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COM Outlook Winter 2008

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

COM **outlook**

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Winter 2008

Volume 9, Number 1



SAVING LIVES!
***AHEC Program Expands
Tobacco Training and
Cessation Initiative***

Dean's Message



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

When people have a true passion for what they do in life, the legacy they leave behind is memorable for a variety of reasons. That's certainly the case for three cherished individuals who are no longer with us but who had a significant impact on the college and the profession during

and after their time on earth had ended—Dr. Morton Terry, Dr. David Levine, and student doctor Sajjad Hasan.

Although their contributions to the profession and the length of their lives varied, this trio of osteopathic advocates represents a true celebration of life for the way each pursued his dreams with unabashed dedication and enthusiasm.

When Dr. Terry passed away in January 2004 at the age of 82, he left behind a thriving educational enterprise called the Health Professions Division at Nova Southeastern University that has continued to positively affect people in countless ways. Dr. Terry's lifelong dream was to establish an osteopathic medical school in South Florida and develop a system of clinics and partnerships that would outreach to impoverished citizens in the community. As we all know, Dr. Terry was able to accomplish these and numerous other goals. He also was blessed to be able to watch with pride as NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine grew to become one of the largest and most respected osteopathic medical schools in the country.

For Dr. Levine, who passed away in July 2007 at the age of 63, his influence can be witnessed in two of his children, who were so impressed with their father's sense of joy, satisfaction, and self-worth that they followed in his footsteps. His son, Matthew, is currently a third-year student at NSU-COM, while his daughter, Julie, graduated from our college in 2004 with her father watching on with pride.

Dr. Levine was also an individual who believed in giving back to the profession he loved. This fact is evidenced by his service on the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees

and successful terms as president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, and the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association.



Dr. Morton Terry

And then there is student doctor Sajjad Hasan, a beloved and truly energetic student who would have graduated from NSU-COM in 2009 had he not been stricken by a terminal case of thymus cancer. Although he had yet to complete his second year of medical school when he became ill, Sajjad packed a lot of living into his short life. Two months before he passed away in October 2007, one of his final wishes was to come back from Texas for a weekend to see his former classmates.

Once his classmates learned of his wish, they coordinated a wonderful reunion at one of their apartments where they and Sajjad could reconnect, reminisce, and view a DVD presentation filled with photos of their times together, the fun moments they shared, and the many events and volunteer activities they participated in on and off campus. Because he was on oxygen at this stage of his illness, he had to be accompanied from Texas by his sister; yet he remained amazingly upbeat.



Dr. David Levine

Although he was only in the infancy of his osteopathic career, it was inspiring to see how important the profession was to him—even in the final months of his life. During the reunion, the college presented Sajjad with a Certificate of Highest Honors in Medical Letters to recognize his achievement in the medical curriculum as well as his dedication to osteopathic medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

It's qualities like the ones mentioned above that make the osteopathic profession so special and attract the kind of people it does—exceptional people like Dr. Morton Terry, Dr. David Levine, and student doctor Sajjad Hasan.



Sajjad Hasan



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

Over the past several years, enhancing the university's broad-based research endeavors has been a prime objective of the president's office and the NSU Board of Trustees. Recently, the university took another major step toward achieving this goal when the president announced the hiring of a vice president for research.

This is a very significant development in tandem with the construction of the

research building set to begin in the fall of 2008 in the parking lot adjacent to the Terry Building because the end result is going to mean a dramatic boost to all the collaborative research ventures occurring at the university. More specifically, it will have a dramatic impact on the College of Osteopathic Medicine because many of its recent grants involving the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) and the Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) are interdisciplinary in nature. In fact, the GREAT GEC involves the application of the entire health care team in regard to prevention and maintenance in the geriatric community, which would involve pharmacy, optometry, psychology, allied health, etc.

One of the major responsibilities of the new vice president for research will be an increased focus not only in wet lab bench research but also in the area of clinical research, which clearly bodes well for the College of Osteopathic Medicine and its applicable clinical environments such as our on-campus health center. Rita Silverman, who has served as the college's director of clinical research for the past eight years, will play a pivotal role in this exciting new chapter in NSU's history.

Of course, the impact will extend far beyond the College of Osteopathic Medicine. For example, Dr. Franklin Garcia Godoy in the College of Dental Medicine has a compendium of clinical research projects that is being conducted in areas such as dental materials, cardiovascular issues involving certain oral pathologies, and other projects of that nature.

The important thing to note is that all our clinical research trials involve approved drugs that are currently in the marketplace. Our primary role in the application of the various drug products is to monitor their efficacy and the value of the drug products once they have already been approved for usage. Fortunately, pharmaceutical companies and other affiliated individuals involved in doing clinical research are increasingly looking toward universities to

do conduct clinical research. They like the imprimatur of doing work with universities, so we're coming on board at just the right time with a new vice president for research who has a strong background in both his relationship and association with the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

I'm proud to say that under the leadership of Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, the College of Osteopathic Medicine has been very proactive in the research realm by developing a one-year predoctoral research fellowship, which commenced in 2006, and reaching out to interested undergraduate NSU students who are invited to shadow our physicians.

As a result of these successes, we're going to see an increased interest in the application of how we conduct all forms of research. This will include applied research like Dr. Isa Fernandez does in NSU-COM's Behavioral Health Promotion Program, direct clinical research conducted at our health center, as well as what we call wet lab bench research where we have ongoing projects involving multiple researchers in our colleges of medical sciences, optometry, pharmacy, and dental medicine.

Consequently, we will have the opportunity for many of our osteopathic medical school students to become more aware and more involved in the entire research menu available at the Health Professions Division. As a member of the Committee on Admissions, I am pleased to see how many more students who have been accepted into our programs say one of the deciding factors to apply to NSU-COM is the multifaceted opportunities we offer in regard to research.

I'm not saying every student who comes here for an interview mentions research, but it used to be one out of a 1,000, and now it's about 10 out of 100, which to me is very exciting because what it does is cultivate an attitude and a reality in the field of medicine that says "nothing stops—my knowledge goes on."

Fred Lippman Ed.D.





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5 Preparedness the Key to Rebounding After Disaster Strikes

At its most fragile essence, life is an ephemeral entity that can be forever transformed by any number of accidents, occurrences, or natural and manmade disasters. That's why it's so vital to think ahead and do everything possible to properly prepare for the spate of disasters that can—and do—occur on a regular basis throughout the United States and the global society.

7 NSU-COM Looks to Globalize Osteopathic Medicine in Argentina

In August 2007, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, Dianna L. Silvagni, J.D., who serves as immediate past president of the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA), and NSU-COM faculty members Drs. James Howell and Bart Whitehead traveled to Argentina to accomplish a variety of objectives.

8 GREAT GEC Established at College of Osteopathic Medicine

In September 2007, NSU-COM's growing national esteem was reaffirmed when it received a \$426,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create a Geriatric Education Center (GEC), which will instruct South Florida health care professionals and students about the interdisciplinary needs of the elderly.

20 NSU's AHEC Receives \$4 Million to Expand Tobacco Program

Thanks to a new two-year, \$20 million pilot program established by the Florida Legislature, the five existing statewide AHEC programs, which form the Florida AHEC Network, will each be receiving \$4 million over a two-year period to extend their tobacco training and cessation services to a significantly broader audience within their catchment areas.

26 Osteopathic Roots Run Deep for Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts

While some people spend a majority of their lives vainly searching for both personal and professional fulfillment, others such as Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts seem guided by an unforeseen force that almost effortlessly leads them to their harmonious destiny.

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Preparedness the Key to Surviving, Rebounding After Disaster Strikes

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications



At its most fragile essence, life is an ephemeral entity that can be forever transformed by any number of accidents, occurrences, or natural and manmade disasters.

That's why it's so vital to think ahead and do everything possible to properly prepare for the spate of disasters that can—and do—occur on a regular basis throughout the United States and the global society. "When I watched the devastating wildfires in California and remained on alert regarding the threat of Tropical Storm Noel hitting South Florida last October, it reinforced for me the vital issue of preparedness," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., who serves as project manager for NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP).

"When Florida was hit with four hurricanes in 2004, residents throughout the state became extremely vigilant about buying water, purchasing batteries, and putting hurricane shutters up on their homes and businesses," she added. "But were they really prepared to deal with a hurricane's aftermath? These same issues applied after the recent fires in California. Many citizens did not have a fireproof safe where they could store their important papers, nor did they think about the repercussions of a large-scale catastrophe."

Without sounding like a doomsday prophet, Dr. Rokusek stresses that disasters ranging from hurricanes and tornadoes to terrorist attacks and flu pandemics will always be a part of our daily reality. Consequently, preparing for these and other disasters in a comprehensive manner should be a priority for everyone. "Our short-term memory sometimes takes precedence over the reality that disasters

could happen at any time," she explained. "Most people think they know what they'd do, but they don't have their plans documented and ready to put into action, which is a concern. When people talk about being prepared, they mention items like water, food, and batteries. But what about all the other things they need to do? Would they have all their important papers saved in a waterproof bag or portable safe to take with them? Would they have photos or video of their jewelry and artwork saved on a jump drive to take with them should they need to evacuate?"

According to Dr. Rokusek, taking precautionary action to deal with potential disasters makes perfect sense when you consider the alternative: abject chaos. "After a major disaster occurs, many people end up homeless and lose all their possessions," she stated. "That's why it's important to prepare an emergency kit that is accessible at a moment's notice."

Because people are so consumed with the everyday living of life, it's easy to forget just how vital the minutest piece of paperwork will be when individuals attempt to reconstruct their lives in a post-disaster scenario. "All individuals should have an emergency kit they can take with them if they are forced to evacuate," Dr. Rokusek explained. "It should include items such as your social security card and passport as well as copies of all insurance policies, credit card numbers, savings/retirement accounts—and addresses of whom to contact from those companies. These are issues people struggle to deal with when their homes are destroyed because they no longer have access to that important contact information."

Dr. Rokusek also advises individuals to keep receipts of all major purchases and photograph or videotape their home the way it looked before the catastrophe occurred. "What delays insurance payments is the lack of proof—and you need proof that the painting you had on the wall was actually worth \$5,000."

Beyond preparing an emergency kit, citizens will need money for gas and food should they be forced to evacuate to other areas because it is likely power will be knocked out to most areas near or within the disaster radius. "If you have to evacuate, you will need between \$300 and \$500 per person in cash, which is the recommended amount," Dr. Rokusek said. "If you choose to stay in your home, you'll also need to be prepared to live without any outside assistance for at least three days and have a food and water supply that can last for at least two weeks."

As people learned in the days and weeks following Hurricane Katrina's decimation of New Orleans and surrounding areas in 2005, they were essentially on their own despite government intervention. "Preparedness is not something we can ever put out of our minds," Dr. Rokusek explained. "It has to be a well-conceived and thought out plan that incorporates viable action steps for your home and business. We must have a concrete way of dealing with all these details because the government will not do it for us—nor should we expect it to. We may not have any control over natural or manmade disasters, but we can certainly control the way we prepare for them."

CBAP Helps Train Medical Reserve Corps Members

On October 13, NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) provided a daylong training program based on the competencies established by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General for 95 members of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) as well as a representative from the U.S. Public Health Service and the Florida Department of Health.

The program, which was held at the Intercontinental West Miami Hotel in downtown Miami, focused on training the attendees in MRC core competency areas such as psychological first aid, roles and responsibilities of individual volunteers, vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, and anthrax preparedness.

The MRC, which is a national program for volunteer emergency responders, typically comprises volunteers from medicine and other health professions who participate in responding to both natural and manmade major public health emergencies locally but also elsewhere in the state and nationally. This CBAP initiative, which is part of an ongoing effort with the Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach County health departments, required several months to plan.

Currently, there are no standards for the education and evaluation of MRC members in the United States. As a result, this pilot program has hopefully established a training standard that will be demonstrated by the members of the CBAP team at the MRC national meeting in Portland, Oregon, in April 2008.

Speakers included James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., CBAP project director; Maribel Zayas, B.P.A., J.D., interim administrator, Miami-Dade County Health Department; Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., CBAP director; Pete De Jesse, EMT-P, EFO, battalion chief, Broward County Sheriff's Office, Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services; and Jay Lee, Ph.D., Palm Beach County MRC coordinator.



CBAP Receives Recognition from Miami-Dade County

The CBAP was honored in October by the Miami-Dade County Health Department for its contributions to the organization's Public Health Preparedness Program. Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of education, planning, and research and CBAP director, and Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., CBAP project manager, were honored by the Miami-Dade County Health Department for their "unwavering support and assistance" to the program and the citizens of the community during the organization's Volunteer Recognition Reception held at the South Miami Hospital, Victor E. Clarke Education Center. In addition, CBAP faculty and staff received a plaque of appreciation from the Miami-Dade County Health Department "in recognition of the center's support to the Medical Reserve Corps in the development and implementation of core competency training for volunteers."

CBAP Acquires \$1.13 Million in Continuation Funding

The center recently received \$1.13 million in continuation funding from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue its Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program. The funding is utilized by the CBAP to provide national training activities aimed at physicians, other health professionals, and first responders for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2008.

COMMUNICATIONS

■ The NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Family Medicine Residency received a three-year pass rate of 100 percent for both the written and practical certification examinations in the AOBFP/ACOFP three-year review of board certification scores for first-time takers. "I believe this is a reflection not only of the quality of residents that we train, but of the dedicated faculty in the hospital, clinic, and college, the administrative support staff, and, in particular, individuals like Dr. Marc Morganstine and Dr. Joseph Stasio," said Susan Ledbetter, D.O., assistant professor and program director of the family medicine residency.

■ In 2007, the college extended an invitation to FOMA members to participate in the student applicant interview process. NSU-COM would like to acknowledge the following doctors who graciously volunteered their time: Dr. Wayne Bizer, Dr. Jules J. Cohen, Dr. Harry Cooper, Dr. Harold Dalton, Dr. Gary Fishman, Dr. Beverly Greenberg, Dr. Robert Hand, Dr. Donald Howard, Dr. Lou Issacson, Dr. Fred Khani, Dr. Larry Levinson, and Dr. Fred Srebnick. If you are interested in joining the interview teams, please contact Rachel Weiner, admissions counselor for the College of Osteopathic Medicine, at (954) 262-1113 or via email at rachweiner@nova.edu.

NSU-COM Looks to Globalize Osteopathic Medicine During Argentina Excursion

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*



In August 2007, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, Dianna L. Silvagni, J.D., who serves as immediate past president of the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA), and NSU-COM faculty members Drs. James Howell and Bart Whitehead traveled to Argentina to accomplish a variety of objectives that included

- participating in an international distance education consortium
- discussing collaborative opportunities with the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud in La Rioja
- helping globalize the American-based profession of osteopathic medicine

During their weeklong stay in Argentina, NSU-COM and AAOA representatives as well as administrators from NSU's Fischler School of Education and Shepard Broad Law Center served as attendees or key presenters at CREAD (Consortio Red de Educación a Distancia or Inter-American Distance Education Consortium), which was held in Buenos Aires. Drs. Silvagni and Whitehead made a well-received presentation on "The Use of Technology in Medical Education/Health Training" that showcased the college's compressed-video capabilities, while Dr. Howell discussed "Long Distance Education and Rural Health."

