

Fall 2009

## Horizons Fall/Winter 2009

Nova Southeastern University

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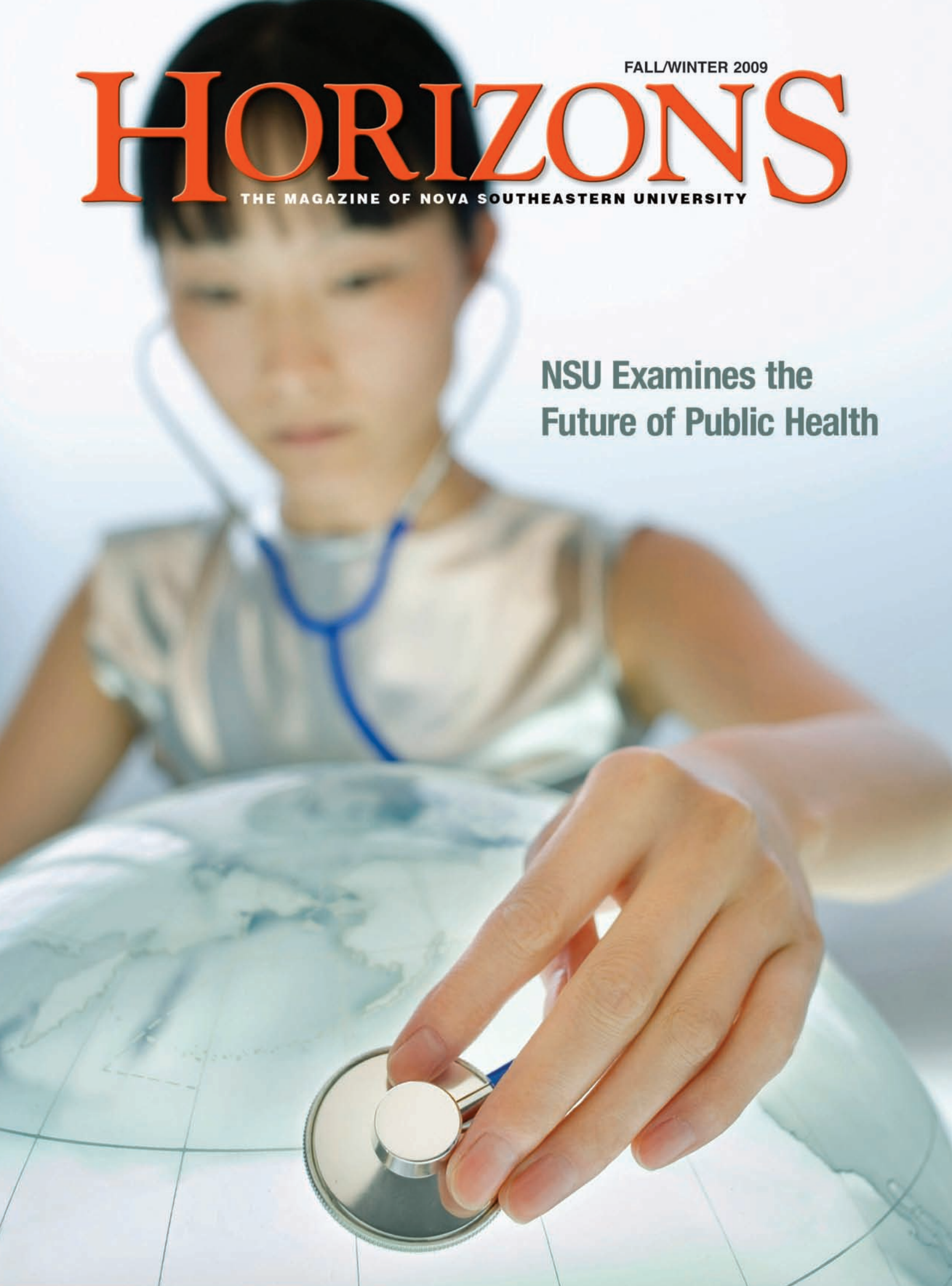
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FALL/WINTER 2009

# HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

**NSU Examines the  
Future of Public Health**



***ALSO INSIDE: A Culture of Wellness on Campus • On-the-Job Learning***



## Touching Lives

“When I think about Nova Southeastern University, I think about possibilities and support,” said Yulia Watters, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Family Therapy in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. As part of her coursework, Watters is working as a clinician at the Douglas Gardens Hospice in the Miami Jewish Home and Hospital. “My work in hospice gives me an opportunity to create relationships on a daily basis. By building relationships with patients, I am hoping to make a difference in their lives.” Through her work, Watters experiences firsthand how one person can truly improve the daily lives of others.

Through your annual gift to NSU, you, too, can see how one person can impact the lives of others—like Yulia Watters, her NSU classmates, and the diverse communities they serve. Annual gifts support the colleges and programs that help our more than 28,000 students change the world.

Give your gift online today at [www.nova.edu/changingtheworld](http://www.nova.edu/changingtheworld), or complete and return the enclosed envelope.



Yulia Watters, Ph.D. Candidate



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Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.





To the Friends and Family of NSU:

Ideas can take on a life of their own. Some people would call that serendipity. We call it the latest issue of *Horizons*.

As the *Horizons* editors discussed the ideas, it quickly became evident that this issue would focus on NSU's place in the greater community. Our professors are committed to teaching while also working and contributing beyond our campus. And, our students continue this real-world approach with their own efforts and careers.

But, it isn't just Florida neighborhoods that feel NSU's outreach. We are also a vital part of the global community.

One of the best illustrations is *Horizons*' profile of Anthony DeNapoli, NSU's dean of International Affairs at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services. His goal to "internationalize the university" has expanded NSU's partnerships to at least 18 countries.

This sense of community shows in our cover story on the College of Osteopathic Medicine's public health program. The program is at the forefront of educating the public about health issues, developing disaster response plans, and growing leaders in this field.

At the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, professors help area businesses get through these tough economic times by offering employees continuing education. This vital service has never been timelier, as many businesses have recently cut back on training.

As this issue illustrates, the NSU community stretches up to Manhattan, where international lawyer Elaine Papas heads the area's active alumni chapter, and to the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., where Mahmood Shivji's important research on shark DNA is now on display.

Extending the university's reach to the arts community, the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, NSU, launches its retrospective of Norman Rockwell. The exhibit and our professors' companion programs will show museum visitors a new side of this iconic American artist.

NSU's sense of community isn't bound by geography. We've recently joined the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace—important networking tools for our students, alumni, and professors, no matter where they are.

The community of NSU isn't where we are, but who we are.

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

## HORIZONS

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

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### Institute Trains Next Generation of Higher Education Leaders

As the current generation of college and university presidents, vice presidents, and executive deans nears retirement, will there be enough properly trained new leaders to take the reins? Ralph Hogges thinks so.

"Identifying and creating these leaders is one of our primary goals," said Hogges, Ed.D., executive director and program professor at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services and founder of NSU's Institute for Public Policy and Executive Leadership (IPPEL).

The institute was created in 2004 as an annual, intensive, two-week event covering higher education's organizational culture, legal and ethical issues, public policy, fund-raising, and accreditation.

Sessions are taught by senior fellows, including former and current university executives such as Karl Wright, president of Florida Memorial University; Larry Calderon, NSU's vice president of Community and Governmental Affairs; and Joanne Ferchland-Parella, NSU's vice president of Institutional Advancement. Prominent politicians, such as Daryl Jones, former Florida State senator, and Carrie P. Meek, former U.S. congresswoman, teach public policy.

IPPEL graduates receive a Certificate in Public Policy and Executive Leadership in Higher Education, as well as continual mentoring from senior fellows. Hogges said ongoing mentoring is what makes the institute so unique, as well as the fact that all higher education administrators, faculty members, and current graduate students are eligible for admission.

"You don't have to 'already be in the club' to participate," Hogges said. "A lot of universities hand-pick a select few for this type of training, but IPPEL also identifies leaders who may not have 'insider connections,' but who have the dedication and drive to become executives."

And IPPEL's graduates get results. For example, 2005 graduate Stephen Kolison, Jr., Ph.D., entered IPPEL as a dean and research director at Tennessee State University. Now, he is associate vice president for Academic and Faculty Programs for the entire University of Wisconsin system.

"Our graduates definitely make us proud," Hogges said.

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



*IPPEL sessions are taught by senior fellows, who include former and current university executives and prominent politicians such as Carrie P. Meek, former U.S. congresswoman, who teaches public policy.*

### New, On-Campus Lab Helps Faculty and Staff Grant Seekers

The business of conducting pioneering research at Nova Southeastern University doesn't come cheap. Millions of dollars are needed each year to find cures for diseases, develop ways to sustain the environment, further the understanding of human relationships, and make existing products better.

That's why the university opened a grant writing laboratory to help staff and faculty members seek and obtain research grants. Located on the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center's second floor (room 2048), the lab enables users to work with Roxana Ross, NSU grant writing manager, on grant proposals and projects.

"I look forward to helping faculty members who may be new to the grant process as well as seasoned faculty members who may need someone with grant experience to offer support," Ross said.

The lab will address and support all aspects of faculty and staff members' grant-seeking efforts, including brainstorming, grant/project planning, funding research, and proposal writing. The free services offered at the lab are closely coordinated with existing services provided by NSU's Office of Grants and Contracts.

#### Grant Writing Laboratory

Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., or by appointment

Not available to the public or students

For more information, contact Roxana Ross at (954) 262-4658 or [grantlab@nova.edu](mailto:grantlab@nova.edu). ■



## Academic Notes

### Lovewell Institute Inspires Thought-Provoking Student Theater Productions

Three weeks 'til showtime, and there's no play, no songs written, and no roles assigned. This would be a producer's nightmare for a new musical premiere. But for students at the NSU-based Lovewell Institute for the Creative Arts, this scenario means the opportunity to envision and create something entirely new.

And during this past summer, an impressive group of young adults gathered to do just that—create thought-provoking, original productions from scratch in just a few short weeks.

"We brainstorm, then there's creative chaos, and then rehearsal," said Carrie Gilchrist, Lovewell's associate artistic director. "We don't come in with any preconceived notions."

This freedom, she said, allows the focus to be on the creative process instead of just the end result, with Lovewell staff members acting as "rubber bands" instead of "walls" to provide gentle structure and guidance to the middle- and high-school-aged participating students.

