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COM Outlook Spring 2010

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Spring 2010

Volume 11, Number 2



Helping Haiti!



Dean's Message



Earlier this year, the College of Osteopathic Medicine drafted its 10-Year Vision Statement, which outlines the various goals our college is seeking to achieve by the year 2020. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our students, administration, faculty, and staff, NSU-COM has already established itself as one of the leading medical colleges in the United States.

Since becoming NSU-COM dean in 1998, I have watched with a great deal of pride as our students, faculty, and alumni have made a significant—and positive—impact on both national and international public health and patient care. Based on our past accomplishments, this is a trend that will definitely be perpetuated as the college continues to grow and prosper.

Following is a summary of some of the initiatives the college has included as part of its 10-year plan:

Students

Independent of an increase in class size, affiliate training hospitals and rotations of excellence will continue to be established in order to provide our students with optimal clinical training.

In addition, NSU-COM will continually consider and evaluate the possibility of establishing a second medical school campus in an appropriate national or international locale. Our applicant pool continues to grow at an increasingly swift pace, which is evidenced by the fact that we had the largest applicant increase of any osteopathic medical school in the United States for the 2008-09 application year and the second largest for the 2009-10 application year. The number of NSU-COM applicants increased by more than 25 percent in last year's AACOMAS applications, and in a recent survey of those who applied to osteopathic medical schools, NSU-COM was ranked as the number one choice among the respondents.

Faculty/Professional Staff

With the current and anticipated growth in the college's research endeavors, clinical responsibilities, and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) and Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) programs, as well as probable NSU-COM expansion, a commensurate augmentation is expected in the number of faculty members that will be needed just to maintain our current student-to-faculty ratio.

As areas of contractual services grow (e.g., prison services, affiliated residencies), the faculty must also grow to meet these needs. We are also planning to develop two endowed professorships within the next decade.

Introduction of New Programs

Because NSU-COM is a leader in international medical outreach programs, our goal is to establish an institute of international

health care within the next decade. In addition, ancillary certificate programs and new concentrations within the M.P.H. and M.S.B.I. programs are anticipated.

The college also is implementing a two-week community service requirement for its preclinical students. These efforts will be in underserved areas of South Florida and in our international medical outreach sites. Currently, the college has medical outreach programs in Argentina, Ecuador, and Jamaica, while others in the Dominican Republic, Portugal, and Bangladesh are being finalized. I'm also excited to report that our recent affiliation with the America Developing Smiles program has created opportunities for us in Peru and other countries.

Educational Delivery Format

Another exciting development is the work we are doing to incorporate Second Life technologies, which will allow students to confront community, societal, and medical issues through the usage of Internet avatar technology. For those of you who have never heard of Second Life, it is a virtual world for people over the age of 18. A free client program called the Second Life Viewer enables its users, who are called *residents*, to interact with each other through avatars. Hundreds of leading universities and school systems around the world use Second Life as a vibrant part of their educational programs, so we are excited to be involved with this cutting-edge technology.

Our electronic library now contains over 200 textbooks and 1,000 journals just in the medical sciences. The system also contains multiple search engines and swift information sources such as UpToDate that students, faculty members, and residents can access from anywhere in the world through the Internet.

Because success breeds additional success, the college will continue to expand its standardized patient experiences. On a similar note, simulated patient encounters that utilize mechanical mannequins like I-Stan to replicate medical functions such as obstetrical deliveries, emergencies of the respiration and cardiac systems, and other medical emergencies will be enhanced as well. We are also seeking ways to develop connectivity with our international medical outreach sites in order to provide more reliable videoconferencing capability.

Research and Communication

The college has come a long way over the past few years in regard to research activity, which is why we expect to triple our current research and grant productivity by the year 2020.

Because a strong communications network is necessary to properly publicize all educational institutions, we will continue to promote the college, the university, and the osteopathic profession through our nationally recognized *COM Outlook* magazine and work closely with the NSU Office of Public Affairs to make sure our message reaches both the media and the masses.