Approximately a dozen countries were represented at the CREAD symposium, which is committed to improving the standard of living and quality of life through educational opportunities, fostering a better understanding of different cultures and identities, and enhancing cooperation between countries through shared action.

In addition to participating in the CREAD conference, Drs. Silvagni, Howell, and Whitehead and Ms. Silvagni visited the rural medical school located at the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud to facilitate the process of developing an exchange program for rural rotations, which would allow the Argentinean students to conduct a portion of their rural rotations at an American site and vice versa. "This collaboration will provide our students with an invaluable opportunity to broaden their education through experiences and exposure on a more long-term basis in an international environment," Dr. Silvagni stated.

During a meeting with the secretary and minister of health located in La Rioja, Ms. Silvagni discussed the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program cosponsored by the AAOA. Because suicide is such a serious problem in the region, Ms. Silvagni will be assisting the local health officials to implement the Yellow Ribbon Program in La Rioja.

The collaborations, however, do not end there. NSU-COM is currently developing a Spanish version of its online Master of Public Health Program, which will be offered to students attending the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud. "The trip proved to be extremely successful," Dr. Silvagni said. "We have been invited back to CREAD in 2008, which will be held in Brazil, and been asked to return to Argentina to work on other joint programs. We may also have an opportunity to establish a relationship with Portugal in the development of American-based osteopathic medical education."

The aforementioned efforts all play a pivotal role in the college's continued effort to help globalize osteopathic medicine. "Ensuring the globalization of osteopathic medicine is a major priority because if you're not international, you essentially don't exist," Dr. Silvagni explained. "We can't just be an American profession anymore. In fact, the basic tenets of osteopathic medicine are exactly what many countries need because their infrastructures are not supported well at the entry level of medicine. Osteopathic medicine emphasizes a holistic approach to the patient, which encourages graduates to choose primary care and produces a better balance between subspecialists and primary care specialists. Additionally, when we make American-based osteopathic medicine internationally recognized, the opportunity will exist for students who select osteopathic medicine to be able to practice anywhere in the world."

NSU-COM Receives Federal Funding to Establish Geriatric Education Center

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications



In September 2007, NSU-COM's growing national esteem was reaffirmed when it received a \$426,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create a Geriatric Education Center (GEC), which will instruct South Florida health care professionals and students about the interdisciplinary needs of the elderly. If everything goes according to plan, the college will receive an additional \$893,000 for this interdisciplinary project pending the availability of federal funds over the next two years.

NSU-COM's GEC, which has been christened The Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC), is one of over 40 Geriatric Education Centers

in the United States. As such, it will be dedicated to

- providing interdisciplinary programs to maintain and improve the health of ethnically and culturally diverse older adults from underserved areas of Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and St. Lucie counties
- educating and training health professionals in health promotion and prevention emphasizing undergraduate and graduate professional education
- serving the needs of underserved elderly citizens with innovative teaching and clinical experiences

As the center evolves, the intention is to help improve the training of health care professionals in geriatrics and eldercare, instruct NSU faculty members who teach geriatrics, and provide health care students with clinical geriatrics in nursing homes, acute care hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, senior centers, and retirement communities.

“I believe the creation of this center will help galvanize all NSU colleges and their affiliated programs that are currently teaching students about geriatrics or gerontology, which is the study of aging,” said Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, who was appointed as the center’s project director. “It will bring us all together in terms of developing a unified curriculum because one of the grant’s tenets is to develop a 24 contact hour course. Currently, medicine, optometry, allied health, dentistry, pharmacy, and public health all teach geriatrics from their own areas of interest, but this course will focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, prevention, health maintenance, healthy aging, and improvement of quality of life.”

According to Dr. Pandya, who also serves as chair of the college’s Department of Geriatrics, the GREAT GEC will focus on four specific objectives: training, education, resources, and ongoing data collection. “One of the major areas of focus in regard to training will be ethnogeriatrics, which is attention to aging in different cultures, the needs of different cultures, and what the communications and psychosocial issues would be. Another aspect we are working on is developing clinical training sites for all these students in various disciplines so they can learn how to take care of older adults and learn their specialty in the context of treating elderly patients. Fortunately, some of these sites already exist, but the connections haven’t yet been made.”

Because collaboration plays a pivotal role in assuring that the center meets its goals, the GREAT GEC is partnering with the Palm Beach County Health Department, the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in Pembroke Pines, and the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center. “These three partners will be joined closely to us at the hip in terms of clinical training and the various other projects we have affiliated with the grant like continuing education,” said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., who has added the title of GREAT GEC executive director to her existing responsibilities with the CBAP and the Office of Education, Planning, and Research. “The purpose of GECs nationally has been to help promote innovative geriatric education, and by having these collaborators, this helps us make the training very relevant and helps us promote education in the field of geriatrics in a venue beyond the classroom.”

Dr. Pandya wholeheartedly concurred with Dr. Rokusek’s assessment, adding that, “Classroom teaching by itself is

definitely not enough,” she admitted. “I think the exciting thing at NSU is, yes, we have a lot of educators and individuals with experience in the geriatrics field, but we also have many people who are currently practicing and taking care of older adults who are interested in furthering clinical knowledge in geriatrics and teaching it. That’s what makes our GEC such an exciting project. In fact, that’s why I decided to come to NSU, because all the components were here to do what we are now doing.”

“The formation of this center positions Nova Southeastern University and its interdisciplinary health-related colleges and programs to become true leaders in geriatric education for the students in the pipeline as well as those health care professionals already practicing in their field,” Dr. Rokusek stated. “Additionally, because there’s a component for continuing education included in the grant, this will allow the health care community to really look to Nova Southeastern University and its Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center as a vital resource.”

To learn more about the GREAT GEC, please contact Drs. Cecilia Rokusek or Jessica De Leon at (954) 262-1850 or (954) 262-1688.

GREAT GEC: Analyzing the Need

- 23 percent of the Sunshine State’s population is over 60 years of age.
- Florida has the nation’s largest percentage of elderly residents.
- 16.8 percent of the state’s total population is over 65 compared to the national average of 12.4 percent.
- 2.2 percent of the state’s population is over 85 years old, with Florida housing the nation’s largest total number of those over 85.
- Florida’s total elderly population to be served by NSU-COM’s Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center is larger in absolute numbers than 29 states and Puerto Rico’s total population.
- In 2006, 34 percent of the state’s population 85 years of age and older was Hispanic, Latino, African American, or from other minority groups.
- There is a paucity of geriatricians and health care professional faculty ethnoculturally trained in geriatrics to meet the state’s needs.
- Given the 2007 Florida demographics, Florida continues to be the “oldest” state in the nation.
- Florida’s elderly population is expected to grow to over 30 percent of the state’s population by 2030.

Internal Medicine Residency Program Established at Palmetto General Hospital



Palmetto General Hospital has been granted approval by the American Osteopathic Association for a new three-year internal medicine residency training program with 24 positions. The inaugural class of eight residents will commence on July 1, 2008. The program will be the sixth of its kind in the state of Florida and will become the second largest in the Sunshine State.

“We are thrilled that the dream of this program has become reality,” said Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine, who has been appointed as program director. “The hospital is an ideal environment with a medically underserved patient population, an experienced staff, and a supportive administration that makes it an ideal opportunity for an internal medicine residency that will benefit the patients, community, trainees, and hospital.”

“We are building the program upon the strong foundation in medical education that has been thriving at Palmetto General for the past 16 years and adding the special characteristics that come with an internal medicine residency program,” he added. “The program has already received 38 applicants for its eight initial spots and is expected to fill with high-caliber candidates that reflect the community and program standards.”

Faculty Development Program Proves Popular

By Marti Echols, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean for Medical Education



With the growth and expansion of the COM class size, changing curriculum, and addition of new faculty members, the need to provide a structured opportunity to enhance faculty skills has become a priority. During the 2007 COM Strategic Planning Retreat, an initiative to provide a faculty development program was unanimously approved by the collective faculty.

The faculty development series was developed in collaboration with the Committee on Medical Education and Faculty Development. The committee determined that the content would utilize four major themes: “Improving Teaching and Learning,” “Career Building,” “Faculty Leadership,” and “Current Topics in Osteopathic Medicine.” Individual sessions within each theme would be determined by majority response based upon a needs assessment. The committee further recommended that faculty

members be required to attend a minimum of four sessions per year and submit documentation of attendance with their academic portfolio during continuing contract reviews.

The needs assessment, which was developed during early fall 2007, was used to determine the specific topics that would be presented over the next 12-month period. The needs assessment was administered to all NSU-COM faculty members via the faculty listserv. Faculty could respond directly from the listserv or complete a paper copy and return it to the assistant dean for medical education. The needs assessment was completed by 68 percent of full-time active faculty.

Based upon the needs assessment, topics over the next 12 months will include “New Advances in Medical Education,” “Public Speaking for Faculty,” “Using Web Resources for Teaching,” “Active Teaching Strategies,” “Basic Grant Writing Skills,” “Promoting Yourself in the Community,” “Negotiating for What You Want,” “Communicating Effectively,” “Performance Evaluation,” “Medical Genetics in Primary Care,” “Medical Informatics,” and “Topics in Geriatrics and Nutrition Through the Lifespan.”

The needs assessment also determined the most appropriate time for faculty development programs. As a result, the seminars are held the fourth Wednesday of each month, with a session scheduled at 7:00 a.m. and noon to allow for maximum participation.

Harvey Laboratory Renamed A. Alvin Greber Cardiac Simulation Center



The ribbon-cutting foursome featured Dr. Fred Lippman, Dr. Greber, Geraldine Terry, and Dr. Greber's wife Mary Kollias-Greber, Psy.D.

On October 22, A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, HPD associate executive dean for professional and extramural affairs, received a prestigious honor when the Harvey Laboratory was officially renamed as the A. Alvin Greber Cardiac Simulation Center thanks to a generous donation from Geraldine Terry—the widow of the legendary Morton Terry, D.O.

The simulation center has a cardiology patient simulator called Harvey that emulates the bedside findings of almost all cardiac diseases at the touch of a button and allows medical students and others who need such training to observe and feel pulses as well as listen to heart sounds and murmurs. Some of the



Members of the Terry family turned out to celebrate with Dr. Greber. Pictured (from left) are Aaron, Michelle, Geraldine, and Pam Terry.

findings it can simulate include blood pressure, bilateral jugular venous pulsations, carotid and peripheral arterial pulsations, precordial pulse abnormalities and auscultatory events of each cardiac disease state.

Dr. Greber, who has been affiliated with the NSU-COM since 1989, was responsible for modernizing the Department of Internal Medicine and recruiting renowned faculty. He also single-handedly created the curricula syllabi and implemented an innovative log system to track medical students' attendance and performance during their third- and fourth-year rotations. "It is very humbling to think you deserve such an honor as having your name placed on a clinical simulation lab that will remain for many years," Dr. Greber stated. "Perhaps decades from now students will walk into the lab and wonder who that individual was. I really appreciate the fact that the institution and the individual donor, Geraldine Terry, saw fit to do this in my honor; In fact, I'm overwhelmed by it."

According to HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., "Dr. Greber is the mentor to many of our most accomplished health professionals such as physicians, optometrists, dentists, and physician assistants based upon his academic skills and simulation in cardiac and cardiovascular care. He is the epitome of what a physician is all about."

Track Day Provides Future Training Opportunities

NSU-COM's third- and fourth-year medical students train during their clinical years at 15 affiliated core campuses located in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. Annually, NSU-COM invites the directors of medical education (DMEs) from each of these sites to NSU's main campus for a day of networking with second-year students. The event, called Track Day, is greatly appreciated by COM second-year students. During Track Day, OMS-II students learn about the COM's affiliated core campuses and have an opportunity to ask specific questions to the DMEs from each site. The students utilize this information to begin to make decisions as to where they wish to go for their third- and fourth-year clinical training. The DMEs enjoy the opportunity to spend a day on campus, visit with COM faculty and administration, and meet their new cadre of trainees for the coming academic year.

"Track Day is an excellent opportunity for our second-year students to network with NSU-COM's affiliated DMEs from each of our clinical campuses," said Joseph DeGaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FAAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME. "The event really helps our students make good decisions regarding where they wish to go for their third and fourth years of clinical training."



Day for Children Event Benefits Local Families



NSU's commitment to community service was on display again last September at the Davie campus when the university coordinated its sixth annual A Day for Children health fair, which attracted more than 7,000 attendees. The event not only showcased the university's clinical programs devoted to children but also included the organizations associated with Broward County's One Community Partnership as well as other countywide children's resource centers. In all, over 100 exhibit booths representing different NSU disciplines and children's service centers in Broward County were on hand to provide health care screenings.

The health fair featured free health screenings in areas such as vision, medicine, speech, behavior, and dental health as well as physical and occupational therapy, which were provided through the NSU Health Care Centers network. These screenings provide a tremendous benefit to the families because many of the children have never been examined by a health care professional. As a result, pathology is frequently identified in many children for the first time. Additionally, faculty members were available from 10 NSU clinical colleges and programs to answer health care questions and address various concerns.

Over 300 students and faculty members from a number of NSU schools, colleges, and centers generously volunteered their time to provide fun activities for the children, which included free games, bounce houses, and music as well as various refreshments. Fingerprinting and ID card services were provided by the Davie Police Department, while the town's fire department offered free safety and installation demonstrations of child car seats.

The health fair is produced by the NSU Division of Clinical Operations and is coordinated and chaired by Ronnie Oller, wife of Robert Oller, D.O., who serves as the CEO of the Division of Clinical Operations. The event was sponsored through the beneficence of NSU Health Care Centers, Broward County's One Community Partnership, Broward Family Life, WPBT-Kid Vision, KISS FM, the Miniaci Theater, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Broward Health (formerly the North Broward Hospital District).

Fitness the Focus at Shark Shuffle 5K Run and Walk



More than 800 individuals registered for the Second Annual Shark Shuffle 5K Run and Walk held last September 23, almost doubling figures from last year's event. Though the runners and walkers were hit with a deluge of rain after heading out from the start line, spirits were not dampened.

The NSU Wellness Committee partnered this year with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida and Collegiate Risk Management in sponsoring the event, which drew serious athletes as well as recreational runners and walkers. In addition, young children participated in the Kids' Fun Run—a special version of the Shark Shuffle designed especially for them.

Each runner or walker was eligible to participate in the Shark Shuffle raffle drawing. Prizes for employees and community participants included American Airlines round-trip tickets, a Florida Marlins gift pack, five NSU 12-month gym memberships, a Hewlett-Packard camera and printer, Cantina Laredo restaurant gift certificates, and many other items. In addition, 36 NSU students were awarded a variety of grants.

"I was delighted by the multi-layered community spirit the Shark Shuffle sparked," said Douglas Flemons, Ph.D., race director and director of student counseling. "The deans were wonderfully generous in funding the 30 \$500 Active Scholar grants we awarded to NSU students. The headmaster of University School supported an additional five \$100 awards for students in the Upper School, and the OIT staff, all on its own, decided to donate money to support yet another grant. "An NSU faculty member who watched the grant raffle told me later how proud she felt to be part of NSU," added Dr. Flemons, who wholeheartedly agreed with that assessment. "Over 100 volunteers donated their time and expertise to help the Wellness Committee host an event that encourages us all to recognize the necessary connection between a healthy body and healthy mind."

