need for biomedical informatics professionals has become increasingly vital. The integrative discipline of biomedical informatics arises from the synergistic application of computational, informational, cognitive, organizational, and other sciences whose primary focus is the acquisition, storage, and use of information in the health/biomedical domain.

"Biomedical informatics, which is an emerging field, serves as the bridge between health care and technology," Dr. Lou explained. "It's extremely difficult to find someone who can understand the medical side of a practice as well as the technology. Right now, there is a national movement to have electronic medical records (EMR) programs implemented at all health care facilities by the year 2014. Consequently, what facilities are doing now is looking for someone who can understand both medicine and technology. They usually have to hire two people to get the work done because very few individuals are trained to do both jobs effectively. However, students who graduate from our program are hybrids because they bridge both fields."

Presidential Decree Guarantees Growth

To address the technology lag occurring within the health care industry, President George W. Bush issued an executive order in 2004 stating that all patient health records nationwide become standardized and electronic by 2014 to help increase efficiency and lower health care costs. It's obviously an issue of vital importance given the fact that President Barack Obama is following through on the venture, which he discussed at length during a January 2009 speech he gave about the economy before he officially took over as commander and chief. "This will cut waste, eliminate red tape, and reduce the need to repeat expensive medical tests," President Obama said. "It just won't save billions of dollars and thousands of jobs; it will save lives by reducing the deadly but preventable medical errors that pervade our health care system."

To help with this initiative, billions of dollars in health information technology spending has been included in the latest version of the president's economic stimulus bill. "It's all about reducing medical errors, improving the quality of health care, and reducing the cost of health care," Dr. Lou explained. "To accomplish this, the government has added incentives to encourage the use of e-prescribing since only a small percentage of physicians are currently using it. Starting in 2009,



Because NSU believes in practicing what it teaches, the university has been transitioning to an EMR system throughout its 17 clinics.

physicians who use e-prescribing are going to receive an extra 2.5 percent reimbursement rate. In 2010, the reimbursement will be reduced to 2 percent, but physicians will be penalized .5 percent if they don't use e-prescribe. By 2014, those who don't use the system will be penalized 2.5 percent."

According to a recent study, only 8 percent of the nation's 5,000 hospitals and 17 percent of the country's physician workforce, which numbers about 800,000, currently use the kind of common computerized recordkeeping systems President Obama envisions for the entire nation. There are also major concerns about patient privacy, which isn't surprising considering how often hackers are able to access various other types of electronic records such as credit card, bank, and other consumer information.

To help train professionals in this burgeoning field, the college's M.S.B.I. program, which currently includes 14 faculty members, offers a diverse range of required and elective courses that are designed to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to face the challenges posed in what has become a highly technologic health care environment. Following are some of the courses offered through the M.S.B.I. curriculum:

- *Management Information Systems in Health Care*
- *Database Systems in Health Care*
- *Information Security in Health Care*
- *Telecommunications and Computer Networking*
- *System Analysis and Design for Health Care*
- *Human-Computer Interaction in Health Care Settings*
- *Survey of Medical Informatics*
- *Clinical Decision Support Systems*
- *Managing Organizational Behavior for Medical Informatics*
- *Special Topics in Health Informatics*
- *Program Evaluation for Health Information Technology*
- *Biomedical Informatics Project/Practicum*

Why Biomedical Informatics?

People who have a degree in biomedical informatics can choose from a variety of career opportunities. The type of informatics job an individual can perform is, to some extent, dependent on his or her background. People with health care backgrounds (e.g., medicine or nursing) are more likely to use their informatics expertise in roles such as a chief medical officer or nursing information officer. Those who do not possess health care backgrounds are more likely to work in a range of other widely available jobs.

People with biomedical informatics backgrounds may become chief information officers, local project managers, project designers, researchers, programmers, systems analysts, and educators.

A Field of Endless Possibilities

According to Dr. Lou, who designs the ever-evolving 43-credit M.S.B.I. curriculum, interest in the program is broad-based and widespread. "We currently have a number of physicians, pharmacists, and nurses enrolled, as well as those who hold a M.B.A., Ph.D., or Ed.D. degree," said Dr. Lou, who also credits Drs. Lawrence Jacobson and Leonard Levy with making the program the success it is today. "These individuals want to understand the technology aspect so they can make the necessary changes in their work environments. For example, I have a practicing OB-GYN in the program who wants to become an expert consultant, while other physicians want to learn more about EMR software or how to select e-prescribing software, which allows a prescriber to electronically send an accurate, error-free, and understandable prescription directly to a pharmacy from the point of care.

"We also found that many of our students are from the information technology (IT) field and the business world," she added. "In fact, we have people in the program who have many years of IT experience, but they want to know more about how technology can be used in the health care field, and they want to obtain an additional degree to broaden their career options."

Of the 72 students currently enrolled in the program, about 45 percent are from Florida while others are from far-flung destinations such as India, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia or other parts of the United States. One current student in Saudi Arabia is hoping to become the first female medical informatician in her country, while another—the first student enrolled in the program—has already become a bona-fide success story.

"When this student began the program, he was working in a nursing home job that provided little opportunity for career advancement," Dr. Lou said. "However, by his second semester in the program, he was hired by the Cleveland Clinic, which already had a very advanced electronic medical records system.

According to a 2008 compensation survey by the Vendome Group on the salaries and benefits of health care information technology, the median salary in the health information technology field ranges from \$67,000 to \$217,000 depending on variables such as previous degrees and field, level of position acquired, geographic location, and nature and size of the facility.

As part of his M.S.B.I. practicum, he designed add-on software to Cleveland Clinic's system that allowed the facility to improve efficiency by tracking things in real time such as how quickly the nursing station responded when a patient was discharged and how quickly housekeeping was notified."

As the M.S.B.I. program continues to evolve, Dr. Lou has some very specific goals in mind to ensure it offers students the most relevant curriculum possible. "We want to build a very solid program that will provide students the skills they need to accomplish various health information technology implementation tasks," she explained. "We are constantly revamping the program by identifying what skills are most sought by employers. For example, we added a course called Program Evaluation for Health Information Technology because it was the number one skill identified by employers. We also want our students to have more hands-on experience before they graduate."

Because biomedical informatics is a fast-paced and perpetually evolving field, those involved in it have an invaluable opportunity to be on the cutting edge of this particular aspect of the health care spectrum. "It's exciting to see how motivated people are in this field," Dr. Lou stated. "People from various disciplines such as medicine, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine, dentistry, information technology, and business are involved. As a result, it's exciting to work with the most intelligent and motivated professionals in the field. When I go to national conferences, I get really energized to see people who truly want to learn how to use the technology to make a difference. I'm proud to be a part of this program because we're involved in a progressive field that is making a positive difference in health care."

M.S.B.I. Program Becomes AMIA 10 x 10 Partner

In July 2008, the college's M.S.B.I. program earned a prestigious honor when it became only the fifth academic institution in the nation to be granted a partnership with the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) 10 x 10 Certificate Program.

The AMIA 10 x 10 Program's goal is to train 10,000 health care professionals in applied health and medical informatics by the year 2010. NSU-COM's program joined the ranks of the following medical informatics programs in the country that currently partner with the AMIA: Stanford University Medical School, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Oregon Health and Science University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"Through this partnership, participants from all over the country will be able to take the certificate program through our M.S.B.I. program distance learning system and earn a 10 x 10 certificate from the American Medical Informatics Association," Dr. Lou explained. "The AMIA will be helping us market our program, so this collaboration will allow us to make it a nationally known product."

Debbie and Donna Chase Contentedly Coexist at Home and at Work

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications



Donna and Debbie Chase

The family atmosphere that exists throughout the NSU campus is more than just a celebrated philosophy; it's also a truism in the case of Debbie and Donna Chase, who have been happily employed at NSU-COM for a combined 13 years.

Although many children can't wait to cut the proverbial cord and flee from their parents' coop once they become adults, Donna, who serves as academic coordinator in the Department of Medical Education, not only lives at home with her parents and her three-year-old daughter, Ariana, she willingly chose to work in the same college as her mother. You'd think all this familial bonding would present some challenges, but Debbie and Donna say it's not an issue at all.