Several of NSU's Interdisciplinary Arts graduate students and University School teachers serve as Lovewell mentors. But, the content of each production is created entirely by the students. The subjects explored are often controversial, delving into the depths of the human condition.

This season, *Daybreak: The Musical Documentary of John Delany* took on the death penalty while *Cut Short: A Musical to Die For* explored aging in a society with an expiration date. *The Blue Moon: A Swell Musical* featured the repercussions of a surprising death in a 1940's diner, and in *The Gallery: A Musical Masterpiece*, the paintings literally sucked their viewers in.

"Lovewell ignites creative thinking," said David Spangler, director of the Interdisciplinary Arts program at NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services, who founded Lovewell more than 20 years ago. "The process gives students confidence; develops motivated learning; and, most important, gives voice to the students' observations, feelings, and inner wisdom."

Next up for Lovewell is an intergenerational workshop in October and gearing up for the 2010 summer series. For more information, visit [www.lovewell.org](http://www.lovewell.org). ■

### NSU Professor's Shark Research on Exhibit at the Smithsonian

Up to 73 million sharks are killed each year for their prized fins, which usually end up on menus in Asia as shark fin soup. This severe over-fishing is depleting shark populations in alarming numbers, causing great concern about its impact on the health of ocean ecosystems.

To help stop poachers from illegally harvesting fins from protected species, Mahmood Shivji, Ph.D., NSU Oceanographic Center professor, invented a rapid DNA identification test to determine which species of shark a fin came from.

His test has been so pioneering that it caught the attention of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The world-famous organization has included Shivji's research in an exhibit at the Sant Ocean Hall of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. The exhibit will run indefinitely.

"I'm honored and humbled that the Smithsonian chose to exhibit my research," said Shivji, who directs NSU's Guy Harvey Research Institute.

Shivji used this DNA test to help the U.S. Department of Justice successfully prosecute a Florida man last summer for dealing shark fins from species protected under Florida and federal laws.

"It's gratifying to see that our research discoveries are having an immediate, practical impact in law enforcement and helping save shark populations," said Shivji. ■



Smithsonian Institution's Sant Ocean Hall

Photo: Chip Clark, Smithsonian Institution





### Norman Rockwell's America on Display at Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale

Norman Rockwell's unforgettable illustrations of Americana range from scenes of childhood innocence—and gentle depictions of innocence lost—to the wrenching *Murder in Mississippi* (1965), the artist's response to the slaying of three civil rights workers. These pieces, and more than 70 others, will be on view November 14, 2009, through February 7, 2010, at the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University. *American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell*, a major retrospective of Rockwell's work, covers the full sweep of the beloved artist and icon-maker's 65-year career.

The exhibition features works from the Norman Rockwell Museum's collections, including oil paintings, preparatory sketches, archival photographs, and documents that illuminate the artist's process. It is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue. "In addition to seeing his greatest paintings, already icons of American art, visitors can view a snapshot of American history through Rockwell's 323 *Saturday Evening Post* covers, which will also

be on view," said Irvin Lippman, executive director of the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale.

Through the run of this major exhibition, the museum and NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center will host numerous Norman Rockwell events that celebrate the holidays and the literary, visual, and performance arts. A panel featuring NSU professors analyzing Rockwell paintings and illustrations dealing with race relations, violence, and Middle East politics is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010, at the museum. Some of South Florida's major holiday events also will incorporate Rockwell themes, including the 2009 Winterfest Boat Parade and Christmas on Las Olas in December.

### An American Life and Legacy

Rockwell created images that showed the nation what it was fighting for during World War II and appealed to Americans' sense of empathy and justice during the civil rights era, explained Lippman, who added that Rockwell's artwork remains just as relevant during today's challenging times.

Born in 1894, Rockwell painted for seven decades, remaining active as an artist into the mid-1970s.

Beginning with his first *Saturday Evening Post* cover in 1916 (when he was just 22), Rockwell set the gold standard in the field of illustration thanks to his technical brilliance, gift for storytelling, and keen understanding of human nature.

He also created artwork for other leading periodicals that had circulations in the millions, including *Boys' Life*, *Country Gentlemen*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Literary Digest*, and *Look*.

As Rockwell wrote, "Common places never become tiresome. It is we who become tired when we cease to be curious and appreciative." ■



**READY TO LEARN MORE?** For more information, call (954) 525-5500 or visit [www.moaffl.org](http://www.moaffl.org) for museum hours and a complete listing of concerts, lectures, and programs scheduled in conjunction with the Norman Rockwell exhibition.

LEFT: *Triple Self-Portrait*, Norman Rockwell, 1960. ©1960 SEPS; Licensed by Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, IN. From the permanent collection of Norman Rockwell Museum.

RIGHT: *Murder in Mississippi* (preliminary sketch), Norman Rockwell, 1965. Licensed by Norman Rockwell Licensing, Niles, IL. From the permanent collection of Norman Rockwell Museum.





# see and be seen at the Annual Student Symposium

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

A biology major with a minor in music, Michelle Mi-Le Kim proves Nova Southeastern University's undergraduate students have a wide range of talents. But it wasn't until she participated in the 2009 Undergraduate Student Symposium that Kim had a single venue in which to show off her diverse interests.

She presented two studies, light years apart: one identified natural extracts that block ultra-violet light; the other analyzed a piano sonatina. The latter presentation included a recording of Kim performing a piece that supported her analysis.

"I wanted to show students that the symposium is not just about science. You can analyze and research music, too," said Kim, now a senior.

Now in its eighth year, NSU's annual Undergraduate Student Symposium is a showcase for the variety of academics fostered by the university and illustrated by the many presentations on research studies, performances, and even films. The event serves as a forum to demonstrate outstanding academics. Held each spring, the next one is scheduled for April 2010, with applications due in February.

"This is when our bragging takes place," said Allan Schulman, Ph.D., the symposium's faculty chair facilitator, who also jokingly refers to himself as "the ringmaster."

"This is when we get to see what our students are up to, and the rest of the campus does, too."



# The Year's Hottest Event for Undergraduate Research, Writing, and Film

## A Curriculum for Everyone

The 42 posters arranged in a circle in the atrium of the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center served as visual depictions of the undergraduates' dedication to, and interest in, NSU's diverse curriculum. Topics included earth-friendly gasoline, the benefits of laughter, hand hygiene, and sightings of manatees in Port Everglades. There were subjects to suit any interest: explorations of gender differences, literature critiques, health care analyses, lesbian identity studies, and a breakdown of acid rain.

Two rooms were devoted to 11 oral presentations by students from every division of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the college, said he was amazed and delighted at the way students were actively engaged in talking about their subject matters with their peers and faculty members.

"The students are so connected to this work," said Rosenblum. "They are thrilled to talk about it. We can teach things in the classroom, but this makes it so much more real. There are so many benefits to an undergraduate research program such as this."

The symposium is open to students in all undergraduate majors at NSU. The presentations can represent any stage in the concept's evolution, from proposal and literature review to fully completed and realized scholarly work. Some work has been ongoing for a few years; other projects begin just a few months before the symposium.

"Many of these projects start in a class, but then there is a desire to take it further, and this is the perfect forum for that," said Schulman.

Crystal Romero, a biology major, nabbed first place in the competitive poster category for her research study "Blockage of VEGF-Induced Angiogenesis with a Novel Anti-angiogenic (JFD) Drug." Her work was supported by funding from the Royal Dames for Cancer Research, Inc., in Fort Lauderdale, which became affiliated with Nova Southeastern University in 2005.

An "interrogative line of questions" by peers about her topic "made me immensely nervous. However, I needed that type of pressure to build my confidence," said Romero, who worked with faculty adviser Appu Rathinevalu, M.D., of NSU's Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research. Each student participant must have a faculty sponsor for his or her project. These faculty advisers tapped to be mentors also discover an enriching experience.

"I have been a faculty sponsor for five years, and I have seen student research grow and mature

due to events like the student symposium," said Dimitrios Giarikos, Ph.D., who served as an adviser for three groups of students who participated in the symposium.

## Recognition Is Just the Beginning

The four-hour event culminates in an awards ceremony in the Performance Theater of the Don Taft University Center. Faculty members serve as judges, but cannot judge a presentation they have been involved with, explained Rosenblum.

Student film presentations are reviewed by a panel of local experts. Every student received a certificate; winners were invited to an awards luncheon, where they each received a small cash prize from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. Students who received awards for their works of poetry and fiction submitted to *Digressions*, the literary magazine sponsored by the college's Division of Humanities, also were recognized at the luncheon.

Alexandra Paroulek, who graduated with a degree in biology, took first prize for her oral presentation "The Effects of the Herbal Enzyme Bromelain Against Breast Cancer Cell Line GI101A." She also was lauded by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for the best study relating to women's issues.

While there is no requirement that the work continue after the symposium, Rosenblum said many students will present their findings at regional, national, and international conferences. Some students have co-published the work with their faculty advisers in scholarly journals. One student received a Fulbright grant based on the work she created for a previous symposium.

For student Michael McGregor, the symposium was just the start he needed. He won first place for his short film, *Lament*, the story of a young man who announces his sexuality to his homophobic brother.

"It was a chance for me to tell a story that was important to me and get recognized for my work and my writing," McGregor said. This junior communications major credited his success to the support he received from his faculty advisers, Weylin Sternglanz, Ph.D., and Chetachi Egwu, Ph.D.

In addition to his first-place win, McGregor received a film "contract" of \$500 from NSU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. He'll use the money to develop a short film to promote NSU that will appear on Web sites such as YouTube and Facebook. McGregor will also keep *Lament* alive by entering it in local and national short film festivals.

"The feedback I got at the symposium has given me the confidence to take this film further," he said. ■



## Around Campus



*Colorful excerpts of The Nutcracker performed by 22 costumed Miami City Ballet School dancers*



*Dancing along with a live Flamenco performance by the Clarita Filgueiras-Flamenco Puro Dance Company and accompanying guitarist Luis Linares*

### **Ferro Series Features Interactive Performances for Children and Families**

BY ANDRA PARRISH LIWAG

Lyric opera performances; a stunning, live flamenco display; costumed ballet dancers; and a rich exploration of art are just some of the interactive events children and families have enjoyed during the Ferro Fine Arts Series at NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

The series, presented by the Charles P. Ferro Foundation, has featured several free, innovative programs during the past year's season. It has been open to the public and was designed specifically to give young children and families a fun, interactive introduction to the fine and performing arts.