I am excited to share our plans for the next decade and look forward to witnessing the next chapter in the *NSU-COM Success Story*.

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



When His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, visited the NSU campus on February 23, I had the opportunity to correlate some of the very wise statements he presented to the nearly 4,500 audience members sitting in the Don Taft University Center to NSU/HPD. The aspect that really struck me in regard to the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and in fact the entire Health Professions Division, was his very articulate way

of using the word *we*. He didn't refer to *you*, to *me*, or to *them*. He referred to the concept of oneness and how we are all the same; therefore, we all must use the word *we*.

As I relate this concept to the manner in which we carry forth the direction and mission of Dr. Morton Terry, the founder of the NSU Health Professions Division and particularly the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the word *we* is very important because no single physician or other health care provider should be more important than another. These professionals should all work in tandem with each other's abilities and knowledge and understand that the essence of osteopathic principles is based upon holistic care.

The paramount tenet of health care service is based upon the fact that health providers use concepts of *we* rather than the concepts of *me*, *I*, or *you*. So when you really think about the structure of the Health Professions Division, the brilliance of Dr. Terry's belief that health professionals should get to know each other as practitioners and providers of care to the general population was truly prophetic. Because, when you get right down to it, the more we know about each other, the more we become *we* rather than *me*, *I*, or *you*.

The Dalai Lama's riveting oration, which related to many other issues such as individual responsibility, the concept of world community, peace, justice, and liberty, really struck me as I was sitting there and recognizing the fact that the principles of osteopathic medicine were really, in a sense, attested to by the words of a very kind and brilliant representative of the Buddhist teachings. The Dalai Lama is a man of exceptional intellect, and he exudes moral strength and positivity. His message is something all individuals should take to heart. He spoke of the negativity of anger and addressed the sense of healing and strength that comes from possessing the power to forgive.

He also discussed intellect and the importance of education, which is a major feature of enhancing human growth. But he also reminded us that there needs to be an inner balance—an ability to know yourself and love yourself. His words reminded me of some of the private conversations I had with Dr. Terry, who passed away in 2004. He used to tell me, "You really have to learn to like yourself before you

can ask other people to gain your trust and follow you." It's not about telling yourself, "Hey, I'm a great guy or a great gal." It's a matter of intrinsically knowing yourself and understanding that in order to like yourself, you have to deal with some of flawed characteristics you possess—flaws you personally identify.

Although this is not the first time I've heard the Dalai Lama speak, I again found myself stirred by his words, even though many of the philosophies he expressed are not new. However, being there amidst his spiritual aura caused me to reflect on the multiple features of being a health care provider and brought me back to some of the cogent comments made by Dr. Terry. Whenever there was a meeting of the Committee on Admissions, Dr. Terry used to tell the members to "think about this applicant and decide whether you would want him or her to be your doctor."

What was he really saying? Was he telling the committee members to look at the applicant and discover whether they thought this person was going to become the best student, the best surgeon, the best orthopedist, the best OB/GYN? I don't think so. In my opinion, Dr. Terry was telling the committee members to pick the person they thought could best understand him or herself and be able to freely share their knowledge while exhibiting a true sense of compassion for a patient.

Great people motivate us. It's what His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, does—and it's what Dr. Terry continues to do through the many words of wisdom he shared with those of us lucky enough to have known him.

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





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Making a Mark: NSU-COM Shines at HPD Research Day

In February, the Health Professions Division coordinated its second Research Day, which attracted an estimated 2,600 live and video-conference attendees to the HPD campus and featured 98 poster and platform presentations. NSU-COM students and faculty members contributed 17 oral and 15 poster presentations to the event.



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NSU-COM Answers the Call for Help in Haiti

From collecting and donating clothes, food, money, and medical supplies to making humanitarian trips to Haiti, NSU-COM alumni, students, faculty members, staff members, and administrators have stepped up to the plate to aid victims of the earthquake-ravaged region.