"We get to watch each other grow in our individual job fields and develop mutual respect for each other because of our different types of jobs," said Debbie, who has served as academic coordinator in the Office of Clinical Education since 2002. "Each day I see how talented Donna is by the way she juggles being a single mom, working full-time, and being a full-time student at NSU. She is someone to be proud of. When we are home we hardly discuss work, only what kind of week we are having such as a busy or slow one. Home is home and work is work; that is the motto of the house."

Donna wholeheartedly agrees with her mother's assessment, adding, "I feel one of the greatest benefits of working

together is if I am having a challenging day, she is there for one of those magic 'Mom Hugs' that seems to make things better. Also, if she knows I had a rough day, she will make me a great dinner. We also have the advantage of sharing good news with each other when exciting things happen at work or when one of us has a great day. On the opposite end of the spectrum, we are able to help each other out when one of us is having a particularly challenging day."

Despite all the familial love, Donna, who joined the NSU-COM team in 2003, says there is one humorous drawback to working and cohabitating with her mom. "She knows when I call in sick," she explained. "So even though I am 27, she will reprimand me for it when I do it."

All joking aside, Donna feels there really are no drawbacks to working at the same place as her mother. "I don't think our particular arrangement has many disadvantages," she admitted. "Though we both work in the college, we don't work in the same department and our job duties don't intertwine. Our interaction at work is always intentional and usually on a social scale, so I wouldn't hesitate to recommend our situation at all."

Although they work in the same college, Debbie and Donna are located on different floors at the Health Professions Division, which has led to some interesting exchanges with their coworkers. "Even though we live together, we don't always see each other in the morning because we get up at different times and live on opposite sides of the house," said Donna, who assists with various aspects of the Standardized Patient Program such as recruiting standardized patients and coordinating their various training and work schedules. "Sometimes I won't know if my mom is at work until I am up on the fourth floor and ask her boss, Elaine Lefkowitz, if my mom is in today, and she will say, 'Don't you guys live together?'"

Working at NSU has been an incredibly fulfilling experience for Debbie and Donna, but their hearts are

a little heavier these days following the loss in 2008 of their beloved father and grandfather, Rallis (Shorty) Rallis, who spent many years working at the Health Professions Division in the purchasing/maintenance department. "My dad was the one who talked me into working at NSU because he believed in the university, loved the students and faculty, and enjoyed working with his peers," said Debbie, who is involved with a range of tasks that assist the students as they progress through their NSU-COM education. "He made a lot of friends here and was known as a joker. He will always be a legend here in my opinion, and I miss him dearly."

Donna echoes her mother's sentiments. "I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity of working with my grandfather" she stated. "I feel like it gave me such a closer relationship with him because I was able to see him everyday. I had the opportunity of starting my day with him smiling at me every morning as I walked into work and greeting me with a hug. Then he would check his watch to make sure I was on time. He had many friends here at the university and was able to make anyone smile. It's nice to walk the hallways and remember the time we shared here at work. I am constantly reminded of the impact he had on people everyday when they take the time to say hello to me and ask how I am doing. I know he is missed dearly, and it makes me feel honored to be his granddaughter."



Family Bonding: Debbie, Shorty Rallis, and Donna.

Miracle on the Hudson



Alberto Panero Rides a Wave of Emotions Following Watery Plane Crash

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

When U.S. Airways Flight 1549 took off from LaGuardia Airport in New York on a cold but clear afternoon on January 15, 2009, Alberto Panero, who was cozily nestled in seat 16F, had nothing more pressing on his mind than taking a much-needed nap.

It had already been a stressful day for Panero, a fourth-year NSU-COM student, who had interviewed for a residency position in New York earlier in the day and was now on his way to North Carolina to partake in another residency interview that night. The takeoff was picture-perfect, and as the Airbus A320 smoothly ascended into the azure sky, Panero began drifting off into a welcome slumber.

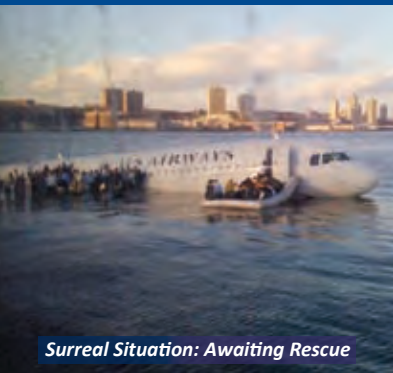
Although he was unaware of it at the time, the seemingly routine flight was about to capture the world's attention – and

plunge the unsuspecting 26-year-old from Pembroke Pines, Florida, into the eye of a dizzying media storm.

Disaster Strikes...Literally!

Like a plotline ripped straight from a 1970's *Airport* movie sequel, Panero was abruptly awakened by a loud bang that shook the plane and sent a ripple of panic through the passengers as plumes of flame suddenly shot from the left engine and the smell of smoke began to pervade the cabin. At the time, no one knew the explosion had been caused by a freak midair collision with an unfortunate flock of geese. One fact, however, was certain: Something dire had occurred.

"I could see and smell the smoke, but I didn't see the fire because I was seated on the right side of the plane," said Panero, who originally hails from Argentina but has lived in South Florida with his family for 16 years. "I was pretty



Surreal Situation: Awaiting Rescue

Alberto Panero: Cool in a Crisis

Rescue on the Hudson River

Mission Accomplished: No Fatalities

sure the right engine was still working, so I figured the pilot was just going to turn around and return to LaGuardia. We had only been in the air for a few minutes, so once the plane made a big left u-turn I kind of relaxed because it seemed as if we were going back to the airport."

Unfortunately, his sense of relief quickly evaporated once he noticed that the plane, which had now flown over the George Washington Bridge, was starting to drift lower — and there was no airport in sight. "You kind of have the feeling that something really bad is happening, but the other part of you is telling yourself to stay calm and take deep breaths," Panero explained. "The first thing I thought about doing when I knew something was wrong was calling somebody. I wanted to call my mom, but it just didn't feel right to call and upset her at that point. Plus, there was so much going on at the time that a thought would pop in and out of my head every few seconds. I knew there was nothing I could do to stop the inevitable, so I turned my cell phone back on because it has GPS tracking technology. I figured if anything bad happened the rescuers could find me — or whatever was left of me."

horrible things like explosions, drowning, and death once we hit the water."

Miracle Landing Captivates the World

As Flight 1549 made its graceful and gradual descent into the river, stunned witnesses watching from nearby weren't sure what to make of the surreal scene as the plane landed safely atop the water and remained afloat. Initially, some witnesses thought it might be a pre-planned stunt for some big-budget action or disaster movie. However, as the passengers onboard watched with horror as water began gushing into the aisles, no further evidence was needed to prove that this disaster was indeed real.

"The initial impact was pretty big and really loud," said Panero as he discussed the harrowing details. "You know when you throw a rock across the water and it skips a couple of times? That's basically what the plane did. We were lucky because any little thing could have made a major difference in how things turned out. If the waves had been rougher or if the angle of impact hadn't been perfect, the plane could have

As he proceeded toward an emergency exit, Panero noticed that some passengers were remaining in their seats, literally frozen with fear, while others were clogging the aisles trying to remove their luggage from the overhead bins. Realizing that every second counts in a crisis, Panero launched into action to assist with the evacuation process.

As the plane drifted ever lower and began flying parallel to the buildings along the Hudson River, the passengers' anxiety became increasingly palpable. "While all this was going on, people were saying things like, 'Why aren't they communicating, why aren't they saying anything?' And then we suddenly heard the dinging noise of the captain coming over the intercom to say those dreaded words, 'Brace for impact.' That's when a little bit of panic broke loose, which didn't last long. Everybody got real quiet; there was a really cold silence.