HPD Media Day Enlightens Local Reporters



On November 13, various South Florida media representatives congregated at NSU’s Davie campus to participate in the inaugural Health Professions Division (HPD) Media Day and gain key insight regarding the various programs and colleges that comprise the division. The event was a massive undertaking that involved participation from all six HPD colleges, the NSU Office of Public Affairs, and the NSU-COM Office of Medical Communications.

Over a dozen faculty members and administrators were involved in the day’s activities, which included PowerPoint presentations and tours of the various health care clinics located in the Health Professions Division. A number of media representatives also took a tour of the A. Alvin Greber Cardiac Simulation Center to look and listen to the Harvey cardiac patient simulator and had the chance to see an actual standardized patient exam in progress in the HPD Simulation Lab.

“Media Day proved to be a resounding success on many levels,” said Scott Colton, director of medical communications for the College of Osteopathic Medicine. “Our goal was to provide the media with an instructional and insightful overview of everything from research and community programs to the innovative educational curricula employed at the Health Professions Division. Based on the enthusiastic comments we received from the attendees, we definitely sparked their interest in learning more about the dynamic educational environment that exists at Nova Southeastern University.”

NSU-COM Forms Professional Speakers Bureau

NSU-COM is pleased to announce the formation of its Professional Speakers Bureau, which is available to the general public, health care professionals, and medical organizations. Speakers are available to discuss a range of current health care topics that can assist you in educating and informing your workplace, community organization, club, school, church, or professional organization. All speakers are on the college’s faculty or staff. This service is provided at no cost to the general public and non-professional community organizations. For additional information, please visit <http://medicine.nova.edu/speakers/> or call (954) 262-1072. Please allow two to six weeks for planning once a topic is agreed upon. Current topic categories include “Careers in Health Care,” “Children’s Health,” “Community Health Care Awareness,” “General Health Care Topics,” “Men’s Health,” and “Woman’s Health Care.”

NSU Employee Luncheon Honors Commitment

On December 12, NSU held its annual Employee Anniversary Luncheon at the Signature Grand in Davie to recognize staff and faculty members who have reached significant employment milestones. Following are the College of Osteopathic Medicine honorees:

20 Years of Service

Elaine Lefkowitz

15 Years of Service

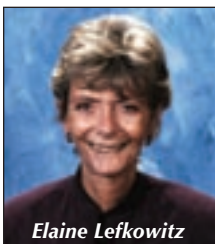
Dr. Myron Howell, Dr. Stanley Simpson, and Blakely Warren

10 Years of Service

Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts, Nancy May, Dr. Brian Portnoy, and Dr. Eric Shamus

5 Years of Service

Katherine Campos, Debra Chase, Jason Cohen, Dr. Hilda DeGaetano, Dr. Gary Hill, Leslie Jones, Cherif Nahas, Gustavo Saldias, Emmanuela St. Fleur, and Dr. Albert Whitehead



Elaine Lefkowitz



Dr. Myron Howell



Nancy May



Debra Chase

GLMA, SNMA Raise Awareness About HIV/AIDS

By Audrea Vaughan, SNMA President



Pictured (clockwise from left) are Audrea Vaughan (SNMA President), Ana Silva, Jonathan Grigsby (GLMA President), Laura Martin, Michelle Tom, Keren Braithwaite, and Jessica Cuello.

During the week of November 26 through December 1, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) collaborated to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS on the HPD campus. HIV/AIDS is a global epidemic that continues to affect as many as 14,000 new people each day.

Activities began with a heartfelt presentation from Shelley Warshaw, who serves as recruitment coordinator for the Everglades AHEC and a dedicated volunteer for Friends-Together, Inc., which is a nonprofit organization that works with people and families within the local community infected with the HIV virus. Later in the week, research fellow Mark Newberry gave an astounding presentation highlighting the history of HIV and AIDS.

Throughout the week, students were showered with current information and able to purchase red-ribbon pins in front of the Steele Auditorium. It was also an opportunity for students and the community to learn their HIV status, as free confidential HIV testing was offered in the Internal Medicine Clinic in the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center throughout the afternoon.

On December 1, which is World AIDS Day, the SNMA and GLMA hosted the First Annual Soiree` Blanche—a private white attire party—at a local Fort Lauderdale club. The event was an opportunity for students to come out and support the cause while taking a break with friends. It was also a huge success, bringing in over \$700. All money raised throughout the week was donated to Friends-Together, Inc. to further its mission to help the HIV/AIDS community.

Arts in Healthcare Committee Benefits the Community

By OMS-II Dannielle Woodruff



Showcasing their artistic sides (from left) are OMS-II students Danniella Perez-Velasco, Mohammed Authmouney, and Dannielle Woodruff.

Once a month, the NSU-HPD Arts in Healthcare Committee holds a meeting where members create an arts and crafts project to benefit patients in local health care settings. At its October meeting, committee members made Halloween critters that were distributed to patients

at Broward General Medical Center. One committee member, OMS-II Mohammed Authmouney, was proud of his creation, saying, “It feels great to be able to express my artistic side.”

The NSU-HPD Arts in Healthcare Committee tries to encourage creativity and artistic interest in students while benefiting local health care facilities. In the past, the committee has brought arts and crafts to local nursing homes, hosted wonderful guest speakers, and brought more art and expression to the HPD campus through the various pictures and paintings hanging on the walls of the HPD. All HPD students are welcome to join the committee—even if you don’t consider yourself artistic or creative. To become involved or obtain more information, please email our committee vice chair, Amy Everitt, at everitt@nova.edu.

■ **Candace White (OMS-I)**, who was elected president of the class of 2011, is understandably thrilled to be serving in this significant capacity. “I feel this is a major accomplishment, and I am honored that my classmates believe I have what it takes to be their president,” she said. “People often say you choose to go into medicine, but I honestly believe that medicine chose me. Since I can first remember, I have always had a strong desire to help those in need and was always interested in science and the inner workings of the human body and its functioning. I hope to be an inspiration for women, minorities, and anyone who has dream.”

■ **Roger Alvarez (OMS-III)** presented a research poster at the annual Student Poster Competition at the AOA Convention in October. His abstract, which was also published in the August issue of the *JAOA*, was titled “Three Shortcomings of Current Osteopathic Medical Education Curricula: A Student Perspective” and was based on a national survey performed by the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents. The research and its subsequent recommendations were also presented to the Society of Osteopathic Medical Educators at its June 28 annual meeting.

AMWA Fundraisers Benefit Women in Distress

By OMS-II Ritchelle Martinez



The AMWA Executive Board consists of (back row from left) Thuy Le, Ritchelle Martinez, Damilola Olupona, and Amenah Ebadi. (Front row from left): Danielle Freeman, Sandy Lau, and Teresa McDill.

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) is an organization comprising medical students and physicians who are dedicated to advancing women in medicine and improving women's health. The local chapter at NSU-COM is working toward this vision by holding fundraisers and hosting events that benefit Women in Distress of Broward County, which is a nonprofit organization that supports victims of domestic violence by providing an emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, and support groups. Some of the events we coordinated in 2007 included holding bake sales, hosting a baby shower, and participating in a 5k run called Safewalk. All proceeds went directly to Women in Distress.

In February 2008, the NSU chapter of AMWA will be hosting its main fundraiser of the year: *The Vagina Monologues*. This play is aimed at raising awareness about the violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, and sexual slavery. The monologues range from female empowerment and individuality to revealing society's takes on violence as a whole. This will be the 3rd annual presentation here at NSU and the 10th anniversary internationally.

AMWA is looking for actresses and volunteers to help make this program a success. If you would like to participate, please contact Ritchelle Martinez at ritchell@nova.edu or Amenah Ebadi at ebadi@nova.edu.

NSU Hosts FOMA Student District Residency Dinner

By OMS-II Sandy Lau



Attendees at the FOMA Fall Residency Dinner are (from left) Michael Valladares, Nick St. Hilaire, Dr. Morton Morris, Faraaz Mushtaq, and Sandy Lau.

On November 30, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) student district held its annual Fall Residency Dinner in the HPD's Chancellor's Dining Room. Featured speakers were Joel L. Rush, D.O., program director of the North Broward Medical Center Orthopedics Program, and Anthony N. Ottaviani, D.O., residency director of Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida. Many first-, second-, and third-year NSU-COM students were in attendance when Dr. Rush spoke of the importance of doing well on boards and being seen on rotations, especially in a competitive residency program.

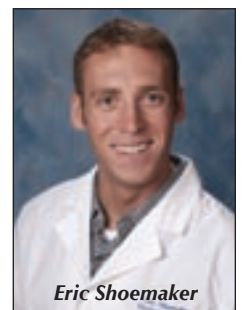
Dr. Ottaviani described the features of the residency programs and fellowships at Sun Coast Hospital, which is the largest osteopathic clinical teaching program in the southeastern United States. The dinner was sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., the makers of SPIRIVA Handihaler. "Students often wonder what they can do to start making themselves better candidates for residency programs," stated Nicholas St. Hilaire, current president of the college's FOMA student district. "This event provides them with the rare opportunity to find out what residency directors are looking for in an applicant."

Athouriste, Shoemaker Receive AOF Grants



Olphabine Athouriste

OMS-IV students Olphabine Athouriste and Eric Shoemaker were each the recipient of a \$2,000 Welch Scholars Grant from the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF). The grants, which are awarded annually to provide monetary support to help defray costs during a student's osteopathic medical education, are distributed based on financial need, academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and commitment to osteopathic medicine. In October, Athouriste also received a \$1,000 Procter & Gamble COMLEX PE Scholars Grant, which was created by the AOF to offset the costs involved in taking the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Exam and promote education within the osteopathic profession.



Eric Shoemaker

FOMA Coordinates Jeans Drive for AIDS Organization

By OMS-II Sandy Lau



FOMA officers Faraaz Mushtaq, Michael Valladares, Nicholas St. Hilaire, and Sandy Lau pose with Cathy Robinson-Pickett (center), who is the founder and director of Friends-Together, Inc.

In October, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association student district hosted a fundraiser for the Friends-Together Camp to benefit families affected by HIV/AIDS. Jeans of all colors, patterns, and sizes were donated by students outside the Steele Auditorium. The old jeans will be used to make quilts for families in the Friends-Together, Inc. program and raise money for future retreats. Since 2000, these retreats have served the needs of disenfranchised youth through life-skills training, mentoring, and social support.

FOMA student district officers also presented Cathy Robinson-Pickett, founder and director of Friends-Together, Inc., with the jeans and a \$100 gift certificate to the art-and-crafts store Michaels for sewing supplies. During a lunch meeting with students, Robinson-Pickett spoke of her battle with HIV/AIDS and discussed how she found the strength to overcome both personal tragedy and public scorn because of her status. Thanks to her efforts, Friends-Together, Inc. has successfully assisted families with emotional support and helped youths advance to college and beyond.

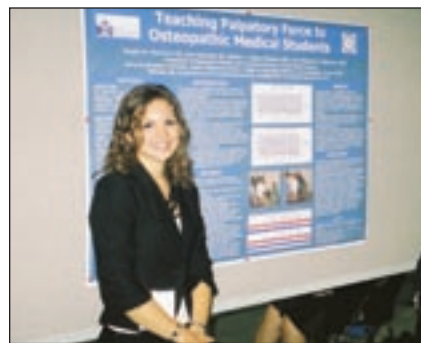
■ **Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., (OMS-III)** has been appointed to serve as the student representative on the American Osteopathic Association's Council on Research. In this position, he will be actively providing student perspective on all aspects of research affairs for the AOA and its research council. In addition, Caban-Martinez and **Elena Timoshkin (OMS-III)** were recipients of a grant from the American Osteopathic Foundation to conduct an epidemiologic study of the association between treatment modality and somatic dysfunction.



OMS-III student Terry Moy-Brown showcased her altruistic side on September 29 by volunteering at the Family Resource Fair and Fun Day for Children with Special Needs held at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. The event, which

was geared toward children afflicted with conditions such as autism, ADHD, microcephaly, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy, also provided a wealth of information for parents of special-needs children.

■ During the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOGG) 2007 Fall Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, **Jessica Fischetti (OMS-III)** was elected president of the National Student Society (NSS) of the ACOGG. It was a milestone achievement since this was the inaugural meeting of the NSS of ACOGG, which was established by 2007 alumnae Becky West, D.O., to bring all osteopathic OB/GYN student interest groups together and create a community that fosters mentorship and communication at the national level. "I consider this a great honor because the founder of the NSS is none other than NSU-COM's own Becky West," Fischetti stated. "Becky really championed this group to give students a voice in our national organization and to make sure students who are interested in OB/GYN have the proper guidance and encouragement to pursue the field. I am proud to be the first president of this group and to bring Becky's vision to life."



OMS-III student Renée Marchioni earned a second-place award in the research poster competition held at the American Osteopathic Association's 112th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, which took place September 30-

October 4, 2007, in San Diego, California. The poster, entitled "Teaching Palpatory Force to Osteopathic Medical Students," was coauthored by fellow students Amil Badoolah and Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., and OPP faculty member Michael Patterson, Ph.D.



Students from the college's DOCARE chapter partnered with the Clinica Luz del Mundo (Light of the World Clinic) to provide over 100 blood pressure screenings at the Viva Broward Health Fair, which took place in

downtown Fort Lauderdale on October 21-22.



On November 3, SNMA members and other NSU-COM students volunteered at the annual Delray Beach Health Fair held at the Delray Beach Full Service Center. Services offered included blood screenings, blood pressure measurements, physicals, flu shots, and female exams. Standing (from left) are Jackie Heim, Lynn Morrissey, and Abigail Qin. Seated (from left) are Audrea Vaughan, Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., and Berry Pierce.



During the weekend of November 17, four members of the NSU-COM chapter of the Student National Medical Association attended the Region IV Conference in Greenville, North Carolina. The

members participated in a residency application workshop as well as a discussion of HIV/AIDS in underserved and minority populations and attended lectures on topics such as rural medicine in underserved communities and the gap in the health care of minorities. Pictured (from left) are Lynn Morrissey (secretary), Damilola Olupona (vice president), Candace White (OMS-1 representative), and Audrea Vaughn (president).



Pictured (front row from left) are Ensign Lynn Morrissey (OMS-II), Lieutenant Saunders, and Ensign Daniela Perez-Velasco (OMS-II). Pictured (back row from left) are Ensign Vi Song Tring (OMS-I), Commander Linda Craugh, Ensign Theodore Aquino (OMS-III), Ensign Ruston Hess (OMS-I), Second Lieutenant Sarah Freidel (OMS-III), Second Lieutenant Justin Warix (OMS-I), and Ensign Jeromy Boucher (OMS-II).

Veteran's Day weekend turned out to be a memorable one for members of the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (AMOPS) student chapter, who visited the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7)—a U.S. Navy Wasps class amphibious assault ship. AMOPS members from the navy and air force were given a comprehensive tour of the ship and had an opportunity to meet with the ship's general medical officer to discuss various aspects of practicing medicine onboard the USS Iwo Jima.

