
COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Summer 2004

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NSUWorks Citation

College of Osteopathic Medicine, "COM Outlook Summer 2004" (2004). *COM Outlook*. 52.

https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd_com_outlook/52

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Summer 2004

Volume 5, Number 3



**Class of 2004 Celebrates
Graduation with Fun and Flair**

Dean's Message



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

Humanitarianism is alive and well and living at NSU-COM!

Throughout my six years as dean of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, I have never ceased to marvel at the remarkable community spirit our students exhibit on a continuum. In fact, it would probably take an entire issue of *COM Outlook* for me to discuss all the philanthropic activities our

students involve themselves with each semester as they strive to meet their numerous academic deadlines.

Thanks to the support of the HPD administration and the invaluable mentorship our students receive from the faculty as well as their peers, NSU-COM has earned renown as an institution that produces compassionate, well-rounded physicians that proudly embody the osteopathic tenets set forth by Dr. Andrew Taylor Still more than a century ago.

What I find particularly praiseworthy about our students is their amazing work ethic. In our frenzied roles as administrators and multitasking faculty and staff, we sometimes forget that many of our physicians-in-training are older than the average graduate student population. As a result, they are frequently forced to deal with increasingly complex personal lives that require balancing medical school demands with familial responsibilities such as rearing infants, being supportive spouses/partners, and caring for sick or elderly parents.

And yet, as demanding as the medical school experience can be at times, our students tirelessly devote their "spare time" to an array of community service projects that benefit young and old around the corner—as well as around the globe.

Over the past five years, our students have played a major role in providing essential health care services to indigent populations in remote areas of Guatemala, Jamaica, Haiti, and Peru through the college's International Medical Mission Program. However, what is perhaps most

compelling about our students' altruism is their willingness to pay their own way and make up critical classroom lectures to participate in these humanitarian outreach endeavors.

Then there are the numerous health fairs held throughout South Florida, which frequently require our students to forego portions of their all-too-precious weekends to provide health screenings and circulate literature about topical medical issues. Other altruistic examples of note include

- coordinating toy drives for children at various South Florida daycare centers and hospitals
- participating in various walks and runs to raise funds for organizations such as the American Parkinson's Disease Association, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the American Cancer Society
- establishing scholarships for future medical students
- cheering up sick children by dressing up in Halloween costumes and visiting local hospitals
- educating elementary, middle, and high school students through programs such as DOctors Bag, Pre-Doc, and Exploring, which is a new program featured in this issue

As I previously stated, it is impossible for me to list all the benevolent activities our students participate in on a regular basis. Fortunately, thanks to the informative pages of *COM Outlook*, we have been able to document for posterity most of the meritorious deeds our students participate in throughout the year.

On those days when I'm feeling particularly stressed from dealing with an array of perplexing issues, I think about the heart, compassion, and humanity our students consistently exhibit, and it makes me realize that all the effort we expend on a daily basis is absolutely worthwhile. Thanks to the caring and collaborative mentality personified here at NSU-COM, we can all share a sense of pride in knowing our students will enter the profession armed with the knowledge and compassion to become the finest physicians our country has to offer.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.



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COM Outlook is produced by
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NSU-COM Gears Up for 2005 Medical Mission to Peru - 13

The college's international medical mission program, which already includes annual excursions to Guatemala and Jamaica, is about to add to its impressive outreach legacy by coordinating a comprehensive medical mission to Peru in the spring of 2005.

Exploring Program Benefits Students of All Ages - 18

Getting involved in altruistic activities is nothing new for NSU-COM students, so when an opportunity arose to help local high school students prepare for a potential career in the health professions, a number of M-1 and M-2 class members immediately offered their time and expertise.

REACH Fair Employs Interdisciplinary Approach to Patient Care - 20

Since its inception in 2002, the AMSA/AHEC Florida Rural Mission for Health/Glades Rural Education, Awareness, and Community Health (REACH) Fair has provided essential medical education and services to thousands of children and adults from the migrant farm worker population in Belle Glade and surrounding communities.

Cool, Candid Approach Helps Students Ace Medical School Interview - 22

For most of us mere mortals, the interview process is a necessary evil we frequently anticipate with the same sense of dread we usually reserve for dental visits, colonoscopies, and tax audits. Whether it be an interview for a medical school slot or the job of our dreams, the experience is usually fraught with enough angst to rattle even the most confident candidate.

Dr. Ron Renuart Puts His Life on the Line in Iraq - 42

Whether it be assisting bruised and battered South Floridians in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 or journeying to Iraq in 2003 to care for injured soldiers, Dr. Ron Renuart has earned widespread respect—and numerous acclaim—for his heroic medical efforts.

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News Briefs...News Briefs



Bird bonding at Parrot Jungle.

Parrot Jungle in Miami, Florida, proved to be an ideal setting for the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC) Physician Mentor Appreciation Day event on March 7, 2004, which attracted 78 attendees to the popular tourist spot. "It's our college's way of saying thank you to all the primary care mentors in the tri-county area who give so

much to the program by opening their private offices to our students and serving as clinical preceptors," said Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., administrative director of the IGC Program. "It's also a way for our IGC physician mentors to meet and mingle with other community-based physician volunteers as well as with their colleagues at NSU-COM, and to let the mentors know how important their role is in educating our students." This year's event also included a faculty development program that focused on audience-specific topics.



On March 29, William Anderson, D.O., a past president of the American Osteopathic Association, visited the NSU Health Professions Division campus to address the students and

faculty, in two separate presentations, on the topic "Cultural Diversity." Time was also allotted for Dr. Anderson (pictured with Dr. Silvagni) to interact with the faculty and students following his presentations.



Victoria Hutto

M-2 student Victoria Hutto, the current Student Government Association president, was recently elected to serve as second vice chair on the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) Executive Board. The organization is composed of the student government presidents from

each of the 20 colleges of osteopathic medicine, who represent the nearly 8,000 students currently enrolled in U.S. osteopathic medical schools.

Mark Your Calendars!

August 8, 2004

NSU-COM White Coat Ceremony
Signature Grand
Davie, Florida

September 10-12, 2004

FOMA Mid-Year Seminar
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay
Tampa, Florida

November 7-11, 2004

109th Annual AOA Convention/Scientific Seminar
San Francisco Marriott Hotel
San Francisco, California



Amber Stephens, Jessica Sheridan, and Patrick Moran perpetuate the OMT tradition that has epitomized the profession for over a century.

M-3 student Amber Stephens, who is also an osteopathic principles and practice fellow, captured fifth place and a \$200 prize in the A. Hollis

Wolff Case Competition held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on April 20, 2004. The competition, which is coordinated each year by the American Academy of Osteopathy, encourages medical students to share their experiences in evaluating and treating patients with osteopathic manipulation.

Students are judged in several categories, including involvement in decision-making and treatment. Stephen's award-winning case, which marked the first time an NSU-COM student placed in the competition's top five, centered on the "Application of OMT in Cranial Deformities" she encountered during the January 2004 medical mission to Guatemala. Two other OPP fellows participated in the competition:

- Jessica Sheridan, who presented on the topic "OMT as Treatment for Cardiac Arrhythmia"
- Patrick Moran, who presented on the subject "Osteopathic Approach to Left Lower Quadrant Pain"

News Briefs...News Briefs



COM students participate in political process.

On March 25, five NSU-COM students—Sherry Turner, Jessica Upchurch, Becky West, David Fisher, and Shanna Hampton—

participated in A Rally at the Capitol to let their voices be heard on several key health care issues, including physician liability insurance. The students, who accompanied members from the Broward County Medical Association, Dade County Medical Association, and Palm Beach County Medical Society, were afforded a rare opportunity to rally, sit in on committee meetings/public hearings, and meet a number of elected officials.

During the day's activities, James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, introduced the students to several individuals involved in the decision making process for Florida's health issues, as well as representatives from professional organizations representing physicians' concerns. According to M-1 student Shanna Hampton, "We had an unforgettable experience, which gave us a firsthand view of the political and legislative systems at work."

In April, three M-2 students—Bryan Currie, Alicia Czander, and Brooke Sliger—were elected to serve as national officers for the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). Following are the national SOMA positions they were elected to:

- *Bryan Currie* - Public Relations Coordinator
- *Alicia Czander* - Preventative Medicine Director
- *Brooke Sliger* - Convention Coordinator



Bryan Currie

Alicia Czander

Brooke Sliger



Rita Silverman, Suellen Fardelmann, Dr. Kenneth Johnson, and medical assistants Georgia Carter and Derin Davila.

The NSU Women's Resource Institute recently held a luncheon to promote women's health issues, including the topic "New Trends in Gynecology." Kenneth Johnson, D.O., director of NSU's Women's Health Center, served

as the guest lecturer. Rita Silverman, M.P.S, NSU-COM director of clinical research, and Suellen Fardelmann, director of the Women's Resource Institute, coordinated the university-wide event.



2003-04 Student National Medical Association

In May, the NSU-COM Student National Medical Association (SNMA) chapter was named the inaugural winner of the Student

Organization Outstanding Recognition Award, which is voted on by the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board. The award includes a \$100 cash prize, which will be added to the SNMA's fall 2004 budget. The organization's name will also be engraved on a plaque that will be displayed in the Office of Student and Administrative Services.



Dominique Esposito and Dr. Silvagni

The college recently bid a fond farewell to Dominique Esposito, who has been a member of the staff since August 1996. Esposito spent the past six years serving as the assistant to Dr. Silvagni. During her

tenure with the college, Esposito's multifaceted responsibilities included scheduling interviews, coordinating travel arrangements, and performing countless other vital tasks for Dr. Silvagni and the Dean's Office.

News Briefs...News Briefs



Alberto Caban and Dr. Alina Perez are dedicated public health advocates.

On April 16-17, 2004, the Florida Bioethics Network hosted the 12th Annual University of Miami (UM) School of Medicine Ethics Conference titled Clinical Ethics: Debates, Decisions, Solutions at the Wyndham Miami Beach Resort. Alina Perez, J.D., assistant professor of public health, and M.P.H. student Alberto Caban were invited to add their expertise and lead a roundtable luncheon. Dr. Perez discussed legal and ethical issues relating to death and dying, while Caban—who is currently interning as a research associate at the UM Department of Epidemiology and Public Health—discussed ethical issues surrounding health informatics and computing.



M-1 Marauders Showcase Brains and Brawn.

In May, members of the class of 2007 showcased their athletic prowess by winning the 2004 NSU Competitive Intramural Soccer Championship, which was held on the NSU campus. Despite their role as sizable underdogs in the competition, the M-1 Marauders won the title with a dramatic 2-1 double overtime win over the La Seleccion team, which featured five former NCAA soccer players.



University School students watch raptly as Hilda DeGaetano, D.O., performs a routine physical exam on Eric Shamus, Ph.D.

On May 25, fifth-grade students from the NSU University School visited the Health Professions Division to take a tour of the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center and hear entertaining lectures from various NSU-COM and College of Optometry faculty. University School is the only independent college preparatory school in South Florida that is part of a major university.



M.P.H. student Edna Brooks provided pediatric dental education emphasizing the importance of fluoride supplements for people in rural areas who have no access to fluoridated water.

A number of students and faculty members showcased their humanistic side on May 15 by participating in the Glades Community Awareness Fair, which was held in observance of National Cover the Uninsured Week at

Rosenwald Elementary School in South Bay, Florida. The fair, which targeted migrant farmworkers and their families, was a symbiotic collaboration featuring a number of community agencies, including

- Glades Initiative
- Everglades and NSU-COM AHEC Programs
- Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network
- Glades General Hospital
- Palm Beach County Health Care District
- Palm Beach County Health Department

Diamond Receives NIH Research Scholarship



Jason Diamond

M-2 student Jason Diamond was recently accorded a prestigious honor when he was accepted into the one-year National Institutes of Health (NIH)/Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Scholars Program in Bethesda, Maryland. During his tenure as a research scholar, Diamond will become part of a research team in a laboratory at the NIH's main Bethesda campus.

"My goal is to focus on neuroscience research," said Diamond, whose passion for the discipline was sparked when he was an undergraduate research fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. "The Research Scholars Program will provide me with additional experience and training and expose me to current trends in research since I will be working with leaders in the field."

Heart Association Recognizes NSU, Dr. Lippman for Commitment to Heart Health

Every year, more than 225,000 Americans go into sudden cardiac arrest and only five percent survive—mainly because defibrillation is not administered in time. For every minute that goes by, a person's chance of surviving cardiac arrest decreases by 10 percent. That's why—under the direction of HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman—NSU has initiated one of the strongest public access to defibrillation programs in Broward County.

NSU is now equipped with 29 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in every major building on the university's main campus in Davie. Thanks to the assistance of Kevin Nugent, who serves as the college's director of EMS education and training, all NSU security guards have been trained on how to use the lifesaving devices. In addition, a campaign is underway to train as many employees as possible.

NSU also serves as the official site of the annual Broward County American Heart Walk, which was held on Saturday, March 13, 2004. As result of NSU's perpetual commitment to improving heart health, the Broward County Division of the American Heart Association presented Dr. Lippman with a Heart Saver Award prior to the start of the walk.

"Nova Southeastern University is clearly dedicated to making Broward County a better, safer place to live and get an education," said David Kniseley, chairman of the Broward Division of the American Heart Association. "Dr. Lippman's decision to equip the university with AEDs may literally mean the difference between life and death for someone who goes into cardiac arrest while on the NSU campus."



Heart Walk attendees included (from left): Julie Guy, on-air personality, Coast 97.3; Kevin Nugent; Dr. Fred Lippman; Maureen Campbell, D.O., medical director of NSU-COM's Department of EMS Education and Training; George Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU executive vice president for administration; and Kristi Krueger, Local 10 TV anchor and medical reporter.

DOctor's Bag Program Flourishes in Pinellas County

By Taryn Shapiro (M-3), Sigma Sigma Phi Regional DOctors Bag Coordinator



M-3 student Angie Smith interacts with intrigued youngsters at Starkey Elementary School.

NSU-COM interns and students from Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida, continue to present the DOctors Bag Program to children in the area. The program's goals center on

- alleviating fears of children as they relate to seeking health care
- fostering positive role models for children
- creating a better understanding of pediatric medical equipment

We begin the program with a group discussion about fears and expectations when visiting a doctor. We then continue by dressing the children up in our white coats and letting them spend about 10 minutes at five different medical stations.

- At the x-ray station, children can compare their hands to an x-rayed hand and count the number of bones in each of the fingers.
- At the heart station, children listen to and attempt to identify the sounds they hear through a stethoscope.
- At the otoscope station, they are able to look into a plastic ear model.
- At the fundoscope station, they learn how to look into an eye we created from a plastic baseball.
- At the reflex hammer station, they get to practice their technique by using the device on volunteers.

The program is such a major success because the children love it, and with the help of other Sigma Sigma Phi chapters, we hope to fulfill our goal of setting up this program in different states across the country.

Block, Carollo Receive Matt Terry Scholarships



Matthew A. Terry scholarship winners Dominic Carollo (left) and Dana Block (right) celebrate their moment of glory with Geraldine Terry and Stanley Simpson, D.O.

On March 29, Dana Block (M-1) and Dominic Carollo (M-2) joined an illustrious group of previous winners when they were selected as recipients of the 2004 Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year

medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.