"This series gives children an up-close experience with the arts, especially art forms that they might not otherwise be exposed to, such as the opera and ballet," said Rebecca Hickman, M.L.S., NSU's youth services librarian, who helped organize many of the series' programs.

To provide a multi-sensory, hands-on experience, Hickman said that all the Ferro Series performances are themed and include crafts, activities, and a question-and-answer period for the children with the guest artists.

Anne Leon, M.L.S., the Alvin Sherman Library's director of public library services, said that, with the economy's downturn, the Ferro Series provides parents with free cultural and educational activities to share with their kids. "This is one of the many ways we are able to give back to the community."

This past Ferro Series season culminated in the spring with a performance by Florida's Momentum Dance Company called *Bringing Literature to Life*. It featured an interpretation of Mark Twain's short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," told through prose, bluegrass music, and high-jumping dance movement.

The Ferro Fine Arts Series will resume for its 2009–2010 season in November. For more information about it and other Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center programs, please visit [www.nova.edu/library/main](http://www.nova.edu/library/main). ■



## Fan Frenzy: NSU Community Keeps in Touch Via Social Networking

BY JULIE LEVIN

Nova Southeastern University has a lot of friends—more than 3,300—and that number is growing daily. That's how many people are linked as "fans" to NSU's Facebook page so they can learn what's happening on campus, online.

NSU is tweeting, chatting, and posting on cyberspace's popular social networking sites to stay connected with students, faculty members, alumni, and friends. NSU's presence on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn, Flickr, and YouTube draws in users from around the world. Prospective students and those going through orientation are encouraged to sign up.

The "text generation" is used to moving at the speed of a mouse click. Now, NSU can post updates about academics and sports programs and instantly create a buzz on campus and beyond. A student unfamiliar with the school might catch a glimpse of it online and decide to check it out. Prospective students can judge the school's "cool factor" after browsing the online photos and videos.

"Our target audience, prospective undergraduate students, is on Facebook and using most of these social networking sites," said Gabriela Vignolo, NSU's director of marketing and communications.

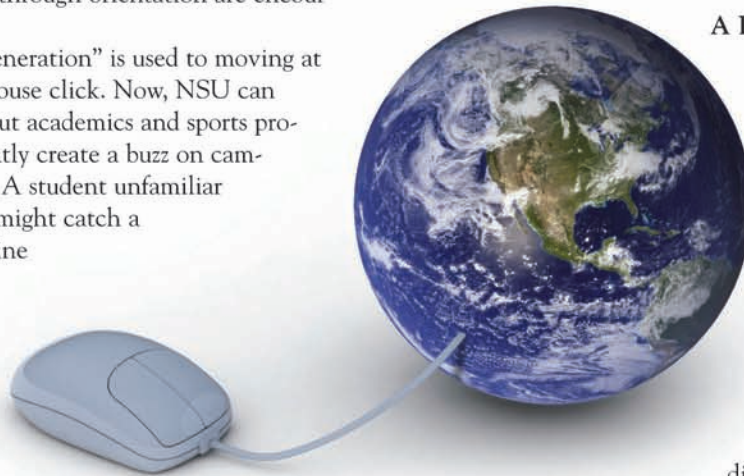
### Another Brick in the Wall

NSU's Facebook page is the university's busiest social networking tool. There, as well as on MySpace and Twitter, information on events such as upcoming guest speakers, panel discussions, and sports are posted. Photos and videos of past events also are made available.

Students can post their own news and photos on NSU's Facebook "wall." They can chat online with any student, professor, administrator, or staff member who is also on Facebook. Some use Facebook to find a roommate, swap books, or find out what's happening on campus. Those looking for information about admissions will be directed to the proper person.

Steven Scott, a Chicago high school senior, says his interest in NSU took off because of Facebook. Now an NSU Facebook "fan," Scott regularly finds fast answers to his college questions via the social networking site.

"When you contact a school through the phone, you get an automated answer, and it takes a long time for them to get back. But, on Facebook, you are actually asking the person you want to talk to," said Scott, who added that NSU is now among his top five school choices.



### A Little Bird Told Me

Through Twitter, NSU sends out "tweets," or brief status updates, on events and accomplishments to its more than 850 followers. Although Twitter limits tweets to 140 characters, users often are directed to links for in-depth articles.

### Seeing Is Believing

On Flickr, NSU maintains a photo gallery of almost 500 pictures related to the university. With a click, visitors can view images of the library's Ferro Art Series. Student users can even post links to their own Flickr albums.

NSU has gone viral with its own YouTube channel featuring a variety of university-related videos. These online clips include a virtual tour of the Don Taft University Center.

### Office (Cyber)Space

The online networking site LinkedIn draws a more professional crowd. NSU's LinkedIn page serves as an academic, research, and career-centered "cybercafé" for alumni, prospective graduate students, professors, and staff members. Members can post recommendations of others' work and read articles on noteworthy alumni and professors. ■

**A CLICK AWAY** Check out NSU's social networking pages by clicking on the icons featured at the bottom of the university's main Web page, [www.nova.edu](http://www.nova.edu), or visit NSU's Fan Frenzy Web site at [www.nova.edu/social](http://www.nova.edu/social).



## Around Campus



### **The Faculty Shark Club: A Catalyst for Cooperation**

BY MICHAEL J. BERGBAUER

While students have a variety of places they can escape to on campus, the faculty now has its own refuge in the Faculty Shark Club, located in NSU's newly renovated Rosenthal building.

"It's like a home," says Lisa Jackson-Fuller, Ed.D., professor at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services. "It's a nice place to meet, eat, and network. The faculty needs a place like this."

The Faculty Shark Club's elegant dining room converts to a quiet lounge, enhanced by background music from the 1960s and '70s. The setting promotes a sense of campus camaraderie by providing a place where faculty members and administrators from NSU's diverse programs can dine, network, socialize, and relax. For an annual membership fee of \$300—which essentially pays for itself through free monthly meals, offers, and events—club members can use this retreat and more than 100 other affiliated university clubs throughout the United States.

The club's newsletter outlines scheduled events and specials such as a lobster boil, cocktail hour, regionally themed cuisine, cooking classes, holiday parties, and wine tastings. The free, monthly open house events are a great way for members and nonmembers to see—and taste—what the club has to offer.

Chair of the Faculty Advisory Council and professor of law Fran Tetunic says that responses from professors are in line with the club's goals. "The club makes us more dynamic and collaborative. Professors have much to learn from each other, and there are so many exciting possibilities for students when we meet face to face." ■

### **New Association Keeps Students in Touch with Their Parents**

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB

Some universities dread the thought of "helicopter parents," those who hover closely overhead, making sure their college-aged children make the right decisions.

But, not at Nova Southeastern University. Faculty and administration members are encouraging parent involvement with a new program called the Parent and Families Association.

Lua Hancock, Ed.D., director of Title V, said her department is assisting other departments, including the Division of Student Affairs, to encourage parents to act as partners in their students' education.



"When I was in college, we talked to our parents once a week on a phone in the hall," Hancock said. "Now, the students communicate with their parents every day through email and texts. A lot of schools call them helicopter parents and see it as a negative. We see it as a positive."

The program began in August. A Parent and Family Weekend begins October 23. Relevant materials are also available in Spanish.

For more information, contact Dan Sullivan, Ed.D., at (954) 262-7015 or [pfa@nova.edu](mailto:pfa@nova.edu). ■



# LUCKY 13

### A Winning Combination for Students

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB

Maylin Sanchez of Hollywood, Florida, felt stressed and alone last fall when she started her freshman year at Nova Southeastern University. Everything was new—from the school to the students.

"I was very nervous," she said. "I was scared because I didn't want to be one of those college students who didn't finish the first year because it was too much work or they had too much to do. The first couple of days were rough. But the professors made it easier, and I started making new friends and attending events. A lot of my feeling better was because of the Lucky 13 series. At the end of my freshman year, I was happy and comfortable."

Sanchez was one of 79 students who attended the Lucky 13 workshops last fall. The workshops are one of the success programs made possible through a \$5.6 million Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education. NSU qualified for the grant because at least 25 percent of its students are Latino.

But you don't have to be Latino or be a freshman to attend the series, which began again this September and is advertised around campus. Topics include stress and time management, academic honesty, and money management. A free lunch is often provided.

#### Open to Every Student

Some students attended because five sessions were a requirement of the Managing Student Success class. Like Sanchez, Brian Vogel, of Weston, was required to go to five workshops. But, he liked them so much he wound up going to all 13 and talked some of his friends into attending.

"I thought it was going to be boring, but when you go to the workshops you really get engaged. I feel that they discussed subjects that were maybe uncomfortable to talk about, but I learned that if you just plan for the future now, you will be in better shape later."

One of Vogel's favorite workshops was on managing finances, especially not maxing out on your first credit card. "It taught me it's better to live like a poor college student now than to live as a poor adult when you get out of college because of debt," he said.



A university-wide effort has helped to make the program so successful, said Lua Hancock, Ed.D., director of Title V for NSU. Lucky 13 is a collaboration of the Division of Student Affairs, the Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, and the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

"Students don't always realize what a transition it will be from high school to college," Hancock said. "Homework expectations are different and scheduling is more hectic. A lot of students are stressed and concerned about time management."

"The ultimate goal is engagement and retention for any student," says Dalis Dominguez, Ed.D., activity director (student) for Title V. "The type of activities for Title V have an impact on the entire student body." ■







# the future of public health is in our hands

BY DAN CHRISTENSEN

NSU promotes  
international safety,  
wellness, and  
preparedness.

Whether it's helping to educate the public about the swine flu, developing response plans for manmade and natural disasters, or promoting a healthy lifestyle—the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program at Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine is a powerful force.

Palm Beach migrant workers have experienced this force as better access to health care. Broward County's vulnerable elderly see it in programs specially created to help them prepare for hurricanes and other hazards. Young mothers in Africa feel it in the pinch of a needle delivering a potentially life-saving vaccine.

The M.P.H. program is having such an impact because NSU medical students, including newly minted osteopathic physician Devindra Dabiesingh, are putting their degrees to good use.

"The public health program taught me to think outside of the box," said Dabiesingh, who began an internal medicine residency at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City a few days after graduating this past summer. "The study of medicine is focused on drugs and technology and physiology, but it doesn't do a good job of answering the question, 'How does all this come together?'"

These branches of medicine converge into applicable lessons in NSU's nationally accredited M.P.H. degree program, which prepares graduate students to define, critically assess, and resolve public health problems at the community level.