Student Government Association Report



Roger Alvarez, SGA President

As usual, this has been a busy fall for the SGA. Our organizations have been busy bringing excellent student programming to campus, and the SGA has been working hard to organize and represent the student body.

Clubs of the Month

The Clubs of the Month for September and October were the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) and Sigma Sigma Phi, respectively. AMWA sponsored several events for

Domestic Violence Awareness Month, including raising over \$1,000 for a women's shelter. Sigma Sigma Phi had a busy October sponsoring several events including Doctor's Bag, Read-On, Soupinator, the Rotation Luncheon, and more.

Annual Awards

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Annual Student D.O. of the Year Award, with the winner being announced in mid-March. This prestigious award is in its 16th year and continues to evolve and grow in significance. The award's primary focus is to acknowledge students' commitment to their school, their community, and the osteopathic profession. All osteopathic medical students (OMS-I through OMS-IV) are eligible for nomination. The winning student's application will then be forwarded to the National COSGP Selection Committee for consideration of the National Student D.O. of the Year Award. In addition to a plaque, the national winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Day of Compassion

October 19 was the annual Day of Compassion initiated by Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in remembrance of Flight 5966, which claimed the lives of 13 people traveling to Kirksville for a meeting regarding compassion in medicine on that date in 2004. The SGA worked to memorialize the Day of Compassion here at NSU-COM as well by hosting a breakfast and passing out burgundy ribbons for students to wear on their white coats that day. Dr. Dan Shaw also spoke about compassion in medicine to the first-year class.

National Osteopathic Medicine Month

In order to promote National Osteopathic Medicine Month in October as well as help those in need, the SGA sponsored an MCAT book drive and donated the books to college students in need who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

Things to Look for This Spring

- AHEC Florida Rural Medical Mission - February 15-17
- DOCARE's Medical Mission to Ecuador - March 14-23
- D.O. Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. - April 24

Fall 2012 Preliminary Growth Projections for Osteopathic Colleges



According to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), today's colleges of osteopathic medicine annually educate and train some 15,500 medical students. In 2006, osteopathic medical students accounted for almost 19 percent of all U.S. medical students. The increasing number of COMs, combined with increased class sizes, will

allow the osteopathic medical education field to play an even greater role in helping the nation contend with its projected physician workforce shortages.

Based on the most recent growth survey of osteopathic colleges conducted in September and October 2007, it is projected that first-year student enrollment will reach 5,227 students by the fall of 2012—an increase of 1,380 (or 36 percent) over fall 2006. About 40 percent (595 seats) of the projected growth is a result of the recent establishment of five new colleges:

- A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (ATSU-SOMA)
- Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM)
- Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - New York (TOUROCOM-NY)
- Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (PNWU-COM)
- Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVU-COM)

Over the same time period, new first-year enrollment in M.D.-granting U.S. medical schools is projected to increase to 19,747—an increase of 14 percent. In related news, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) released its latest figures regarding the profession. There are 61,379 living D.O.s, with an estimated 54,707 currently in active practice. Another interesting statistic pertains to the number of female osteopathic medical student enrollees. In 1980, women comprised just 19.7 percent of the student population; today, that number has skyrocketed to 50 percent.

NSU-COM Embarks on RocketAF Clinical Research Study

*By Rita Silverman, M.P.S., CCRC
Director of Clinical Research*

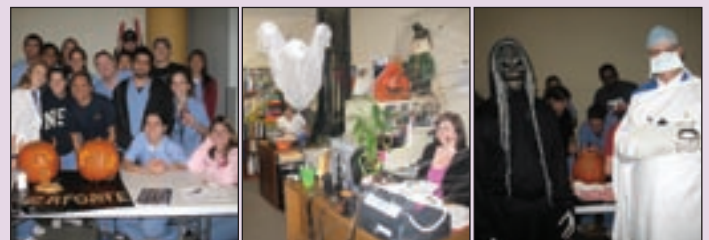
Thromboembolic disorders are the single largest cause of disease and death in the western world. Standard treatments for thrombotic events include antiplatelets and anticoagulants, but the medical need for oral antithrombotic drugs with an improved risk/benefit ratio compared to the currently available drugs is high.

Atrial fibrillation or arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat) is a leading cause for thromboembolic events, particularly in older adults. Many of these patients receive warfarin, an anticoagulation medication for prevention of thrombosis that must be monitored by a test called the International Normalization Ratio (INR). Management of anticoagulation with warfarin requires the knowledge of factors that may alter an INR. Many of these factors, such as dietary changes, illnesses, drug interactions, patient compliance, and physical activity contribute to patients experiencing variability in their INR values.

Dr. Robert Hasty, assistant professor of internal medicine, has been recruited to serve as principal investigator in the RocketAF clinical trial, which is funded by Bayer Pharmaceuticals in concert with Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development. The Duke University Clinical Research Institute is managing the clinical sites. In addition, Dr. Hasty has enlisted the assistance of the entire internal medicine department to serve as sub-investigators on this important trial and has also included Dr. Diane Sanders-Cepada from the geriatrics department and Dr. Ralph Woods, assistant medical director.

This is an exciting trial for NSU-COM since a new medication that could potentially replace warfarin without the need for INR monitoring would enhance the quality of life and safety for patients with atrial fibrillation.

- NSU-COM celebrated Halloween in festively ghoulish fashion by coordinating a number of events, including an office decorating contest and a student pumpkin carving competition that was won by the Ross Zafonte Academical Society. The Louisa Burns Society placed second.



Looking Back...at How I Got Involved



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

Soon after the board of directors voted to establish Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), it became apparent that the board members had to pick some leaders and administrators for the new school. Mort Terry started the search on behalf of the board. But who, and when, and where, and...?

Let me explain my relationship with Mort. We were classmates

at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in the 1940s and moderately friendly. We were told by many students not to bother to apply to PCOM for internship if you did not belong to a fraternity. What a problem. There were very few internships available to D.O.s then—a few in California, a few in Michigan and Ohio, but only two in Pennsylvania: PCOM and Metropolitan Hospital—a total of 12 internships for a class of about 40. Both Mort and I were appointed, and we were the only two non-fraternity members selected, which destroyed the student myth that only fraternity members could get internships. We grew even closer during that year and remained so even after he moved to Florida.

Our friendship was one of those where even when we didn't see each other for a year or two, we resumed our conversation right in mid-sentence where we left off. And we visited back and forth numerous times.

In the fall of 1979, Mort and his wife Geraldine came to visit. Sitting in my dining room, he told me of the plan for a new school. He said, "I am probably going to be the dean, and I'd like you to join me in top administration." My reply was, "Mort, you're wrong. You are too involved just to be dean. You are a real businessman, you are a planner, and you know the background and territory better than anyone else—you should be president." At that point, he told me that the late Tom Rowland, then president of PCOM, had vehemently told him the same thing a day or so before. So he offered me the deanship.

I was pretty entrenched in Philadelphia. I had retired from pediatric practice in 1976 and was enjoying my writing and organizational activities. I wasn't certain that I wanted to leave Philadelphia even though I liked Miami, and I wasn't sure I wanted to go back to work (especially to the 16-hour days I knew would have to be). It took me three months and two visits to finally accept.

While I was debating the move, a Philadelphia colleague asked me, "How many medical school deans have there been in the

United States?" Figuring the 120 schools in existence, many of which were new, I said, "I'd guess about 300-400." His reply was, "Yes, but how many founding deans have there been in the history of U.S. medical schools?" That opportunity impressed me.

During one of my visits to Florida, I was to be interviewed by the board, led by its chairman, Dr. Emil Todaro. The board members had a lot of questions when Mort proposed me as dean, but they were friendly, receptive, and obviously driven by one thought: to operate an outstanding osteopathic college. I was appointed dean, and Mort became president of the new school.

Almost immediately—even before I moved to Miami—I began to work on an initial curriculum, which is a very tough task. I studied catalogs of most of the other osteopathic colleges and consulted with a couple of other deans. We then adopted this curriculum, both of us realizing that some possible outside factors over time might cause us to modify it.

An interesting sidelight: We noticed during the first few years that our students complained it was too much work. Oh, sure. Students always complain about such things. It took a couple of years to realize the mistake we made—not a harmful one, but an error that complicated things. We had taken the average number of hours taught in all the osteopathic schools for each subject and made that our number. It took us a couple of years to realize that averages would not work; when a school had a high count in one subject, it usually had a low number in others. But we used the full average for all of them. Aside from the complaints—and in retrospect there were not really many—our students got a good dose of basic science and, I believe, a great education.

One more thing about the deanship—I don't think there's a job anywhere in the world that is totally free of worry, stress, and aggravation. And every deanship has its share of that. However, it was well worth it—every month, every day, every hour, and every minute because I thoroughly enjoyed what I was doing. I came with some applicable background and taught that whenever needed, but I learned much more than I taught—from the students, from the faculty and from everyone concerned.

It was a blast, and I am thrilled to this day that I decided to accept the honor of being the founding dean.



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.

AHEC Receives \$4 Million to Expand Tobacco Training and Cessation Program

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications

Over the past seven years, NSU-COM's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program has earned national recognition for its annual Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Training Initiative, which provides vital instruction to NSU medical, nursing, and pharmacy students who then promulgate the tobacco prevention/cessation message to a multitude of Broward County elementary, middle, and high school students.

However, thanks to a new two-year, \$20 million pilot program established by the Florida Legislature in the summer of 2007, the five existing statewide AHEC programs, which form the Florida AHEC Network, will each be receiving \$4 million over a two-year period to extend their tobacco training and cessation services to a significantly broader audience within their catchment areas.

"This is an extremely significant development because it allows the five Florida AHEC programs to provide tobacco training to a range of health professionals and offer cessation services to people across the state," said Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., who serves as NSU-COM's associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director. "The Florida AHECs have already been working on tobacco-related issues on a small

scale, but these additional funds will allow us to collaborate with many other universities and community-based agencies on a much greater scale."

Over the past six months, NSU-COM's AHEC Program has been developing and implementing tobacco training and cessation programming in all 19 South and Central Florida counties comprising its geographically extensive service area. These activities are being undertaken by the college's AHEC Program through sub agreements with its two affiliated regional AHEC centers: the Everglades AHEC and the Central Florida AHEC. To accomplish the initiative's numerous objectives, NSU-COM's AHEC and its two affiliated centers have been working diligently to develop collaborative partnerships with numerous health professions training institutions, county health departments, community health facilities, and public school districts.

Training Initiatives

By the end of October 2007, NSU-COM's AHEC had already delivered tobacco cessation and prevention training to 450 health professions students from a variety of disciplines, including medical, nursing, dental, and pharmacy students from NSU's Health Professions Division, the University of Florida's Orlando campus, and Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce. This training utilizes a newly developed curriculum that incorporates key topics related to the physical and behavioral issues concerning cessation. These include the health risks of tobacco use, nicotine addiction, nicotine replacement therapies, and the application of motivational interviewing as a practical strategy for busy health practitioners to effectively engage patients and motivate them to seek cessation services.

The curriculum also includes a community service component designed to prepare health professions students to discuss tobacco prevention with middle school-aged children. The overall training program utilizes a combination of modalities that encompasses classroom workshops, videotaped lectures and simulated patient encounters, Web-based modules on a wide range of tobacco-related topics, and field experiences designed to provide students with a broad educational experience in the tobacco realm.

The AHEC Program also formed a collaborative partnership with NSU's Center for Psychological Studies (CPS) to enable CPS faculty members and graduate students to work closely with AHEC staff in this major training effort. Contributing CPS faculty members include Drs. Linda and Mark Sobell,



The NSU-COM AHEC Program launched its Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Training Initiative on September 5, 2007, with a faculty development training workshop on "Using Motivational Interviewing to Help Patients Quit Smoking," which was presented by Linda Sobell, Ph.D., ABPP (second from right) from the NSU Center for Psychological Studies. Welcoming Dr. Sobell (from left) are Dr. John Pellosie, Dr. Steven Zucker, Dr. Rosebud Foster, and Gustavo Saldias.



who are internationally renowned experts in the fields of motivational interviewing and treatment of tobacco addiction. Their involvement has already resulted in several important achievements such as greater emphasis on behavioral implications in tobacco cessation training and the development of training videos and workshops that will be used to educate hundreds of health professions students and practitioners throughout the region.

Through input from CPS faculty members and other content experts, the AHEC Program has developed comprehensive tobacco training manuals that will be distributed for inclusion in the didactic curriculum of several other health professions training institutions in South and Central Florida. These include the nursing programs at Palm Beach Community College, Brevard Community College, Florida Southern College, South Florida Community College, and the University of Central Florida. It is projected that NSU-COM's AHEC and its affiliated centers will train approximately 1,000 future health providers from over 15 medical, nursing, nurse practitioner, pharmacy, and other health professions programs located throughout the region.

The NSU-COM AHEC Program has also begun to provide tobacco cessation training to current health professionals from several fields, including medicine, nursing, dentistry, and pharmacy. Last September, the AHEC Program held a four-hour faculty development workshop on motivational interviewing at the NSU Health Professions Division campus. The workshop was attended by 40 NSU health professions faculty members as well as staff from the Broward County Health Department and the American Lung Association (ALA) of Florida. In addition, plans have been finalized to include tobacco and motivational interviewing training at statewide conferences of the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants and the Florida Association of School Health Nurses in February 2008.

A wide range of tobacco cessation training materials for community health providers are also being developed by the AHEC Program in close consultation with faculty members

from the NSU Center for Psychological Studies and will be disseminated in the near future to the numerous county health departments, community health centers, rural hospitals, and other sites located throughout the NSU-COM AHEC service area. These materials will include training videos, online modules, booklets, and onsite in-service workshops.

Cessation Initiatives

The NSU-affiliated Central Florida and Everglades AHEC centers are currently working with about 20 primary care sites located throughout the NSU-COM AHEC service area to establish tobacco cessation services and implement system-wide changes at each of these sites, which serve a total of over 140,000 rural, poor, and underserved patients—including an estimated 30,000 current smokers. AHEC-trained tobacco cessation specialists located at these sites will offer individualized as well as group cessation counseling services to patients.

The Everglades and Central Florida AHECs have also met with tobacco project personnel from county health departments in 18 of the 19 counties located in NSU-COM's catchment area to discuss AHEC tobacco activities and address the possibility of working collaboratively to maximize project resources and reduce duplication of efforts. Additionally, AHEC staff members have attended and conducted presentations for Florida Department of Health personnel at meetings of Florida Tobacco Control Regions 3, 4, and 5 and have been working intensively with the Broward County Health Department and American Lung Association of South Florida to establish group cessation programs throughout Broward. To accomplish the latter task, the AHEC Program coordinated with the ALA to train 12 cessation counselors who will be staffing these cessation programs.

In addition, a number of workshops were coordinated over the past several months to train tobacco cessation counselors who utilize the Quit Smoking Now curriculum. These training sessions, which were conducted in Orange and Palm Beach counties, attracted 45 participants from county health departments, community health centers, and numerous other community-based agencies interested in working with the AHEC Program to establish and conduct tobacco cessation classes in their communities.