Collaborative Atmosphere Pervades NSU Health Fair



Pictured (from left) are event supervisor Chris Siano, D.O., M-2 student Danielle DeGennaro, the Florida Panthers' mascot, and event coordinator Lior Shamai.

On April 24, more than 400 health-conscious individuals attended the Fourth Annual Community Health Fair, which is jointly sponsored by NSU's Health Professions Division and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. The daylong fair, which was held at the Tower Shops/Home Depot Plaza in Davie, Florida,

featured free health checks and professional consultations for children and adults, including vision, dental, blood pressure, and diabetes screenings.

A cadre of NSU physicians, pharmacists, optometrists, physical therapists, dentists, and other health care providers staffed the screening booths, along with students from the various HPD colleges. A number of graduate students graciously volunteered to help schedule screening appointments and assist with evaluations. In addition, representatives from the NSU Clinic Pharmacy were on hand to offer medication interaction consultations.

NSU-COM Plays Pivotal Role in Children's Conference



Ensuring the success of the A Day for Children health fair are (from left): Dr. Edward Packer; Ronnie Oller; Dr. Robert Oller, chief executive officer, NSU Division of Clinical Operations; and Carol Ann Creque, director of marketing, NSU Division of Clinical Operations.

The college's Department of Pediatrics played an integral role in the success of NSU's inaugural Raising Healthy Children conference and the affiliated A Day for Children event, which were held on March 26 and March 28, 2004, at the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

During the conference, Drs. Hilda DeGaetano and Edward Packer from the Department of Pediatrics provided insightful presentations to approximately 200 Broward County schoolteachers on

- The Effect of Obesity on Classroom Performance of Children
- Strategies for Reduction of Injuries in Children in the School Setting
- The Effects of Disasters on Children in the School Setting

The pediatrics department also partnered with NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy to assist with the Third Annual A Day for Children health fair. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of several students from the NSU-COM Pediatrics Club, children were exposed to the equipment used by pediatricians and families had an opportunity to speak with Dr. Packer about children-related health issues.

Additional services provided included scoliosis screenings, height-and-weight measurements, and dental, vision, and hearing screenings.

AHEC Tobacco Cessation Project Targets Teens



Participants in this year's Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project included (from left): Steve Bronsburg, AHEC assistant director for programs and services; David Fairweather, Community Health Resources, Florida Department of Health; M-2 student Peter Salerno; Carole Sisolak, AHEC staff; Stephani Weaver, Health Education Services/Prevention Programs, School Board of Broward County; M-1 student Elizabeth Davis; Mary Jo Hernandez, Pioneer Middle School; and Sheri Schour, AHEC staff.

Before the spring semester concluded, NSU-COM's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program coordinated its Fourth Annual Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project, which was offered to all M-1 students and second-year pharmacy students. Through this initiative, students gain preventative health training by utilizing a variety of modalities, including group instructional technology in patient-oriented problem solving modules. During the project, student physicians and second-year pharmacy students meet in small groups to discuss tobacco usage, the pharmacology of smoking, dependence/addiction, smoking prevention, and cessation techniques.

Following their comprehensive training, NSU-COM and College of Pharmacy students promulgated their prevention message to over 17,000 middle and high school students at 70 public schools throughout Broward and Palm Beach County. In addition to educating South Florida teens, the Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project expanded its scope this year by sending pharmacy students to Ponce, Puerto Rico, where they discussed the dangers of tobacco with middle and high school

students. Since its inception in 2001, the program has disseminated vital information to more than 50,000 teens.

In 2001, the Florida AHEC Network comprising NSU-COM and four Florida medical schools partnered with the Florida Department of Health to establish the Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project. Over the past four years, approximately 90 faculty and staff members from over a dozen AHEC-affiliated health professions colleges and programs have lent their time and expertise to this educational endeavor.

NSU-COM Hosts Global Osteopathic Symposium



Pictured with Dr. Silvagni are symposium organizers Michael M. Patterson, Ph.D., professor and assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, and H. Christian Hogrefe, M.D., D.O., director of medicine at the German School of Osteopathic Medicine.

From May 31 through June 4, NSU-COM hosted the first in what is projected to be an annual international interaction between American and German physicians that increases understanding between the osteopathic organizations and provides the international participants an opportunity to enhance their understanding of osteopathic techniques and philosophy.

The five-day symposium, which attracted 28 physicians from the German School of Osteopathic Medicine, introduced the participants to advanced principles of musculoskeletal diagnosis, lymphatic drainage techniques, and torque unwinding. The international physicians were all German-trained D.O.s and M.D.s who are furthering their training in osteopathic medicine by concentrating on neuromusculoskeletal diagnosis and treatment. The training contingent comprised a mix of American D.O.s and Ph.D.s who are skilled in the full range of medicine, specializing in neuromusculoskeletal medicine and chronic pain treatment.

Symposium Training Team

- William Brooks, D.O. (Kansas City)
- Sean Larimore, D.O. (Kirksville)
- Michael M. Patterson, Ph.D. (NSU-COM)
- Shane Patterson, D.O. (Detroit)
- Eric Schabert, D.O. (Florida)
- Elaine M. Wallace, D.O. (NSU-COM)

In addition, three NSU-COM osteopathic principles and practice teaching fellows—Jamie Matherly, Patrick Moran, and Jessica Sheridan—assisted in the educational enterprise. The German School of Osteopathic Medicine, NSU-COM, and the Restorative Care Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri, sponsored the inaugural international symposium.

Burnell Awards Honor Student Research Efforts

On March 29, a number of NSU-COM students were recognized for their research efforts at the Fourth Annual Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards ceremony, which was held in the HPD's Steele Auditorium. Five projects were deemed worthy of recognition, including two that earned the participating students commemorative trophies as well as a cash award derived from the endowment established by Dr. Burnell. The awards were created in December 2000 when Dr. Burnell provided a \$50,000 endowment to NSU-COM for the purpose of recognizing outstanding student research in both clinical medicine and biomedical science. Following are the awardees and the faculty advisors who worked with the students on their noteworthy research protocols:

"Role of Acetyl CoA Carboxylase (ACC) in Relation to the Biochemistry of the Brain"

Student Researcher: Kristophe Karami (M-2)
Faculty Mentor: K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D.
(Cash award and trophy)

"Enteric War: Control of E. Coli Over Candida Albicans in the Human Gut"

Student Researcher: Dana Block (M-1)
Faculty Mentor: K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D.
(Certificate of merit)

"Utilization of Medical Database Systems to Improve Collection of Clinical Research Data"

Student Researcher: Dominic S. Carollo (M-2)
Faculty Mentor: Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.
(Certificate of merit)

"Influenza Vaccination: Attitude and Behavior of Medical Students Regarding Immunization"

Student Researchers: Kyle Caswell (M-2), Brandon Lenox, M.P.H., and Axel Thors (M-2)
Faculty Mentor: Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.
(Cash award and trophy)

"A Comparison of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Between Medically Indigent Urban and Rural Jamaican Communities"

Student Researchers: Andrea Ali (M-2), Luzan Phillpotts (M-2), and Manuel D. Rodriguez (M-2)
Faculty Mentor: Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.
(Certificate of merit)



Dr. Burnell, Kristophe Karami, Dr. Venkatachalam, and Dana Block.



Kyle Caswell, Dr. Burnell, Dr. Anderson-Worts, Brandon Lenox, and Axel Thors.



Andrea Ali, Dominic Carollo, Dr. Anderson-Worts, Manuel Rodriguez, and Luzan Phillpotts.

Retreat Participants Relish Visit to HPD Campus

A change in venue from Stuart to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, proved to be a sagacious decision for the coordinators of the AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat, which was held June 4-6 at NSU's Health Professions Division and the Fort Lauderdale Marina Marriott. Approximately 60 physicians and their family members attended the retreat, which helps extend academic resources to rural safety net sites within AHEC's 19-county service area and brings NSU-COM faculty together with primary care physicians from community health centers to provide continuing education on vital public health issues.

The retreat, which included a tour of the rapidly expanding NSU campus, provides attendees with a relaxed, informal setting in which to explore ways of addressing primary care workforce needs in medically needy communities throughout South and Central Florida. It also serves as a fitting way to thank the numerous statewide preceptors who take time out of their busy schedules to work with NSU-COM students during their mandatory three-month clinical rotations in rural medicine.



COM Bioterrorism Center Disseminates Vital Preparedness Message Statewide



Training seminars have been coordinated at a number of locations, including the NSU-HPD campus. Pictured (from left) are Sherri Martin, Dr. Leonard Levy, Dr. Ronnie Martin, and Dr. Edward Packer.

In June, the NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and Mass Destruction Preparedness (CB-PREP) completed a four-month series of programs for the Florida Department of Health, which were designed to prepare schools throughout the state in the event of terrorist attacks.

Geared toward school nurses, police, administrators, and others responsible for the health and safety of children, teachers, and staff, the program was offered in Tallahassee, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach. According to Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., who serves as acting director of the college's CB-PREP, an inadequate amount of formal instruction has been provided that targets the special needs of children and those who are in school environments should an act of terrorism occur.

Each two-day session provided discussions and small-group training workshops focusing on the nature and potential impact of bioterrorism and other weapons of mass destruction. Discussion also centered on the critical importance of communication within the schools and with community stakeholders, and the development of a plan that includes frequent drills. Program faculty included public health physicians, pediatricians, family physicians, nurses, legal experts, public safety officials, and representatives from the Florida Department of Health.

In addition to school nurses, others invited to attend included parent associations, law enforcement and other public safety agencies, as well as other interested parties. Approximately 500 people from the targeted groups attended the recent seminars, and it is anticipated that at least five more programs will be provided for the 12-month period between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2005.

"The feedback we have received from the program participants has been uniformly excellent," Dr. Levy stated. "Our goal in the next program cycle is to target some of the key communities we have yet to visit, although some of the groups we have already addressed have requested we return to provide advanced bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction preparedness programs."

The CB-PREP develops programs and activities for

- NSU-COM medical and public health students
- students and faculty from other disciplines of NSU's Health Professions Division
- health profession students from other institutions
- interns and residents in the NSU-COM Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME), which is a coalition comprising the college's teaching hospitals
- physicians in urban/suburban/rural community practice
- first responders (e.g., emergency technicians, firefighters, law enforcement agents)
- other health and human service professionals
- public, community, and faith-based agencies

CB-PREP Planning Committee

Leonard Levy, D.P.M, M.P.H.
Associate Dean and Professor
Department of Education, Planning, and Research

James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair and Professor
Department of Rural Medicine

David Thomas, M.D., J.D.
Chair and Professor
Department of Surgery

Sherri Martin
Coordinator of Grants and Special Projects

Rural Medicine Club Members Participate in National Rural Conferences

By Shanna Hampton and Leyda Su Ham
NSU-COM Rural Medicine Club



Pictured at the National Rural Health Association Conference are (from left): Stephen Wilhide, M.P.H., M.S.W., NRHA executive director; Leyda Su Ham; Dr. John Agwunobi; Shanna Hampton; and James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.

As future health care professionals, how do we serve culturally diverse populations, work with rural leaders, or manage our treatments in rural and frontier areas? These were some of the many questions and ideas explored during the 10th Annual Rural Minority and Multicultural Health Conference and 27th Annual National Rural Health Association (NRHA) Conference in San Diego, California, from May 25-29, 2004.

The Rural Minority and Multicultural Health Conference was a one-day national conference, held in conjunction with the NRHA Conference. Issues addressed included working with underserved minority populations, as well as ways to be sensitive to the needs and health concerns of different cultural populations. Guest speaker Dr. John Agwunobi, who currently serves as Florida's secretary of health, provided one of the conference highlights. Attending his lecture was a great opportunity for us to learn about the specific health concerns and obstacles the state of Florida deals with on a regular basis due to the drastic variations in population, geography, and climate that exist from one part of the state to another.

The first day of the NRHA conference, which immediately followed the Rural Minority and Multicultural Health

Conference, began with a new member/first-time attendee orientation breakfast, where introductions were made from both old and new elected officers of the NRHA. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the keynote address by Dr. Carl A. Hammerschlag, whose credentials include being an internationally recognized author, physician, speaker, and healer. Titled "Healthcare at the Crossroads: Sustaining Our Healing Spirit," the address focused on the notion that culture, economics of cost control, and technology are essentially colliding to threaten the care of patients and transforming the health care profession into just another industry. Unlike most presentations, Dr. Hammerschlag spoke of his own experiences with poignancy and humor, encouraging his rapt audience to lighten up no matter what cards one is dealt in life.

Dr. Hammerschlag's presentation was followed by a series of concurrent tracks or lectures that included topics such as urgent stroke management and rural EMS technical assistance. These tracks were then followed by three plenary sessions discussing policies, serving culturally diverse populations, and working with rural leaders to promote a rural agenda. There was also a session where students with a common interest in rural health could "greet and meet." Because the NRHA's student group is still fairly new, this was a great opportunity to network and discuss ideas to build and increase student membership.

Overall, the entire conference was a wonderful educational event, with sessions and lectures that really made attendees aware of what rural health is all about and how it affects and is affected by health care policies. It also provided us with crucial information on how the club can grow to become more involved, both locally and nationally. It was a great learning experience, which promoted a sense of community, as well as the recognition of the need to further knowledge about and aid to the medically underserved.



NSU-COM Gears Up for 2005 Medical Mission to Peru



Soaking in the Peruvian experience are (from left) Jose Llach (M-2), Leah Saporito (PA student), Nicole Reis (PA student), Camille Bentley, D.O., Pam Escalante (PA student), Parham Eftekhari (M-2 holding sign), and Lauritz "Larry" Jensen.

The college's international medical mission program, which already includes annual excursions to Guatemala and Jamaica, is about to add to its impressive outreach legacy by coordinating a comprehensive medical mission to Peru in the spring of 2005.

Preparations for next year's Peru mission were officially launched on April 1, 2004, when a nine-member contingent featuring faculty and students from NSU-COM and the College of Allied Health and Nursing Physician Assistant Program traveled to Central America to conduct an exploratory nine-day search of the region.

"Our primary goal was to introduce our program to the various health officials in Peru and educate them about what osteopathic medicine is all about," said Lauritz "Larry" Jensen, D.A., who serves as the college's director of preclinical education. "We also hoped they would be

willing to accept licensed D.O.s and physician assistants as legitimate health care providers, which I'm happy to report is exactly what happened."

After making a preliminary stop in Lima to meet with the minister of health, the team journeyed to Arequipa to meet with physicians at a local clinic and discuss the possibility of establishing a symbiotic relationship. "It worked out extremely well because they allowed us to observe during our first day so we could get acquainted with their system," Dr. Jensen explained. "We were then split into teams of two and sent to different dispensaries around the city. In the evenings, the students were also invited to go to the main health care facility in Arequipa to work through the night with emergency patients, under the supervision of a clinic physician."

Although providing hands-on treatment to patients was not a primary goal of this fact-finding mission, news of NSU-COM's presence quickly spread throughout the neighboring communities that bordered the main clinic in Arequipa. "The clinic was suddenly overwhelmed with patients, so we were asked to assist with the overflow," Dr. Jensen said. "We pitched right in, but always under the direction of the clinic's physicians."