While the plane and its 155 passengers and crew members coasted toward the frigid 41-degree waters of the Hudson River, Panero took one more quick look out the window before putting his life in God's—and captain Chesley B. Sullenberger's—hands. "To be honest, it was actually very nice scenery," he explained. "Imagine flying through Manhattan and seeing all the buildings. That's what it basically was; you could just see the skyline and the water getting closer and closer. It was beautiful scenery, but I couldn't really appreciate it at the time for obvious reasons. When I looked out the window I didn't see any pavement or runways, so I knew we were going to hit the water. Part of me was hoping I would survive, but I was really expecting

flipped over or broken apart. When I was holding on tight right before we hit the water, I was truly expecting the plane to break apart as soon as we made impact."

Within 30 seconds, passengers sitting in the plane's rear section were rapidly immersed in waste-deep water, forcing quick action. "I was sitting behind the right wing in the middle of the plane, where the water reached between my ankles and knees," Panero said. "Once I got out of my seat, I saw a man in front of me carrying a yellow life jacket. I knew I needed to get a flotation device, so I grabbed my seat cushion, but as soon as I did some guy tried to snatch it from me by knocking it out of my arms. I found that to be a bit ironic because there were empty seats everywhere. There was no need for him to try and grab mine, but you could just see his desperation and survival instinct kick in. I didn't let him take mine, but I grabbed another one from a nearby seat, gave it to him, and told him to relax, that everything was going to be fine."

As he proceeded toward an emergency exit, Panero noticed that some passengers were remaining in their seats, literally frozen with fear, while others were clogging the aisles trying to remove their luggage from the overhead bins. Realizing that every second counts in a crisis, Panero launched into action

to assist with the evacuation process, telling those nearby to leave their luggage and immediately head for an exit.

"I remember looking forward and seeing someone yanking one of the emergency exits open," he said. "Then I saw the wing and noticed how crowded it got since the passengers were able to stand on it. I initially thought I was going to have to swim or float and do whatever I have to do to survive. But once I got to the wing and felt how cold the water was and that the plane was sinking, I changed my mind. The emergency door had actually jammed one of the inflatable life rafts, so I was trying to get it fixed. I was yelling out, 'Let's do this, let's fix this.' But people weren't paying attention, so I looked out the door toward the front of the plane and noticed there was still space available to get on the life raft up there. Getting back in the plane after I had just stepped out was scary because I still didn't know if it was going to suddenly sink or blow up, but I just went to the front and slid down onto the raft on the right side of the plane."

Once he slid into the raft, he heard somebody, who turned out to be an injured flight attendant, crying out for help. Instinctively, Panero went over to see how he could help the woman, who was in obvious pain as she grasped her leg. "She was holding her leg and almost seemed to be in emotional shock," he explained. "She kept saying, 'Am I going to be all right?'"

As he surveyed the injury—a deep semicircle gash on top of the tibia that was bleeding heavily—Panero's

took charge of the raft, which had about 25 people on it, to ensure the rescue effort progressed both swiftly and efficiently. As the ferry approached, Panero said "Listen, they're coming to get us. Everything is going to be fine." He then turned his attention once again to the wounded flight attendant, who ended up being the only passenger on the miracle flight who endured even a semi-serious injury. "I wanted her to be the first one off, but she was scared and didn't even want to get up. I told her, 'Listen, you have to get off this raft. You have to pretend you're not hurt and climb up the ladder.' I picked her up, got her on the ladder, and then it was just a question of holding on. I didn't know the plane was actually drifting down the river; I thought we were stationary. I was holding onto this huge metal ladder, which was freezing, with my bare hands while my legs were gripping the raft."

A Media Star Is Born

While images of the remarkable rescue effort were being viewed by millions of transfixed people across the globe on their computer and television screens, Panero gratefully boarded the ferry, blithely unaware that a media storm of Hurricane Katrina proportions was about to wash over him.

As soon as the ferry returned to its seaport station, Panero and all the lucky survivors were greeted by a mix of fire rescue personnel, paramedics, police, and FBI agents that had descended on the Port Authority to do their respective jobs. "I was cold and wet, but that was it," said Panero,

"Imagine flying through Manhattan and seeing all the buildings. That's what it basically was; you could just see the skyline and the water getting closer and closer. It was beautiful scenery, but I couldn't really appreciate it at the time for obvious reasons."

NSU-COM medical training kicked right in. "The only thing I knew I could do was try to stop the bleeding and help her calm down a little bit so she wouldn't go into real shock," he stated. "There were some coats and seat cushions on the raft, so I started asking people for their cushions and stacked them up to raise her leg a couple of feet in the air. I laid her down and covered her with all the coats I could find to keep her warm. I then made a tourniquet out of a coat, which I later switched to a belt, wrapped it around her femoral artery, and checked the pulse in her feet."

In the midst of all this chaos, he also found the time to give his mom a quick phone call once he had assisted the injured flight attendant. "The next thing I did was call my mother and say, 'I'm alive...I'm alive!' It was the only thing I could think of at the time," he admitted. "I didn't want to tell her my plane had crashed, so 'I'm alive' were the first words that came out. I figured as long as she knew I was okay she'd be all right."

Thanks to the incredible response efforts of various New York transportation agencies, including the Port Authority ferries, a nearby commuter boat made a beeline to the downed Airbus within minutes of the crash. Because of efforts such as these, all 155 passengers, who were wet and at severe risk of developing life-threatening hypothermia in the 11-degree wind chill conditions, were rescued before the plane sunk further into the frigid Hudson.

Once the ferry arrived, Panero and another passenger

who declined invitations to be taken to an area hospital for observation. "It took me a couple of hours to feel warm again, but other than that I felt fine."

Happy to be back on dry land, Panero chatted with some of his fellow passengers about the terrifying crash they had all miraculously survived. Suddenly, a CNN reporter came up to him and said, 'Hey, you're that guy who was holding onto the ferry's ladder. Do you want to talk to Wolf Blitzer live on the air?' Without giving it much thought, Panero agreed to do the interview. It would prove to be the initial spark in what would soon engulf him in a relentless media firestorm.

Once CNN revealed his name during the interview, the race was on for other media outlets to track both him and his family down. "All of a sudden, all the media stations were like, 'Who's this guy?' They started searching my name, and once they located my home number and email address, they started bombarding me with phone calls and emails," he recalled. "It was kind of weird at the time because I had just survived a major plane crash, and the last thing I wanted to do was tell my story on television."

Despite his earnest protestations, there were some unexpected perks that came his way as soon as he was branded a celebrity/hero. Because he was basically stranded in New York without luggage or a place to stay, CNN offered to put him up in a nice hotel for the night if he would be willing to appear on several CNN news programs throughout the

evening and the following morning. "The people I dealt with at CNN were extremely nice and took good care of me," said Panero, who appeared that night on *Larry King Live* and was interviewed by other CNN reporters such as Anderson Cooper and Campbell Brown for their respective shows.

"I had fun doing *Larry King Live*," said Panero, who also appeared on the CNN program *American Morning* the next day before hopping back on a plane to South Florida. "I talked to Larry via satellite on a show that also featured Dr. Phil McGraw and Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who is CNN's chief medical correspondent. But after that it just snowballed. After surviving a serious crisis like a plane crash, you need some time to yourself to reflect on what just happened. Thankfully, it had a really happy ending, but you still need time to process it.

"To be honest with you, that first night was rough," he added. "I was also on CNN in Spanish because I'm from Argentina. Being bilingual actually added to the amount of people who wanted to talk to me because I had all of South America and other Spanish-speaking countries calling me for interviews. It was insane. I understand we're a media-hungry world, but it really was overwhelming."

With his immediate media obligations now fulfilled, Panero prepared for his much-anticipated return to South Florida. "I was nervous getting back on a plane, not necessarily because I felt that plane was going to crash as well, but it was more of everything surrounding it," he explained. "It was one of those things you just wanted to get over with. You always hear that after you survive something like a car crash, the best thing you can do is immediately get back in a car and drive. Realistically, I knew I was going to have to fly on planes for the rest of my life, so I just wanted to get it over with as quickly as possible and move on. I just wanted to come home and be with my family. That's actually what got me through the plane ride back, thinking about seeing my parents and friends instead of having anxiety about being on a plane again so soon after the crash."