According to Dr. Zucker, who has served as director of NSU-COM's AHEC Program since its inception in 1985, the importance of the expanded Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Training Initiative cannot be minimized or ignored. "Tobacco is the largest preventable cause of death in this state. In fact, it kills more Floridians each year than alcohol, suicide, murder, HIV/AIDS, illicit drug use, and homicide combined," he stated. "Many attempts have been made to address this issue, but only by training a legion of today's and tomorrow's health professionals can we really reduce smoking and its impact on Floridians."

Faculty Focus

Barbara Arcos, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, presented an OPP workshop on “Osteopathic Manipulation: Manual Therapy for the Novice” last December at the 99th Family Medicine Weekend hosted by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians.

James Breen, M.D., assistant professor of family medicine, appeared on the September 21 telecast of the WPBT Channel 2 roundtable public affairs program called *ISSUES* to participate in a discussion that focused on the economics of health care as well as the debate about whether health care should be public or private.

Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., associate professor and assistant dean of clinical operations, had his article titled “Military Moves: How Couples Can Handle the Side Effect of Relocation Stress” published in the *Military Travel and Relocation* e-newsletter.

Rebecca Cherner, D.O., who graduated from NSU-COM in 1997 and completed her residency training through the Duke-SRAHEC Family Medicine Residency Program in Fayetteville, North Carolina, joined the college in October 2007 as a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine. Prior to joining the NSU-COM faculty, Dr. Cherner was affiliated with the Family Practice of Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Florida.

Jay Fleisher, Ph.D., associate professor of public health, was quoted in the “Cities Push Tap Water as Better Than Bottled” article featured in the October 11 issue of the *Miami Herald*.

Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine, presented a lecture in November on “Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Venous Thromboembolic Disease” at the West Virginia Society of Osteopathic Medicine’s Annual Convention and was invited to be a member and write questions for the NBOME Level 2-CE Item Review Committee. Dr. Hasty, who recently received the AOA Mentor Hall of Fame Award, was also quoted in a November 11 *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* article entitled “Hospitals Pose Greater Threat for Infections” and appointed to the Resident Recruitment Task Force of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

Myron Howell, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, was named interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine in September. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Howell has held numerous administrative, academic, and clinical positions at the college, including serving as director of medical education and program director of the NSU-COM/Broward General Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program.



Dr. Arcos



Dr. Breen



Dr. Calzada



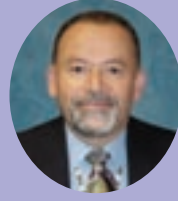
Dr. Cherner



Dr. Fleisher



Dr. Morris



Dr. Trif

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the NSU Women’s Health Center, participated in a panel discussion that addressed the relationship between “Periodontal Disease and Pre-Term Labor and Other Diseases” at the Health Foundation of South Florida symposium. The event, entitled Promoting Oral Health for South Florida: A Community Dialogue, was held October 15 at Jungle Island in Miami. **James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, also served as a panelist to discuss “Policy Interventions.” In November, Dr. Johnson discussed the “Top 10 Women’s Health Issues and the Pharmacist’s Responsibilities” at the NSU College of Pharmacy Fall Classic and presented a lecture on “The HPV Vaccine and the Prevention of Cervical Cancer” at the WPBT2 Fifth Annual Speaking of Women’s Health Conference.

Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who serves as HPD executive dean for professional affairs, provided a lecture on “Mandatory Relicensure and Florida Laws and Rules” at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Florida, last September. He also received his fifth Knotty Cane Award from the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics (AOAO) last October. The honor is bestowed annually to the individual who the AOAO president felt helped him/her the most during his/her administration.

Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of NSU’s Institute for Child Health Policy, received the Second Annual Florida Injury Prevention Award on October 16 at the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) fall meeting. The Florida Department of Health’s Office of Injury Prevention annually recognizes an influential individual who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention.

Robert S. Oller, D.O., who serves as CEO of the NSU Health Care Centers, and **Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOP dist.**, were honored last November as finalists in the *South Florida Business Journal’s* 2007 Excellence in Healthcare Awards, which were presented at the Broward County Convention Center. Dr. Silvagni was a finalist in the Health Care Education category, while Dr. Oller was nominated in the Community-Based Program category.

■ In terms of enrollment, NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine is currently ranked as the 11th largest medical school and the 4th largest osteopathic medical school in the nation. In addition, Nova Southeastern University currently employs about 3,500 people and has an annual budget of approximately \$500 million.

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, participated in NSU's extremely successful A Day for Children health fair in September, where over 1,200 children were signed up for the state's SCHIP gap-care health plan called Kid Care. He also gave a presentation on "Reading to Your Children and Stimulating Written Language as a Means of Communication in Young Children" to preschool parents at NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Technology Center and discussed "Type 2 Diabetes in Children" at the College of Optometry's Interdisciplinary Management of the Diabetes Patient CME seminar.

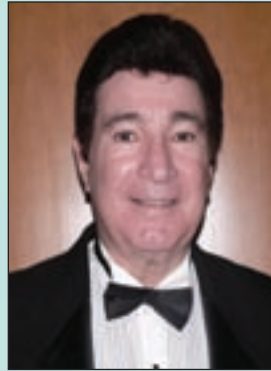
Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, was involved in a range of activities last October. She made a poster presentation along with **Diane Sanders-Cepada, D.O.**, on "Recognition of Pituitary Disease in Long-Term Residents" at the Florida Medical Directors Association conference in Orlando and discussed "Management of Diabetes in Nursing Home Residents" at the Pennsylvania Medical Directors Association Educational Symposium. Dr. Pandya also discussed "Case-Based Approach to Insulin Therapy" at a long-term care advisory board meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, provided a lecture on the "Basics of Diabetes" at an NSU College of Optometry CME event, and appeared on a segment of the NSU Health Professions Division TV program *Dateline Health* to discuss diabetes.

Heidi Pomm, Ph.D., clinical associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine and director of behavioral science in the St. Vincent's Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program in Jacksonville, Florida, recently published a textbook with her husband entitled *Management of the Addicted Patient in Primary Care*.

Stanley Simpson, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, participated in a panel discussion at the American Association of Professional Ringside Physicians (AAPRP) Medical Boxing Conference held last November in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. Simpson has been a ringside physician for the state of Florida for over 25 years and is certified in ringside medicine by the medical board of the AAPRP.

Aimos Trif, M.D., Ph.D., J.D., assistant professor of pathology, presented a lecture to NSU faculty members in September on the topic "Euthanasia—A Dilemma Until Today." The presentation, which was held in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room, centered on the historical and intellectual background of the topic and explored attitudes toward death, dying, suicide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

Dr. Hartley Schwartzberg Trades Superstardom for Medical Career



Most people would never dream of turning down an opportunity to become a wealthy musical superstar, but that's exactly what Hartley Schwartzberg, D.O., did when fame came calling in the early 1960s.

"I've always been interested in music; it's been an integral part of my life," said Dr. Schwartzberg, who serves as clinical professor in the college's Division of Dermatology. "I've played many instruments, including the trumpet and piano, and sung with many small bands since I was a teenager. In fact, I still sing professionally as an avocation and have been appearing with the Jack Salley Orchestra at many major medical conventions and seminars over the past decade."

However, while music was one of his major interests growing up, so was his desire to become a physician. Consequently, when it came time to make a pivotal choice between his two passions, Dr. Schwartzberg faced a difficult dilemma that was made that much more complex when he was asked to join one of America's top singing groups just as he was launching his medical career at Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Iowa.

"I probably could have retired very young and very wealthy after being in this group for a few years," said Dr. Schwartzberg, who has been a member of NSU-COM's clinical faculty for over two decades and served as chair of the Division of Dermatology for a number of years. "In the end, I felt I could always perform even if I chose to pursue medicine, so that was my choice. And I have no regrets whatsoever."

Because he remained involved in the music business, lucrative job offers and fame-boosting invitations continued to come his way, but he resolutely turned them all down no matter how alluring they sounded. "I was asked to appear on *American Bandstand*, but it was during finals week, so I said no," said Dr. Schwartzberg, who recorded several regionally successful songs during his youth. "There were many other exciting opportunities offered to me through the years, but I was in practice at the time and had a family, so it just wasn't feasible.

"Life is all about choices, and you need to pick what you feel you're going to be happy doing," he added. "I think that's the most important thing in life, and that's what I tell my students when I teach them—that you have to enjoy what you're doing. I also tell them there is no occupation in the world where you can get the satisfaction, excitement, and deep inner feeling of accomplishing something significant than when you're helping a patient. You can make people happy being an entertainer, but when a patient puts his hand on your shoulder and says, 'Doc, thank you for what you've done for me,' to me, that's the real joy of being a doctor."



Long-Awaited Adoption Brings Joy to Fourth-Year Student Rita Mukherjee

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

To some, adopting a baby in the midst of attending medical school may seem absurd. But to M4 student Rita Mukherjee, whose dreams of motherhood matched her desire to become a physician, the adoption of her daughter Mohor in April 2007 was the joyous culmination of a long and arduous process.

In 2002, Mukherjee and her husband Aniket Bhattacharya, Ph.D., who serves as associate professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Central Florida, were thrilled to learn she had become pregnant. Unfortunately, their happiness was to be fleeting. “During my third month of pregnancy, I developed severe stomach cramps and was rushed to the hospital,” Mukherjee recalled. “It turned out I had an ectopic pregnancy, and I was devastated by the news. I remember just lying there and feeling so sad because I knew I was going to lose the baby.”

Adding to her grief was the fact that Mukherjee’s obstetrician had relayed the news that carrying future pregnancies to full term would no longer be a viable option. “I really wanted to be a parent, so if I couldn’t have a baby on my own, I knew I would try to adopt,” said Mukherjee, who will be graduating from NSU-COM in May 2008. “I thought it would be a wonderful thing to welcome a baby into our lives that has no one to look after it.”

Following her miscarriage, Mukherjee was counseled to wait at least a year before considering adoption to ensure she wasn’t making a decision based strictly out of grief. After a year had passed, she and her husband were surer than ever about their decision to adopt. However, what they weren’t quite prepared for were the litany of obstacles—and paperwork—they were about to contend with over the next few years. “We started the application process at the end of

2004 during my first year of medical school," she stated. "I knew it was going to take at least two years to complete the adoption process, which meant by the time it was finished I would be about to start my fourth year of medical school."

Initially, Mukherjee intended to adopt a child from the United States, but when she and her husband began meeting with different adoption organizations, they didn't paint a pretty picture regarding their prospects. "First, they told me that because many of the children up for adoption in the United States are either crack babies or suffering from fetal-alcohol syndrome, many of them have significant mental retardation and existing medical conditions," she explained. "So I had to ask myself, 'Am I ready for that?'"

"They also told me that since the child is not going to look like me and my husband, it could create problems for the boy or girl in school," she added. "We all know that when you're in middle or high school, kids can say mean things and ask very cruel questions. To adopt an abandoned child that was already going through so much pain and adjustment and create more problems was the last thing I wanted to do. That's why we eventually decided to pursue an adoption from my home country of India."

Over the next few years, Mukherjee and her husband made several lengthy trips to India to launch the international adoption process, which is much more complex for a U.S. citizen adopting outside the country. "It was much, much harder for us to do it internationally and much more expensive," said Mukherjee, who spent two months in India prior to Mohor's arrival in America. "There was a tremendous amount of paperwork that had to be completed and analyzed before we qualified, and we had to undergo a thorough background check."

Once they survived the grueling application and screening process, Mukherjee and her husband were invited back to India to select a child, which turned out to be an understandably life-changing experience. "After we qualified, we were invited to come to a convent and meet three prospective children," she explained. "But we were told that once you reject one, you'll never be able to see that child again because this is not a shopping trip."

On June 28, 2006, the first child Mukherjee met was Mohor, and as soon as she locked eyes with the pretty young girl, she instantly knew she was destined to be her daughter. "She sat on our laps and gave us a beautiful smile—and we just knew," she recalled. "We didn't even see the second or third child after that."

Mukherjee returned to India again in November 2006 to spend two months finalizing the adoption and making plans for Mohor to spend her remaining months in foster care outside the convent. "My sister and brother-in-law, who live in India, were willing to serve as foster parents while we completed the adoption process. So we were able to take Mohor from the convent to stay at my sister's house until my husband could return in April 2007 to bring her to the United States."

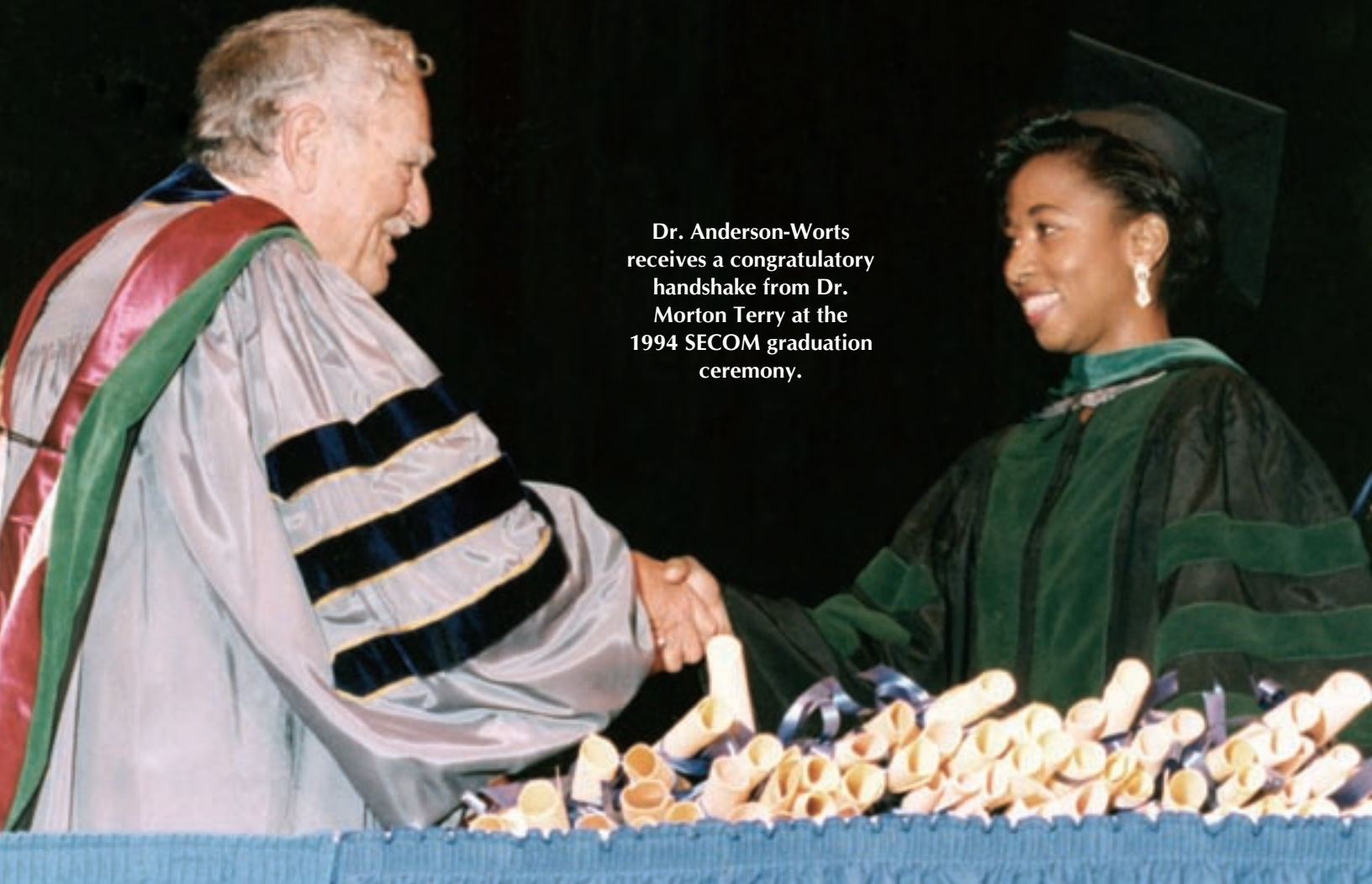
Beyond all the normal challenges that come with the adoption process, Mukherjee also had to deal with the added stress of balancing her numerous medical school demands, which included her clinical rotations at Florida Hospital-East Orlando. Not surprisingly, when it came time to make some critical decisions, NSU-COM students as well as faculty and staff members were there to provide Mukherjee with the guidance and comfort she craved.