Because of the obvious expertise exhibited by the NSU health care cadre, Dr. Jensen and his cohorts were soon invited to assist the clinic's physician staff by performing comprehensive physicals at nearby schools. "Because there are so many children and not enough physician resources to conduct all the examinations, we were more than happy to help them out of their bind," said Dr. Jensen of the enriching experience. "We set up stations in the schools, and Dr. Camille Bentley and Michael Funk, PA-C, soon uncovered a number of serious cardiac problems, such as heart murmurs, that otherwise would have gone undiagnosed for some time. Arequipa is a major Chagas' disease zone, with 1-in-500 reduviid bug vectors being positive—an extremely high number. As a result, Chagas' disease produces millions of cardiac abnormalities throughout Latin America yearly."

During their stay in Peru, Dr. Jensen and the other participants also visited a consortium of physicians based at the Colegio Medico del Peru and met with medical faculty at the Universidad Católica de Santa María. "We spent quite a bit of time talking to the medical faculty members at Universidad Católica, and we were surprised to learn that many of them already had some knowledge and understanding about D.O.s," Dr. Jensen said. "In fact, they asked us to bring down our OMT tables when we come back next year so we can teach them the techniques."

Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Jennie Q. Lou, M.D.

In March, Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., associate professor of public health, hosted a nationwide Web chat for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. Dr. Lou provided education on the topic "Getting Through the Day: Conserving Energy and Managing Fatigue" and answered questions from MS patients around the country. After

completing a three-year term on the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* Editorial Review Board, Dr. Lou was invited to serve an additional three-year term that will conclude in 2006. She and her colleagues also had a study published in the *American Journal of Health Promotion* concerning "A Randomized Controlled Trial on the Effectiveness of a Wellness Program on the Lives of People with Multiple Sclerosis." Dr. Lou also received a grant from the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation for her new research project titled "Handwriting Patterns in Multiple Sclerosis Population."



A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, professor and associate dean for program development/chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was recently promoted to the position of associate vice chancellor for professional and extramural affairs for the Health Professions Division. In his new role, Dr. Greber will ensure the quality of all external affairs for

the Health Professions Division, including academic and professional communications and publications. He will also provide leadership and direction in all areas of professional academic affiliations for the HPD, including grants and contracts, faculty research, and clinical research trials.



Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.

On July 1, a former longtime faculty member returned to the osteopathic fold when Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., rejoined the faculty after a year's absence. Dr. Shaw, who left NSU-COM to accept a faculty position at the Medical School of Georgia in the spring of 2003, returned to the Department of Family Medicine as an associate professor of behavioral medicine.



Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.

In April, Governor Jeb Bush appointed Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FACOS, vice chancellor for professional affairs for the Health Professions Division, to Florida's Diabetes Advisory Council. The Diabetes Advisory Council advises Governor Bush and the Department of Health secretary on emerging diabetes issues effecting care, treatment, and

quality of life. The guidance of and recommendations made by the council improve policy and legislation efforts, as well as influence the strategic planning of the Diabetes Control Program.



James Howell, M.D.

The Palm Beach County Health Care District recently appointed James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, to the board of directors of Glades Hospital in Belle Glade, Florida. Dr. Howell's appointment to the hospital board will create a greater sense of synergy between the two entities since Jean

Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM, who serves as clinical professor and chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, is a member of the Palm Beach County Health Care District Board of Directors.



Alina Perez, J.D.

Alina Perez, J.D., assistant professor of public health, was involved in several educational activities over the past few months. In February, she served as a speaker for the Pain and Palliative Care Conference hosted by NSU and presented by the North Broward Hospital District in collaboration with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering

Cancer Center. In April, Dr. Perez served as a faculty expert roundtable moderator at the 12th annual conference on Clinical Ethics: Debates, Decisions, Solutions that was held in Miami Beach and attended by more than 200 participants. The conference featured sessions on ethics and health computing, aging and geriatrics, HIPAA and privacy, and end-of-life care.

Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Michael Patterson, Ph.D.

In March, Michael M. Patterson, Ph.D., professor and assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, was elected to the World Osteopathic Health Organization (WOHO) Board of Directors during an organizational meeting held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The eight-person board includes elected directors from

the United States, Great Britain, Austria, Australia, and France. The WOHO was recently formed to provide an organization that represents the osteopathic movements in countries around the world and assists in setting educational standards, research priorities, and organizational advice for countries in which osteopathy is developing. During the spring semester, Dr. Patterson also provided three lectures at the annual classical osteopathy symposium in Maidstone, England, and attended the semiannual meeting of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association Editorial Board in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Gary Hill, D.O.

In May, Gary Hill, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was a featured guest on the HOT 105 FM morning radio show that is broadcast from Hollywood, Florida. Dr. Hill, who is a principal investigator for the college's current Novartis diabetes clinical research trial, discussed the topic "Diabetes and Minorities" with on-air personality Rodney Baltimore.



Steven Zucker, D.M.D.

On April 28, Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director, was a featured speaker at the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health meeting that was held at the Marriott Biscayne Hotel and Marina in Miami, Florida. During his presentation, Dr. Zucker discussed "The Role of Florida's AHEC and HETC Programs in Health Workforce Development in Medically Underserved Rural and Migrant Communities."



Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., who serves as director of NSU's Women's Health Center and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was a featured speaker at the United Jewish Community of Broward County Women's Division Main Event Workshops. During the event, which was held on May 6 at the Broward County Convention

Center, Dr. Johnson discussed the topic "News Flash...NOT Hot Flash! Making Sense of Hormone Replacement Therapy." He also presented an OB/GYN grand rounds CME session at Broward General Medical Center in April on the topic "Update on Hormone Replacement Therapy and Menopause."



Ronnie Martin, D.O.

Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine and associate dean for academic affairs, was involved with a slew of activities throughout the spring semester that included

- accompanying students to D.O. and Student D.O. Day on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., and to FOMA's Osteopathic Medicine Day in the Florida Legislature, held in Tallahassee
- serving as treasurer of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association
- participating in AOA accreditation site visits to Tuoro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Nevada and the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Kentucky
- being appointed by to a three-year term on the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council
- presenting and moderating at several statewide bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction preparedness training sessions that were coordinated through the NSU-COM Center for Education and Research in Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- speaking on "Hormone Replacement Therapy" on June 2 in Mississippi and about "Women and Heart Disease" along with Drs. Ken Johnson and Brian Portnoy at the Lifestyles: A Women's Health Forum in Fort Lauderdale

Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Cyril Blavo, D.O.

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, has been appointed to the One Community Partnership (OCP) Governance Board, which is a six-year project that assures a system of care for severely emotionally disabled Broward County children. OCP is managed by Broward County Government and funded by federal dollars through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.



Hilda DeGaetano, D.O.

Hilda DeGaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, was recently promoted to the rank of clinical associate professor of pediatrics. In March, she discussed the topic "Osteopathic Medicine in Children" at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians 41st Annual Convention and Exhibition in Tampa, Florida.



Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.

Joesph DeGaetano, D.O., FAAFP, director of clinical curriculum and graduate medical education, was recently elected as secretary of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. He also received an elevation in NSU-COM academic rank from assistant to associate professor of family medicine.



David Thomas, M.D., J.D.

David L. Thomas, M.D., J.D., Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., FACOPF, and James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., recently had an article accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Correctional Health Care*—a peer reviewed quarterly journal. The article is entitled "Sending Students to Prison: The Value of a

Correctional Medicine Rotation for Medical Students—The Medical School Perspective."



Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., FACOPF, has been named to the Editorial Review Board for the Certified Medical Representatives Institute (CMRI) in Roanoke, Virginia. In this capacity, Dr. Silvagni helps ensure the accuracy and completeness of CMRI's course content and also helps the institute maintain its course-content integrity through the elimination of any potential biases.



Rosebud Foster, Ed.D.

Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., special assistant to the HPD chancellor, recently received the Sherman Winn "I Care" Award from the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation. During a special event to celebrate Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee, the delegation presented the award to Dr. Foster on the grounds of the Florida State Capitol.



Eric Shamus, Ph.D.

Eric Shamus, Ph.D., assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, coauthored an article titled "Physical Therapists' Evaluation of the Trunk Flexors in Patients with Low Back Pain" that appeared in the April 2004 issue of the *Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice*. The publication is a peer-reviewed journal of NSU's College of Allied Health and Nursing.

Faculty News and Notes

- Elisa Ginter, D.O., who has served as an NSU-COM faculty member since June 1997, was recently elevated to the rank of associate professor of family medicine.
- Michelle Powell-Cole, D.O., M.P.H., assistant professor of family medicine, resigned from NSU-COM in June to go into private practice in Miami-Dade County.
- The Master of Public Health Program welcomed two new faculty members last spring: Jay Fleisher, Ph.D., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D.

Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



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

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of the Health Professions Division, was one of 11 individuals honored with an American Diabetes Association Valor Award at a May 20 luncheon held at the Pier 66 Hotel and Resort. Dr. Lippman and the other honorees were selected for their dedication, leadership, commitment, and contributions to the community. Dr. Lippman was also appointed to a one-year term on the Pembroke Pines Planning and Zoning Board, which rules on most planning and zoning issues and makes recommendations to the city commissioners on other matters.



Edward Packer, D.O.

In March, Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, gave several presentations to Broward County teachers regarding issues such as obesity and its effects on classroom performance and managing children in the school during a disaster event. He also addressed the Tampa and Tallahassee school districts as part of the training program associated with the NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and Mass Destruction Preparedness. The presentations helped educators prepare for dealing with distraught children during disaster occurrences.



Dr. Silvagni thanks Dr. Morrison for his numerous contributions to the college.

On March 30, the college coordinated a farewell party for Alan Morrison, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, who has relocated to Rockville, Maryland, to join a multi-specialty practice. Dr.

Morrison, who joined the NSU-COM faculty in May 1999, was presented with a number of heartfelt gifts, including a commemorative plaque that saluted his "outstanding dedication and contributions to osteopathic education."

NSU-COM Faculty Receives Research Grants

The College of Osteopathic Medicine extends its congratulations to the following recipients of the 2004 Quality of Life Faculty Community-based Applied Research Grant and the 2004 President's Faculty Research And Development Grant Awards, which were announced at a special ceremony on May 18, 2004.

Quality of Life Faculty Community-based Applied Research Grant

Hilda DeGaetano, D.O.

Edward Packer, D.O.

"Project N.I.N.E. (Nutrition in Numeracy Education)"

President's Faculty Research and Development Grant Awards

Ayleen Godreau-Atiles, M.D.

"Bactericidal and Mineralization Effects of Photo-activated Disinfection Therapy: An Innovative Multidisciplinary Approach to Oral Health Promotions"

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D.

"The Nanoparticulate Drug Delivery System of Anticancer Agents: The Preparation, Characterization, and Optimization of Nanoparticles of Antisense Oligonucleotide HDMA5"

Cyril Blavo, D.O.

"High Throughput Detection of Ocular Fungal and Protozoan Pathogens"

Leonard Levy, D.P.M.

"Efficacy of Multidisciplinary Training Modules on Alzheimer's Special Care Staff"

Naushira Pandya, M.D.

"Eye Health and Vision Care for Patients with Diabetes: Comparing Usual Care to a Targeted Intervention in a Randomized Controlled Trial"



NSU-HPD Exploring Program Benefits Students of All Ages

*By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications*

Getting involved in altruistic activities is nothing new for NSU-COM students, so when an opportunity arose to help local high school students prepare for a potential career in the health professions, a number of M-1 and M-2 class members immediately offered their time and expertise.

Throughout the spring 2004 semester, Danny Hierholzer, Allison Bloom, Melchiorra Mangiaracina, Lena Weinman, and Robin Valdes served as adult leaders for the nationwide Learning for Life Exploring Program, which is a worksite-based program that gives youths an opportunity to visit

community organizations and explore the dynamics of various careers.

“Our involvement began when I was approached by the president of our Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA), who had been approached by Learning for Life about establishing a program here at the college,” said Hierholzer, an M-2 student. “I agreed to help and immediately went to Dr. Bart Whitehead, the director of student and administrative services, to seek his assistance.”

With the help of a Learning for Life coordinator, who visited area high schools to elicit student participation, the Health Professions Exploring Program was born. "From the start, we thought it would be better to call it the NSU Health Professions Exploring Program because, for the most part, high school kids don't really know what they want to do," Hierholzer explained. "If they think they want to pursue a health professions career, that's about as narrow as it gets. No one at that stage in life will say, 'I definitely want to be an optometrist, a pharmacist, or a physician.' That's why we got involved—to expose them to all the facets of the NSU Health Professions Division."

Since its inception earlier this year, the program has attracted approximately 60 students each week from Nova High School and Western High School. Not surprisingly, it has earned raves from the participating high school youths, who are responsible for coordinating a portion of the program's logistical details.

"Because the most recent semester served as their introduction to the Exploring Program, the students were able to visit many of the HPD programs, including nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physician assistant, and dentistry," said Bloom, an M-1 student.

"They spent two weeks in each discipline," she explained. During the first week they listened to various speakers, who were recruited by Dr. Whitehead, while in the second week they actually got to participate in a related activity, such as a tour of a hospital or a hands-on lesson in the pharmacy lab. Now that they are done getting a taste of each HPD discipline, they will decide what they want to focus on next year. Our overall goal is to expand the program to include more than just one Explorers post and have each HPD discipline establish its own post."

As the program evolves, Hierholzer anticipates the day when the high school students will be able to coordinate most of programmatic decisions on their own. "As the program matures, we will shift into more of an advisory role and serve as chaperones or advisers," he explained. "The goal is to have it run by the kids themselves so they can come to us and say, 'Hey, we want to go see an autopsy,' and our job will be to arrange it."

Beyond providing invaluable exposure to everything from osteopathic medicine to optometry, the NSU Health Professions Exploring Program serves as an informative forum for the curious youths to ask questions and receive input about what their futures could potentially hold in store for them. "It's great because they can talk to us about what classes they should take, what colleges to attend, and what

subjects they should major in." Bloom stated. "They want to know what to expect in the future, and we are here to guide them by sharing our own personal experiences."

"They are definitely an inquisitive bunch," said Hierholzer, who is also involved with the college's AHEC Summer Camp Program. The students in my group are mostly concerned with issues like how many years it takes to actually become a physician, how much the education costs, and what type of salary they will make. I feel we are playing an important role because I know how many unknowns there are for a student at that stage. When I was in high school, I didn't know what classes to take or how many colleges to apply to. It was all a big unknown. As adult leaders in the Exploring Program, we have the wisdom of hindsight because we just went through the same things they are going through. As a result, we can put the big picture together for them."

In addition to providing a vital service for future health profession practitioners, Hierholzer says he and his M-1 and M-2 peers derive a great deal of personal satisfaction through their involvement with the Exploring Program. "There are two reasons why we are willing to do this—one personal and one altruistic," he explained. "Personally, I feel if you don't step out of your role as a medical student, you are just going to wallow in depression because our lives are just class, test, class, test, etc. If you don't do something to mix it up, you're going to go crazy."

"The altruistic reason," he added, "is that you realize you're in a position to help others because you now possess the knowledge and capabilities to provide community service. That's what we're all in medical school for hopefully—to provide outreach and help other people. I didn't have this opportunity when I was in high school, which was a real driving force as to why I got involved. The Exploring Program is something I would have definitely benefited from, so it's great to have an opportunity to pass my knowledge on to others."