When he stepped off the plane at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, his family was there to greet him, as were a horde of reporters from various media outlets. "The media was waiting for me at the airport and at my house, but I was ready for the attention at that point," said Panero, who expected his 15 minutes of fame to fade as soon as the next big story captured everyone's attention. "For the most part, the reporters were polite. They followed me from the airport to my house, but once I got home I didn't really leave my house for the next few days. Fortunately, President Obama's inauguration was coming up, so the media moved on quickly."

Analyzing the Aftermath

As the days and weeks passed, an increasing degree of normalcy returned to Panero's life. He continued on with his fourth-year clinical rotations and spent as much time as possible with his family and friends. Still, his newfound celebrity status refused to diminish, which was evidenced by his subsequent TV appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman*, *60 Minutes*, and *Larry King Live*.

Not surprisingly, because he's remained a visible

media presence since the crash, people in various industries have taken notice. "I've already received some offers to write a book, so that's something that's looking like a real possibility," said Panero, who will be doing his internship training at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale once he graduates in May. "There are a couple of different ideas being floated about, but it's going to be centered on the plane crash and how to use crisis situations like this to better yourself. I'm definitely excited about it."

Like Will Kirby, D.O., a 2000 NSU-COM alumnus who became a media star after winning the first season of the reality show *Big Brother*, Panero is well aware of the opportunities that await him in the life-altering aftermath of what has been dubbed the Miracle on the Hudson. "I've gone through a very rapid media training these past few months, so I'm going to play everything by ear and participate in the projects I think can be done right," said Panero, who plans on pursuing a career in physical medicine and rehabilitation. "However, what's important to me right now is finishing medical school. This experience has changed my outlook on some things, but I can't let it take me away from what I've been working toward my whole life, which is a career in medicine. I'm more motivated than ever to be a physician now. I've witnessed firsthand the importance of training, so I'm going to work hard everyday to be the best doctor I can be."

In fact, he credits the training he received at NSU-COM for helping him respond so proactively once the plane plunged into the murky waters of the Hudson River that fateful January afternoon. "I think the clinical training I received at Broward General Medical Center during my rotations was a major reason why my thought processes were so attuned to the situation," he explained. "Doing trauma surgery and emergency room rotations really helped prepare me. Imagine being awakened at 3:00 a.m. to assist on a case where a man who's been in a bad car accident is bleeding everywhere and has bones protruding through his skin. When things like that happen, you have to respond quickly. In those moments your thoughts are automatically going to be racing, so you have to slow them down and try to do things step by step."

Although his life has returned to a semi-normal state, Panero admits that surviving such a catastrophic event with nary a scratch has profoundly affected the way he views the world – and his place in it. "One thing I notice is that I feel more relaxed," he admitted. "I don't really sweat the small stuff as much as I used to because I've learned there are only so many things you have control over. My advice is to control the things you can and let the others ones take their own natural course.

"People ask me all the time, 'Was it a surreal experience?' At first, it was actually pretty real, but in retrospect it does seem kind of mindboggling," he added. "It just shows you how fast everything can change in life. One second you're on a plane thinking about the things you'll be doing later that day, and all of a sudden, BAM! Everything changes and nothing else matters other than you and your life. Everything went wrong, and then everything went right, which just goes to prove that in life – nothing is impossible."

CEME SPOTLIGHT:

Largo Medical Center: An Overview

Largo Medical Center is a 456-bed hospital located on two campuses offering one of the most comprehensive complements of services for patients in the Tampa Bay area. The main campus features all private rooms in a country club setting with a number of specialty services, including the Florida Knee and Orthopedic Pavilion, Spine Care Center of West Florida, Florida Breast Institute, Tampa Bay Heart Institute, and an accredited Community Cancer Center. Largo Medical Center is accredited by The Joint Commission and is an accredited Primary Stroke Center and Chest Pain Center.

Catering to all ages, Largo Medical Center is recognized for its compassionate care, cutting-edge technology, modern facilities with all private rooms at the main campus facility, and accomplished medical staff.

In 2008, Largo Medical Center acquired Sun Coast Hospital, also located in Largo, Florida. Sun Coast Hospital has been training medical students, residents, and fellows in the osteopathic tradition for more than 45 years. Sun Coast's legacy of medical education continues today with Largo Medical Center serving as home to the largest osteopathic medical teaching program in the southeastern United States. The program also partners with 14 Florida and Georgia-based teaching hospitals through the Consortium for Excellence in

Medical Education. Largo Medical Center's commitment to medical education ensures that its patients benefit from the latest advancements in medical knowledge.

Largo Medical Center, which serves as NSU-COM's West Coast Academic Center, hosts more than 20 core NSU-COM students each year, with over 15 NSU-COM graduates-in-training in its residency and fellowship programs. Approximately 75 NSU-COM students visit its campuses for two-week or four-week rotations. At the postgraduate level, the institution offers a range of options that includes a traditional internship as well as the following residencies and fellowships:

Residencies

Anesthesiology

Dermatology

Family Practice

Internal Medicine

Surgery

(Future plans include the establishment of an orthopedic surgery residency program.)

Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, regional dean of NSU-COM's West Coast Academic Center, was recently recognized by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, receiving its Lifetime Achievement Award.





Fellowships

Cardiology

Gastroenterology

Interventional Cardiology

(recently approved; will commence July 2010)

Pulmonary Critical Care

(recently approved; will commence July 2010)

Rheumatology

The highly qualified and diverse faculty at Largo Medical Center represents many areas of medicine such as family practice, general surgery, anesthesiology, dermatology, and internal medicine as well as many subspecialty areas including pulmonary critical care, cardiology, gastroenterology, and rheumatology. In addition, all faculty members are board certified in their respective specialty and subspecialty areas.

Largo Medical Center is fortunate to have many members of its faculty serving in active roles at the state and national level. Anthony Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H., who serves as chief academic officer and director of medical education, was recently recognized by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA), receiving its Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Ottaviani also is a past president and current FOMA trustee as well as past president of the American College of Osteopathic Internists. Phillip Shettle, D.O., is a past president of the FOMA and the American Osteopathic Association, while Robert Kudelko, D.O., chairman of radiology, is a past president of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology.

For those interested in learning more about Largo Medical Center and its residency programs, the best way to accomplish this is to visit the facility for a rotation experience. Thanks to its robust academic environment, which has evolved over more than five decades of medical education at Sun Coast Hospital, students participate in a range of activities such as daily and monthly lectures and conferences, morning report, case presentations, noon lectures, grand rounds, tumor board, surgical case review, and journal clubs. The medical student rotations are designed to develop general knowledge in diagnosis and patient management, while the curriculum provides each student with basic medical knowledge in diverse clinical areas.

For example, the inpatient medical teaching service allows students to hone their skills in relation to the evaluation and management of patients. Under the supervision of a senior resident and/or faculty member, students are given the opportunity to increase their level of responsibility for patient care. Work hours generally run from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Specific work hours vary by clerkship, and medical students take night call as scheduled. Medical students also are scheduled for weekend assignments as determined by the service and call schedule.

For additional information, please contact Largo Medical Center at (727) 586-7103 or largogmeinfo@hcahealthcare.com. The Medical Student Rotation Application is available on the Graduate Medical Education page at www.largomedical.com.

Since 2005, COM Outlook has featured informative spotlights on the various organizations that comprise the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education. The accomplishments and contributions of this interactive educational network are indeed merit worthy because each participating institution provides exceptional postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.



During the PONG conference, Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros received the inaugural Protecting Our Next Generation Child Advocacy Award from Drs. Anthony J. Silvagni, Edward Packer, and Cyril Blavo.

PONG Conference Sheds Light on Pediatric Vaccination Concerns

By David Gensure, Director of Continuing Education

On January 30-31, 2009, the College of Osteopathic Medicine hosted a national conference on immunization titled ***Protecting Our Next Generation (PONG), Ages 0-3***.

The conference, which attracted 222 attendees, featured nationally recognized authorities who discussed health issues impacting our most vulnerable population – young children. Special attention was given to how health care providers can advise parents about childhood immunization safety and importance. The conference was primarily intended for practicing physicians and other health care workers to review important community and medical issues impacting the health and development of children from birth to three years of age.