"My friends at NSU-COM helped me so much," said Mukherjee, who also credits the administration at Florida Hospital-East Orlando for allowing her to pursue her adoption dream. "Elaine Lefkowitz, Leslie Jones, and Dr. Bart Whitehead were so helpful to me when I approached them and told them of my situation. They advised me how I could take a one-month leave of absence and not miss educational time while we traveled to India to finalize the adoption. In addition, my classmates were so supportive," she admitted. "When I went to India, they sent me all the lecture notes through email so I didn't miss anything. It meant so much to me to have their support."

Due to her clinical rotation commitments, Mukherjee was unable to accompany her husband to India to bring Mohor, who is now two years old, home to Orlando. However, now that the family has been reunited, life couldn't be sweeter for Mukherjee. "We were so excited the first few weeks that we didn't want to leave her for more than five minutes," she explained. "Then after a few weeks, it gradually hits you that, 'Oh my gosh, we're really parents now.' But we were ready. My husband will go in late to work, and I will come home early, so everything has fallen into place."

Mukherjee's path to motherhood was definitely not an easy one, but thanks to the steadfast support of her husband—and her own combination of courage and resolve—the joyous result speaks for itself. "I could have been sad for the rest of my life because I couldn't have a baby of my own," she admitted. "But then I decided this is the only life I have, so I'm going to go for it and do what it takes to be happy."





Dr. Anderson-Worts receives a congratulatory handshake from Dr. Morton Terry at the 1994 SECOM graduation ceremony.

Osteopathic Roots Run Deep for Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

Why is it that some people spend a majority of their lives vainly searching for both personal and professional fulfillment while others seem guided by an unforeseen force that almost effortlessly leads them to their harmonious destiny?

The answer may be unclear, but for fortunate souls such as Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., it's a gift they don't take for granted. "I don't think it's a coincidence in terms of how my life has unfolded," said Dr. Anderson-Worts, who serves as associate professor of family medicine/public health and program director of the Broward General Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program. "It's kind of like the way was paved for me."

Osteopathic Heritage Starts Early

Dr. Anderson-Worts, who moved from Jamaica to North Miami Beach, Florida, when she was just two years old, was introduced to osteopathic medicine at an early age because her mother, Millicent, spent 26 years working as a nurse at Osteopathic General Hospital—

the forerunner of both Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) and NSU-COM. As a result, osteopathic medicine touched all facets of her life. "In retrospect, it really is quite amazing," she admitted. "My mom worked with Dr. Morton Terry and served for several years as a nurse midwife for Dr. Daniel Barkus, who delivered my baby brother. In addition, Dr. Arthur Snyder, who retired from the college in 2006, was my pediatrician."

Interestingly, while her mother's career certainly helped influence Dr. Anderson-Worts' future professional choices, it was a daytime soap opera that truly piqued her medical interest when she was just a child. "When I would get out of school, I had to go to my mom's friend's house and wait for my father to pick me up there," said Dr. Anderson-Worts, who is one of four children. "She would always watch *General Hospital*, and one of the characters, Dr. Jeff Webber, really grabbed my attention because he was a cardiologist. There was something about the excitement of him going to the emergency room, so I thought I wanted to become a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon."

Medicine, however, was not the only occupation Dr. Anderson-Worts wished to pursue when adulthood came calling. “I told my mom I wanted to be a doctor, a teacher, and a fashion designer,” she recalled. “Of course, when I told other people this, they laughed. But I’m proud to say that today I am a doctor and a teacher—and I’m working on becoming a fashion designer. I don’t know if fashion shows count, but I’ve been coordinating one for the past two years for a nonprofit organization that helps children, so maybe I’ve already fulfilled the three lifetime dreams I had as an eight-year-old.”

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Miami in 1988, Dr. Anderson-Worts didn’t agonize for too long when it came to making a decision about the next step in her medical odyssey. “I knew I wanted to go to SECOM because my mom had always worked with D.O.s, and all my personal physicians had been D.O.s,” she explained. “It just seemed to be the obvious option.”

It also turned out to be a remarkably successful and rewarding partnership that continues to reap dividends almost two decades later. “It was a great experience, and I established a lot of friendships that still exist today,” said Dr. Anderson-Worts, who graduated from SECOM in 1994. “I, along with several of my classmates, were the founders of the college’s Student National Medical Association, and we were a very talented group in that we were very creative in terms of raising money by doing sing-a-grams and coordinating ice cream sundae social events. I received some good advice at the beginning of medical school, which was to make sure I balanced my academic pursuits with some fun because all work and no play really will make you dull.”

Romance and NSU-COM Career Appear

Dr. Anderson-Worts, who attended SECOM on a full chancellor’s scholarship, had destiny intervene again when she ran into a former acquaintance from the University of Miami during her senior year in medical school. This time, however, casual friendship blossomed into full-fledged romance—and ultimately marriage in 1998. “I initially met my husband Edgar while he was an engineering student who also played on the Miami Hurricanes football team,” she explained. “We didn’t date at the time, and we only knew each other casually.”

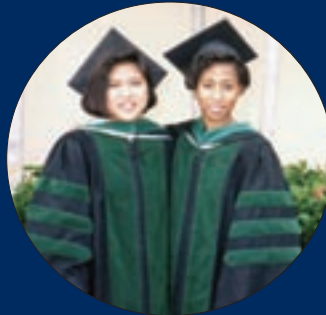
However, when they fortuitously reconnected six years later at a dance club, the flicker of attraction they had in 1988 suddenly fanned into a full-blown flame of love. “We met by accident during my senior year at SECOM,” she stated. “He asked me for a dance, and we exchanged phone numbers



A career in medicine beckons.



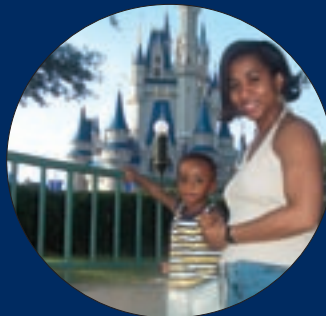
High school graduation.



With Dr. Rowena-Peralta-Seltzer.



With husband Edgar.



With son Alex.

later that night. And we’ve basically been together ever since.”

The launch of her career as an NSU-COM faculty member in 1997 was equally as fortuitous. While she was conducting her family medicine residency at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida, the thought of entering academia never entered her mind. But once the seed was planted, it flourished. “If someone would have asked me when I was in medical school if I would be teaching, I would have told them no,” Dr. Anderson-Worts admitted. “But when I was a resident at Sun Coast Hospital, I gave board reviews to some of the students and interns, who would ask me, ‘Did you ever think about teaching because you’re very good at simplifying things?’ Those comments definitely sparked something within me, and one day out of the blue I was drawn back to NSU.

“Being very spiritually minded, I didn’t think it was surprising for me to suddenly have this overwhelming desire to return to my alma mater,” she added. “Part of it had to do with the fact that I was indebted to the school in that I felt I was blessed to receive a full scholarship. I felt grateful to the college for that, so when the idea of teaching clicked in my head, then it all came together.”

When she initially contacted the college about available faculty positions, she was told the university was under a hiring freeze. However, when Dr. Anderson-Worts returned to NSU-COM shortly thereafter for its annual Hospital Day event, fate interceded once again as a faculty position miraculously materialized while she was on campus. She was interviewed that day and offered a position in the Department of Family Medicine within a week. “When I first came on board, I was seeing patients in the clinic and teaching within the clinical practicum course,” she said. “I was then asked to teach the ethnocultural medicine and clinical medicine courses.”

Pregnancy Results in Disappointment, Joy

Dr. Anderson-Worts’ COM career was progressing nicely in 2000 when she received the joyous news she was pregnant. Unfortunately, her elation was to be short-lived. “When I became pregnant in 2000, I was in the middle of planning a medical mission trip to Haiti,” said Dr. Anderson-Worts, who is actively involved with the college’s various international medical outreach excursions. “However, when I reached the 10-week mark and went in for my ultrasound scan, something was wrong. The scan showed I had a blighted ovum, which means I had a large empty sac where

Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts



conception occurred and the fertilized egg implanted in my womb, but the baby did not develop.”

While the news was utterly devastating, a silver lining emerged because her prospects of conceiving and carrying a baby to full-term remained excellent. Sure enough, several months later, Dr. Anderson-Worts learned she was expecting again. “This time, the pregnancy went very well,” she said. “I felt great and was even more energetic than I had been when I wasn’t pregnant. Then one day, while we were doing morning reports in the clinic when I was about six months pregnant, a resident presented a case on preeclampsia, which is a disease where you become significantly hypertensive in the latter stages of pregnancy.”

Although she had a regular appointment scheduled a week later with her OB-GYN (NSU-COM’s own Dr. Kenneth Johnson), she immediately acted on her sudden feeling that something foreboding was looming. “Sure enough, when I checked my blood pressure, it was extremely elevated,” Dr. Anderson-Worts stated. “Dr. Johnson admitted me into Broward General Medical Center, where I stayed for about two weeks because I started developing other signs of preeclampsia, such as shortness of breath, elevated proteins in my urine, and swelling.”

The only “cure” for preeclampsia is delivery of the baby, which needs to be done before the patient becomes eclamptic—a condition where the expectant mother can develop seizures, lapse into a coma, and even die. Consequently, when Dr. Anderson-Worts reached the 28-week stage, Dr. Johnson induced labor, which was followed a short time later by the birth of a precious gift named Alexander Worts. “Through the grace of God, Alexander did really well,” she said. “Although he had to remain in the hospital for two months, he had none of the traditional problems associated with being a premature baby.”



NSU-COM + Family = Fulfillment

After spending more than a decade as an NSU-COM faculty member, Dr. Anderson-Worts recently took her career to a new level when she was named program director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Broward General Medical Center last September. “I was received with such open arms that it made the transition quite easy.” said Dr. Anderson-Worts, who oversees the program’s 21 residents. “I have to say I’m pleasantly surprised at how much I’m enjoying the position. Currently, I see patients in our Family Medicine Clinic two full days a week, spend two days at Broward General, and then work half a day in my office here at the college going through my emails and other correspondence.”

Serving as a residency director wasn’t an opportunity she would ever have foreseen for herself, but now that she is immersed in the role, Dr. Anderson-Worts is determined to make the most of it. “My goal is to find ways to improve the program,” she explained. “I would like to enhance the relationships between the various disciplines the residents rotate through, obtain additional ambulatory pediatric exposure for them, and increase the number of procedures they are able to do.”

Because Dr. Anderson-Worts has been touched by the NSU-COM family for most of her life, it’s not surprising to discover her love for the college and the people who comprise it runs quite deep. “To be working with people who actually treated or taught me is an honor, and to be able to interact with them on a daily basis and call them my colleagues is really something that gives me great pride,” she admitted. “It’s also very rewarding to be able to train future physicians and watch them develop into such profound professionals in the health arena. I truly enjoy what I do for a living because I’m where I was meant to be.”



Mount Sinai Medical Center - Miami Beach



Founded in 1949, Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach is the largest independent, private, not-for-profit teaching hospital in South Florida. Mount Sinai's Centers of Excellence combine technology, research, and academics to provide innovative and comprehensive care in cardiology, neurology, oncology, and orthopedics. As one of only six statutory teaching hospitals in the state, Mount Sinai is the hospital of choice for those who seek the level of expertise and care that only a teaching hospital can offer. The medical center's commitment to quality has garnered prestigious recognition, including designation in 2007 as one of America's Top Hospitals in Geriatrics by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Mount Sinai Medical Center is South Florida's leader in cardiac care, performing more open-heart procedures and cardiac catheterizations than any other hospital in the region. As an academic medical center, the facility actively participates in medical research to understand the causes of disease, test new treatments, and help save lives.

In 2006, the hospital received more than \$7 million from the National Institutes of Health for medical research. Mount Sinai is South Florida's only research partner in the National Cancer Institute's Community Clinical Oncology Program, which brings cutting-edge cancer research and therapies to the community long before they are widely available. In addition, the Wien Center for Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders, which is home to the state's largest brain bank, conducts widespread research to unravel the mysteries of memory disorders.

Each year, approximately 120 NSU-COM students are accepted for clerkships at Mount Sinai Medical Center, which began its official CEME affiliation in July 1998 with the establishment of its osteopathic Emergency Medicine Residency Program. This symbiotic affiliation deepened further in 2000 when Mount Sinai acquired the osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency Program.

In addition to its two AOA-accredited residency programs (emergency medicine and internal medicine), the medical center offers accredited programs in allopathic internal medicine, pathology, diagnostic radiology, general surgery, and podiatric medicine and surgery. At the fellowship level, accredited programs are available in cardiology, interventional cardiology, and sleep disorders.

The Emergency Medicine Residency Program, which is approved for 21 positions, is the only AOA-accredited program of its kind in the Southeast. The average annual emergency department patient census is 35,000 patients, and all emergency medicine physicians at Mount Sinai are board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine. The Internal Medicine Residency Program, which is approved for 6 intern and 12 resident positions, allows osteopathic residents to train closely with the allopathic internal medicine residents and share in all educational conferences as well as many core rotations.

Fast Fact

Mount Sinai became a teaching hospital in 1953, when it established its first medical residency programs. Today, the medical center's academic mission attracts leaders in all fields and specialties and develops dedicated new doctors with diverse backgrounds and skills who often remain in South Florida to serve and treat patients.



OMS-IV Nicole Coleman inserts an arterial line during her surgical subinternship at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.

Student Government Association (SGA) Serves as the Voice for NSU-COM Student Issues

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications

Under the stewardship of OMS-III student Roger Alvarez, who serves as president of NSU-COM's Student Government Association (SGA), the organization has embraced a "collaboration and communication" theme that is building on the tradition of excellence set by previous members of the SGA Executive Board.