Glades REACH Fair Employs Interdisciplinary Approach to Rural Patient Care

Since its inception in 2002, the AMSA/AHEC Florida Rural Mission for Health/Glades Rural Education, Awareness, and Community Health (REACH) Fair has provided essential medical education and services to thousands of children and adults from the migrant farm worker population in Belle Glade and surrounding communities. During this year's medical outreach effort, which was held at Belle Glade Elementary School on January 31, 2004, about 600 patient encounters were handled by the vast contingent of NSU Health Professions Division faculty members and students in attendance.

In fact, this year's Glades REACH Fair achieved an interdisciplinary milestone thanks to the participation of all six Health Professions Division colleges. Programs represented included occupational and physical therapy, audiology, nursing, physician assistant, dental medicine, optometry, pharmacy, medical sciences, osteopathic medicine, and public health.

"To see this kind of interdisciplinary collaboration, and to have an opportunity to work with representatives from every

HPD college and program is an invaluable experience for our students," said Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., administrative director of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum Program and faculty advisor for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). "We have an abundance of underserved communities in South Florida that are situated near our suburban utopia, yet they have little or no access to health care. I'm so proud that we are able to provide our students with such a meaningful interdisciplinary learning experience."

Another key player in the fair's success is Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., who serves as AHEC Program director and associate dean for community affairs. "This annual event provides an opportunity for students from all of NSU's Health Professions Division disciplines to work hard as a unified team in caring for a medically underserved community," he explained. "It also allows them a chance to bond with one another through cookouts, airboat rides, and other fun activities that serve to showcase the virtues of living and practicing in one of Florida's many medically needy rural areas."

Unlike most health fairs, which offer little more than basic preventative education and cursory health screenings, the Glades REACH Fair provided attendees with a rare opportunity to receive comprehensive medical care—complete with follow-up services. From the moment they registered until the time they completed their day with a stop at the physician checkout station, patients were able to benefit from a diverse array of medical services, including focused physical exams and various blood and urine screenings. If follow-up care was required, patients were referred to one of the myriad community organizations that also participated in the event.

Although this year's Glades REACH Fair was an unqualified success, Steinkohl's goal is to attract even more attendees in the future by stepping up publicity and taking the health care message to the streets. "Next year, on the day of the fair, we are going to go out onto the main streets of the community and use a megaphone to urge people to visit the fair, grab a free meal, and learn how to live a healthy life."

Glades REACH Fair Participants

NSU-COM Faculty and Staff

Barbara Arcos, D.O.
Camille Bentley, D.O.
Cyril Blavo, D.O.
Steve Bronsburg, M.H.S.A.
Douglas David, D.O.
James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.
Ronnie Martin, D.O.
Sherri Martin
Edward Packer, D.O.
Robert Perraud, D.O.
Judith Schaffer, D.O.
Joseph Stasio, D.O.
Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.
David Thomas, M.D., J.D.
Steven Zucker, D.M.D.

Community Physicians

Bradley Bradford, M.D.
Yasser El-Sergany, M.D.
John Geake, D.O.
Marybeth Gidley, D.O.
Rosalia Leite, M.D.

NSU-HFD Faculty & Staff

Deborah Amster, O.D.
Dawn Brown-Cross, Ed.D.
Margaret (Peggy) Davis, RN
Peter Ehlers, P.A.
Cherylyn Filipelli, Pharm.D.
Barry Freeman, Ph.D.
Mike Funk, PA, M.P.H.
Joy Groszynzk, P.A.
Georgiana Herzberg, Ph.D., OTR/L
Pamela Jaffey, M.D.
Michael Jones, D.D.S.
Pam Kasyan-Itkowitz, O.T.
Harold Laubach, Ph.D.
Janet Leisher, O.D.
Debra Stern, P.T.
Ceresa Ward, Pharm.D.

NSU-COM Students

Kevin Ache
Andrea Ali
Sara Ansari
Dennis Bernier
Allison Bloom
Dominic Carollo
Nadine Chipon
Bryan Currie
Danielle DeGennaro
Jason Diamond
Anne Douglas
Aysen Earlywine
Parham Eftekhari
Mary Elengical
Tiffany Ellis
Kevin Encarnacion
Michelle Ferreira
David Fisher
Steven Gallas
Almory Ginory
Sean Goddard
Danny Hierholzer
Victoria Hutto
Seema Kapur
Jose Llach
Olga Martinez
Shaun Martinho
Kimberly May
Chris Nebel
Christopher Piromalli
Niloufar Pourmasiha
Asma Rashid
Matthew Ravish
Sara Rizk
Manuel Rodriguez
Mauricio Sabogal
Kim Sackheim
Iris Saleh
Srilatha Sankarappan
Matthew Sarb

Neil Shah
Shivani Shah
Maryam Shahsavari
Lior Shamai
Shannon Soltis
Leyda Su Ham
Barbara Swallow
Amber Uddin
Mija Vail
Robyn Valdes
Joyce M. Varghese
Joanna Wahl
Richard Walters
Sandra Williams

M.P.H. Students

Rose Ajimatanrareje
Edna Brooks
Jonathan Calvo
Matthew Thomas
Lina Vega

Dental Students

Maria Celaro
Wen Chi Chou
Caroline Grossauer
Elena Gutu
Sara Habashi
Behnaz Sharifi

P.A. Students

Gregory Burns
Kristi Donovan
Julie Ann Klucar
Lydia Marsham
Vitra Mitchell
Erika Nager
Erin Parson
Heather Rickaway
Jennifer Ridenoure
Erika Snowman
Nishla Sobers

P.T. Students

Marsha Carter
Candace Cross
Cara Duncan
Valerie Lee
Ross Marinellas
Shannon Shillin

Optometry Students

Juan Canizales
Angela Costa
Chris Suhr

Nursing Students

Deborah Taffe

Occupational Therapy Students

Kristin Charoudis
Dana Kucharsky
Julianne Makatura
Aimee Murcia
Michelle Ravish
Kendra Reinauer
Jessica Sanabria
Sarah Schaeffer
Audrey Scheveloff
Stacey Vaughan

Pharmacy Students

Lilly Lovin
Marile Santamarina

Audiology Students

Ann Bowser
Angela Fisher
Indiana Gutierrez
Lisa Hansel
Kai Kleinglass
Brandon Lichtman
Bridget Rickman
Melody Warshaw



NSU-COM faculty members such as Dr. Judith Schaffer (center) help ensure the continued success of the Glades REACH Fair.





Cool and Candid Approach Helps Students Ace Medical School Interview

*By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications*

For most of us mere mortals, the interview process is a necessary evil we frequently anticipate with the same sense of dread we usually reserve for dental visits, colonoscopies, and tax audits. Whether it be an interview for a medical school slot or the job of our dreams, the experience is usually fraught with enough angst to rattle even the most confident candidate.

However, what's frequently overlooked in the medical school interview process is the amount of pressure the interviewers are under to select the appropriate applicants—especially when those decisions will play a major role in creating the next generation of our nation's physician workforce.

Screening Process Involves Weighty Decisions

"It's a very tough job trying to pick the right students," said Daniel Barkus, D.O., FACOOG, who chairs the college's Committee on Admissions. "A lot of times I sit in the committee meetings and think about what we're actually doing here, which is changing people's lives. The responsibility of trying to do a good job in that regard is huge because one of the worst things we can do is accept somebody who just doesn't have what it takes to make it as a physician. If we say,

'Well, she seems like a very nice person and it's her third time applying so maybe we should take her in this time,' I don't think we do that person a favor. We certainly don't do the college a favor, and we definitely don't do the profession a favor by doing things like that.

"On the other hand, I'm sure I've made big mistakes the other way," admitted Dr. Barkus, who also serves as professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "I know there have been times when I've said there was absolutely no way a certain candidate could make it or expressed my concern that a particular applicant was simply not suited to be a doctor. And he or she could have gone on to become the best doctor in the world. It may sound like a draft board approach, but we are really deciding someone's entire future—and maybe indirectly affecting the lives of people this person may have been able to help if he or she were a doctor."

Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, who serves as professor and associate dean for academic affairs and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, echoes Dr. Barkus' sentiments. "Everybody takes this process very seriously,"

he stressed. "But you never know what the outcome will be. The smartest guy in my class only practiced for three years and then quit the profession to become a minister because he didn't like being a physician. You can't expect to know a person well in a 15-minute interview, so you approach it with a do-no-harm attitude. I don't want to help get somebody in that I know can't make it, and two years later he or she has left school because it was too difficult.

"There's a lot of financial liability involved, and I think about that quite a bit because of my own background," he added. "It's hard to pay back \$100,000 in loans teaching school or working in sales, and that kind of debt can destroy a person's life. That is never the overriding factor, of course, but it's part of the tapestry of how you decide which students to accept. It is not in the forefront of what you're thinking, but with gained experience as an interviewer, it's in the background."

Humanistic Criteria Play Key Role

Beyond pondering the requisite scholastic composite of grade point averages and MCAT scores, the Committee on Admissions employs a range of techniques to help discern if a particular applicant has what it takes to succeed in medical school. "Dr. Morton Terry continuously reminded the committee that the criterion he wanted employed was as follows: 'Would I want this person to be my doctor? Would I want this person to be my kid's doctor?' Essentially, it's not an applicant's grades or MCAT scores that carry the most weight—it's the intangibles," said Dr. Barkus, who has chaired the college's admissions committee for more than a decade.

"During an interview you are analyzing the applicants' responses, their demeanor, their appearance, their philosophy, and whatever else comes up. I won't say I don't look at grades or MCAT scores, but our admissions personnel go through the applications to screen the students for those criteria before we see them. Consequently, we're not interviewing to see what a person's MCAT score is—we're interviewing to see if this is somebody that can make the most of what we offer here. Is this somebody that can contribute something to the school and to the profession?"

Dr. Martin, who has interviewed thousands of medical school applicants over the past two decades, says MCAT scores serve as a fairly accurate indicator of how well students will perform on standardized tests such as the national board exams. But he is also quick to stress that lofty GPAs and MCAT scores don't automatically guarantee an applicant's success as a medical school student or future physician.

"Raw statistics don't serve the school or the profession well as the only gauge of how someone is going to do in medical school," Dr. Martin explained. "Yes, I look at grades to see if they're capable of doing this. But for the most part desire will make up for academic lack. You're really interviewing the person—the grades are just one fiber in that tapestry. Their experiences, their desires, their enthusiasm, their vision—those are all part of it. If we were just going to go by grades and MCAT scores, we wouldn't need to have an interview committee at all. We would just let the computer spit out figures on the top 200 applicants and just keep going down the list. You're really interviewing the person because that's what the customers—our patients—tell us they want. They want to deal with a holistic, well-rounded physician."

Candid Answers Versus Rote Responses

When it comes to preparing for the actual face-to-face interview, applicants sometimes run the danger of sounding too guarded and scripted in the responses they provide to the interview team, which usually comprises a triumvirate featuring a D.O., an administrator, and a basic science faculty member. "The reality is that students are programmed to say certain things before they step foot on our campus," Dr. Martin stated. "They've gone to the various osteopathic medicine Web sites and read that they need to tell us that they want to be in family medicine and take care of the underserved, or that they want to become a doctor because they love people and love science. To be honest, I respect the one that comes in and says, 'I have an inclination toward doing primary care, but I don't know' or 'My father's a pathologist and that's what I want to do' because those are not programmed responses.

"They've taken the classes and read the books about what they're supposed to say and how to interview. And quite honestly that doesn't help them," Dr. Martin added. "On the other hand, we also understand that it's a very important 15 to 30 minutes in their life. That's why I always look through their file to see if they played basketball, served as a scoutmaster, or did some other interesting extracurricular activity—so I can ask them some question totally unrelated to academics to try to get them to relax. Plus, I want to see



how they answer a question that's not programmed or that they haven't researched. Basically, I want to see if they can think on their feet."

Like a finely honed machine, the interview team cannily extracts the necessary information by creating a conversational atmosphere that intersperses academic queries with casual banter. "Before we meet with an applicant, I look through the person's chart and make notes to myself about things I want to clarify," Dr. Barkus explained. "I then depend on the other people on the team to ask the broader questions like, 'If we had your best friend here, what would he say is your biggest strength and greatest weakness?' or 'How do you handle stress?'"

According to Dr. Martin, the synergy created by the interview team benefits both the applicants and the interviewers because it helps paint a more comprehensive portrait of each applicant while providing the candidate an opportunity to interact with key faculty members and administrators in a more relaxed group setting. "You don't want a flat, one-dimensional snapshot of that person," Dr. Martin stressed. "What you're trying to do is unveil multiple dimensions; you're trying to get some depth to that person. We personally interview approximately 500 students each year for 200 slots, and the students know this. They know they have to do or say something to make them stand out in the interview, so it's our job to find out if they are trustworthy and honest or simply padding their resume to impress us."

Interview Process Cuts Both Ways

Of course, the interviewers are well aware that while they are busy analyzing the applicants and formulating opinions, the same judicious screening process is taking place on the other side of the table. "When it comes to the truly exceptional candidates, we compete for them along with the other allopathic and osteopathic schools," said Dr. Barkus, who has been involved with NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine since its inception in 1981. "Consequently, it's part of our job to try and sell the school to those really good students.

"We have an awful lot going for us, and I'm sure Dr. Martin has heard me tell the applicants many times that I feel there is no place in the United States that trains its students better for primary care," he added. "I don't just say that; I really believe it. We promote an open door policy, which I know is a trite expression, but it is absolutely true here. We have accessibility to faculty that very few schools have, plus we have an absolutely beautiful campus situated in a wonderful location. We also have the diversity of the Health Professions Division, the university, and the community. It's just a wonderful experience. All the applicants have to do is talk to our students, and by the time they come in for the interview they say, 'Well, your students seem to be so happy

and satisfied with everything, so it must be a great school."

"I absolutely agree with Dr. Barkus," Dr. Martin stated. "A big component of our job is to act as very strong advocates and evangelists for the school. Part of what we sell the students on is how vibrant and how much energy there is on this campus. The advantage is it's a fairly young school, so it's still growing and is very dynamic. That's a disadvantage to some degree in that you don't have heritage and history, but it's an advantage for most young people because they are also growing and dynamic."

As with most things in life, the interview process is not infallible, nor does it ensure that qualified candidates that are ultimately accepted will successfully complete their matriculation. "Most of the students we lose, we don't lose because they're not intelligent enough to make it through medical school," Dr. Martin explained. "It's just that they don't adequately adjust to the stress, which can be related to everything from family issues to economic concerns. If you look at the age of the students we take, they are mainly in that transition stage.

"I don't think adolescence ends at 19," he added. "If you talk to various psychologists, they'll tell you adolescence actually ends somewhere between the ages of 23 and 27. That's when we really start to become mature adults. We're taking individuals who are going from being egocentric adolescents—which is what they're supposed to be—to becoming exocentric adults who look at the bigger world, which is a tough transition to make while you're attending medical school. That's why we all take the interview process so seriously and try to accept the students that possess the most potential to succeed."