Some of the nationally recognized speakers who shared their expertise included

Paul Offit, M.D., international expert/immunization safety

Anne De Groot, M.D., national expert/epitope-driven vaccines

Melinda Wharton, M.D., deputy director of the National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Disease

Lawrence O. Gostin, J.D., international expert on health care law regarding children

Sharon G. Humiston, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of emergency medicine/pediatrics, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Gerald L. Schiebler, M.D., child advocacy expert

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., Florida surgeon general and secretary of the Florida Department of Health

During the conference, Dr. Viamonte Ros, who is the first woman and first Cuban American to hold the position of state surgeon general, received the inaugural Protecting Our Next Generation Child Advocacy Award to honor her efforts as a chief promoter of public health in Florida on reducing children's health disparities.

Collaborative Effort Ensures Success

Conference planning began in March 2008 with a meeting between Edward Packer, D.O., professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and Robert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor and chair of continuing education. Dr. Packer was concerned about the vast amount of negative press surrounding vaccines, which had resulted in the general public's loss of faith and confidence in vaccines and the vaccine program. Dr. Packer acknowledged the amount of time practitioners must now engage in with concerned parents due to a lack of clear and confident information. During the discussion, both physicians agreed there was a paucity of scientific conferences about vaccines where subject matter experts could discuss cutting-edge data and inform the medical community.

After the decision was made to coordinate a conference, several meetings were held with various divisions within the NSU community to develop the program. Collaboration with the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies helped to develop a curriculum on early childhood screening, while meetings with our Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Program administration broadened the conference's scope to include information on epidemiology and community resources. As a result, the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association and the Broward County Health Department agreed to participate as well. The core conference committee, which consisted of David Gensure, Drs. Packer and Hasty, and Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., and T.M., and Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H., from the M.P.H. Program, developed a curriculum and recruited nationally recognized experts to speak on a range of compelling subjects. Marti Echols, Ph.D., assistant professor and assistant dean of medical education, added her expertise by developing an interactive workshop on counseling families.



Dr. Silvagni with keynote speaker Dr. Paul Offit.

Weeks of planning went by when it became obvious we needed Paul Offit, M.D., who is an international expert on immunization safety, to speak at the conference. Dr. Hasty made the first call to Dr. Offit, who politely declined our offer. Several more calls were made to Dr. Offit without success until Dr. Hasty finally hit on a winning strategy by saying, "Dr. Offit, my grandfather taught me to never take no for an answer." After hearing Dr. Hasty's straightforward final appeal, Dr. Offit agreed to speak.

One by one the curriculum and speakers fell into place, but with every meeting it seemed as though additional tasks were required to build a successful conference. Consequently, the NSU-COM Department of Continuing Education constantly added other vital components. For example, Audio-Digest was recruited to record the program and include it in its permanent medical education library. The conference was then marketed nationwide through a combination of



mailings, email announcements, and direct phone calls. Next up were the complicated tasks of organizing the lecture rooms, providing the necessary security, and organizing meals and snacks for such a large number of attendees.

Several weeks before the conference took place, event day planning meetings were held to finalize the details. During one of these sessions, the idea of allowing the students to attend and having them participate in organizing the day emerged. We had over 90 student volunteers willingly sacrifice their sacred study time to work the Protecting Our Next Generation conference and ensure its success.

A number of NSU faculty members also served as moderators, speakers, and workshop participants at the PONG conference and deserve recognition for their contributions to the event's success. They are:

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., and T.M., director of the Master of Public Health Program, who discussed the topic *"International Immunization Initiatives"*

Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., director of systems, who served as a parent participant in the Standardized Patient Counseling Workshop

Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME, who served as a parent participant in the Standardized Patient Counseling Workshop (SPCW)

Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant director of the M.P.H. Program, who served as a moderator

Heidi Lane, Ed.D., director of patient-centered education, who served as co-facilitator of the SPCW

Marti Echols, Ph.D., assistant dean of medical education, who served as co-facilitator of the SPCW

Deborah Mulligan, M.D., director of the Institute for Child Health Policy, who addressed the topic *"Drowning Prevention for Toddlers"*

Edward Packer, D.O., chair of the Department of Pediatrics, who served as conference director and moderator

Christine E. Reeve, Ph.D., director of the autism consortium and academic programs at the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies, who discussed the topic *"Screening for Autism Spectrum Disorders"*

David Thomas, M.D., J.D., chair of the Department of Surgery, who discussed the topic *"Informed Consent in Immunizations"*



Dr. Hilda De Gaetano and her daughter, Danielle, brought a sense of authenticity to the Standardized Patient Counseling Workshop.

Medical Education Department Participates in PONG

During the PONG conference, Drs. Marti Echols and Heidi Lane presented an afternoon workshop on "Communicating with Patients Regarding Immunizations." This interactive workshop utilized standardized patients and participant volunteers to portray scenarios involving patient-provider interactions.

Standardized patients were trained to portray patients in eight scenarios representing actual patient encounters for pediatric immunizations. The topics, which ranged from simple to complex communication issues with immunizations as a theme, revolved around the following clinician-patient communication encounters:

- without conflict
- with patient questions in a non-patient centered encounter
- sensitive issues/new concepts
- generation gaps and patient education
- the misinformed parent
- the media/Internet-informed patient
- discussing risk vs. reward
- vaccination refusal

Presenters guided discussion after each scenario, while participants and presenters provided feedback to the clinician volunteers on content, interviewing techniques, and lessons learned.

If you are interested in learning more about this workshop or would like to discuss presenting this workshop for your residents or staff, please contact Dr. Heidi Lane at hlane@nova.edu.



Pictured at the conference are PONG Committee members David Gensure, Dr. Robert Hasty, Jessica Ortiz, and Drs. Edward Packer, Cyril Blavo, and Jon Dodds.



Imperative Issue: Protecting Our Next Generation

By Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics



As adults, we have a sacred responsibility to protect our next generation. Our children depend upon us to help them to be prepared to grow into maturity and to have the abilities to handle life's challenges. The decisions we make for our children now will influence the life and world they will inherit in the future. Part of our responsibility is to help to prevent or minimize the damage caused by various devastating childhood illnesses that can result in permanent disability in our next generation.

Many parents and physicians have never seen the devastation of various serious childhood infections due to the modern technology of immunizations. In the third day of practice in my new pediatric office in 1980, a mother brought in her beautiful red-haired daughter who had suffered with a high fever for three days. The child was unresponsive for the past 24 hours and had refused any oral intake. A spinal tap revealed the child to have a massive infection of bacterial meningitis. Despite the most aggressive therapies available, the child died three days later. Over the next several years, I (and most other pediatricians) saw children with a similar story on a regular basis. Several of these children died, and of the children that survived, many were left with a permanent disability such as hearing loss.

In 1988, the conjugate *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine was released.

The impact of this immunization was dramatic. This vaccine was made against childhood bacterial meningitis. After its introduction, the incidence of bacterial meningitis dropped precipitously. The number of disabled children I saw in my practice was profoundly reduced, as was the number of deaths. Most pediatricians today rarely, if ever, see bacterial meningitis due to the two conjugate vaccines now routinely given to children.

When I started my training, I was initially assigned to care for a young woman who was in the second trimester of her pregnancy and had the misfortune of acquiring chicken pox. Chicken pox has a markedly elevated incidence of causing a life-threatening infection in women during pregnancy. I admitted the women to the intensive care unit for support on a ventilator because the chicken pox had infected her lungs and made her unable to breathe. I remember spending evenings caring for her with the pictures of her husband and two-year-old son taped to the wall above her head. That very evening I was called urgently to the intensive care unit because the woman was aborting her pregnancy. Two days later she died from the devastating lung infection.

Prior to the introduction of the chicken pox vaccine in 1995, we saw approximately four million cases of chicken pox a year with 11,000-15,000 hospitalizations and 100-150 deaths annually. After the initiation of the chicken pox vaccine, that incidence has been reduced by more than 75 percent, and the number of cases in infants too young to receive the vaccine has been reduced by a similar number due to the effects of "herd immunity." This is the phenomena where immunizing a certain percentage of a population will protect those who are not able to be immunized due to several factors such as age, active cancer, or being recipients of organ transplants.