### TRAINING THE BEST TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST

Health professionals armed with an M.P.H. from NSU have gone on to a variety of influential jobs—as health policy experts and aides on Capitol Hill, midlevel officials in state and local health departments, and executives in corporate wellness programs.

“The idea is that all health professionals can benefit from an education in public health,” said Cyril Blavo, D.O., program director and a board member at the Broward Regional Health Planning Council.

Approximately 250 students are enrolled in NSU’s M.P.H. program. About 60 percent are medical students whose tuition is covered in part by the nonprofit Doctor’s Hospital Foundation. Coursework can be taken on-site or online, full- or part-time, in English or Spanish.

Student physicians obtain their M.P.H. by earning an additional 42 credits during their four years in medical school. Upon graduation, they are rewarded with dual degrees—the M.P.H. and the D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine).

“We are graduating more physicians with M.P.H. degrees than any other medical school in the country—about 20 a year,” said Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., dean of NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM). “That says a lot for the students who do this.”

Public health learning opportunities at NSU don’t stop there. During the 2008–2009 academic year, student and faculty member research projects studied the perceptions of alcohol by adolescents, drugs used to relieve the pain of endometriosis, and the health effects of certain microbial contaminants found at the beach and in seawater.

For medical school graduates, NSU-COM has a fully accredited, three-year osteopathic residency in public health preventive medicine at the Palm Beach County Health Department—the only one of its kind in Florida.

### READY FOR ANYTHING

Boca Raton, Florida, was the site of the nation’s first deadly anthrax attack in 2001. Faculty members and residents of NSU’s Health Professions Division took part in the local biological terrorism response efforts.

“Our residents did nasal swabs to see who might have been affected by it,” said Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., associate dean for education, planning, and research.

Levy is the director of another NSU public health resource, the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP). Created in 9/11’s wake, the center provides education

for manmade and natural disasters for students, health care professionals, and first responders.

“The center draws a lot of talent from throughout the university,” said James T. Howell, M.D., CBAP project director. Last year, about 65,000 people from 48 states and 13 countries took at least one of CBAP’s courses.

The Florida Department of Health contracted with CBAP to provide all-hazards training for the state’s public and private school nurses. CBAP was also one of seven sites, including Yale and Columbia universities, tapped by the federal government to receive training research grants to develop national models for emergency planning.

“We were identified as a national leader for training to meet the needs of vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations and for developing curricula for health professionals,” said Cecilia F. Rokusek, R.D., CBAP’s project manager.

The center works with Florida emergency officials to offer standardized basic

training statewide and throughout the United States for the U.S. Surgeon General’s national Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). CBAP created the program to instruct corps volunteers, including doctors, nurses, and nonmedical professionals, on how to best assist in disasters.

“It’s the only such training program for MRC volunteers in the United States. It was created for the purpose of being a national tool,” said Levy, who travels regularly to speak on emergency preparedness.



*Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. Program Director*





## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS STARTS AT HOME

On campus, NSU is developing what Rokusek calls a “culture of preparedness” by planning for how to address various emergency scenarios. “For example, the NSU community needs to know what to do if the H1N1 flu becomes epidemic,” Rokusek said.

As executive director of the Geriatric Education Center at NSU-COM, Rokusek has specialized in creating emergency preparedness programs to assist special-needs groups like the frail and elderly. In emergency situations, health professionals who do not have personal plans in place are often unable to help others because of their own unpreparedness. “Seventy percent of health professionals do not have a personal plan. The biggest misconception is that you have time,” said Rokusek, who came face to face with disaster when she traveled to flood-devastated Iowa in 2008.

The federal Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act was enacted in December 2006, but dealt a blow to CBAP by limiting federal funding for such training programs to public health schools only. Although NSU-COM has an accredited M.P.H. program, it is not a public health school. “So, we couldn’t even apply for grants,” Rokusek said.

Howell, a former Florida secretary of health and chairman of NSU-COM’s Department of Rural Medicine, is optimistic that new funding sources will emerge. In the meantime, he said, CBAP continues to develop its educational side.

Courses range from the downright scary—like how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an influenza pandemic or nuclear event—to more mundane topics like Interagency Disaster Communication. NSU’s Criminal Justice Institute is offering two tracks in emergency preparedness: one for law enforcement professionals and another for those in human services areas working with vulnerable populations. In addition, CBAP coursework, including community workshops, is available as part of the Geriatric Education Center’s interdisciplinary curriculum.

## DEMAND—AND NEED—ON THE RISE

Until recently, recruiting physicians to the field of public health has been difficult because of lower pay and lesser working conditions. Other health professionals shied away, too, because leadership roles typically went to doctors, said John Pellosie, D.O., vice chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine.

“There was once a lack of real recognition for public health, but there’s been a lot of change going on,” said Pellosie, a former Air Force flight surgeon.

In fact, with demand for public health professionals increasing, more doctors are coming to public health straight out of residency. And nurses, nutritionists, and other health professionals are seeing more leadership opportunities, Pellosie said.

NSU offers various opportunities for public health education to meet demand. Students from NSU’s Health Professions Division participated in a mission last year to bring an array of medical services to rural areas of Jamaica. Graduates of the

College of Dental Medicine can take advanced education courses in dental public health. The Master of Science in Nursing program has a public health track. Electronic classrooms are making it more convenient for distance learners to obtain the M.P.H. For the first time, the program is being offered online in Spanish, primarily to students in Central and South America. An exchange student program is also being developed.

“We have the only accredited online public health program that is totally presented in Spanish,” Silvagni said. The need for Spanish-language training was identified by the Inter-American Distance Education Consortium (CREAD), a nonprofit group based at NSU, Blavo said.

Public health outreach isn’t just aimed at students.

Last year in his native Ghana, Blavo spearheaded a clinical program to vaccinate young women living in rural villages against tetanus, a deadly bacterium that flourishes in unsanitary conditions. Tetanus, which causes lockjaw and spasms of the muscles throughout the body, is among Ghana’s biggest killers of women and infants during childbirth.

**“The idea is that all health professionals can benefit from an education in public health.”**

—CYRIL BLAVO, D.O., M.P.H. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

## REACHING OUT WITH HELPING HANDS

Back home, thousands of South Florida’s local families and children have turned out for NSU health fairs on campus and in the community. Attendees receive free health screenings and other services from NSU’s students, doctors,

dentists, nurses, and other health professionals. People with diseases or other health problems that require follow-up are referred for further evaluation.

Osteopathic medical students get the benefit of hands-on experience. Dabiesingh recalled how some migrant workers and their children at a health fair in Belle Glade were suffering from allergies and asthma. Later, students figured out that the irritation was caused by burning sugar cane.

“As a result of that discovery, we contracted with our pharmacy to get more anti-allergy medication, which prevented the reaction in the patients,” Dabiesingh said.

But, public health menaces aren’t always so readily vanquished. The swine flu (H1N1) pandemic declared by the World Health Organization was relatively mild in its first phase last spring. But NSU-COM public health experts are focusing on what lies ahead.

“The H1N1 virus tends to mutate, and it could be quite wimpy or extremely serious,” said Levy. “That’s the lesson learned from the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918. The first stage was wimpy. The next killed 50 or 60 million people around the world.”

Added Silvagni, “In this time of resistant infections, contaminated food, impure water, terrorism, global weather changes, and pandemics—public health, care of the frail and elderly, and all-hazards preparedness are essential components of our total health care. Nova Southeastern University and its College of Osteopathic Medicine are making an impact nationally and internationally to provide a healthier future for everyone.” ■





## Around Campus

### University School Students Head Back to School in Style

BY ANDRA PARRISH LIWAG

For many students, the back-to-school season means new teachers, new backpacks, and a chance to reconnect with old friends. This year, for students at University School of NSU, back to school also means enjoying the results of the largest expansion project in the school's history.

But before the first bell of the season could even ring, hundreds came out to get a sneak peek and tour the facilities, which include a new prekindergarten through grade 5 Lower School building and the new Epstein Center for the Arts.

Along with the recent renovation of University School's Dauer Middle School and Sonken Upper School buildings and the addition of a state-of-the-art Aquatics Center, this new configuration physically unites the formerly separated Lower, Middle, and Upper school buildings with covered walkways, green spaces, and other amenities that now give students an even stronger sense of community.

"This is an amazing milestone in the 38-year history of University School," said Jerome Chermak, Ed.D., headmaster. "Our entire campus is full of excitement and activity as we are creating an entirely new campus environment."

Chermak said that no other private school in South Florida has been able to undertake a project of this magnitude, which, once all phases are complete, will represent an investment of about \$60 million—with enhancements for all three divisions of University School.

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



*Parker Minars is off to a fresh start at the renovated University School.*





## Around Campus



### The New Lower School Building

- 82,200 square feet
- first floor: two-story main lobby; flexible classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 2; state-of-the-art library and media center; and art, music, and computer classrooms
- cafeteria/gymnasium: kitchen and serving area, offices, and storage for the Lower School physical education program
- first level also houses University School's Learning and Research Academy—an innovative, personalized, and technologically rich educational experience for students in grades K–4 with mild to moderate learning disabilities and average to gifted intelligence
- second level: flexible and traditional classrooms for grades 3–5, computer and science labs, a television studio, a guidance suite, and executive offices



### The Aquatics Center

- \$7 million project, largest water-volume pool in Florida, opened last spring
- 50-meter competition swimming pool with moveable bulkhead capable of being divided for competitions and multiple practices
- attached dive well, three springboards
- enables the school to host meets and full-scale practices, accommodates more than 600 spectators, part of a wider effort to further enhance the University School athletics program



### The Epstein Center for the Arts

- 70,800 square feet
- two levels of academic space for the art departments of the Middle and Upper schools
- auditorium with seating for 750
- state-of-the-art theater with orchestra pit
- specialized arts areas include a scene shop and costume design studio, instrument classrooms with soundproof practice rooms, a music theory/computer classroom, choral and dance studios, a forensics suite, wet and dry visual art studios, and a television studio



# be well

BY DAVID AMBER

## ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF WELLNESS ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

A curious uprising happened more than a year ago at NSU's North Miami Beach campus. Not content to view health care as a series of unavoidable sick calls and doctors' visits, several employees banded together to actively pursue their own wellness.