NSU-COM Students Offer Advice



"Look at the *student doctor.net* Web site. That was a really great resource for me because it has an interview feedback portion that lists all the schools and features comments from people who have gone through the interview process. I did that and was very comfortable with how the interview went because I wasn't blown away by any of the questions. Another thing is to just be yourself. When you come in here, you want them to see you for yourself because you don't want to come in under some false pretense that you are something you're not."

Dana Block, M-1 Student

"I went in calm and confident, so that's probably the best advice I could give someone."

Matt Sarb, M-1 Student

Student Organization of the Month

"Student Associate Auxiliary (SAA)"



SAA members include (clockwise from left) Jaime Longobardi, Ricky Longobardi, Holly Turner, Kaitlynn Turner, Beth Biggers, Joel Biggers, and Stephen Turner.

Exams...extracurricular activities...studying...clinical rotations...family commitments...

These are just a few of the myriad responsibilities medical students face when they embark on that precipitous but ultimately rewarding journey to become osteopathic physicians. However, it's not just the students who suffer through the enormous stress that accompanies a medical school education. Just ask the spouses, family members, and significant others of a medical student, who frequently find the matriculation process to be equally—if not more—draining and overwhelming for them than it is for their osteopathic physicians in training.

To address these concerns, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) created an offshoot branch of its Auxiliary to the AOA called the Student Associate Auxiliary (SAA), which comprises spouses, family members, and significant others of student doctors. The goals of each college's SAA may vary, but the main focus is to support and promote the osteopathic profession as well as provide emotional support for fellow SAA members.

According to Holly Turner, who serves as president of

the college's SAA chapter, being the spouse of a medical student can be a daunting responsibility, especially when you add a young child to the mix. "Sometimes it's very tough because it feels like I'm going through medical school with my husband," said Turner of her spouse Stephen, who is currently an M-1 student. "Everything he experiences, I experience too."

To help alleviate the pressures and stressors, Turner and SAA advisor Sherri Martin have coordinated an array of activities that provide the members with a cathartic outlet to discuss their feelings in informal group settings. "We organize a weekly playgroup for spouses and partners that stay at home," said Turner, who has the added responsibility of being a full-time mom to daughter Kaitlynn. "We'll go to a park or meet at somebody's house to socialize. It's a great stress reliever because we talk about everything, including the pressures our partners feel during exam time and how we're going to handle that anxiety."

The NSU-COM chapter of the SAA is also looking to broaden its outreach by soliciting married faculty members and coupled community physicians to serve as mentors and role models. "What I would like to do is have some married couples like my husband Ron and I and other faculty members or married physicians in the community who can talk about what it was like during the medical school, residency, and practice years," said Martin, who also serves as the college's coordinator of grants and special projects.

"In addition, during orientation week in August, we are going to try and coordinate a party for the incoming spouses and significant others," she stated. "Although our ultimate goal is to do things with the spouses and significant others, we also hope to coordinate a couple's event so the members can get to know the whole family unit."

Because she is the wife of a busy physician, Martin knows firsthand how important it is for spouses to have a support system that includes people dealing with a similar situation. "Many times spouses feel isolated, especially if they relocate from out of state and don't have anyone here to depend on," she explained. "If we can reach out to them and let them know there are other people in the same situation they're in, then maybe they won't feel quite so alone."

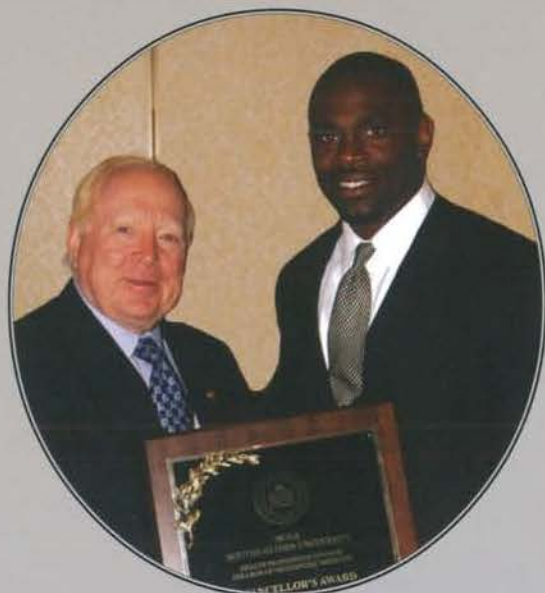


Graduation 2004

Osteopathic Graduates Celebrate During Senior Week Festivities

Celebration was in the air during the college's Senior Week activities, which included numerous opportunities for the class of 2004 to get reacquainted while enjoying a pre-graduation luncheon, attending a lavish awards banquet at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort, and taking a relaxing evening cruise on the *Jungle Queen*. The week culminated on Sunday, May 30 when 170 D.O. and 29 M.P.H. degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony at the Office Depot Center in Sunrise, Florida. During the ceremony, hundreds of other proud NSU Health Professions Division graduates received their diplomas from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., in front of an audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen delivered the commencement address.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Chancellor's Award – Osteopathic Medicine

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

Recipient: **Clarence George Clarke, D.O.**

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



Dean's Award – Osteopathic Medicine

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

Recipient: **Steven Michael Conroy, D.O.**

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



Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award

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

Recipient: **Rebecca Piotrowski, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: A. Alvin Greber, D.O.



Matthew A. Terry, D.O. Memorial Award

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

Recipient: **David Bruce Scholl, D.O.**

Presenter: Albert Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Chancellor's Award – M.P.H. Program

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

Recipient: **Daniel Michael Ukpong, M.P.H.**
Presenter: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.



Dean's Award – M.P.H. Program

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

Recipient: **Jennifer Silvoy Capezuti, D.O., M.P.H.**
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



Alumni Association Award

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

Recipient: **Orlando Luis Debesa, D.O.**
Presenter: Howard Neer, D.O.



Dean's Organizational Award

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

Recipient: **Jason Alexander Koskinen, D.O.**
Presenter: Lauritz "Larry" A. Jensen, D.A.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Dean's Community Award

Awarded to that member of the graduating class who, by personal and professional conduct, and by contributions to the student affairs and to the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special citation as a recipient of the Dean's Community Award.

Recipient: Katarina Lindley, D.O.

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



Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

This award, sponsored by the American Osteopathic Foundation, honors the spouses of graduating students who best exemplify the role of a professional's partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the profession.

Recipient: Colleen Koskinen

Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.



Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine.

Recipient: Ramin Allen Vejdani, D.O.

Presenter: Myron Howell, D.O.



Clinical Service Award

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

Recipient: Nancy Marie Culp, D.O.

Presenter: Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award

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

Recipient: **Danielle Marie Stigger, D.O.**

Presenter: **A. Alvin Greber, D.O.**



Public Health Student Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

Recipient

Tameka Peta-Gay Jackson, M.P.H.

Presenter

Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Public Health Leadership Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated leadership in public health.

Recipient

Alberto Juan Caban, M.P.H.

Presenter

Alina Perez, J.D.



Public Health Research Award

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

Recipient

Meena Nahata, D.O., M.P.H.

Presenter

Ayleen Godreau, M.D., M.P.H.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Golden Apple Award – Osteopathic Medicine

Presented by the class of 2004 to basic science faculty members deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

Recipient

Lori Dribin, Ph.D.

Presenter

Katarina Lindley, D.O.



Golden Apple Award – M.P.H. Program

Presented by the class of 2004 to M.P.H. faculty members deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

Recipient

Alina Perez, J.D.

Presenter

Alberto Caban, M.P.H.



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

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

Recipient

Michael A. Ellis, D.O.

Presenter

Ronnie Martin, D.O.



Rose Community Service Award

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

Recipient

Shalomi Margaret George, D.O.

Presenter

Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service

Awarded to a student who actively organized and participated in at least three children's projects during his or her time at NSU-COM and is considered by students and faculty to have motivated children-related projects.

Recipient: **Meghann Susan Pine, D.O.**
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.



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

Presented by the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician.

Recipient: **Katarina Lindley, D.O.**
Presenter: Ronnie Martin, D.O.



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

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

Recipient: **Brian Lee Browning, D.O.**
Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.



Outstanding Student in Study of Pediatrics

Presented to an outstanding student who is in the upper quarter of his or her class in rank and has honors grades in pediatric ambulatory and hospital rotations as well as at least one elective in a pediatric area with an honor grade.

Recipient: **Rachel Souza Dawson, D.O.**
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Government and Public Policy Award

Presented to that member of the graduating class who, through participation in academic, community, or government-sponsored programs, has shown a unique interest in developing an understanding of governmental and public health care policies.

Recipient: **Joanna Greenblatt Drowos, D.O.**
Presenter: James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.



National Health Service Corps Certificates

Presented to class of 2004 students who will be working with the NHSC in future years to provide primary care to underserved communities and populations.

Recipient: **Joshua Bailey Miller, D.O.**
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.
(not pictured: Margit Lisa Sheinmel, D.O.; Erin Lynne Martin, D.O.; Sheeja Ann Kanacheri, D.O.)



Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates

Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice.

Recipients: **Jessica Lyn Brown, D.O.; Brian L. Browning, D.O.; Doede Donough, D.O.; Joanna Greenblatt Drowos, D.O.; Jennifer Dawn Griesbach, D.O.; Jeffrey Craig Berliner, D.O.**
Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



Sigma Sigma Phi Membership

Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity that was established in 1921 in Kirksville, Missouri, by seven students from the American School of Osteopathic Medicine. The fraternity's main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. To earn membership consideration, Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Following are the individuals who earned membership in NSU-COM's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter:

Hannan Jawad Alsahlani, D.O.; Anahita Azharian, D.O.; Jeffrey Craig Berliner, D.O.; Jessica Lyn Brown, D.O.; Efren Bautista Cardenas, D.O.; Mark Anthony Ciaglia, D.O.; Annie Lynn Davidson, D.O.; Rachel Souza Dawson, D.O.; Doede Deawn Donough, D.O.; Carl Albert Dragstedt IV, D.O.; Joanna Greenblatt Drowos, D.O.; Supakunya Kim Edmonson, D.O.; Shalomi Margaret George, D.O.; Felicia Joyce Glikzman, D.O.; Shane Daryl Gober, D.O.; Jennifer Dawn Griesbach, D.O.; Sheeja Ann Kanacheril, D.O.; Ashley Crampton Keays, D.O.; Cheryl Amy Kohn, D.O.; Suzanne Meredith Labriola, D.O.; Julie Eden Levine, D.O.; Katarina Lindley, D.O.; Erin Lynn Martin-Weeks, D.O.; Elizabeth Anne Nowacki, D.O.; Meghann Susan Pine, D.O.; Emily Collette Reidy, D.O.; Elizabeth Soifer, D.O.; Danielle Marie Stigger, D.O.; William Tyler Stone, D.O.; Mari Viola, D.O.; Benjamin S. Zachar, D.O.

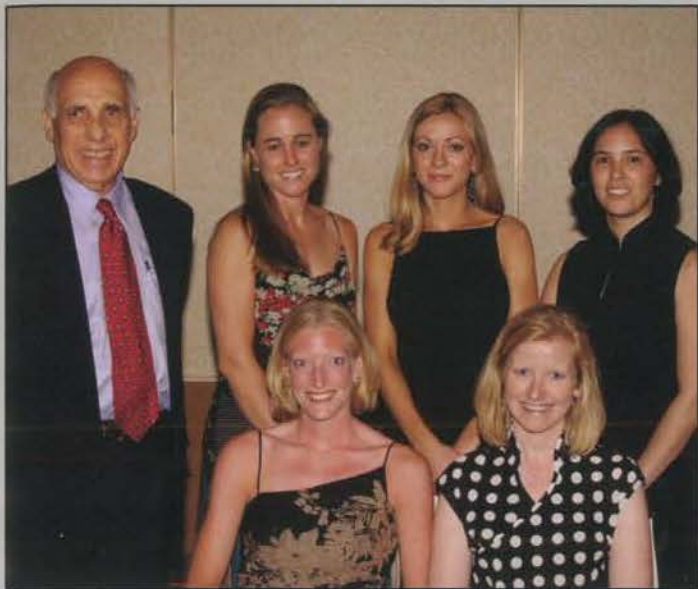
Psi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Membership in the Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. Following are the individuals who earned entry into the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society:



Philip Edwin Bomeisl, D.O.	Elizabeth Joy Kim, D.O.
Alan Vincent Boruch, D.O.	Julie Eden Levine, D.O.
Jessica Lyn Brown, D.O.	Michael McCall Miller, D.O.
Brian Lee Browning, D.O.	Suzanne Elizabeth Newstead, D.O.
Heather Ann Carricoffe, D.O.	Ronak Patel, D.O.
David J. Coia, D.O.	Rebecca Anderson Piotrowski, D.O.
Steven Michael Conroy, D.O.	Emily Collette Reidy, D.O.
Rachel S. Dawson, D.O.	Charles Jason Rousseau, D.O.
Michael Ellis, D.O.	Corey Robbins Schutt, D.O.
Amanda Bush Flynn, D.O.	Danielle Marie Stigger, D.O.
Daniel Wendell Gabier, D.O.	Michael Steven Strobbe, D.O.
Melinda Dawn Healy, D.O.	Prethi Sundaram, D.O.
Mollie Melinda Jan, D.O.	Ramin Allen Vejdani, D.O.

Graduation 2004 - Senior Awards Banquet



American Medical Women's Association Certificates

The Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Certificates recognize women students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class or are considered "honor graduates."

Recipients

Heather Ann Carricoffe, D.O.
Rachel Souza Dawson, D.O.
Melinda Dawn Healy, D.O.
Mollie Melinda Jan, D.O.
Elizabeth Joy Kim, D.O.
Rebecca Anderson Piotrowski, D.O.
Emily Collette Reidy, D.O.
Prethi Sundaram, D.O.

Presenter

Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.

Outstanding Senior Awards

Recipients have demonstrated outstanding academic performance that has qualified them for recognition as graduates with highest honors (top three percent of their class) and graduates with honors (top seven percent of their class).

Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates

Heather Ann Carricoffe, D.O.; Steven Michael Conroy, D.O.; Michael Ellis, D.O.; Daniel Wendell Gabier, D.O.; Emily Collette Reidy, D.O.; Michael Steven Strobbe, D.O.

Recipients of Honors Certificates

Alan Vincent Boruch, D.O.; Brian Lee Browning, D.O.; David J. Coia, D.O.; Rachel Souza Dawson, D.O.; Melinda Dawn Healy, D.O.; Mollie Melinda Jan, D.O.; Elizabeth Joy Kim, D.O.; Ronak A. Patel, D.O.; Rebecca Anderson Piotrowski, D.O.; Charles Jason Rousseau, D.O.; Corey Robbins Schutt, D.O.; Prethi Sundaram, D.O.; Ramin Allen Vejdani, D.O.

Residency Graduation Dinner

On June 18, NSU-COM coordinated its annual Family Medicine and Dermatology Residency Program Graduation Dinner Dance. The evening served as a fitting celebration for the 24 hardworking individuals who successfully completed their residencies at Palmetto General Hospital, the North Broward Hospital District, and the Palm Beach County Health Department. During the festivities, which were held at Fort Lauderdale's Marina Marriott, Jaqui Isaza, D.O. (above right), was presented with the Outstanding Resident of the Year Award for her work at the North Broward Hospital District. Susan Lechtenstein, D.O. (above left), was the worthy recipient of the Palmetto General Hospital Outstanding Resident of the Year Award. Following are the class of 2004 graduating residents:



Palmetto General Hospital Family Medicine Residents

Kimberly Balasky, D.O.
Mayrene Hernandez, D.O.
Jim Huang, D.O.
Matthew Korn, D.O. (chief resident)
Susan Lechtenstein, D.O.
Gretel Trullenque, D.O.