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Dr. Brian Cross Recounts Emotional Experience in Haiti

As the world responded to the catastrophic earthquake by providing various sorts of support, myriad medical personnel, including Dr. Brian J. Cross, also mobilized to do their part in the humanitarian outreach effort by traveling to Haiti to offer their surgical skills to the battered populace.



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Cadavers Serve Vital Role in Student Training

Before the introduction of cutting-edge teaching tools such as simulated patients, human cadavers were considered the best way for medical students to gain a hands-on perspective of the human anatomy. Although cadaver use in medical training has been the norm for centuries, it remains a touchy—and sometimes taboo—subject.



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Student Recruiting Strategy Undergoes Subtle Overhaul

When Sandra Pierce was hired as the NSU-COM recruiter in January 2008, she faced a daunting task in terms of convincing various doubters the college even required such a position. Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of Pierce and other dedicated individuals, the college's enhanced recruiting strategy is producing tangible results.

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Notice of Accreditation/Nondiscrimination

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

GREAT GEC Wins Florida Health Department Award

In December, the college's Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) was named the winner of the inaugural Florida State Surgeon General Health Innovation, Prevention, and Management Awards in the faith-based and/or community-based initiatives category. The center was honored for providing wellness and disease prevention as well as advocating healthy lifestyles.



"The recognition of the GREAT GEC by Florida's surgeon general, Dr. Ana M. Viamonte Ros, is truly an honor," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., who serves as GREAT GEC executive director. "This is so significant to the center and to the College of Osteopathic Medicine because the inaugural Surgeon General Awards recognized the efforts of our GEC, which are focused on a group of people that are so significant to Florida—our elders. In addition, it provides for the center the added incentive to continue its work in educating future interdisciplinary professionals to enter the geriatrics profession and to integrate innovative, patient-centered health care to elders, with an emphasis on health promotions and disease prevention."

The Health Innovation, Prevention, and Management Awards were created to honor organizations, businesses, and programs that are innovative in bringing preventative health care to their members, employees, or community.

Colton Receives CASE Excellence in Feature Writing Award



Scott Colton, who serves as director of medical communications, received a Special Merit Award in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) III Awards Program in the Excellence in Feature Writing category. Colton's winning article, which was featured in the spring 2009 issue of *COM Outlook*, was titled "Miracle on the Hudson: Alberto Panero Rides a Wave of Emotions Following Watery Plane Crash." Colton received his award at a ceremony held February 23 at the CASE III Conference awards dinner, which took place at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina in Tampa, Florida.

Over 550 universities and colleges in the southeastern United States (including NSU) are members of CASE, which is an international professional association serving educational institutions and the advancement professionals who work on their behalf in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing, and allied areas. There are eight CASE districts in the United States, including District III, which comprises the southeastern United States.

Students Support Fight for Clean Air Climb



On December 5, several OMS-1 students joined forces with the American Lung Association to support the Fight for Clean Air Climb in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Student volunteers cheered on over 500 participants, including over 200 South Florida firefighters, who climbed 539 steps at the landmark 110 Tower building. Event proceeds were funneled directly into education and research to promote lung health and prevent lung disease.

SNMA Members Earn Accolades



Pictured (from left) are OMS-III Sagir Bera, Audrea Vaughan, Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H. (SNMA faculty advisor), Poonam Mathur, and Inaki Bent.

On December 11, members of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) were presented with scholarships from the National Medical Association at its annual Holiday Gala and Scholarship Banquet. OMS-IV Audrea Vaughan was the recipient of the \$1,000 Dr. Dazelle Simpson Medical Student Scholarship for an essay she submitted proposing an education prevention program addressing the Healthy People 2010 objective to decrease irresponsible sexual behavior. OMS-IV Inaki Bent and OMS-III Poonam Mathur were each recipients of a \$500 Dr. Herbert Green Medical Student Scholarship for essays they submitted projecting their contribution to the future of medicine. The SNMA also received \$500 as winners of the Dr. John O. Brown National Medical Association Organizational Award, which will go toward the club's future endeavors.