As president of the lead student organization on the NSU-COM campus, Alvarez has the daunting task of balancing a wide range of responsibilities that includes fostering student advocacy, serving as a liaison to the several dozen existing student organizations and interest groups, attending numerous on-campus, regional, and national meetings—and focusing on his own academic progress.

Fortunately, thanks to some canny restructuring over the past several years, the SGA of today is much more collaborative across the board, which has allowed the executive board to rely on its various committees to tackle some of the myriad tasks. "Because our theme for the year is collaboration and communication, we're doing that on every level," said Alvarez, who is currently conducting his third-year clinical rotations at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah. "It used to be that the four officers who ran the SGA did all the work, but that's not the case anymore. We're really getting our committees, which include TOUCH, Web Site, Finance, Legislative Affairs, Social, and M3/M4 Liaison, more involved in putting together events and programming."

Another key change implemented in 2006 that has proven successful was the move to have a third-year student serve as president instead of an OMS-II. "During the past few years, the SGA president has been a third-year student who is off campus, while the vice president has been a second year who is on campus," he explained. "As officers, you

really don't know everything you are doing until you are more than a quarter of the way through the year. And by that time you have lost some of the prime calendar months for programming, advocacy, and other issues. So we felt it would be beneficial, if there was interest, to allow an experienced third-year student to run for president."

As a result, second-year students who serve as vice president have an increased amount of responsibility, which hones their leadership skills and enhances their knowledge base if they ascend to the presidency the following year. It has certainly proven to be a beneficial SGA enhancement for Alvarez, who has made a masterful transition into the SGA presidency role following his stint as vice president in the 2006-07 academic year.

"One of the SGA's primary responsibilities is to represent NSU-COM students on campus as well as nationally at the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP)," said Alvarez, who attends four such national meetings annually with SGA Vice President Jessica Hilst. "We also represent them at the AOA House of Delegates in Chicago on the voting floor. The SGA president is a voting member on the AOA House of Delegates, so we have an advocacy role.

"In terms of the day-to-day activities on campus, the SGA helps with organizing and funding the college's numerous student organizations, so we have monthly meetings with them," he added. "We receive an allocation from the student activity fees, which our treasurer, Srinivas Rajendran, divvies up between the clubs to help them create programming. We also make sure the clubs do what they say they're going to do in terms of offering co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities to enhance the educational experience for students here at the COM."

One of the more delicate tasks Alvarez must handle on a continuum is listening to the students' various concerns and voicing them during his monthly meetings with key administrators of the Student Leadership Council. "When students have an issue to address about something related to the curriculum or administrative rules and regulations, they bring it to us so we can and try and serve as a liaison to the dean," Alvarez explained. "Consequently, instead of having 30 students going to Dr. Silvagni's office, we just have me speaking about the concerns of the students. Having a fixed meeting with him once a month is great because I can look him in the eye, address the concerns, and discuss what we can do about it. It's a great collaboration. To be the person who gets to deal with these issues on a daily basis can be intimidating but also really satisfying."

An example of the SGA's successful interaction with the college's top administration over an important topic occurred last year when the



Attendees at the Intercoastal Cleanup event held in September at John U. Lloyd State Park included Roger Alvarez, Sabine Delinois, Delali Blavo, Amanda Bailey, Chris Bailey, Erik Jacobson, Jill Jacobson, Hans Hilst, Jessica Hilst, April McAdoo, Teresa McDill, and Candace White.



students wanted to be able to record lectures from the central feed to enhance their educational experience. “Last year, Travis Osterman (OMS-II), who is the class of 2009 president, tried to install it on his own, but it didn’t work out,” he said. “As a result, we went to Dr. Whitehead and Dr. Silvagni, who listened to our concerns, agreed with them, and worked to get us the current Apreso recording system. This is the direct result of a member of student government, in this case Travis, meeting with the dean, who really heard our concerns and addressed them in a truly beneficial way.”

Beyond college-related concerns, the NSU-COM Student Government Association also plays a key role in two other university-based organizations: The Health Professions Division SGA and the PAN-SGA, which encompasses the SGAs of all 16 NSU colleges and centers. “The HPD-SGA addresses larger issues such as those relating to the division’s student lounge or the purchase of new microwaves in the HPD café,” Alvarez stated. “Karen Batcho and Marla Frohlinger from the HPD Office of Admissions serve as our representatives for the HPD-SGA, so when issues are raised by the various associations, Marla will then present these concerns to the appropriate person.”

At the university level, the PAN-SGA involves itself in an array of areas that affect everything from safety and parking concerns to daily sustenance. “Some campus-wide issues we discuss are parking problems, security concerns, campus shuttles, and the university food courts in regard to quality, diversity, price, location, and hours of operation,” he explained. “During these meetings, we have representatives from dining services, security, and facilities administration join us to hear our ideas, and vice versa.”

Serving as an SGA Executive Board member can be a taxing and time-consuming enterprise, so why do individuals such as Alvarez willingly devote so much time and talent to the organization? “My short answer is simple: When I’m a physician, I want to be involved in making my community better,” he admitted. “But how do I learn the skills of getting groups together, leading a group, facilitating a group discussion, putting together ideas, and compromising?”

“This is the way I learn them,” he stressed. “It helps me become better—and it’s fun. I really enjoy it when a student comes to me with an issue I can resolve. For example, if a student wants to set up an elective rotation in India, I can direct that student to the appropriate people, including students who have done a similar trip in the past, because I have gotten to know the students throughout all four years. It’s also rewarding to coordinate a community service project, like our recent TOUCH event called Intercoastal Cleanup, where everybody has a good time and works hard for the community and the environment. I know my involvement has definitely made me a better person.”

2007-08 SGA Executive Board

President: **Roger A. Alvarez (OMS-III)**

Vice President: **Jessica Hilst (OMS-II)**

Treasurer: **Srinivas Rajendran (OMS-II)**

Secretary: **Meghna Shah (OMS-I)**

NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

Past Presidents

Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('87)
Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)
John Geake, D.O. ('93)
Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)
Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)
Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)
Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)
Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)

Trustees at Large

Annette Da Silva, D.O. ('96)
Andrew Gross, D.O. ('93)
Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87)
Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)
William Stager, D.O. ('89)

2007-08 Officers

Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
President

Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)
President Elect

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

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

Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)
Treasurer

Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)
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.

Distinguished Service

2007 – Mary Smith Allegro

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)

NSU-COM Launches CARE Program

As distinguished NSU-COM alumni, the college is seeking your participation in its new **CARE (COM Alumni Recruitment Effort)** program.

Because osteopathic medicine is becoming a more competitive educational choice for prospective applicants throughout the United States, NSU-COM has developed the CARE outreach program to help meet the needs of those interested in osteopathic medicine and the possibility of attending our college. Consequently, we are seeking alumni members who have an interest and enthusiasm for assisting, mentoring, and informing prospective applicants about osteopathic medicine and NSU-COM.

Prospective students can benefit from your experiences, which will help them to better understand osteopathic medicine and accomplish their career goals. The College of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to assisting our prospective applicants and is requesting your support in the following areas:

- serve as a liaison/mentor for interested students within your city or region
- serve as a support group for prospective applicants' research on new and ongoing projects (i.e., students as assistants or shadowing opportunities for their D.O. application requirements)

- assist the NSU-COM Admissions Team by being a guest speaker at local universities and colleges within your city or region
- establish resources to improve community outreach and NSU-COM activities

If you are interested in becoming a CARE participant, please contact Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs, at (954) 262-1029 or cawley@nova.edu.



David B. Levine, D.O., Scholarship

The family of David B. Levine, D.O., and Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine have joined forces to continue the legacy of Dr. Levine by forming the **David B. Levine, D.O., Scholarship Fund**. NSU-COM has been designated the receiver and custodian of the scholarship, while its expenditures will be selected by the Levine family. Contributions to the Dr. David B. Levine Scholarship Fund can be made to NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, 3200 South University Drive, Terry Building, Room 1485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328.

Alumni in the News

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88), who serves as section head of family medicine at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, was quoted in *The Baltimore Sun* about running injuries. He also had a chapter about manipulation published in the *Secrets in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* textbook that came out in October 2007 and was named as one of the top 10 doctors in the Baltimore area by *Baltimore Magazine*.

Charles E. Garramone, D.O. ('98), who is currently in private practice in Sunrise, Florida, had his article entitled "Use of AlloDerm in Primary Nipple Reconstruction to Improve Long-Term Nipple Projection" published in the May 2007 issue of the *Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Journal*. He also has been appointed chairman of the upcoming American College of Osteopathic Surgeons Annual Clinical Assembly, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Division, to be held in Boca Raton, Florida, this fall.

Robert Gotlin, D.O. ('87), who serves as director of orthopedic and sports rehabilitation in the Continuum Center for Health and Healing at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, has authored a book entitled *Dr. Rob's Guide to Raising Fit Kids in a Fat World* that is due out this spring. The book addresses the challenges of raising fit kids in a world of dietary indiscretion, maladaptive exercises, and activity choices ranging from individual to team.



Scott Greenberg, D.O. ('03), a senior orthopedic resident at Broward General Medical Center (BGMC), won first place in the orthopedic poster competition at the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons' meeting held last October

in San Francisco for his poster titled "Percutaneous Reduction of Tibial Plateau Depression Fractures: A New Technique." Pictured are Joel Rush, D.O., FAOAO, program director, BGMC Orthopedic Residency Program; Dr. Greenberg; Brian J Cross, D.O., and Joe Scott, past CEO of BGMC.

Will Kirby, D.O. ('00), who practices clinical and cosmetic dermatology in Los Angeles, California, and launched his own line of skincare products called Kirby Cosmeceuticals in early 2007, has expanded his business by opening an online store.

Joshua D. Lenchus, D.O., R.Ph., FACP ('00), who serves as assistant professor of clinical medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was recently appointed as the seventh and final member of the Pharmacy Prescribing Committee of the Florida boards of medicine, osteopathic medicine, and pharmacy. In addition, Dr. Lenchus, who was recently designated as a fellow of the American College of Physicians, was elected chairman of

the state of Florida's joint Drug Utilization Review Board and Practitioner Prescribing Patterns Advisory Panel. He also serves as the first and only D.O. to hold the position of associate program director for Jackson Memorial Hospital's Internal Medicine Residency in Miami.

Debra A. Smith, D.O., M.I.H.M., M.B.A., FACPM, FAOCOPM, FAIHQ ('93) is the chief medical officer for International Medical Group, which is a global health and travel insurer with offices in Indianapolis and London. She also is a founding member of the board of directors of the Osteopathic International Alliance—a global NGO for the promotion of the osteopathic and osteopathic medical professions in the areas of education, research, and health policy around the world. The alliance currently consists of professional organizations from 9 countries and 19 academic institutions.

James Mark Stafford, D.O. ('86) is serving as the co-director of the Jupiter Medical Center, which is an affiliated Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) clinic in Jupiter, Florida. Dr. Stafford is one of about only 19 D.O. directors among the almost 200 MDA directors of MDA clinics in the United States.

Ross D. Zafonte, D.O. ('85) has been appointed professor and chair of the Earle P. and Ida S. Charlton Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School. He also was named vice president of medical affairs at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and chief of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Festive Holiday Alumni Dinner Held in Clearwater Area



In December, the College of Osteopathic Medicine held a festive holiday alumni dinner in the Clearwater area, which was graciously hosted at the beautiful

home of Dr. Jeffrey and Karen Grove in Belleaire. Approximately 20 people were in attendance, which included graduates from the classes of 1986 through 2005. The evening consisted of great food, pleasant socializing, and a brief NSU-COM update by the college's dean, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni. Be on the lookout for alumni dinners in your area in the coming months.

Alumni Reception on USS Midway Highlights Activities at AOA Convention in San Diego

NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine was well represented at the American Osteopathic Association's 112th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, which was held September 30-October 4, 2007, in San Diego, California. The college's alumni luncheon at the Marriott Hotel and Marina attracted approximately 100 attendees and featured a slide presentation by Dr. Anthony Silvagni that updated alumni on the exciting activities taking place at NSU-COM. Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP, who serves as president of the college's Alumni Association, presided over the luncheon.

That evening, alumni and invited dignitaries were treated to an informative and festive reception held at the Aircraft Carrier Museum aboard the USS Midway. The reception included a buffet dinner complete with a disc jockey and docents who gave tours of the ship. "It was really a very special evening," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "We've never done an event like this before, and the turnout was incredible."

During the evening, 161 individuals attended the shipboard reception, including alumni, faculty members, and dignitaries

from the American Osteopathic Association. "In addition to the convention attendees, we also invited all our alumni from the state of California," Cawley explained. "We don't get out to the West Coast too often, so this was a golden opportunity to extend an invitation to alumni in the area. In fact, we actually had alumni make the two-hour drive from Los Angeles to attend."

The reception's highlight activity involved group tours of the ship, including the sickbay, which proved especially enjoyable for the physicians. "The docents were so knowledgeable about the ship and the aircraft that flew and landed on the USS Midway," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs. "It was very interesting, and they were so enthusiastic."

Throughout the evening, alumni also had an opportunity to catch up with former classmates in the ship's intimate setting. "It was such a beautiful evening, and everyone had a good time," Cawley stated. "We finished out the reception by giving everyone who attended engraved dog tags of the USS Midway, specific to the event. It certainly was a memorable evening for all."



2007-2008 COM Annual Campaign Update

*By Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.
Director of Alumni Affairs*

The College of Osteopathic Medicine annual fundraising campaign is well underway, and we continue to receive donations daily. This year's campaign has been centered on encouraging more alumni to give back to the college. As of early December 2007, approximately two percent of the alumni have responded to the fundraising effort.

The good news is that almost half of you are first-time givers, which has been our goal for the 2007-2008 campaign. Of those who gave for the first time, about one-third comprised young alumni donors. We also have three alumni who have purchased a bench for our Leave a Legacy campaign. We hope those individuals who have given in the past will take the time to do so again.

Just in case you've forgotten or misplaced your pledge cards, another mailing will go out in the months ahead. Please note that I received three donations with credit card information and no names attached to them. If you have made a donation and it has not yet appeared on your credit card statement, please contact me at (954) 262-1029 or cawley@nova.edu so we can complete the transaction.

Dr. Howard Neer and I personally want to thank those alumni who have taken the time to contribute to the campaign and give back to the college. The NSU-COM Alumni Association appreciates your continued support.

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.