NBHD Family Medicine Residents

Jenifer Eimmerman, D.O. (chief resident)
Tracy Favreau, D.O. (chief resident)
Jaqui Isaza, D.O. Kelly Kiernan, D.O.
Andrew Kusienki, D.O. Jennifer Berger Levine, D.O.
Heather Lutz, D.O. Alexander Owens, D.O.
Robert Ozaki, D.O. Joshua Rycus, D.O.
Julia Shipman, D.O. (chief resident)

Dermatology

Eric Adelman, D.O. (chief resident)
Steven Moreno, D.O.

Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Residents

Sandra Halterman, D.M.D. (co-chief resident)
Takashi Koyama, D.M.D. (co-chief resident)

Palm Beach County Health Department Preventive Medicine Residents

Maribeth Gidley, D.O., M.P.H.
Isaac Kwarteng, D.O., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Rosalita Leite, M.D., M.P.H.

NSU-COM Class of 2004 Graduates

Osteopathic Medicine

Enzo Luis Abad of Hialeah, FL
 Fatima Aziz Ahmed of Lombard, IL
 Hannan Jawad Alsahlani of Sunrise, FL
 Meenakshi Gupta Andrew of Germantown, MD
 Farhan Shoaib Ayubi of Chestnut Hill, MA
 Anahita Azharian of Tampa, FL
 Ronald Michael Bekic of Dania, FL
 Adam Michael Berliner of Winter Park, FL
 Jeffrey Craig Berliner of North Bellmore, NY
 David Michael Bingham of Sunnyside, WA
 Erin Elizabeth Black of Tallahassee, FL
 *Philip Edwin Bomeisl, III of Cooper City, FL
 *Alan Vincent Boruch of North Fort Myers, FL
 Christopher John Bradshaw of West Simsbury, CT
Jessica Lyn Brown of Orange City, FL
 *Brian L. Browning of Lawton, OK
 Eliot Andrew Budnick of Plantation, FL
 Christie Elizabeth Campbell of Tequesta, FL
 Corey Dean Campbell of Cincinnati, OH
Jennifer Silvoy Capezzuti of Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Efrén Bautista Cardenas of Marlboro, NJ
 Hazmer Haniffa Cassim of North Miami Beach, FL
 Jesus Alberto Castillo of Miami, FL
 Pavan Chava of Montgomery, AL
 Mark Anthony Ciaglia of Orland Park, IL
 Clarence George Clarke of Philadelphia, PA
 *David Joseph Coia of Greenville, RI
 *Melinda Dawn Conroy of Fort Lauderdale, FL
 **Steven Michael Conroy of Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Jeffery Louis Crick of Plantation, FL
 William I. Cross of Plantation, FL
 Nancy Marie Culp of Davie, FL
 Azhar Iqbal Dalal of Miami, FL
 Umesh A. Dave of Cooper City, FL
 Annie Lynn Davidson of Redding, CA
 *Rachel Souza Dawson of Davie, FL
 Marin Dawson-Caswell of Rayne, LA
 Orlando Luis Debesa of Miami, FL
 David Del Sesto of Lake Placid, FL
 Doede Deawn Donough of Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Thomas Paul Davidio II of Hacienda Heights, CA
 Carl Albert Dragstedt IV of Gainesville, FL
 Joanna Lauren Greenblatt Drowos of Boca Raton, FL
 Supakunya Kim Edmonson of Clearwater, FL
 **Michael A. Ellis of Wewahitchka, FL
 Bibi Sheereen Eoonous of Pembroke Pines, FL
 Agapi Ermides of Richmond, VA
 Michael Lawrence Ferraro of Norwalk, CT
 Gershon Fink of Miami Beach, FL
 Kyle Ryan Flanagan of Lebanon, TN
 Marie Hermine Florent of Hollywood, FL
 Michael Charles Florin of Winona, MN
Amanda Bush Flynn of Davie, FL
Amber Estelle Fort of Pompano Beach, FL
 **Daniel Wendell Gabier of Chesapeake, VA
 Ruchika Thapar Gadh of Olney, MD
 Randeep Singh Gadh of Weston, FL
 Rupert Paul Mendoza Galvez of Brandon, FL
 Michael A. Gardyn of Baltimore, MD
 Shalomi Margaret George of Clovis, NM
Felicia Joyce Gliksmann of Longwood, FL
 Shane Daryl Gober of Weston, FL
 Tatyana Goldin of Hollywood, FL
 John A. Gregg of Hawthorne, NJ
 Jennifer Dawn Griesbach of Appleton, WI
 Adam Jacob Grunbaum of Stuart, FL
 Rabia Halim of Pembroke Pines, FL

William Thomas Harris of Plantation, FL
 Scott Thomas Hartnett of Coral Gables, FL
 Jess Harris Hawke of Sarasota, FL
 Carrie A. Heinen-Mihordin of Valley Falls, KS
 Michael S. Hohlastos of Joliet, IL
 Robert Orin Holmes, Jr., of Chesapeake, VA
 Brent John Hutson of Boca Raton, FL
 Thierry Olivier Jacquemin of Miami, FL
 *Mollie Melinda Jan of Coral Springs, FL
 James Earl Jones II of Arden, NC
 David Scott Thewis Josephitis of Chicago, IL
 Emerson Alfonso Juan of Jacksonville, FL
 Sheeja Ann Kanacheril of Fort Myers, FL
 Alanna Laura Kaplan of Orlando, FL
Ashley Crampton Keays of Renton, WA
 Brian M. Kelley of Cape Coral, FL
Khalil Ahmed Khan of Plantation, FL
 *Elizabeth Joy Kim of Forty Fort, PA
 John Hyung-Sun Kim of Bloomingdale, IL
 Jerry Kimball-Jones of Palm Beach Gardens, FL
 Cheryl Amy Kohn of Alachua, FL
 Jason Alexander Koskinen of Baltimore, MD
 Stephen Franklin Kulcsar of Andover, MA
 Suzanne Meredith Labriola of Pittsburgh, PA
 Violet Sapphire Lagari-Libhaber of Bay Harbor, FL
 Julie Eden Levine of Plantation, FL
 Katarina Lindley of Miami Lakes, FL
 Dimitrios Paraskevas Lintzeris of Boca Raton, FL
 Tomas Luley of Pembroke Pines, FL
 Zeeshan Ali Mahmood of Miramar, FL
 Brad M. Malehorn of Hollywood, FL
 Erin Lynn Martin-Weeks of Sandy, OR
 Carrie R. Mazer of Stony Brook, NY
 *Heather Carriocoffe McCarthy of Fort Myers, FL
 Joshua Bailey Miller of Birmingham, AL
 Michael McCall Miller of Baltimore, MD
 *Prethi Sundaram Mohip of West Palm Beach, FL
 Eric Owen Mueller of Philadelphia, PA
Meena Nahata of Coral Springs, FL
 Sridhar Naidu of Troy, MI
 Cheryl Lynn Neely of Grand Island, NY
 Suzanne Elizabeth Newstead of Boca Raton, FL
 Amy Nilakantan of Middleton, CT
 Elizabeth Anne Nowacki of Fishers, IN
 Sang Youn O of Flower Mound, TX
 Vanessa Coral Osting of Plantation, FL
 Stephen Fen Ou of Tigard, OR
 Brian G. Pachter of Miami Beach, FL
 Sandra Nicole Pascal of Miami, FL
 Nishith J. Patel of Springfield, PA
 Poorvi V. Patel of Lincoln Park, NJ
 *Ronak A. Patel of Columbia, GA
Meghann Susan Pine of Turnersville, NJ
***Rebecca Anderson Piotrowski of Hollywood, FL**
 Joseph Patrick Purcell of Green Lawn, NY
 Evelyn Ramos of Margate, FL
 Priyadarshini Gopinath Rao of Davie, FL
 Shilpa Chandrupatla Reddy of Panama City, FL
 **Emily Collette Reidy of Rochester, MI
 Bryan Shane Robinson of Signal Mountain, TN
 Rachel Alice Rosenberg of Coral Springs, FL
 Bradley Ian Roth of Coral Springs, FL
 Rayan Alexander Rouhizad of Tamarac, FL
 *Charles Jason Rousseau of Russellville, AL
 Robert Daniel Rubin of Brooklyn, NY
 Robert David Schaller of Melville, NY
 David Bruce Scholl of Davie, FL
 *Corey Robbins Schutt of Orlando, FL

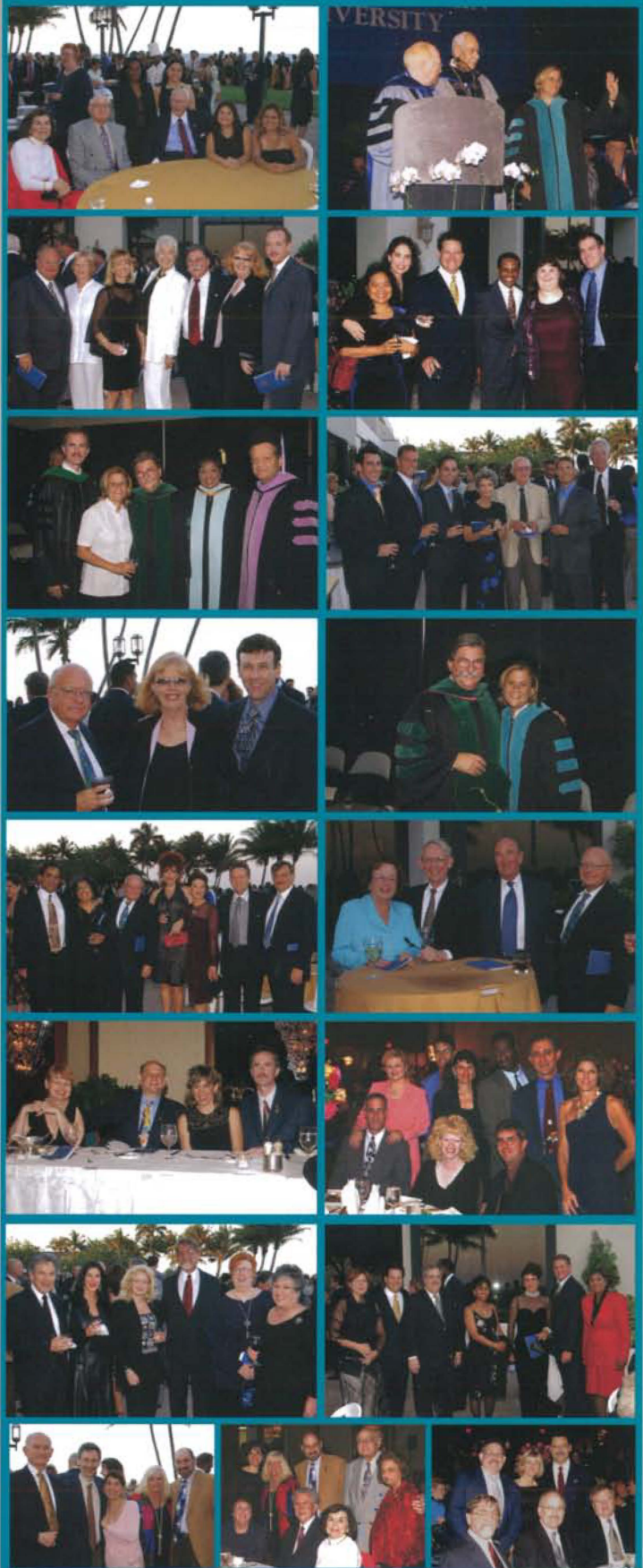
Wayne Martin Scott of Pembroke Pines, FL
 Margit Lisa Sheinmel of Glen Head, NY
 Howard Slomko of Weston, FL
 Irving Shelby Smith of Miami, FL
 Elizabeth Soifer of Glenview, IL
Joan Yvonne Stanberry-Cross of Miramar, FL
 Erica Lynn Steele of Whitmore Lake, MI
 Danielle Marie Stigger of Louisville, KY
 William Tyler Stone of Peyton, CO
 **Michael Steven Strobbe of Port Richey, FL
 Matthew Hayden Swartz of Walnut Creek, CA
 Eric Michael Takahashi of Hialeah, FL
 Mark R. Tomasulo of Sunrise, FL
 Christian Quang Tran of Houston, TX
 Marielis Triana of Hialeah, FL
 Mark C. Valente of Bloomfield Hills, MI
 JoAnna Laurie Van Vleet of Boynton Beach, FL
 Kimberly R. Vass of Pompano Beach, FL
 *Ramin Allen Vejdani of Boynton Beach, FL
 Mari Viola of Arlington Heights, IL
 Timothy R. Wallace of Gibsonia, PA
 Stephen Lee Welch of Charlotte, NC
 Kerry Lewayne Wheeler of Fort Lauderdale, FL
 David R. White of Chattanooga, TN
 Joseph Richard Whitley of Rockford, IL
 Stanford Anthony Williamson of Miami, FL
 Randy David Willis of Orlando, FL
 Daniel Paul Wiske of Milwaukee, WI
 Benjamin S. Zachar of Queensbury, NY
 Sousan Lehimgar Zadeh of Kenner, LA
 Nikhat Zaman of Altamonte Springs, FL
 Mikhail Zelfman of Pompano Beach, FL
 Xaralambos Zervos of Miami, FL
 Elizabeth Anne Ziner of Debary, FL
Master of Public Health
 Loudior Alliance of Greenacres, FL
 Ana Margarita Alonso of Hialeah, FL
 Guy Jed Amir of Royal Palm Beach, FL
Jessica Lyn Brown of Orange City, FL
 *Alberto Juan Caban of Coral Gables, FL
****Jennifer Silvoy Capezzuti of Fort Lauderdale, FL**
Amanda Bush Flynn of Davie, FL
Amber Estelle Fort of Pompano Beach, FL
 Lisa Francis-Smith of Plantation, FL
Felicia Joyce Gliksmann of Longwood, FL
 *Tameka Peta-Gay Jackson of Pembroke Pines, FL
Ashley Crampton Keays of Renton, WA
Khalil Ahmed Khan of Plantation, FL
 John Hyung-Sun Kim of Bloomingdale, IL
 Rob Farrar Koch of Naples, FL
 Isaac Kwabena Kwarteng of Wellington, FL
 Rosalia Padredi Leite-Evans of West Palm Beach, FL
 Meredith Katherine Martin-Johnston of Plantation, FL
 Jonathon Mason of Davie, FL
Meena Nahata of Coral Springs, FL
Meghann Susan Pine of Turnersville, NJ
Rebecca Anderson Piotrowski of Hollywood, FL
 Eduardo Romero of Miami, FL
 Manshi K. Shah of Lake Worth, FL
 Christopher Jacob Smith of Coconut Creek, FL
Joan Yvonne Stanberry-Cross of Miramar, FL
 *Daniel Michael Ukpong of Bradenton, FL
 Virginia Gonzales Viera of Parkland, FL
 Teresa Maria Vitro of Hollywood, FL
 *Graduated with honors
 ** Graduated with highest honors
Bold - earned dual D.O./M.P.H. degree

Senior Week Photo Retrospective

Jungle Queen Cruise



Graduation Dinner/Ceremony



Social Activities - HPD Campus



Alumni Corner...Alumni Corner

Alumni Association Executive Committee

Past Presidents

Dr. Orlando Garcia (1994)
Dr. John Geake (1993)
Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)
Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)
Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)
Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)

2004-2005 Officers

Dr. Kenneth Johnson, President (1991)
Dr. Steven Cimerberg, President Elect (1987)
Dr. Ronald Renuart, Vice President (1990)
Dr. Gregory James, Secretary (1988)
Dr. Robert Blackburn, Treasurer (1986)
Dr. Glenn Moran, Immediate Past President (1988)

Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro
2003 - Dr. Arthur Snyder
2004 - Dr. Lori Dribin

Trustees at Large

Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)
Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)
Dr. Ronald Tolchin (1989)

NSU Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni Honorees

1999 - Dr. Archie H. McLean (1988) 2000 - Dr. James Turner (1988) 2001 - Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)
2002 - No Ceremony 2003 - Dr. Joel Rush (1985) 2004 - Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)

Alumni in the News

On April 20, Jeffrey Grove, D.O., FACOFP, cemented his reputation as an outstanding alumnus when he received the coveted Stuey Award as Alumnus of the Year at the Fifth Annual NSU Student Life Achievement Awards ceremony, which was held at NSU's Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center. Although NSU-COM earned nine overall nominations in this year's Student Life Achievement Awards balloting, Dr. Grove was the college's sole Stuey recipient.