Some events have raised the concern that areas of our country are already experiencing immunization levels

that have fallen below the protective "herd-immunity" level as evidenced by small outbreaks of serious, preventable childhood illnesses. Recently, a cluster of measles occurred in the Midwest with 135 patients becoming ill and 15 of those patients requiring hospitalization. In the early years of my career, I cared for children that had acquired a devastating complication of measles called measles encephalitis. Many of the children that survived this form of the infection were left with permanent mental retardation, weakness, and deafness. Generally, these children had a shortened lifespan due to the severity of their disabilities. I am sure none of us wants to see the return of these serious complications.

Those of us that are responsible for child health care are becoming increasingly concerned by the misperception of the dangers of childhood immunizations seen by some members of the public. Some individuals are blaming immunizations on the rise in autism spectrum disorder that is occurring throughout the world. As of this date, 16 carefully structured scientific studies have shown that immunizations do not cause autism. These unsupported beliefs are being promoted by celebrities and others, resulting in broad coverage by the media. Even though these individuals certainly are well-meaning in promoting their opinions, the result of this has created doubt and is elevating the probability that children won't be immunized. Extensive research and studies have been performed and continue to assure the safety and effectiveness of our national childhood vaccine program.

All of this material is open for public inspection and comment. Instead of placing our immunization program in jeopardy, we need to enhance public education and determine ways to improve the program through better patient access and health care education. When we work together to strengthen our national vaccine program, we will be taking a positive step toward assuming our responsibility to protect the next generation.

NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

Past Presidents

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

Trustees at Large

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)
Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87)
Mayrene Hernandez, D.O. ('01)
Stephen MacDonald, D.O. ('90)
Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
William Stager, D.O. ('89)

2009-2010 Officers

Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)
President

Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)
President Elect

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

Andrew Gross, D.O. ('93)
Secretary

Annette Da Silva, D.O. ('96)
Treasurer

Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)
Immediate Past President

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

Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.
Director, Alumni Affairs

Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro
2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.
2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
2005 - Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.
2006 - Howard Hada, Ph.D.
2008 - Cyril Blavo, D.O.
2009 - A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)
2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)
2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)
2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)
2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)
2009 - Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)

Alumni in the News

Joshua Aalberg, D.O. ('05) was named chief resident in the University of Cincinnati radiology residency program.

Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86) was installed as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) during the organization's 106th Annual Convention held February 21-24 at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. In recognition of this prestigious honor, NSU-COM presented Dr. Blackburn with a commemorative plaque at the FOMA President Elect's Reception, which was cosponsored by NSU-COM.

Rosendo Collazo, D.O. ('89) was the recipient of a \$10,000 Health Foundation of South Florida Concern Award in December 2008 to be spent on his favorite cause: the homeless. Dr. Collazo currently serves as director of health services for the Camillus Health Concern and Camillus House in Miami, Florida.

Frank Conidi, D.O., M.S. ('95) has been hired by the Florida Panthers' hockey team in the role of team neurologist. For the past decade, Dr. Conidi has served as director of the Florida Center for Headache and Neurology, which is a tertiary headache center with locations on the Treasure Coast as well as in Palm Beach and Broward counties.

Richard A. Cottrell, D.O. ('90) was elected president of the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society (PCOMS), which is the largest county osteopathic medical society in the nation. Past NSU-COM alumni who have served as PCOMS presidents

include Drs. Bridget Bellingar, Andrew Gross Jeffrey Grove, and Gregory James.

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88) was honored with the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award in January at the 11th Annual NSU Celebration of Excellence ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. Each year, this prestigious event brings together community leaders and industry pioneers who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and alma maters.

Dimitrios Lintzeris, D.O. ('04), who completed his family medicine residency training at Jackson Memorial Hospital and a pathology residency at Palmetto General Hospital, recently opened his own family practice called the Lintzeris Medical Center in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Archie McLean, D.O., M.P.H. ('88) received the Physician of the Year Award from the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association during its 106th Annual Convention held February 21-24 in Fort Lauderdale.

Kasey C. Nelson, D.O. ('03) has joined the staff of the emergency department at Ostego Memorial Hospital in Gaylord, Michigan. Dr. Nelson completed his residency at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Michigan, and worked at Henry Ford Hospital and the Emergency Physicians Medical Group of Michigan before joining forces with Ostego Memorial.

FOMA Rooftop Alumni Reception Impresses Attendees

On February 20, The NSU-COM Alumni Association held its annual reception during the 106th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention (FOMA) held at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66, attracting approximately 85 individuals including alumni, FOMA representatives, and past AOA presidents. "This year, we were fortunate to have the event at the Pier Top at Pier 66," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "It was a beautiful evening, which made the sunset views of Fort Lauderdale and the beach spectacular."

1986 alumnus Robert Blackburn, D.O., past president of the NSU-COM Alumni Association and current FOMA president, welcomed the attendees and introduced the dignitaries present. Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, the college's charismatic dean, also addressed the attendees by providing a brief update about the college.

"We continue to have a good showing of alumni support at FOMA because Florida is home to several hundred of our alumni," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOPF, associate dean of alumni affairs. "Everyone always has a good time as the evening is spent sharing, laughing, and enjoying the company of everyone present."



Licensure and Residency Application Assistance Available



Are you looking to renew or apply for your license or applying for another residency? The NSU-COM Office of Student and Administrative Services and the Office of Alumni Affairs are here to serve you. There are several ways to contact us for verification, dean's letters, etc. You may send the information to us at NSU-COM, Office of Alumni Affairs, 3200 S. University Drive, Terry Bldg., Room 1485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328; via fax at (954) 262-2544; or via email at cawley@nova.edu or kc712@nova.edu. Phone requests can be made by calling (954) 262-1029, (954) 262-1491, or (954) 262-1416. Transcripts must be requested by you through the university registrar's office. Requests also can be made online at <http://www.nova.edu/cwis/registrar/services.html#transcript>.

Alumni Warmly Respond to Buy-A-Bench Initiative



For the second consecutive year, the NSU-COM annual fundraising campaign has brought about new seating to the outside area of the Health Professions Division. To date, several alumni have purchased benches through their donations to the College of Osteopathic Medicine. “The word is getting out that you can buy a bench and place your requested inscription on a plaque as a way to donate to the college,” said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs.

“Alumni like to see something tangible done with their donations,” said Dr. Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs. “When they come to visit the campus, they come specifically to see their bench.” Five benches have been purchased by generous alumni since the buy-a-bench initiative began. Pictured are photos of a bench purchased by class of 1988 alumni Tyler Cymet, D.O., and Robert Crook, D.O. and another bought by 1993 alumnus John Geake, D.O. The other three benches were purchased by 1986 alumnus Raymon Priewe, D.O., 1987 alumnus Tamer Gozleveli, D.O., and 1986 alumnus Robert Blackburn, D.O. For more information on how to purchase a bench, please contact Lynne Cawley at cawley@nova.edu or (954) 262-1029.



Dr. John Geake (left) with his dog Buddy, wife Ellen, and Dr. Neer.

ACOFP Alumni Reception



During the ACOFP 46th Annual Convention and Exhibition, which was held March 4-8, 2009, at the Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, the NSU-COM Alumni Association coordinated a reception for alumni, students, and faculty attending the conference that attracted about 85 individuals. In addition, because many NSU-COM students and faculty members are actively involved in the ACOFP and the legislative process, a number of them also took part in D.O. Day on the Hill.