"We decided to take matters into our own hands and made the commitment to live healthier lifestyles," said Carmel Joseph, a research associate in the Fischler School of Education and Human Services. She serves as an unofficial spokesperson for what became known as the North Miami Beach campus "Sneaker Brigade," a group of men and women, ages 20- to 60-something, who regularly meet to exercise and support each other in pursuit of healthy goals.

The positive, collaborative, health-conscious spirit of Joseph and her Sneaker Brigade colleagues is at the heart of NSU's Be Well Initiative, a campus-wide umbrella program fostering health and wellness among the university's students and faculty and staff members as well as in the greater community.

"We want to be proactive and improve our quality of life through exercise and making better food choices," Joseph said. "The best way to accomplish the goal was to approach it as a group."

### GROWING PAINS, EVERYONE GAINS

NSU's wellness initiative grew out of a university committee that formed four years ago to encourage the campus community to take charge of personal wellbeing. Its efforts are now paying off through greater campus awareness, national awards, and outside recognition of NSU as an innovator in providing healthy programs.

The university has long organized health-related activities, such as wellness fairs, clinics, vaccination programs, and fitness programs, offered through myriad campus organizations. These centers and departments include Student Health; Student Counseling; Human Resources; Student Affairs; Athletics; and the clinics of the Health Professions Division, the Center for Psychological Studies, and the NSU Pharmacy.





Individually, these NSU entities offered various activities and programs for students, employees, and the local community—but, they didn't always communicate well with each other. They didn't make the most efficient use of campus health experts, according to Robert Oller, D.O., chief executive officer for NSU's Division of Clinical Operations. "It was fragmented." The issue wasn't the development of solid programs—which had been under way for a while—but coordinating the many campus resources while avoiding duplication of services. The university lacked one umbrella organization to effectively promote wellness.

So, Oller rallied the university's administration to start a health and wellness committee to foster communication among the different groups. "We put all the players together," Oller said. "We're doing it as a unit."

The original health and wellness committee has since evolved into a "wellness congress" of about 47 individuals from across the university. These Champions of Wellness represent their departments, organize events, and encourage fellow coworkers to lead positive lifestyles.

Promoting and supporting a culture of wellness is the goal of the Be Well Initiative, said Marcela Sandigo, M.B.A., NSU wellness coordinator. This approach incorporates all six dimensions of wellness: emotional, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual. "When you feel well, you're better for the university and your family," Sandigo said.

In September 2009, Oller, Sandigo, and other Champions of Wellness launched NSU's *Wellness Made Simple* magazine during the Health and Fitness Expo. The successful pairing of physical and emotional fitness with nutrition is part of the magazine's agenda and of NSU's wellness programs.

For example, the Zest for Life program provides NSU employees leading sedentary lives with fitness assessments and personal trainers at the Don Taft University Center's RecPlex.

Marilyn Gordon, Ed.D., RD, CSSD, LD/N, a registered dietitian in the Department of Clinical Operations, plays a key role in campus wellness. She counsels student-athletes seeking greater performance as well as graduate students with little time to prepare nutritious meals. During the food-centric holiday season, Gordon offered healthy alternative recipes as part of the Maintain Don't Gain program. "In the end, we want them to become mindful eaters—to sit down, relax, eat slowly, and nurture the body," she said.

Gordon also discusses healthful eating with groups, which is how she connected with the Sneaker Brigade on the North Miami Beach campus.

## WELLNESS IS CONTAGIOUS

Response to the Be Well Initiative has been positive. "Everyone's very eager to do this," said Wellness Champion Ayala Winer, M.S., LMHC, director of marketing and community liaison for the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences and NSU's Brief Therapy Institute.

Recognition is also coming from outside. Last year, the American Heart Association recognized NSU with the Community Fitness Award and the Gold Achievement and named the university a Fit Friendly Company.

Those involved in NSU's health and wellness programs also see their work as part of the national fight against increasing health care and insurance costs. It's good business, according to Oller, who has served on NSU administrative committees related to health benefits. "Employers are getting tired of paying premiums and not getting a return on their dollars," he said.

Oller has also spoken to other groups, such as the City of Miramar, that are looking at NSU's wellness movement as a model for helping them develop their own programs. NSU's culture of wellness may have far-reaching effects on the South Florida community. As Oller observes, "We're ahead of the curve." ■



## MAJOR WELLNESS PROGRAMS AT NSU

A Day for Children

Alcohol Awareness

Annual University Health and Wellness Fair

Biggest Loser program

Boomers and Beyond

Health screenings, lectures: ergonomics, stress reduction

Healthy Sharks: tobacco cessation

Know Your Numbers

Maintain Don't Gain

Nutrition Week

Plus 30 program

Shark Shape Up

Shark Shuffle 5K Run/Walk

Take Back the Night

Zest for Life

**For more information, visit [www.nova.edu/wellness](http://www.nova.edu/wellness).**







# ON-THE-JOB LEARNING

## CORPORATE CLUSTERS BRING EDUCATION TO THE WORKPLACE.

BY ALAN HANCOCK

Janice Levarity's job as a human resources manager requires knowledge on several aspects of business and the ability to stay up with trends in the ever-changing work environment. To meet these demands, Levarity set out to obtain a Master of Business Administration degree. It didn't take long for her to discover that several of her coworkers at Turner Construction in Miami also wanted an advanced degree, but were wary of the challenge of balancing a full-time job and school.

The answer?

Turner Construction became one of the most recent companies to launch a corporate cluster offered by NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. The corporate cluster program gives working adults the ability to earn business degrees at their places of employment. Huizenga School faculty members even travel to corporate locations to teach classes on-site.

"This format is the perfect model for working professionals because of the schedule, the convenience, and the courses," said Levarity, one of 12 Turner Construction employees currently in the company's M.B.A. cluster, which holds classes once a week at the company's offices in Miami. "The program makes it very manageable for working professionals. The convenience of it being on-site at Turner makes my goal of a degree much more attainable."

This alternative approach to learning fits perfectly into the Huizenga School's mission to provide "readily accessible, managerially and entrepreneurially oriented, and convenient educational opportunities of superior real-world value." The school has been offering corporate clusters to companies for 30 years, and NSU was the first university in the country to deliver on-site degree programs to corporations.

Approximately 800 clusters have been held at more than 200 different companies and organizations, awarding more than 12,000 business degrees to workers. Most take place in South Florida, but others have been held at companies and government agencies around the United States and in international locations including Canada, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Panama. Previous and current participants in the cluster program include Federal Express, AT&T, FPL, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

One of the most loyal corporate participants is American Express, which began its first cluster in 1983. Since then, more than 30 of them, offering bachelor's degrees and M.B.A.s, have been held at its South Florida location—allowing more than 700 American Express employees to earn their degrees while attending classes at their workplace.

"It's an opportunity for our employees to sharpen their technical skills and their core competencies to make them better employees," said Charles Johnson, vice president of human resources for the American Express center in Plantation, which currently hosts a 20-member M.B.A. cluster.

### A Win-Win for Employers and Employees

Of course, the education the employees receive can also provide a direct benefit to the employer. Courses and projects can be related directly to their jobs at the company.

"The employees take all that information, all that education, and they apply it to live situations at work," said Theresa Maia, human resource manager for the southeast region of ADT Security Services and Tyco, which have a cluster at their joint offices in Boca Raton. "Whatever they get out of the M.B.A. program and any of their classes, they can apply to their day-to-day jobs."

The students in these groups often consist of a mix of employees, from entry-level workers to mid- and high-level managers. Because of the format, these employees work closely together in the classroom—collaborations that often carry over into the workplace.

"It allows employees to interact with some of their peers whom they may not have the opportunity to work with on a routine basis," said Johnson. "The collaboration that the cluster brings is extremely beneficial. It comes right back to them in their work and to the company as a whole."

At a time when many companies are scaling back their workforce, the clusters take on even more significance by helping workers gain knowledge applicable to their jobs.

"It's an added value to our employees; it's an added value to the employer. The employees are getting a good education, and they are bringing that to their work experience," said Maia.

For more information on the NSU Huizenga School's corporate cluster program, visit [www.nova.edu/business](http://www.nova.edu/business) or call (954) 262-5046. ■



## Two-Time Graduate Takes Lessons out of the Classroom and Around the World

BY JODI NODING

Elaine Papas arrived in New York City on September 10, 2001, ready to start work as an international affairs lawyer. The next morning, she woke up to a different world.

Others might have run home. But Papas, with law and psychology degrees from Nova Southeastern University, immediately turned her attention to helping others.

"None of us knew what was coming next. It was surreal," said Papas, who first offered counseling services for those in the area, then helped "wherever necessary," as the city started healing.

Now president of NSU's Manhattan Alumni Chapter, she continues to roll with the punches and use her strengths wherever they are needed.

Papas traveled the United States after high school. "I fell in love with South Florida," she said. She easily settled into the Florida lifestyle and started her own business, an international import and export company.

"It became very successful," she said. "I had it for 11 years. When you are in your 20s, you think you know everything and can do everything. It's a good thing," she said, recalling the energy and enthusiasm she brought to her early business.

After landing contracts with Disney and Continental Airlines, though, she realized she wanted more. So, Papas went back to college, well after her contemporaries had graduated.

A degree in liberal arts from Barry University was followed by three more: a master's in psychology from NSU (1994), a master's in human resources from St. Thomas University (1995), and a law degree from NSU (2000). She also holds from Pepperdine University a certificate in cross-cultural dispute resolution—a valuable qualification for this attorney whose business takes her around the world.

"The world is trying to unite while trying to retain individual personalities and cultures," Papas said.

It was her desire to work in international business that led her to New York City. She has since worked with star clients, such as Donald Trump, to create their new companies. She also assists those eager to get into rising countries, such as Dubai, and works with governments and established entities in their international growth.

"A lawyer is an advocate," she said. "It feels so good to help people. It's better than winning the lottery."



### From Business Owner to International Attorney

Papas credits NSU with helping her change and advance her career. The NSU Law Center's cutting-edge approach to technology and computer integration was an extra bonus for this student.

"My class was among the first at NSU to be required to purchase and use pre-wired laptop computers. I was ahead of most others in knowing how to use computers for legal research."

Papas also fondly remembers three of her NSU professors:

"Two of them, Larry Kalevitch [LL.M.] and Paul Joseph [LL.M.], passed away too soon a few years ago. Kalevitch taught Contracts and was tough but fair, with a sense of humor. Joseph's Law and the Popular Culture class showed us how the entertainment media portrays and influences the public's perception of lawyers.