Major Nancy Harpold, D.O., class of 1996, recently returned from a six-month tour of duty in Iraq, where she served as a medical officer in the U.S. Army. During her stint in Iraq, Dr. Harpold was assigned to an area support battalion and acted as a psychiatry consultant. She currently serves as chief of inpatient services at Fort Benning in Georgia.

Raymond B. Bedgood, D.O., class of 2001, was recently selected as the first osteopathic physician to establish a gastroenterology fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia. He also captured first place in the American College of Physicians-Georgia Chapter Original Research Competition and was named as one of the top 10 residents at the Medical School of Georgia.

Andrew J. Cohen, D.O., M.P.H., FACOI, class of 1993, who serves as clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, was recently named director/chief medical officer of the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in Ocala, Florida.

Matt Hesh, D.O., class of 2001, has been appointed chief resident in radiology at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Susanna Chyu, D.O., class of 2001, was recently accepted into the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She also presented a paper titled "Predictors of the Diagnosis of ADHD in a Pediatric Emergency Service" at the Pan American Congress for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Havana, Cuba.

Mentorship Message from Dr. Howard Neer

Darryl Beehler, D.O., president of the American Osteopathic Association, has declared 2004 "The Year of the Mentor." Our profession's early growth was almost entirely due to mentorship, and as you know from firsthand experience, much of the third and fourth year of the osteopathic medical school clinical experience revolves around the mentoring concept. That is why we are appealing to our distinguished alumni to perpetuate the tradition by becoming mentors.

As most of you already know, there are new medical schools both certain and planned in Florida's immediate future that will create a competition for the kind of quality medical students we have had and will continue to seek here at NSU-COM. Consequently, we need your assistance in regard to helping us recruit young men and women from your practices and towns who you think would make good osteopathic physicians.

As productive physicians, you have the opportunity to become excellent role models for young people who may want to join our noble profession. You can do this by letting the counselors at your local high schools and undergraduate colleges know what osteopathic medicine is and that you would like to serve as a mentor for students who may one day follow in your footsteps and become compassionate and dedicated osteopathic physicians.

Please submit your name, address, phone/fax numbers, and email address to the Office of Alumni Affairs to signify your desire to become a mentor and guide prospective candidates to apply to Nova Southeastern University for a superior osteopathic medical education. Please send your information to Howard Neer, D.O., Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs, 3200 S. University Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328, (954) 262-1489 (phone) or (954)-262-2259 (fax), hneer@nsu.nova.edu.

Have you published a paper, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position? If so, *COM Outlook* wants to know. If you have alumni news of note to report, please submit the information via email to scottc@nsu.nova.edu.

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fund-raising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. If you would like to learn more about the Alumni Association Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029. Following are the altruistic individuals who have contributed to the Alumni Association Fund since its inception:

2004 Donor List

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

- Dr. Jennifer Hayes (1986)
- *Drs. Kenneth and Michelle Johnson (1991)
- Dr. Robert Sammartino (1990)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

- Dr. Michael Baron (1988)
- Dr. Jack Goloff (1985)
- *Dr. Mitchell Pace (1987)
- Dr. Lawrence Schwartz (1990)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

- Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi
- Dr. Camille Z. Bentley (1992)
- Dr. Alice Blavo
- Dr. Roger Boyington (1994)
- Dr. Charles Chase (1989)
- Dr. and Mrs. Gaston Dana (1992)
- Dr. Anthony Dardano (1990)
- Dr. Bruce David (1988)
- *Dr. Lori and Michael Dribin
- Dr. Salvatore Finazzo (1996)
- *Dr. John Geake, Jr. (1993)
- Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)
- Dr. John Gordon (1992)
- Dr. Jimmy Hankins (1988)
- *Dr. Nancy Harpold (1996)
- Donna Kaplan
- Dr. Barry Karpel (1989)
- *Dr. Robert Klein (1991)
- Dr. Soling Li (2000)
- *Dr. Sonal Majmundar (1994)
- Dr. William E. Osborn, III (1996)
- *Dr. Ramsey Pevsner (2003)
- *Dr. Steven Reeves (1995)
- Dr. Hector Rodriguez (1990)
- Dr. Gregory Serfer (1997)
- *Drs. Ron Tolchin (1989)/Susan Yahia (1991)
- * Dr. John Yozen Shih (1991)
- *Dr. Michael Weiss (1986)
- Dr. Stephen Yandel (1989)

Friends (up to \$99)

- *Dr. Melissa Broadman (1998)
- Dr. John DeCosmo (1987)
- Dr. David Cislo (1988)
- *Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman (1994)
- *Dr. Eric Handler (2001)
- *Dr. Heidi Handman (1990)
- *Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish (1993)
- Dr. Charles Hosseini (1993)
- *Dr. Cecylia Kelley (2002)
- *Dr. Seth Lapin (1994)
- *Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
- *Dr. William O'Brien (1992)
- Dr. Aeyal Oren (1999)
- Dr. Michelle Powell-Cole (1999)
- *Dr. Steven Sager (1990)
- Dr. Stuart Shalit (1990)
- Dr. John Simons (1992)
- Dr. Theodore Spevack (1985)
- *Dr. Richard Thacker (1992)
- *Dr. Michael Traktman (1999)
- Dr. Steve Vanni (1995)
- *Dr. Luther Wiest (2003)
- *Dr. Michael Williams (2000)
- Dr. Scott Yagger (1989)

*Contribution made in honor of 2004 Living Tribute Award winner Dr. Lori Dribin.

Cumulative Donor List

Heritage Circle

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

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

Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 and Up)

- Dr. John Geake, Jr. (1993)

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

- Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)

NSU-COM Alumni Association Cumulative List of Donors (continued)

Dean's Council (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

- Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)
- Dr. Donald C. Howard (1985)
- Dr. Gregory James (1988)
- Drs. Kenneth/Michelle Johnson (1991)
- Dr. Robert Sammartino (1990)
- Dr. Stanley Zimmelman (1991)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

- Dr. Roger Boyington (1994)
- Dr. Charles Chase (1989)
- Dr. Joseph Corcoran (1986)
- Dr. Richard Cottrell (1990)
- Dr. Bruce David (1988)
- Dr. Judith Fitzgerald (1990)
- Dr. Brad Glick (1989)
- Dr. John Gordon (1992)
- Dr. Jennifer Hayes (1986)
- Dr. James T. Howell
- Dr. Robert Klein (1991)
- Dr. Carlos Levy
- Dr. Mitchell Pace (1987)
- Dr. Joel Rush (1985)
- Dr. Gregory Serfer (1997)
- Ms. Lorraine Snyder

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

- Dr. Eric Alboucrek (1992)
- Dr. Michael Baron (1988)
- Dr. Edgar Bolton
- Dr. Janet Bradshaw (1992)
- Dr. Daniel C. Carney (1995)
- Dr. Kenneth Chan (1992)
- Dr. Tyler Cymet (1988)
- Dr. John DeCosmo (1987)
- Dr. Stephen Dyke (1991)
- Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)
- Dr. Lee L. Gibson (1985)
- Dr. Sandy Goldman (1986)
- Dr. Jack Goloff (1985)
- Dr. Thomas Green (1998)
- Dr. Sharon Johnston (1993)
- Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. (1992)
- Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
- Dr. Glenn Moran
- NSU-COM Class of 1994
- Dr. Nelson Onaro (1992)
- Mr. John Potomski
- Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)
- Dr. Ronald Renuart (1990)
- Dr. Lawrence Schwartz (1990)
- Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman (1993)
- Dr. Theodore Spevack (1985)
- Ms. Louise Todaro
- Drs. Ron Tolchint (1989)/Susan Yahia (1991)
- Dr. Mary Jo Villar (1994)
- Dr. Richard Wolomick (1991)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

- Kelly Adams (1988)
- Dr. Richard Appleby (1993)
- Dr. Shoab M. Ayubi
- Drs. Seth and Mary Baker (1988)

- Dr. Paul Bates (1986)
- Dr. Shaughn Bennett (1986)
- Dr. Camille Z. Bentley (1992)
- Dr. Andrew Biondo (2000)
- Dr. Alice Blavo
- Dr. Kenneth Bresky (1992)
- Dr. Melissa Broadman (1998)
- Dr. Douglas Bushell (1998)
- Dr. George Campbell (1999)
- Dr. Maureen Campbell (1989)
- Dr. Maria Catalano (1989)
- Dr. Charles Chodorow (1989)
- Dr. David Cisto (1988)
- Dr. Robert Darrel Collins (1993)
- Dr. and Mrs. Gaston Dana (1992)
- Dr. Anthony Dardano (1990)
- Dr. Alan David (1992)
- Dr. Christopher Davis (1989)
- Ms. Harriet Deissler (1987)
- Dr. George Elias (1999)
- Dr. Salvatore Finazzo (1996)
- Dr. Gary Gary
- Ms. Marcia Groverman
- Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock (1986)
- Dr. Jimmy Hankins (1988)
- Dr. Nancy Harpold (1996)
- Dr. Richard Herman (1989)

- Dr. Thelma Jamison
- Donna Kaplan
- Dr. Barry Karpel (1989)
- Dr. Mi Kim (1990)
- Dr. Laura Kimbro (1990)
- Dr. Kim Lark (1994)
- Dr. Soling Li (2000)
- Dr. Tracie Leonhardt (1992)
- Dr. Stephen MacDonald (1990)
- Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally (1993)
- Dr. Cindy Marika (1987)
- Dr. Arnold Melnick
- Dr. Sonal Majmundar (1994)
- Dr. Patricia J. Moore (1989)
- Dr. Brian C. Moraes (1992)
- Dr. Nelson Olaguibel (1987)
- Dr. William E. Osborn, III (1996)
- Mr. Alexander Packman
- Dr. Ramsey Pevsner (2003)
- Dr. Ravinder Randhawa (1992)
- Dr. Bruce Rankin (1985)
- Dr. David Ratcliffe (1992)
- Dr. Steven Reeves (1995)
- Dr. Marcos Rejtman (1994)
- Dr. Saul Rigau (1989)
- Dr. Hector Rodriguez (1990)
- Dr. Robert Ruffolo (1988)
- Dr. Steven Sager (1990)
- Dr. Stuart A. Sandler (1986)
- Dr. Stuart Shalit (1990)
- Dr. John Yozen Shih (1991)
- Mr. Stanley Silverman
- Dr. Rita Sivils (1992)
- Dr. Colene Stout
- Dr. James Sullivan (1987)
- Dr. Donald Teplitz (1985)

- Dr. Richard Thacker (1992)
- Dr. Peter A. Tomasello (1991)
- Dr. Douglas P. Webster
- Dr. Michael Weiss (1986)
- Dr. John E. Williams (1996)
- Dr. Charles A. Wilson (1996)
- Dr. Stephen Yandel (1989)
- Dr. Ross Zafonte

Friends (up to \$99)

- Dr. Bret Ackermann (1992)
- Dr. Lee Adler
- Dr. Albert Alessi (1994)
- Dr. John Allred (1997)
- Dr. Barnet Alpert
- Dr. Barbara Arcos (1994)
- Dr. Mujdi Astichi (1989)
- Dr. Donald Auerbach
- Dr. Paul Avadanian (1994)
- Dr. Michael Band
- Dr. Dan Barkus
- Dr. Bridget Bellingar (1986)
- Dr. Peggy Benzing
- Dr. Deidra Bergmann (1985)
- Dr. Adam Berko (1996)
- Dr. Bob Blackburn (1986)
- Dr. Barry Blumenthal (1991)
- Dr. Robert Boltuch
- Dr. William Borkowsky
- Dr. Rogelio Brito (1992)
- Dr. David Brown (1987)
- Dr. James M. Brown (1993)
- Dr. Jaunita Brown (1991)
- Dr. James Burnett
- Dr. Francine Carattini-Eley (1988)
- Dr. James Caschette
- Dr. Naili Chen (1995)
- Dr. Jules Cohen
- Dr. Paul Cohen
- Dr. Robert Contrucci
- Dr. Beverly Cypen-Greenberg
- Mr. Paul DeBlasi
- Dr. Ronald J. D'Orazio
- Dr. Aaron S. Dubrinsky
- Dr. Bonnie Pollock Ellenoff (1999)
- Dr. Tarek Elrafei (1995)
- Dr. Perry Farb
- Dr. Eileen Farwick (1989)
- Dr. Sheldon Feldman
- Dr. Julie Fernandez (1998)
- Dr. Ira Fialko
- Dr. and Mrs. John Fischer
- Dr. Walter Flesner
- Ms. Margaret Foye-Payne
- Dr. James Fish
- Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman (1994)
- Dr. Paul Friedman (1996)
- Dr. Joseph Fortunato
- Dr. Lucille Frial-Carrasco
- Dr. Jorge Gadea (1995)
- Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek (1990)
- Dr. Gary Gary
- Dr. Andrea Gault (2000)

NSU-COM Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll - Friends Cumulative Report (cont.)