2007 Donors

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

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

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

(Dr. David B. Levine Scholarship Fund)

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

Dr. George Linsey

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

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

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

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)
(in memory of John D. Geake, Sr.)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)

Dr. John Windsor ('89)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)

Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)

Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association
(Dr. David B. Levine Scholarship Fund)

Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)
(in honor of Arthur Snyder, D.O.)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)

*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench Program)

*Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

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

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)

*Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)

Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)

*Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)

*Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)

Dr. George Ramie ('96)

*Dr. William Sjovall II ('96)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)

Mary and Sonny Allegro
(in memory of Dr. David Levine and Sheila Tischenkel)

*Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

Dr. Leslie Arroyo-Barrows ('86)

Dr. Bridget Bellingar ('86)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98)

Dr. Robert D'Amico ('87)

*Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)

Dr. Cynthia Chobanian Egan ('89)

*Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

Dr. Diana Graves ('86)

*Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)

Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)

(in honor of the class of 1996)

*Dr. David Heller ('85)

*Dr. William Holt ('86)

Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)

(in memory of Jerry Johnson)

Dr. Joanna Greenblatt-Drowos ('04)

Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)

(in honor of Dr. Edye Groseclose)

Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)

Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)

Dr. James Liang ('99)

Dr. Jason Lue ('99)

*Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)

Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96)

Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer
(Dr. David B. Levine Scholarship Fund)

Dr. Iran Niroomand-Rad ('89)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

2007 (continued)

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

*Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

Dr. Brent Penhall ('07)

Dr. David Rabaja ('94)

Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)

*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)

Dr. Michael Rohan ('01)

Dr. E. Larry Roycraft ('93)

Dr. Andrew Schwartz ('03)

Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)

Dr. Marian St. Petery ('00)

Dr. William H. Stager ('89)

Dr. John H. Stanton ('90)

(in honor of Chevonne, Jovonne, and Sleta Stanton)

Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)

*Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

Dr. Adrian M. Zachary ('98)

Dr. Christopher Zub ('99)

Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

Dr. Rebecca Begtrup ('07)

(in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Begtrup)

Scott Colton

(in memory of Angela E. Houry)

*Dr. Michael Friedman ('94)

*Dr. Earle Hayes ('02)

Dr. Jim Huang ('01)

*Dr. Arnold Melnick

Dr. Mohammed Merchant ('00)

Dr. Chad Robbins ('99)

Dr. Rayan Rouhizad ('04)

Dr. Jill Ross ('07)

Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)

Dr. Robert Thompson ('91)

Dr. John Tole ('03)

* in honor of 2007 Distinguished Service Award
honoree Mary Allegro

Cumulative List (1999-2007)

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

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

Dr. George Linsey

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+)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Dean's Council

(\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Charles Chase ('89)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

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

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

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

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. Colene Stout Calo ('95)

Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)

Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)

Dr. Bruce David ('88)

Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)

Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

Dr. Brad Glick ('89)

Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)

Dr. John Gordon ('92)

Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Dr. James T. Howell

Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)

Dr. Robert Klein ('91)

Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)

Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin

Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)

Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)

Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)

Dr. Michael Ross ('88)

Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)

Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)

Ms. Lorraine Snyder

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

Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)

Drs. Ron Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)

Dr. James ('88) and Sherry Turner ('07)

Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)

Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)

Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

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. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
 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. Lee L. Gibson ('85)
 Dr. Diana Graves ('86)
 Dr. A. Alvin Greber
 Dr. Thomas Green ('98)
 Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)
 Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)
 Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)
 Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)
 Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)
 Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
 Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)
 Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)
 Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)
 Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)
 Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer
 NSU-COM Class of 1994
 Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)
 Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)
 Dr. Edward Packer
 Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)
 Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
 Mr. John Potomski
 Dr. David Rabaja ('94)
 Dr. George Ramie ('96)
 Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)
 Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)
 Dr. Steven Sager ('90)
 Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)
 Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)
 Dr. William Sjovall II ('96)
 Dr. William H. Stager ('89)
 Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)
 Ms. Louise Todaro
 Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)
 Dr. Ira Weiner
 Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)
 Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)
 Mary and Sonny Allegro
 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. Peggy Benzing ('87)
 Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)
 Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00) Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)
 Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98) Dr. Juanita Brown ('91)
 Dr. Douglas Bushell ('98)
 Dr. George Campbell ('99)
 Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89) Dr. James Caschette
 Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)
 Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)
 Dr. David Cislo ('88) Dr. Jules Cohen
 Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)
 Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98)
 Dr. Robert D'Amico ('87)
 Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90)
 Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)
 Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87)
 Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)
 Dr. Cynthia Chobanian Egan ('89)
 Dr. George Elias ('99)
 Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)
 Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)
 Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)
 Dr. Gary Gary Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)
 Dr. Joanna Greenblatt-Drowos ('04)
 Ms. Marcia Groverman
 Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock ('86)
 Dr. Heidi Handman ('90) Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)
 Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96) Dr. Edward Hartwig
 Dr. William Hayes ('89) Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)
 Dr. David Heller ('85)
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 Dr. Richard Herman ('89)
 Dr. Marc Herschelman ('91)
 Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87) Dr. William Holt ('86)
 Dr. Myron Howell Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)
 Dr. Lawrence Jacobson Dr. Thelma Jamison
 Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)
 Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and Yoyen Lau ('93)
 Donna Kaplan
 Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)
 Dr. Claude Kassim ('97) Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)
 Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)
 Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95) Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)
 Dr. Mi Kim ('90) Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)
 Dr. Mark Khirsandi ('99) Dr. Stephen Krathen
 Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)
 Dr. Michael Landman ('88) Dr. Kim Lark ('94)
 Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)
 Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86) Dr. Soling Li ('00)
 Dr. James Liang ('99)
 Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)
 Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)
 Dr. Albert Lopez ('92) Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)
 Dr. Jason Lue ('99) Dr. Sonal Majmundar ('94)
 Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)
 Dr. Cindy Marika ('87) Dr. Arnold Melnick
 Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96)
 Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)
 Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97) Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92)
 Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92) Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)

Dr. Iran Niroomand-Rad ('89)
 Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)
 Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)
 Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87) Dr. Aeyal Oren ('99)
 Mr. Alexander Packman
 Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)
 Dr. Brent Penhall ('07) Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)
 Dr. Ramsey Pevsner ('03)
 Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)
 Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)
 Dr. Michael Rasansky ('06)
 Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94) Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92)
 Dr. Saul Rigau ('89) Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)
 Dr. Michael Rohan ('01)
 Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)
 Dr. E. Larry Roycraft ('93)
 Dr. Allan Rubin Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)
 Dr. David Saltzman Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)
 Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00) Dr. Melvin Sarnow
 Dr. Theodore Schock ('87)
 Dr. Andrew Schwartz ('03)
 Dr. Sandra Schwemmer Dr. Robert Sculthorpe
 Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90) Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)
 Dr. John Shover
 Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni
 Mr. Stanley Silverman Dr. Rita Sivils ('92)
 Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94)
 Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder
 Dr. Marian St. Petery ('00)
 Dr. John H. Stanton ('90)
 Dr. Margaret Starr Dr. Mark Stich ('87)
 Dr. Colene Stout Dr. James Sullivan ('87)
 Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan ('88) Dr. Richard J. Susi
 Dr. James H. Taylor Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)
 Dr. Richard Thacker ('92) Dr. David Thomas
 Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)
 Dr. Dafna Trites ('94)
 Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)
 Dr. Claudine Ward ('02) Dr. Douglas P. Webster
 Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93)
 Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)
 Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86)
 Dr. Margaret Wilkinson Dr. John E. Williams ('96)
 Dr. Michael Williams ('00)
 Dr. Paul Winner Dr. Scott Yagger ('89)
 Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)
 Dr. Adrian M. Zachary ('98)
 Dr. Christopher Zub ('99)



Scott Colton

As *COM Outlook's* editor-in-chief, I am always seeking ways to enhance the publication's content. One of the ways I hope to accomplish this is by providing increased coverage of the college's alumni base. If you have published a book, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position, please contact me at (954) 262-5147 or submit the information and/or photos via email to scottc@nova.edu.

Dr. Earle Pescatore Reminisces About SECOM, Career Highlights

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications



As a child growing up in Davie, Florida, 1989 alumnus Earle Pescatore, D.O., M.H.A., FACOG, always knew a career in the health care field was where his destiny lay—even though nobody in his family had the slightest connection to medicine or its ancillary disciplines.

“Part of what attracted me to medicine was just an early interest in science,” said Dr. Pescatore, who is a partner in an independent six-member private OB-GYN practice in Rockford, Illinois. “I had great teachers in elementary school who fostered my interest in medicine. I also formed a mentor-like relationship with our osteopathic family physician in Davie, Dr. John Gaul, who had actually been in private practice with Dr. Morton Terry many years ago.”

Consequently, when it came time for Dr. Pescatore to begin applying to various medical schools after earning his B.A. degree and graduating with honors from William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the only options he intended to pursue were the osteopathic kind. “I really liked the way Dr. Gaul took care of my family’s health,” he admitted. “He introduced me to the concept of osteopathic medicine, so when I started looking at medical schools, I knew he was the type of physician I wanted to emulate.”

By the time he interviewed at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), which was the forerunner of NSU-COM, Dr. Pescatore had already been accepted to osteopathic colleges in Des Moines, Iowa, and Kirksville, Missouri. However, because he longed to return to South Florida, he gratefully accepted SECOM’s invitation to join the class of 1989.

Of course, the SECOM of the 1980s was a vastly different enterprise than its NSU-COM descendant is today, for a variety of reasons. “There were definitely a lot of growing pains going on in the early days, and the administration was exceptionally strict,” recalled Dr. Pescatore, who attended the college on a military scholarship. “But I also have many great memories of my time at SECOM.”

One of those recollections involved a “student organization” formed by one of his classmates called the Future Impaired Physicians of America, which was dedicated to pursuits of a less-than-academic nature. “We had happy hour every Friday and sponsored a keg of beer after every block exam at one of the college’s homes that served as student housing across the street from the North Miami Beach campus,” he explained. “The professors and students attended, and it wasn’t uncommon to see either Drs. Mort or Matt Terry come across the street to have a beer with us in the carport after a test. It was definitely a lot of fun.”

Although learning the skills needed to become adept and compassionate osteopathic physicians took center stage, some of the students weren’t above having a bit of fun at the faculty



Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Earle Pescatore

members' expense. Back in the days of SECOM, the primary auditorium had a camera perched at the top of the room for the purpose of tracking daily attendance. However, one of Dr. Pescatore's classmates concocted an ingenious plan to trick the unsuspecting camera.

"One of my classmates, Irving Haber, had run a string of women's clothing stores before he came to medical school. And since the administration took roll every day from a seating chart, he brought in a mannequin and put a white coat on it," he recalled. "If somebody was absent that day, one of the students would move it around to the empty seat because from the camera at the top of the auditorium, you couldn't tell it was a mannequin."

The clever ruse worked for a while, and it probably would have continued to succeed had the "silent student" not showcased an alarming amount of impertinence. "One day, Dr. Joel Stein from the OMM department was giving a lecture when he suddenly noticed a 'student' wearing sunglasses in the auditorium," said Dr. Pescatore of the uproarious incident. "He told the 'student' to take the sunglasses off and went back to lecturing, but he eventually looked around and saw that his request had not been met."

After a second—and more forceful—command was ignored, Dr. Stein decided to address the problem directly. When he saw that the "student" was still wearing sunglasses, he started walking up the aisle to confront the disrespectful cad. "By this time, Dr. Stein was really yelling at the mannequin, but when he got about five or six feet from it, he realized what it was and started laughing," Dr. Pescatore stated. "It was pretty funny, and it became a running joke because the mannequin was allowed to sit on the side of the classroom for the rest of the semester."

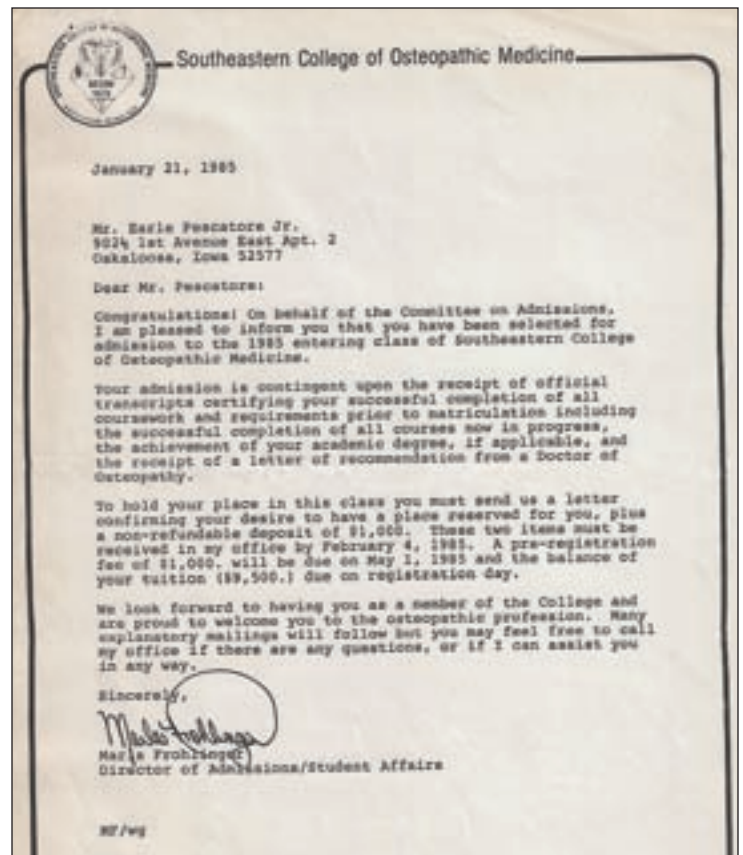
After graduating from SECOM in 1989, Dr. Pescatore did a one-year surgical internship at a naval hospital in Oakland, California, and then was assigned as a battalion surgeon with the 12th Regimental Marines in Okinawa, Japan, where he supervised the medical readiness of troops about to be deployed to Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the first Gulf War. He then returned to the United States to complete his obstetrics and gynecology residency at David Grant Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base in California, which was followed by a two-year stint as assistant department head in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at a naval hospital in Guam that concluded in June 1996.

With his military commitments now completed, Dr. Pescatore, who is married with two children, joined the Ohio Permanente Medical Group as lead physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where he worked for three years. After relocating to Illinois in 1999, he spent almost five years serving as director of the Continence Center at Rockford Clinic before becoming a partner in the Rock Valley Women's Health Center, which is the largest independent OB/GYN specialty group in the region.

Over the years, as his career reached new heights, Dr. Pescatore felt it was time to give back to the profession that had treated him so well by getting involved with osteopathic organizations such as the Cleveland Academy of Osteopathic Medicine and the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society. "When I moved to Illinois, I got involved with the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society, becoming president in 2006," said Dr. Pescatore, who serves as the Illinois representative to the AOA House of Delegates. "When you serve in this capacity, you inevitably rekindle relationships from your past."

One of those rekindled relationships was with his osteopathic alma mater, which had morphed from SECOM into NSU-COM by the time he met a charismatic character named Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni. "Several years ago during an AOA meeting, I had a chance to meet Dr. Silvagni, and I really was impressed with the direction in which he was taking the school," he explained. "He's just an impressive guy all around, so when he asked if I would like to serve on his Dean's Alumni Advisory Council, I quickly said yes."

According to Dr. Pescatore, who has medical students from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford rotating through the Rock Valley Women's Health Center, his osteopathic activism is simply a byproduct of his unadulterated love for the profession. "Being an osteopathic physician is a lifelong dream come true because I always wanted to go into health care," he explained. "To be able to take care of patients, run a business, and contribute positively in the community is such a gift."



2008 Calendar of Events

February 8-10, 2008

NSU-COM Alumni Reunion/CME Program
Plantation, Florida
(Open to all CME participants.)

February 21-24, 2008

Labor Day 105th Annual FOMA Convention
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

March 12-16, 2008

13 ACOFP 45th Annual Convention and Exhibition
Denver, Colorado

May 19, 2008

parents Day NSU-COM Fourth Annual Golf Tournament
Davie, Florida

May 23, 2008

20 NSU-COM Senior Dinner Dance
Hollywood, Florida



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College of Osteopathic Medicine
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