Alumni Sponsor Students to Attend D.O. Day on the Hill

A number of benevolent alumni members donated funds to the Sponsor a Student: D.O. Day on the Hill program. The monies help offset costs for participating students who attended the annual D.O. Day on Capitol Hill event in Washington, D.C. Following are the benevolent individuals who donated to this worthy cause:

Dr. Robert Cohen Dr. Harry Cooper

Dr. Bruce Farkas Dr. Steve Gorin

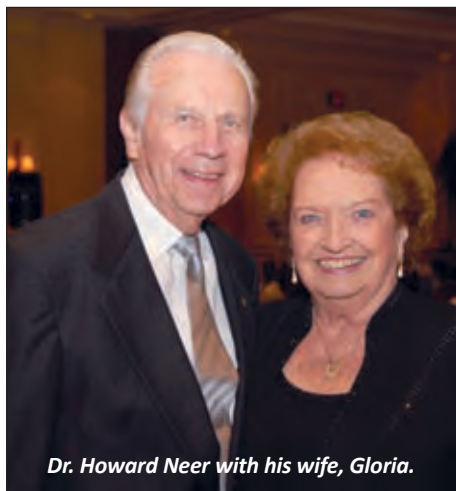
Dr. Donald Howard Dr. Louis Isaacson

Dr. Robert Meek Dr. Fred Srebnick

Attention: Class of 1985

Are you a graduate of the class of 1985? If so, please mark the dates **February 5-7, 2010**, on your calendars because the college will be celebrating a milestone in your lives: your 25th class reunion. We want to plan a very special event in your honor and are hoping for 100 percent participation from the class. Please call your classmates, place these dates on your calendar, and plan to join us next year as we celebrate your 25th reunion. For additional information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029, (954) 262-1491, or cawley@nova.edu.

Friendships Reestablished at Alumni Reunion



Dr. Howard Neer with his wife, Gloria.

The 13th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Weekend, held February 6-8, got off to a festive start at the welcome reception at the Renaissance Hotel in Plantation, Florida, and continued throughout the weekend as a mix of NSU-COM alumni, faculty, and friends took part in a variety of educational and social activities. "The

reception is always a great way to start the weekend," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "Folks are just arriving in town for the weekend celebration, and they attend the reception with their spouses and children. It's always a great event because the alumni spend the evening reminiscing about their days in medical school and telling fun stories."

Attendees also had the opportunity to earn continuing medical education credits through lectures provided by fellow NSU-COM alumni and faculty members, which were held at the NSU Health Professions Division campus in Davie. "We always try and get our alumni and faculty to deliver the lectures," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs. "We have a plethora of successful physicians, including alumni and faculty, and they continue to share their knowledge and expertise. This year, we also held a hands-on workshop in the OMM Lab that was very well received. The alumni, who felt as if they were back in class working in small groups, had so much fun that we plan on continuing with afternoon workshops at future alumni reunions."

The weekend's highlight event, however, was the Saturday dinner banquet, which attracted about 150 attendees. During the evening, A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, received the Alumni Association's Living Tribute Award, while the classes of 1989 and 1999 were honored for commemorating their 20th and 10th anniversaries, respectively. "We had 20 alumni from the class of 1989 come back to celebrate their 20-year reunion, which was the most ever to represent a class," Cawley said. "As the reunion date drew closer, they were calling me to see who was attending and calling other classmates to encourage them to attend."

It was truly a special evening for Dr. Greber as many of his family members, friends, and colleagues turned out to honor a great teacher and mentor to many in the osteopathic profession. "Dr. Greber touched the lives of many students, and the response of alumni giving back to the college in his honor has been tremendous," Cawley said.

Please mark your calendars for the 14th Annual Alumni Reunion CME Weekend, which will be held February 5-7, 2010.



Class of 1989 attendees gather for a commemorative photo.



Alumni Reunion Photo Gallery





Surrounding Dr. Greber are (from left) Dr. Fred Lippman, Dr. Howard Neer, Dr. David Lang (1998 alumnus), and Dr. Robert Blackburn (1986 alumnus).

From the Heart: Dr. A. Alvin Greber Receives Living Tribute Award

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

When it comes to choosing a career, some people spend much of their lives wandering aimlessly through the job scene, showcasing little passion for what they do as they collect their paychecks. Then there are other individuals who knew from an early age what they wanted their destiny to be—and they steadfastly and resolutely transformed their dreams from fantasy to fruition.

That was certainly the case for A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, who currently serves as executive dean for professional affairs at NSU's Health Professions Division. "Ever since I was a kid, as far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a physician," said Dr. Greber, who was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "When I went to summer camp at the age of eight, I recall the very first thing I wanted to do was be in the doctor's office and help do things like hand out the Band-Aids in the camp office."

Once he graduated from high school, Dr. Greber attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in microbiology and showcased his all-court skills by playing varsity basketball. A career in medicine was the ultimate goal,

yet Dr. Greber felt unsure of the exact direction he wanted to take. He was eventually accepted by both an allopathic medical school and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Fortunately for the osteopathic profession, after an intense review of both disciplines, Dr. Greber decided to attend the osteopathic college.

After earning his D.O. degree in 1958, Dr. Greber completed his internship and residency training in internal medicine and cardiology at Osteopathic Medical Center in Philadelphia. Over the next 25 years, Dr. Greber, who is certified in both internal medicine and cardiology, established himself as a respected osteopathic practitioner in the Philadelphia area, serving in a variety of positions at the Parkview division of Metropolitan Hospital.

In 1989, Dr. Morton Terry and Dr. Arnold Melnick were successful in luring Dr. Greber away from Philadelphia to become chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM)—the precursor to NSU-COM. When he arrived at SECOM, the college had just obtained its first Harvey cardiology patient simulator, which allows students to gain invaluable knowledge as they

...Dr. Greber continued



Celebrating Dr. Greber's prestigious honor are (from left) Dr. David Lang, Royal Flagg Jonas, Dr. Fred Lippman, Mary Greber, Dr. Howard Neer, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Dr. Robert Blackburn.

learn to discern the differences between and meanings of various heart sounds. Dr. Greber quickly delved into all aspects of the simulator and began using it regularly for lectures. This cutting-edge Harvey technology soon became a hallmark of the first-class medical education provided by the SECOM and later NSU-COM medical educational system.

Dr. Greber, who credits much of his professional achievement to his wife Mary's undying love and support, always espoused the philosophy that it wasn't just the bricks and mortar, curriculum, and faculty that helped NSU-COM become recognized as one of the leading osteopathic colleges in the country: It was the quality of the medical care provided to the patients of its alumni as they practice in cities, towns, offices, and hospitals throughout the United States. The alumni, now numbering over 3,000, represent the school's quality by the care they provide everyday to each patient they treat.

Dr. Greber proudly illustrated his point about the alumni being appreciably responsible for the medical school's reputation by sharing two experiences that occurred during his two-decade affiliation with NSU-COM. In the first, Dr. Greber was surprised to receive a phone call from the chairman of the Department of Cardiology at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, who called to ask Dr. Greber if he would join its cardiology department

as a clinical professor and lecture to its students. Thinking it was a hoax being perpetrated by some fun-seeking students, he essentially laughed off the gracious invitation. However, about 15 minutes later, he called the doctor back, just in case the invitation turned out to be genuine—which it was. The doctor then explained that in their rotations, performance evaluations, and tests at the Jackson Memorial complex in Miami, NSU-COM students always ranked in the top 10 of the class, which meant Dr. Greber was obviously doing a stellar job of educating his students. Not surprisingly, he gladly accepted the invitation to join the clinical faculty and become a part-time lecturer at

the Miami school.

In the second incident, a professor of pediatric cardiology at Miami Children's Hospital was asking students to interpret various EKGs of increasing difficulty. An NSU-COM student on rotation diagnosed them all correctly, so the professor decided to bring out the EKG he used to stump all his students. To his amazement, the NSU-COM student looked at it and very quickly diagnosed the condition as a Katz-Wächtel phenomenon—a rare pediatric congenital abnormality. The professor immediately called Dr. Greber and complimented him on the comprehensive knowledge base displayed by NSU students.

These anecdotes undoubtedly validate Dr. Greber's strong belief that NSU-COM students and alumni have deservedly earned the respect of other medical professions, their patients, and the government health authorities that frequently interact with them.

"Our faculty and courses are second to none," said Dr. Greber, who also established the internal medicine residency program that is now run through Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami. "In fact, our faculty and instructional techniques are among the best you will find in any allopathic or osteopathic medical school in the country. As a result, our students can compete with anybody, anywhere in the medical field."



Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

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

2009 Donors

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

Dr. Paul Winner
(to be used for neurological education and research)

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

Mr. Howard Spector
(David Spector Memorial Endowment Fund)

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)
(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench)

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

*Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)
Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)
Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)
Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05)
*Dr. Stan Cohen
*Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)
*Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson
Dr. Soling Li ('00)
*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

*Dr. Christopher D. Robert ('99)

*Dr. Richard R. Thacker ('92)

Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)

*Dr. Steven Zucker

Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

*Dr. Candice C. Black Budner ('96)

Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)

Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)

*Dr. Marti Echols

Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)

Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)

**in honor of 2009 Living Tribute Award recipient Dr. A. Alvin Greber*

Cumulative List (1999-2009)

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

David Kimmel Foundation/Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Mason/Harry Wendroff, CPA

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)

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

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Raymon Prieue ('86)

Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson

Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

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

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Charles Chase ('89)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Robert Crook ('88)

Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

Florida Society ACOFP

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)

Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

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

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)

Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

Dr. Michael Ross ('88)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Clock Tower Society (continued)

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)
Ms. Geraldine Terry
Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)
Dr. John Windsor ('89)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)
Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)
Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)
Dr. James Beretta ('88)
Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)
Broward County Osteopathic
Medical Association
*Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)
Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)
Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)
Dr. Bruce David ('88)
Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)
Drs. Felix Fernandez/Ravi Mehan ('00)
Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)
Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)
Dr. Brad Glick ('89)
Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)
Dr. John Gordon ('92)
Dr. Thomas Green ('98)
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)
Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)
Dr. James T. Howell
Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)
Dr. Walter J. Kay
Dr. Robert Klein ('91)
Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)
Drs. Jared and Susan Lechtenstein ('01)
Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)
Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)
Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)
Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)
Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)
Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)
Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)

Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)
Ms. Lorraine Snyder
Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)/Dr. Robyn
Zelnick ('87)
Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)
Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)
Dr. James ('88) and Sherry Turner
Dr. Aye Unnoppet ('00)
Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)
Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Ms. Mary Smith
Dr. Bridget Bellingar ('86)
Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)
Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)
Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo
Dr. Edgar Bolton
Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)
Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)
Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)
Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)
Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)
Dr. Alan David ('92)
Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)
Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)
Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)
Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)
Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)
Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)
Dr. Diana Graves ('86)
Dr. A. Alvin Greber
Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)
Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)
Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)
Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)
Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)
Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)
Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)
Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)
Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
Dr. Soling Li ('00)
Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)
Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer
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. Raimundo Pastor ('93)
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. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)
Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)
Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)
Dr. William Sjovald II ('96)
Dr. William H. Stager ('89)
Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)
Dr. Donald and Hildy Teplitz ('85)
Ms. Louise Todaro
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)
Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)
Dr. Ira Weiner
Dr. Margaret Wilkinson
Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

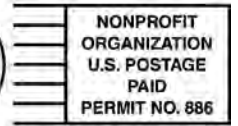
Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)
Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)
Dr. Barnet Alpert
Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)
Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)
Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)
Dr. Leslie Arroyo-Barrows ('86)
Dr. Shoab M. Ayubi
Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)
Dr. Daniel Barkus
Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)
Dr. Paul Bates ('86)
Dr. Ronald Bekic ('04)
Dr. R. Patrick Bell
Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)
Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)
Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)
Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)
Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)
Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)
Dr. George Campbell ('99)
Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)
Dr. Octavia M. Cannon

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dr. Robert Cano ('95) | Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85) | Dr. E. Larry Roycraft ('93) |
| Dr. James Caschette | Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95) | Dr. Allan Rubin |
| Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05) | Dr. Frank Kiick ('88) | Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88) |
| Dr. Maria Catalano ('89) | Dr. Mi Kim ('90) | Dr. David Saltzman |
| Ms. Ann Cawley | Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90) | Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86) |
| Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89) | Dr. Mark Khirsandi ('99) | Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00) |
| Dr. David Cislo ('88) | Dr. Stephen Krathen | Dr. Melvin Sarnow |
| Dr. Jules Cohen | Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89) | Dr. Theodore Schock ('87) |
| Dr. Stan Cohen | Dr. Michael Landman ('88) | Dr. Andrew Schwartz ('03) |
| Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93) | Dr. Kim Lark ('94) | Dr. Sandra Schwemmer |
| Mr. Scott Colton | Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92) | Dr. Robert Sculthorpe |
| Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98) | Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86) | Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90) |
| Dr. Robert D'Amico ('87) | Dr. James Liang ('99) | Dr. Josephine Shallo-Hoffman |
| Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90) | Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02) | Dr. John Shover |
| Dr. Christopher Davis ('89) | Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88) | Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni |
| Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87) | Dr. Albert Lopez ('92) | Mr. Stanley Silverman |
| Dr. Hector Delgado ('90) | Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99) | Dr. Rita Sivils ('92) |
| Dr. Jon and Janee Dodds | Dr. Jason Lue ('99) | Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94) |
| Dr. Cynthia Chobanian Egan ('89) | Dr. Sonal Majmundar ('94) | Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder |
| Dr. George Elias ('99) | Dr. Anthony Marchese ('01) | Dr. Marian St. Petery ('00) |
| Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96) | Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93) | Dr. John H. Stanton ('90) |
| Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90) | Dr. Cindy Marika ('87) | Dr. Margaret Starr |
| Dr. Gary Gary | Dr. Arnold Melnick | Dr. Mark Stich ('87) |
| Dr. Steven Gillon ('86) | Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96) | Dr. Colene Stout |
| Dr. Brent Gordon ('88) | Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89) | Dr. James Sullivan ('87) |
| Dr. Joanna L. Greenblatt-Drowos ('04) | Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97) | Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan ('88) |
| Ms. Marcia Groverman | Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92) | Dr. Richard J. Susi |
| Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock ('86) | Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92) | Dr. James H. Taylor |
| Dr. Heidi Handman ('90) | Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91) | Dr. Richard R. Thacker ('92) |
| Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88) | Dr. Iran Niroomand-Rad ('89) | Dr. David Thomas |
| Dr. Edward Hartwig | Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90) | Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88) |
| Dr. William Hayes ('89) | Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87) | Dr. Dafna Trites ('94) |
| Dr. David Heller ('85) | Dr. Aeyal Oren ('99) | Dr. Claudine Ward ('02) |
| Dr. David C. Hellman ('88) | Mr. Alexander Packman | Dr. Douglas P. Webster |
| Dr. Richard Herman ('89) | Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86) | Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93) |
| Dr. Marc Herschelmann ('91) | Dr. Brent Penhall ('07) | Dr. Michael Weiss ('86) |
| Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87) | Dr. Jorge Perez ('90) | Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86) |
| Dr. William Holt ('86) | Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90) | Dr. John E. Williams ('96) |
| Dr. Myron Howell | Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92) | Dr. Michael Williams ('00) |
| Dr. Nabil Itani ('00) | Dr. Michael Rasansky ('06) | Dr. Paul Winner |
| Dr. Lawrence Jacobson | Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94) | Dr. Scott Yagger ('89) |
| Dr. Thelma Jamison | Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92) | Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89) |
| Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and | Dr. Mark Ritch ('88) | Dr. Adrian M. Zachary ('98) |
| Yoyen Lau ('93) | Dr. Christopher D. Robert ('99) | Dr. Christopher Zub ('99) |
| Donna Kaplan | Dr. Michael Rohan ('01) | Dr. Steven Zucker |
| Dr. Claude Kassim ('97) | Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90) | |



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



2009 Calendar of Events

April 25-26, 2009

*Second Annual Interdisciplinary Geriatric Symposium:
Addressing the Clinical Challenges of Elder Care*
NSU-HPD Campus – Davie, Florida

May 18, 2009

Alumni Golf Outing – 1:00 p.m. shotgun start
Grande Oaks Golf Club – Davie, Florida

Contact the NSU-COM Office of Alumni Affairs for more information or
log on to www.medicine.nova.edu to register online.

July 25, 2009

Sports Medicine for the Primary Care Physician
NSU-HPD Campus – Davie, Florida

July 29-August 2, 2009

Florida Society ACOFP Annual Convention
Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate – Orlando, FL
Alumni reception scheduled for Friday, July 31.