Larkin Community Hospital in Miami, Florida, which is a member of NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, recently added a psychiatry residency to its postgraduate training program.

EMS Education and Training Department Provides Instruction to Altruistic Pilots



On January 9, the college's Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education and Training provided instruction to approximately 20 private South Florida pilots who are affiliated with an organization called Angel Flight, which is a nonprofit charitable organization of pilots, volunteers, and friends that arranges free air transportation for any legitimately charitable medically related need.

"I was told that since the pilots are transporting sick passengers, they really wanted to be best prepared in case of an emergency," said Kevin Nugent, REMT-P, who serves as the department's program director. "I offered to train them in the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and how to perform CPR just in case such an emergency arose."

After the pilots completed the four-hour program, which consisted of an American Heart Association Heartsaver© AED course, they were able to demonstrate proficiency in adult, child, and infant CPR and use of an AED and learned how to provide care for an adult, child, or infant choking victim. "The pilots were very pleased with the program," Nugent stated. "In fact, I have had several calls requesting that we train more of their pilots, which we are now scheduling."

Largo Medical Center Named as NSU-COM West Coast Academic Center

In January, Largo Medical Center was named as the West Coast Academic Center for NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Since its acquisition of Sun Coast Hospital, Largo Medical Center has operated a medical education program for medical students, residents, and fellows. The program provided training for 62 residents and 210 medical students in 2009.

"It is an honor and a privilege to provide medical education and training to the future doctors of America," said Ricky Satcher, chief executive officer of Largo Medical Center. "Our goal is to serve the medical needs of our community in an academic environment that strives for excellence and patient satisfaction. We welcome this opportunity to partner with Nova Southeastern University as its West Coast Academic Center."

Area Health Education Centers Update



The NSU-COM AHEC Program has been conducting a comprehensive analysis of medical and dental graduates from the Health Professions Division (and their affiliated residency programs) that have trained in AHEC sites and subsequently gone into practice in health professions shortage areas and safety net sites of Florida, as well as those who are providing health care services to the state's Medicaid patients. As of early 2010, AHEC had identified approximately 500 NSU-COM graduates who have gone into practice in federally designated health professional shortage areas within the state. This critically important work will continue to expand to also include graduates of NSU pharmacy, physician assistant, and optometry programs who have trained at AHEC sites and went into practice in underserved communities.

AHEC is collaborating with the HPD Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Dental Medicine, and Optometry as well as the College of Allied Health and Nursing's physician assistant and nursing programs to actively support multidisciplinary community-based student clinical training rotations in underserved areas throughout the region. During the past year, over 1,200 HPD students provided over 220,000 hours of services while on AHEC training in rural and urban areas in nearly 20 Florida counties.

The program teamed up with six NSU-COM residency programs affiliated with the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education to bring medical services to underserved communities. These include the family medicine residency programs at Palmetto General Hospital, Broward General Medical Center, Largo Medical Center, and Florida Hospital East Orlando; the pediatrics residency program at Palms West Hospital; and the preventive medicine residency program of the Palm Beach County Health Department. Through this collaboration, nearly 100 residents provided over 37,000 hours of medical services in underserved primary care sites in over a dozen rural and inner-city communities in South and Central Florida in the past year.

During the past nine years, nearly 3,700 NSU Health Professions Division students and approximately 130,000 school children in Broward County alone have been impacted through the AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Initiative. Faculty members and students from various HPD disciplines including osteopathic medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy, nursing, optometry, and public health, as well as faculty from the NSU Center for Psychological Studies, have participated in AHEC tobacco training efforts.