Dr. Mitchell Ghen
 Dr. Randy Gould (1995)
 Dr. Diana Johnstone Graves (1986)
 Dr. A. Alvin Greber
 Dr. Leslie Greco (1987)
 Dr. Harry Grossman
 Dr. Eric Handler (2001)
 Dr. Heidi Handman (1990)
 Dr. Bethany M. Harris (1990)
 Dr. Maria Ruiz Harris
 Dr. Edward Hartwig
 Dr. Ian Hassin
 Dr. William Hayes (1989)
 Dr. Eric Hegybeli (1995)
 Dr. Sarah J. Heringer (2001)
 Dr. Marc Herschelmann (1991)
 Dr. Leslie Herzog (1987)
 Dr. Michael Higgins (1996)
 Dr. Joseph Hodge (1987)
 Dr. James Homan
 Dr. Charles Hosseini (1993)
 Dr. Douglas Hughes (2002)
 Dr. Shasi Husain
 Dr. Donna Jacobsen (1991)
 Dr. Lawrence Jacobson
 Dr. Michael Jervis (1993)
 Dr. James Johnson
 Dr. Marc Kaprow (2001)
 Alfred and Beatrice Karg
 Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish (1993)
 Dr. Scott Kazdan (1991)
 Dr. Moulton Keane
 Dr. Cecylia Kelley (2002)
 Dr. Thomas C. Kelly (2000)
 Ms. Patricia Kennedy
 Dr. Marc Kesselman
 Dr. Robin Kesselman (1985)
 Dr. Youssef Khodor (1995)
 Dr. Frank Kiick (1988)
 Dr. Lance Kim (1993)
 Karen Kirkland
 Dr. Richard Knapp
 Dr. Ronald Knaus
 Dr. Stephen Krathen
 Dr. Donald Krieff (1992)
 Dr. Mark A. Kucker (1989)
 Dr. Michael Lamoyeux
 Fay Lampert
 Dr. Christopher P. Lampson (1985)
 Dr. Michael Landman (1988)
 Dr. James Landreau (1998)
 Dr. Jerry Langseth
 Dr. Seth Lapin (1994)
 Dr. Jeffrey Lebow
 Dr. Alan Lee (1985)
 Dr. Andrew Lepoff (1986)
 Dr. David Levine
 Dr. D. Mitchell Levinson (1988)
 Dr. Robert Lewis
 Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox (1988)
 Dr. Albert Lopez (1992)
 Dr. Leonardo Lopez (1999)
 Dr. Anne M. Lord (1995)
 Dr. Jason Lue (1999)
 Dr. Jerold Lynn
 Dr. Jeffrey Lyons (1994)

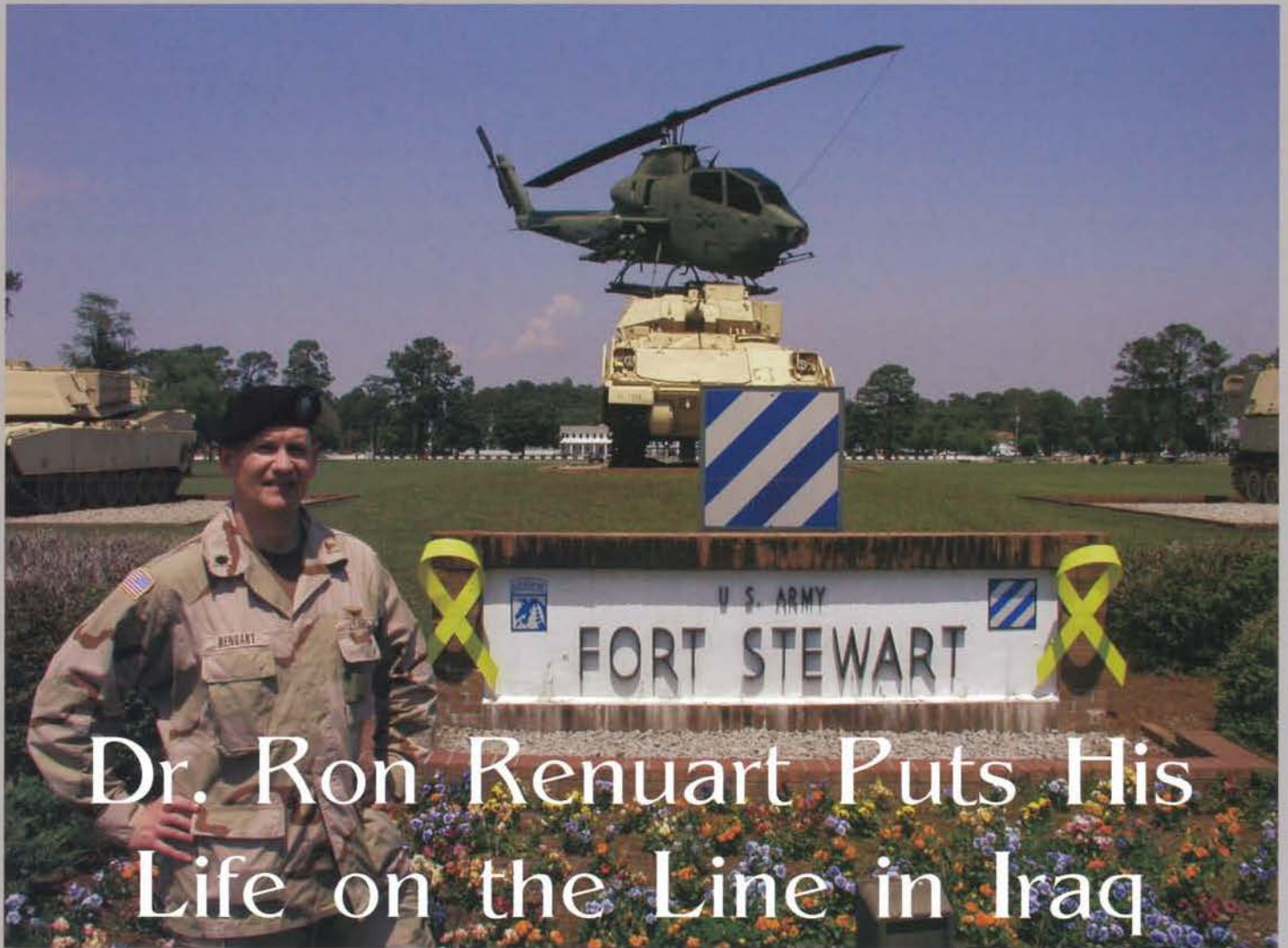
Ms. Cindy Maggio
 Dr. Diane Mainwold (1990)
 Dr. Marvin Malamut
 Dr. Gary Marder
 Dr. Samuel Martino
 Dr. Keith Marshall
 Dr. Bach A. McComb (1998)
 Dr. Patrick McGrail
 Dr. Clyde Meckstroth (1985)
 Dr. Joseph Morelos (1997)
 Dr. Mark Morganstein
 Dr. Alan Morrison
 Dr. Linda Murray (1998)
 Dr. James Napier
 Dr. Alan Netzman
 Dr. Aron Newfield
 Dr. Jeff Newfield (1991)
 Dr. Nam Nguyen (1999)
 Dr. Hue Nguyen (1989)
 Dr. Layne Nisenbaum (1985)
 Dr. Robert Nisenbaum (1990)
 Dr. Merideth Norris
 Dr. William O'Brien (1992)
 Dr. Raymond Oenbrink (1985)
 Dr. Robert Oller
 Dr. Samuel Orr (1990)
 Dr. Ralph Ortiz (1998)
 Dr. James Otis (1985)
 Dr. Steven and Carolyn Newman
 Dr. Aeyal Oren (1999)
 Dr. Jillean Pannocho (1989)
 Dr. Herbert Pardell
 Dr. Christopher Patterson (1993)
 Dr. Todd Patterson
 Dr. Greta Amy Peck (1986)
 Dr. Lourdes Pelaez-Echevarria (1994)
 Dr. Jorge Perez (1990)
 Dr. Anthony Perrotti (1987)
 Dr. Harvey Pflanzner
 Dr. Tammy Pruse (1999)
 Dr. Thomas Quinn
 Dr. Antonio Ramirez (1990)
 Dr. and Mrs. Vincent Randaisi (1993)
 Dr. Inciya Rangwalla (2001)
 Dr. Michael Rappa (1988)
 Dr. Charles Readdy (1992)
 Dr. Eric Rentz
 Dr. Gerald Reynolds
 Dr. Jeffrey Rich
 Dr. Marc Ritch
 Dr. Paul Rodriguez (1994)
 Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg (1990)
 Dr. Allan Rubin
 Dr. Gerald Safier
 Dr. Susan Sager (1989)
 Dr. David Saltzman
 Dr. Melvin Sarnow
 Dr. Patrick Sayavong (1992)
 Dr. Lawrence J. Scalzo (1994)
 Dr. Judy Schaffer
 Dr. Sandra Schwemmer
 Dr. Robert Sculthorpe
 Dr. Craig Shapiro
 Dr. Benjamin Shore
 Dr. John Shover

Dr. Leslie Simon
 Dr. John Simons (1992)
 Dr. Stanley Skopit
 Dr. Snaro Skordas
 Dr. Scott William Smith (1994)
 Dr. Kathleen P. Soe (1999)
 Dr. William Stager (1989)
 Dr. Margaret Starr
 Dr. Joseph Stasio (1991)
 Dr. Michael Stazel (1994)
 Dr. Wynn Steinsnyder
 Dr. Mark Stich (1987)
 Dr. Stanley Stockhammer
 Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan (1988)
 Dr. Richard J. Susi
 Dr. Cheryl Tapp (1997)
 Dr. Frederick Taylor
 Dr. James H. Taylor
 Dr. David Thomas (1990)
 Dr. Michael Traktman (1999)
 Dr. Dafna Trites (1994)
 Dr. Todd Trites
 Dr. Niel Tytler
 Dr. Ruben Valdes
 Dr. Steve Vanni (1995)
 Dr. Douglas Walsh
 Dr. Colleen Ward (1988)
 Dr. Alex Wargo
 Dr. Robert Waskin
 Ms. Martha Weber
 Dr. Richard Weisberg (1993)
 Dr. Luther Wiest (2003)
 Dr. Sharon White-Findley (1986)
 Dr. Annette M. Wilder (1995)
 Mr. Mark Wilder
 Dr. Gregg Wilentz (1997)
 Dr. Robert L. Wilkinson (1995)
 Dr. Michael Williams (2000)
 Dr. Paul Winner
 Dr. Scott Yagger (1989)
 Dr. Melissa Young (1994)

Corporate/Organizational

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Dr. Ron Renuart Puts His Life on the Line in Iraq

Like so many osteopathic practitioners, Ron Renuart, D.O., has established a reputation for being a compassionate healer who knows how to remain cool and collected in a crisis. Whether it be assisting bruised and battered South Floridians in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 or journeying to Iraq in 2003 to care for injured soldiers, Dr. Renuart has earned widespread respect—and numerous acclaim—for his heroic medical efforts.

Dr. Renuart, who was born in Coral Gables, Florida, officially launched his osteopathic odyssey in 1986 when he began matriculating at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), which served as the precursor to NSU-COM. After earning his D.O. degree in 1990, Dr. Renuart completed a general rotating osteopathic internship at Memorial General Hospital in Pinellas Park, Florida. He then enrolled in the internal medicine residency program at the University of Florida Health Science Center in Jacksonville, which he graduated from in 1994.

Because he had a dual passion for internal medicine and military service, Dr. Renuart joined the Florida Army National Guard while he was still a senior at SECOM. It proved to be

a prudent decision that positively impacted the lives of thousands of South Floridians in the summer of 1992 when a vicious Category 5 hurricane named Andrew slammed into Miami-Dade County. Thanks to his medical efforts, which spanned the course of several months, Dr. Renuart personally treated thousands of patients for injuries inflicted by Hurricane Andrew.

In November 1992, Dr. Renuart's contributions to the hurricane-ravaged community were recognized in the form of several prestigious accolades, including the Florida Meritorious Service Ribbon for "outstanding meritorious achievement in support of humanitarian relief efforts during the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew." He also received the Florida National Guard Certificate of Appreciation for "exceptional professionalism and dedication by volunteering considerable time, effort, and expertise in taking care of over 4,000 patients during the medical recovery efforts on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Andrew."

Throughout the course of his extraordinary career, Dr. Renuart has been the recipient of numerous other accolades. These include:

■ the inaugural NSU-COM Rose Community Service Award in 1990 for “outstanding interest in community service and community projects”

■ the 1993 Physicians Recognition Award from the American Medical Association

■ the 1997 Florida Meritorious Service Ribbon for “outstanding devotion to duty and high professional standards in service to Det 3 STARC Medical Detachment and the Florida Army National Guard

Over the past decade, Dr. Renuart, who currently practices internal medicine at the Baptist Primary Care Centers in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, has been affiliated with the Baptist Medical Center - Beaches, where he currently serves as chief of staff. However, in April 2003, Dr. Renuart’s life took an undeniably dramatic turn when he was called to active duty in the Iraqi theater.

For the next six months, Dr. Renuart—who earned the rank of colonel in October 2003—would be stationed halfway around the world from his wife, Jacqueline, and their three children at an austere site called Camp Virginia located on the Kuwaiti/Iraqi border. In contrast to the modern conveniences that are a fixture in the United States, Dr. Renuart found himself situated in a tent in the middle of a desert with no natural electricity or water. With the temperature soaring to a brutal 140 degrees in the summer, Dr. Renuart and his team of three physician assistants and two lab techs faced the daunting task of providing medical services for the 10,000 U.S. soldiers based at Camp Virginia.

During his six-month stay in Iraq, Dr. Renuart treated a range of ailments and injuries, including gastrointestinal disturbances, heatstroke, and five cases of myocardial infarctions in young men. One of the more perplexing cases he encountered involved a 26-year-old who had suffered a severe cerebral vascular accident and accompanying hemiparesis



(muscular weakness or partial paralysis restricted to one side of the body) that did not improve within the first 24 hours. Eventually, the patient was sent to a distant hospital that housed more sophisticated equipment; however, Dr. Renuart was unable to gain any additional information regarding the soldier’s condition.

Although Dr. Renuart’s six-month commission in Iraq occurred before the recent outbreak of insurgent uprisings and terrorist attacks, he had received comprehensive training in how to use both a 9mm pistol and an M-1 rifle, which were either on his person or nearby at all times. In fact, all personnel, including doctors, nurses, cooks, and radar experts were trained in the use of firearms and schooled to be prepared for attacks that could occur at anytime, anyplace.

Despite the obvious gravity and grimness of the situation, Dr. Renuart was able to leave Camp Virginia and work at a medical center in Baghdad for two weeks. This afforded him an invaluable opportunity to do some limited sightseeing with one of the Arabic-speaking physicians, which included a visit to Saddam Hussein’s North Palace. During one of his excursions into Baghdad, Dr. Renuart happened to take a picture of a local elderly gentleman, who was quite thrilled with the experience. Soon, a curious group of children surrounded him, all begging to have a picture snapped by his digital camera.

Although he found the people and the overall atmosphere in Baghdad to be quite cordial, he was nonetheless happy and relieved when his tour of duty concluded so he could return to his wife, son Ronald, Jr. (age 9), and daughters Jennifer (age 15) and Scarlett (age 13).

“Dr. Ron Renuart represents the best of the best as a loyal American who has served his country with honor and dignity,” said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs. “He is an osteopathic physician we can all be extremely proud of.”

Graduation Dinner Attracts Eclectic Crowd



Attendees at the NSU-COM Senior Awards Dinner Dance included Michael Patterson, Ph.D., assistant chair of NSU-COM's Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice; NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.; Marla Frohlinger, M.H.S.A., HPD vice chancellor for student services and professional coordination; A. Alvin Greber, D.O., HPD associate vice chancellor for professional and extramural affairs; and HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.



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