"Pearl Goldman [J.D.] taught Legal Writing Skills. The first year of law school can be especially stressful. Knowing this, around exam time, she would send her students emails and attach some very funny pages."

In her role as the Manhattan Alumni Chapter president, Papas said she hopes "to bring the opportunity of networking to NSU alumni, to create friendships. NSU grads are a special group."

New York area NSU alumni can reach Elaine Papas at (212) 907-6580. ■



## Diving into Uncharted Waters for Education and Conservation

BY BOB ROSS

Clarice Moreth Yentsch has always loved the water—from her first splash in a puddle to a childhood spent swimming in ponds. So, it was hardly a surprise that the oceans became her life's work.

"My best times have been on, in, or under the water," said Yentsch, Ph.D., adjunct professor and NSU Oceanographic Center alumna.

The Oceanographic Center has allowed Yentsch to channel her interest in the seas and provided her with a career that continues to challenge and inspire her.

"I'm a curious person, curious about the water world. My research involves thinking of our oceans as a complete system," Yentsch said.

Today, Yentsch is doing her part to introduce students to the exotic underwater environment. She teaches NSU's Archaeological Oceanography: Reefs and Wrecks, a new, online course.

"We are excited to have Dr. Yentsch rejoining us," said Richard E. Dodge, Ph.D., dean of NSU's Oceanographic Center. "She has gone on to have a distinguished career as a research scientist and educator."

Yentsch also enjoys the distinction of having received her doctorate as one of the 17 members of the Oceanographic Center's very first graduating class in 1970. She fondly remembers those early days of "The OC."

"You knew you were part of an intense team trying to advance human understanding of the ocean and its organisms. So many new ideas and instruments were part of the experience. You felt privileged and proud to be included," she said.

"The OC team at the time was few, but world class."

And her thoughts on the OC now?

"It is a real humming place with fabulous potential and so much learning going on," she added.

### Excavating the Lessons of Sunken Treasures

Nowadays, Yentsch splits her time between Key West and Maine. There, she and her husband, Charles, a former NSU professor, co-founded the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in 1974. She founded the lab's J. J. MacIsaac Flow Cytometry/Cell Sorting Facility. Bigelow Lab recently received a grant from the state of Maine to study how natural products from marine organisms can be commercialized.

She has also co-authored two books, *The Sea Is All About Us* and *The Woman Scientist: Meeting the Challenges for a Successful Career*, and has more than 50 other publication credits. A host of prestigious agencies have funded her research examining the fate of sunlight in seawater, critical to the survival of coral.

Four years ago, the OC presented Yentsch with its Distinguished Alumni Award in oceanography.

This past summer, she represented NSU in discussions with the state's Bureau of Archaeological



Clarice Moreth Yentsch holds an anchor lost by the Native American summer populations who visited Indiantown Island in the Sheepscott Estuary, Maine. (Photo credit: Charles Yentsch)

Research to establish a South Florida display site for its massive collection of treasure recovered from shipwrecks off its coast. This is a collaborative effort with the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University.

"Shipwrecks and artifacts offer keen insights into the past," said the research scientist, who served six years as curator of education at Key West's Mel Fisher Maritime Museum.

"When someone discovers treasure, 15 to 20 percent of the value goes to the state. It would be exciting to improve public access to the tens of thousands of items accumulated over the past 40 to 50 years," Yentsch said.

"We have to be stewards of our cultural and natural resources." ■



# Q&A

## Rock 'n' Roll Dean Takes a Bow

BY MICHAEL J. BERGBAUER

As **Randolph Pohlman**, Ph.D., steps down after 14 years as dean of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, it is not an end but a beginning.

After all, Pohlman will return to Nova Southeastern University's Huizenga School faculty in 2010, following a six-month sabbatical. During that break from NSU, Pohlman can reflect not only on a job well done, but a job that has made a real difference in the lives of many students.

During Pohlman's tenure, the Huizenga School grew from 1,300 students to more than 6,000 and boasts the largest Master of Business Administration program in Florida. Pohlman also directed the school's first major capital campaign that led to the construction of the Carl DeSantis Building, a five-story, 261,000-square-foot facility that opened as home to the Huizenga School in 2004. "Thanks to his leadership, our faculty is able to provide business students with the practical skills and knowledge they need to begin or advance a career or even start their own business," said Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., NSU president.

In addition to serving as dean, Pohlman has written two books: *Understanding the Bottom Line* and *Value Driven Management*. He is also active in the South Florida community, serving as a trustee and member of the Board of Governors for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

Pohlman spent five years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Following his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Kansas State University (KSU) and a Ph.D. in Finance from Oklahoma State University, Pohlman was dean of the College of Business at KSU. He also acted as a senior executive at Koch Industries, at the time the largest privately held company in the United States, before coming to NSU.

While his career has focused on business, his hobby is music. Known as the "rock 'n' roll dean," Pohlman keeps a guitar in the trunk of his car, ready for impromptu jam sessions. An aficionado of blues, Pohlman hosts and plays at NSU's annual Blues and Bubbly event during homecoming and performs at the Huizenga School's Rock 'n' Roll Night, an annual fund-raiser for scholarships.

*Horizons* caught up with Pohlman as he was in his near-vacant office, where only the most essential of office supplies and an autographed Fender guitar remained.

**Why did you decide to leave your position as dean, and how will you spend your free time?**

My team and I accomplished a lot of things that I wanted to, and I've found myself just not quite having the passion lately. I'd rather leave now and step down—let somebody else take it to



the next level. I really want to spend more time with my family, work on my new book, and improve my musical skills.

**What accomplishments are you most proud of as dean?**

Number one, the team we have, because they have allowed us to put everything else in place. I've been very fortunate to have an outstanding team of people. Number two, the quality of the faculty and staff we have. Never discount the importance of staff. Finally, I'm very proud of our building, because it gives us a good home for all these people, and it helps us attract students and faculty members.

**How have you tried to distinguish the Huizenga School from other business schools?**

We try to create the spirit of entrepreneurship across all curricula. I think that's important. What really helps us to do that is that a lot of our faculty members have experience in business. That translates into something important for our students.

**Now that you are leaving, where does the Huizenga School go from here?**

Hopefully, continuing on an upward path. I have great expectations for the school. I see us continuing to move from excellence to preeminence, and I'd like to see us raise a lot more money for undergraduate scholarships and chaired professorships.

**What are your thoughts on returning to faculty and teaching?**

That's why I got into this business in the first place—to be with students and work with students. I just love working with students, particularly undergrad students. I enjoy master's degree students, but undergraduate students are just getting to the next level, and it's their first encounter with college. I just find that really refreshing. They are also just so eager to learn, not just the subject matter, but about life, and I find that really fun. ■



# Q&A

## After 16 Years, NSU's Most Tech-Savvy Dean Retires

BY ANDRA PARRISH LIWAG

In 1993, Google, eBay, and Amazon.com didn't exist; less than half of all American households had a computer; iPods were still eight years away; and Edward Lieblein, Ph.D., was preparing to take the reins of what is now Nova Southeastern University's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (GSCIS).

The challenge was to lead and grow a comprehensive school across a wide range of disciplines, while ensuring academic quality and excellence. And for the next 16 years, Lieblein made this his mission.

"He has been instrumental to the growth of NSU's computer sciences programs in terms of enrollment; curriculum quality; research; and the school's continued leadership in blended, on-campus, and online education," said Frank DePiano, NSU's university provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

As well as being NSU's longest-standing dean, Lieblein presided over an enrollment and revenue growth of more than 300 percent, the establishment of 10 new master's degree and Ph.D. programs and concentrations, the creation of 9 cooperative programs with other NSU colleges and schools, the awarding of a chapter of the Upsilon Pi Epsilon international honor society, and the certification of the school's information security curriculum by the U.S. National Security Agency.

He also directed NSU's efforts leading to certification of 76 of its programs by the state of Florida and the Southern Regional

Education Board for compliance with standards for online programs, as well as the inclusion of these programs in the board's Electronic Campus.

Lieblein also has served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he was responsible for more than \$500 million in research and advanced military technology programs, and was chief of the Software Engineering Division for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. He has also published numerous academic works.

*Horizons* spoke with him as he prepares for a new title—dean emeritus.

### How did you decide to leave your position as dean?

Retirement was a difficult decision. While I believe I accomplished a great deal, I thought it was time for new leadership. Being dean is a 24/7 responsibility—I couldn't do it any other way—which means there wasn't time for much else.

### What goals did you set out to accomplish, and how were you able to achieve them?

When I started as dean, the school was young and small. The university leadership knew technology was the future and wanted GSCIS to lead the way. Outstanding senior administration support enabled me to hire excellent faculty and staff members and to move the school to newer, larger facilities.

### What accomplishments are you most proud of during your tenure as dean?

Perhaps our greatest accomplishment was the designation of NSU as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the U.S. National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. I retired knowing this faculty will continue to carry on the school's tradition of excellence.

### Where do you see GSCIS going from here?

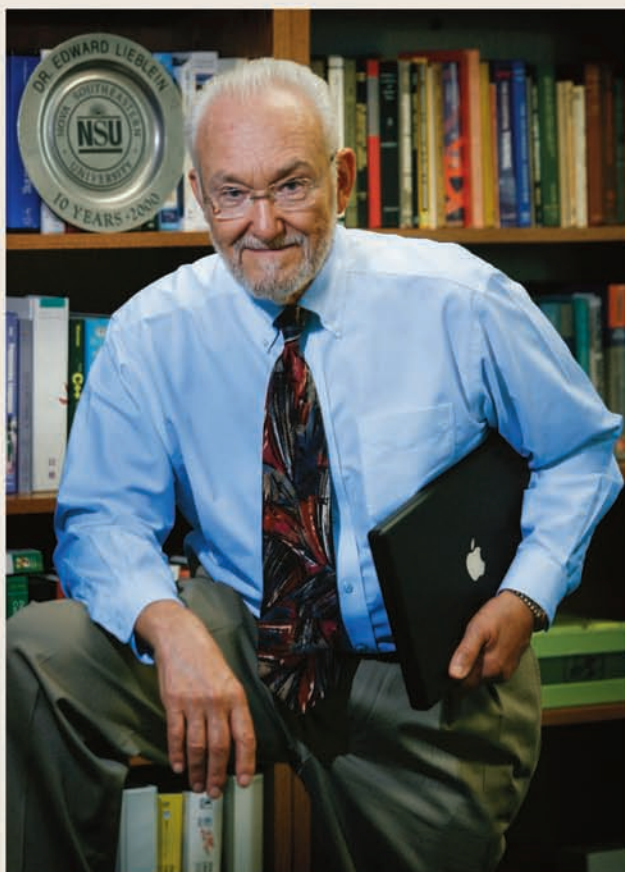
I believe it will continue to build on and strengthen its capabilities. With its new Ph.D. in Information Assurance, I see the school becoming a major research center.

### How do you plan to spend your retirement?

I want to travel, spend more time with my family, and devote time to my love of photography. I also plan to focus on a rather substantial collection of books that I have not had the time to read.

### You will always be a part of NSU's Shark family. Any plans to teach again in the future?

Not this year. But, I always loved teaching, so perhaps later. Being dean of GSCIS was one of the most rewarding positions I have held in my 54 years in the field. ■







### **Dean Without Borders: Connecting the University to Students Around the Globe**

BY HOWARD GOODMAN

“He has a great gift—to be Italian when he is working with Italians, Brazilian with Brazilians, French in France.”

—GIOIA GABELLIERI BARGAGLI,  
DENAPOLI'S LIAISON FOR EUROPE

You might say that Nova Southeastern University's global growth in the 21st century began with one 13-year-old New Yorker's summer-time trip to Italy with his grandmother.

“Those three months started me on a path to explore the world,” said **Anthony DeNapoli, Ed.D.**

Barely knowing a word of Italian, the young DeNapoli immersed himself in the language—the first of five foreign tongues he would master. He went on to become a teacher of Spanish and Italian, a middle school principal, an education program professor, and a college administrator.

And now, in the job he seems made for, he's NSU's dean of international affairs at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services.

“One of my biggest goals is to internationalize the university,” he said. “That's where we're headed. We want to give the university a global look and perspective.”



DeNapoli is on a jet-fueled mission to make that happen. Twelve years ago, NSU ran partner programs only in Panama, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. Now, they extend to at least 18 countries, from Italy to Malaysia. NSU faculty members and students are engaged in projects in some 54 countries. More than 2,200 students from 106 nations are taking NSU classes at the Fort Lauderdale campus or in cohorts in their home countries.

At a recent symposium on international education and global partnerships, DeNapoli realized that NSU is ahead of the pack when it comes to educating students around the world.

"When I described what we're doing, I had people telling me that we should have hosted the symposium!" he said. "NSU has always had a very innovative educational delivery model. We just haven't gone out and shouted it to the world."

### Crossing Borders, Expanding Opportunities

How diverse are these programs?

NSU medical students trek to rural Argentina to work in bare-bones clinics for the poor and get sensitized to diseases found in medically underserved areas. Italian students take classes at the University of Rome that are credited toward their NSU degrees. And, Malaysian college instructors study in Fort Lauderdale and learn how instructional technology can improve education back home.

"We feel so welcome here," said Hasimah Ja'afar, one of 18 Malaysians spending several months at the Fischler School en route to doctorates in education. "With a head scarf, without a head scarf, I have not encountered any problems at all."

That level of acceptance in the academic world is exactly what DeNapoli is aiming for. "I do it because I strongly believe that until we create an understanding among people, we're not going to have what we want: world peace."

Gioia Gabellieri Bargagli, who lives in Italy and serves as DeNapoli's liaison for Europe, said the globe-trotting dean connects with people wherever he travels because "he listens to the person in front of him, not just with his ears, but with his heart."

"He has a great gift," added Bargagli, a Fischler School field associate, "to be Italian when he is working with Italians, Brazilian with Brazilians, French in France."

Because, it seems, DeNapoli knows no linguistic or cultural borders that can't be successfully crossed in the name of education, he often serves

as the face of NSU's 16 schools and centers—taking the university's mission as far as he can travel.

Honggang Yang, Ph.D., dean of NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), said that DeNapoli's "fine energies, broad knowledge, goodwill-based efforts, and pragmatic skills have been special over the years."

DeNapoli was key to linking the SHSS's master's degree program in conflict analysis and resolution with Fundación Universitaria Iberoamericana (FUNIBER), a consortium of universities in mainly Spanish-speaking countries. "This collaboration," Yang said, "is going to enable us to reach out overseas as well as to Hispanic communities in the United States."

The College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM) is one NSU school that's rapidly internationalizing. Without DeNapoli, "we would not even be close to where we are right now," said Anthony Silvagni, D.O., dean of NSU-COM.

When NSU-COM officials travel to foreign countries, DeNapoli comes along as translator and guide. "We just recently gave him an award for contributions to the advancement of international medicine," Silvagni said of his colleague whose background is in education, not medicine. "He's amazing."

NSU-COM now offers postgraduate programs in osteopathic medicine, public health, science, and biomedical informatics in Colombia, Portugal, and Argentina—with Ecuador and Jordan on deck. The college has the only accredited online Master of Public Health degree program that's available completely in Spanish.

With more than 150 students doing stints overseas as part of their studies, "it's probably the largest foreign-study program in the country," according to Silvagni—due, in part, no doubt, to DeNapoli's efforts.

These forays into the larger world aren't just idealism. They're good business. By expanding internationally, NSU gains an edge. "We're doing service," Silvagni said, "but also increasing our market share of potential students."

To DeNapoli, universities should do no less. In today's world of online social networking, "everybody knows everything about everybody," he said. "Now, kids see each other, they hear their languages, they see where they live; hopefully, they gain an appreciation for diversity. If we continue to educate our own students in an Ameri-centric mode, what are we doing?" ■



# Faculty Spotlight

## Say You're Sorry: Communication Is Key to Resolving Conflict

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB

Walk into the office of **Judith McKay, J.D., Ph.D.**, in Nova Southeastern University's Maltz Psychology Building, and it's easy to forget she deals with serious problems such as bullying in the workplace and domestic violence.

Amongst the books, the shelves are crammed with collectible fairies, angels, and stuffed animals. With framed photos of her students and a snapshot of McKay and her mother, the office feels more like a comfy den than a hub for conflict analysis and resolution.



McKay explained the stuffed animals are given to children who visit her office, but the fairies and angels make her feel at home while spending so much time at work. The décor also puts nervous student visitors at ease. If they appear uncomfortable, she asks them to look around for a few minutes while she finishes a task. Typically, she said, they will find something on the shelves that makes them more relaxed—giving McKay one fewer problem to resolve.

### Can't We All Just Get Along?

McKay has been involved in conflict resolution for 25 years and is chair of NSU's Department of Multidisciplinary Studies in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). She is also an associate professor in the SHSS Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

You name it, she has taught it at NSU: Mediation Theory and Practice; Conflict Coaching Theory and Practice; Strategic Community Planning and

Partnerships; Family Violence: The Effects on Families, Communities, and Workplaces; Conflict and Crisis Management Theory; and Critical Incidents, Facilitation Theory, and Practice.

As director of NSU's Community Resolution Services, she runs programs that offer training, workshops, mediation, and facilitation services and conflict coaching to individuals, families, groups, and agencies. "We try to give people new tools and train them to use the tools," she said, concerning the workshops that she gives about once a month.

"There is a tendency to go back to an old tool unless you realize it is not working. Then you can reach for the new tool without feeling unskilled."

### A Life Well Lived and Learned

McKay's own professional "toolbox" includes her down-to-earth manner and ability to communicate—skills that, perhaps, can be attributed to her varied experiences inside, and far beyond, the classroom.

McKay originally wanted to be an archeologist but became a high school social studies teacher and guidance counselor when digs became problematic in Egypt. A friend convinced her that she could help more people as a lawyer. That led to her career in family law and as a trial attorney for 13 years. She then returned to school to earn a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from NSU.

"I loved practicing law and going into court, but the teacher in me loved to explain things to people," she said. "You can take the woman out of the classroom, but you can't take the classroom out of the woman."

"I love teaching because I love learning," she added.

McKay calls herself a "pracademic"—someone who has one foot in the academic world and the other in practical experience. That ability has also made her a favorite of radio and television news shows that need an expert on anything from Internet bullying to neighborhood conflicts. Producers of WSVN Channel 7's *Idol Insider* even asked McKay to provide a conflict-resolution perspective to the onscreen bickering of the *American Idol* judges.

"We live so much on the intellectual side of life," she said, "I don't want to lose the other side. And, it's so easy to do when you are an academic." ■



## From Childhood Struggle to Children's Hope

BY ROBERT SPENCER KNOTTS

It is a life focused on promoting the wellness of children—shaped profoundly by his own childhood. For **Ralph Eugene “Gene” Cash, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology at Nova Southeastern University, pursuing a career in child psychology and advocacy is not unlike reaching out to help his own family.

“The real reason I’m doing this work is that half the people in my family had psychological problems, and I wanted to find out why,” said Cash.

Cash is one of four brothers who grew up in an impoverished family outside Knoxville, Tennessee.

Two of his siblings committed suicide. The other is an alcoholic.

“I believe it was genetic, and I was lucky,” he said. “Though I didn’t know it when I went into this field, I think my early family life was my driving motivation.”

Cash earned a doctorate in school psychology from New York University then relocated to Florida in 1976. His work as a school psychologist in Broward County Public Schools led to a private practice focused on family and child psychology, with suicide prevention among his passions.

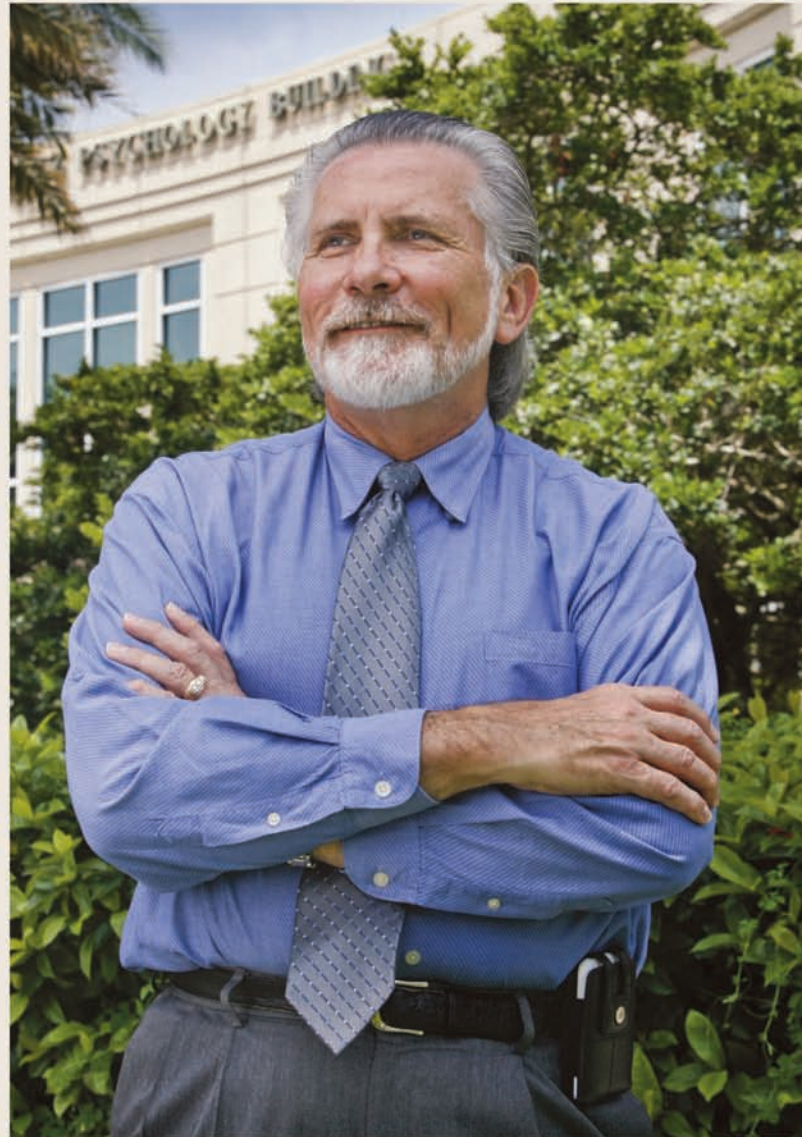
Since then, he’s compiled an impressive resume: director of NSU’s school psychology clinic, past president of the Florida Association of School Psychologists, and recent recipient of the latter group’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Cash also is completing a term as president of the renowned National Association of School Psychologists.

“Gene is very dedicated to promoting mental health services for children,” said Scott Poland, Ed.D., Cash’s colleague at NSU. “And he’s really beloved by his students. Every spring, he takes a number of psychology graduate students to Tallahassee to advocate for children’s services and to teach them the importance of advocacy.”

Cash says it’s his students who make NSU most special for him. “I really love the interaction with them and to see students grow and develop,” he explained. “I love seeing them get passionate about the field.”

### The Children Are Our Future

Despite his professional accomplishments, Cash is more likely to brag about something else. After 37 years and counting with wife Dana, he is proudest that their own child is “a genuinely decent human being.” Son Christopher, 27, is a nursing student at Broward College North Campus who copes with mild learning disabilities.



As Cash’s national association presidency ends, he is returning to teaching. He also plans to complete his research on suicide prevention and emergent literacy, which focuses on preschool skills needed to enable later reading.

He wants to write books as well, including—naturally—one for kids. “The book would talk to children about how to navigate the world and about the value of yourself,” Cash noted.

Lessons that, perhaps, this small-town boy turned child advocate learned along the way. ■



## National Championship Puts Jewel in NSU Athletics Crown

BY ALAN HANCOCK

As one of the top junior golfers in Florida, Taylor Collins had no shortage of choices when it came to college. Schools in Florida and the northeast with NCAA Division I women's golf programs came calling with scholarship offers, but Collins decided to go with an emerging Division II program—and picked Nova Southeastern University.

That choice has paid big dividends, as Collins and the NSU women's golf team won the 2009 NCAA Division II women's golf national championship this past May, the first-ever national title in any sport in NSU history.

But the capturing of a national title was no accident. It was the result of NSU's strategic commitment to athletics that has attracted top student-athletes such as Collins and seen the athletics department grow in size and stature since joining the NCAA in 2002.

"NSU seemed like the ideal place to go," said Collins, who starred at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale and was the South Florida Professional Golf Association's junior player of the year in 2006. "The practice facilities we have are great, and the gym is really nice. It was just a good feeling when I visited NSU."

That "good feeling" for student-athletes is what Mike Mominey set out to create when he took over as NSU athletics director in 2002, the same year the school moved to the NCAA and joined the Sunshine State Conference.

Backed by the support of the university administration and board of trustees, NSU began its ascent into the upper tier of Division II athletic programs.

"Since day one, there has been a strategic plan and vision to build an athletic program that would be highly competitive at the national level athletically and academically," said Mominey, who has also coached the NSU baseball team since 2001.

### Building a Homecourt Advantage

The biggest step in the plan has been the improvement and expansion of NSU's athletics facilities. Basketball and volleyball teams that once played at the gym at Broward College now have a 4,500-seat arena in the Don Taft University Center, which opened in 2006 and features numerous practice courts and a

sports medicine center. Student-athletes who previously lifted weights in a trailer now have access to the 110,000-square-foot RecPlex within the center. The golf teams practice at the university-owned Grande Oaks Golf Club.

"Our main selling point to recruits is that we have a program set up where you are going to be given every single resource to be the best golfer that you can possibly be," said

Kevin Marsh, who coached the women's golf team to the national championship and also directs the men's golf program. "A lot of student-athletes get pretty excited about getting their chance to win a national championship every year."

And it's not just the women's golf team that has excelled in recent years. Just weeks after the Sharks golf team won the national title, the Varsity 4 boat on the women's rowing team claimed victory at the NCAA Division II Rowing Championships. It was the first win for the women's rowing team at the national championships, which the squad has qualified for in every year of its six-year existence. Days after that feat, four NSU baseball players were selected in the Major League Baseball draft, the most Sharks players selected in a single draft.

All this success on the fields, courts, and water has not come at the expense of academics, as NSU's student-athletes have averaged a GPA higher than 3.0 for seven consecutive years.

And, the growth of athletics isn't done yet. Five teams—rowing, men's cross country, women's tennis, and men's and women's outdoor track—have been added since joining the NCAA in 2002. Next up are men's and women's swimming and diving teams, which will begin competition in the fall of 2010 and will train and compete in the \$7 million Aquatic Center at NSU that opened last year. It's all part of the plan to make a place for NSU athletics on the national stage.

"The ultimate goal is to become a consistent winner, both athletically and academically," said Mominey. "We want to be a program that is not only successful in terms of winning games and championships, but that is recognized for academic integrity and sportsmanship—a program that is the pride of campus." ■







Miles Mikolas

## SHARK ATHLETICS MILESTONES

### 2008–2009 Highlights

- women's golf team wins NCAA Division II national championship
- women's rowing Varsity 4 wins at NCAA Division II Rowing Championships
- softball team reaches the NCAA post-season tournament for the first time
- men's golf team wins third SSC championship in five years
- baseball team sets a program record with 37 NCAA victories
- women's volleyball team advances to the NCAA Elite Eight

### 2007–2008 Highlights

- Sharks captured the Sunshine State Conference Mayor's Cup on the women's side by winning championships in women's basketball, women's golf, and women's rowing
- NSU produced five SSC Players of the Year, two Freshmen of the Year, three Coach of the Year honorees, and one NCAA National Player of the Year
- nine NSU student-athletes chosen as NCAA All-Americans
- five NSU student-athletes named Academic All-Americans







# NSU MASCOT FEEDS ON SCHOOL SPIRIT, FUELS HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

BY RALPH DE LA CRUZ

**Y**ou might think it's easy—easy to be the face of fear, to be the reason not just for people to dread going into the water, but for opponents to worry about wading into the Shark Tank arena.

Yeah, Razor has the teeth to make it work. He's got the fin and all the other proper accoutrements. But what self-respecting shark doesn't?

What sets Razor apart as Nova Southeastern University's mascot is attitude and a creative energy that turns the mundane into the entertaining and the outrageous into the hilarious. When Razor bounds out to chest-bump the team before the game, it's like the lifeguard yelling, "Everybody into the pool!"

From banister slides and a friendly chew on a fan or two, to good-natured ribbing of officials, Razor gets the Shark-infested waters churning. "He's the best," gushes C.A. Tolchinsky, Ed.D., head cheer-leading coach.

What makes a swimming sea-riar killer such a compelling part of the NSU Athletics landscape? It's dedication to the fin and the fun.

"It's pretty cool being a shark," Razor acknowledged during a rare moment of downtime. "I get to act crazy and do crazy stuff and get away with it most of the time."

## RAZOR'S EDGE

It's not the next meal that drives this shark—but rather, the hunt for laughs. There's a bald head out there that needs to be rubbed. There are kids who must be teased and officials who require upbraiding. Pratfalls must be perfected. And always, many female fans are in need of some hugs.

After all, Razor is a Shark at heart, but he's not cold-blooded.

"It takes a lot to be a shark," Razor explains. "It's not as easy as it looks. You have to do things on the fly."

Keep in mind, Razor can't use words when he performs, only exaggerated motions for expression. To keep himself sharp and his act fresh, Razor attends mascot camp during the summer and spends about eight hours a day in the classroom learning expressions.

"He feeds off the energy of the crowd," Tolchinsky added. "He'll take the littlest thing—like the ref spinning the ball on his finger during a timeout—and create a whole bit out of it."

What makes Razor's edge even more impressive is that, even outside the Shark Tank arena, he's a campus leader. The student behind the mask is a respected, disciplined postgraduate. But, as part of the rules for NSU's mascot, Razor cannot be identified by name. We can't mention what Razor looks like under that mask or even if this shark wears glasses—or not.

"I never thought I could do it," Razor said of becoming the dancing, prancing icon. But once he put on the suit, a transformation occurred. "I consider myself a different person when I'm inside the shark." Yeah, don't we all?

"He really cares about NSU and raising school spirit," Tolchinsky said. "Whether it's visiting a hospital or being at a championship basketball game."

Tolchinsky asked a diehard NSU Sharks fan, her eight-year-old son Cade, "What makes Razor so special?"

Cade replied, "He's crazy." ■





# Wherever life takes you, you'll always be a Shark.

Before you head out for your next business trip or vacation, check the NSU Alumni Association Web site for events near your destination. With chapters throughout the United States and Canada, it's easy to reconnect with former classmates, network with fellow alumni, and feel at home—even when you're far from campus.

## *Trip Checklist*

- charge phone
- pick up dry cleaning
- check NSU's alumni home page for upcoming events



**Stay connected.**

WEB: [www.nova.edu/alumni/events/index.html](http://www.nova.edu/alumni/events/index.html)

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