The AHEC Program collaborated with several NSU faculty members from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Center for Psychological Studies who possess expertise in the field of tobacco cessation and motivational interviewing to produce training materials. These materials will be used to train current and future health professionals at NSU AHEC-affiliated community colleges and universities throughout AHEC's extensive South and Central Florida service area on motivational interviewing strategies and U.S. Public Health Service guidelines for working with patients to reduce and prevent tobacco use.

During the first few months of 2010, AHEC sponsored tobacco cessation training workshops at events such as the 107th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention and the Florida Association of School Nurses 15th Annual Conference. These workshops were attended by an estimated 350 participants, who received training on "Motivational Interviewing" as well as the "2008 Public Health Service Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence" to enable them to more effectively assist their patients in moving toward quitting their use of tobacco.

SNMA Coordinates African American Recognition Luncheon

By OMS-II Rachel Pierre, SNMA President



Attendees at the luncheon included (from left): Kirk Latibeaudiere, president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association; Rachel Pierre (SNMA president); Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni; honorees Broderick Jones, M.D., Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H., and Bruce Peters, D.O.; Nina Rivera, Ph.D. (SNMA vice president); and Michelle Brucal (SNMA treasurer).

February is devoted to the recognition of black Americans of the past and present who have made significant contributions in our communities both locally and abroad. At NSU's Health Professions Division, we chose to celebrate Black History Month by acknowledging the African American faculty members who have made contributions to their respective fields of medicine through teaching. Their tireless efforts in and out of the classroom continue to leave a lasting impression on the entire student body on a yearly basis.

In honor of these exemplary faculty members, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) collaborated with

the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) to host a luncheon on February 10 in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room to commemorate African American faculty here at the Health Professions Division. To make this a truly multidisciplinary experience, myself and Kirk Latibeaudiere, SNPhA president, invited several other on-campus student organizations to take part in this spectacular event to pay tribute to the faculty members in their respective colleges.

Twelve faculty members from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Allied Health and Nursing, College of Medical Sciences, and College of Optometry were recognized for their contributions to the student body. With over 100 faculty members, students, and staff members present, the event turned out to be a great success.

The honorees were presented with certificates of appreciation by their students, who took the time to provide a personal account of how a specific professor made a difference in their academic careers. The NSU-COM faculty members who were honored at the luncheon included Dr. Broderick Jones (a College of Medical Sciences faculty member who teaches NSU-COM students), Dr. Cyril Blavo, Dr. Gary Hill, Dr. Bruce Peters, and our amazing advisor, Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts. Support staff members were also recognized for the imperative work they do behind the scenes daily.

The luncheon was a memorable event that was made possible through the cooperation of the Black Student Nurses Association, the National Optometric Student Association, the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, and the Student National Medical Association. The luncheon's success represents more than the commitment of the aforementioned student organizations: It serves as a testament to the impact we can make in our communities when health care disciplines collaborate. Professors devote their lives to teaching and mentoring students, and many have a tremendous impact on us. Unfortunately, some professors go their entire careers and never hear a simple "Thank you." We wanted to change that.

COSGP Convened at NSU-COM

In January, the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) assembled at NSU-COM for its quarterly meeting, where agenda items discussed included leadership training, school-related issues, and debates of proposed resolutions. Several speakers presented on issues of interest to medical students, including Tyler Cymet, D.O., vice president for medical education at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, and Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc., NSU-COM executive associate dean. During the meeting, the council members voted on a new oath that is to be taken at the beginning of each meeting, which underlines the purpose of the COSGP. The new oath can be accessed at www.cosgp.aacom.org.

Each year at the winter meeting, the COSGP highlights the importance of community service and sets an example for students at their home schools by participating in a service project. This year, the COSGP members splintered off to do two projects. Approximately 40 members of the council

participated in a beach cleanup and exotic plant excavation at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale, while an additional 20 members went to the Ronald McDonald House affiliated with Broward General Medical Center to cook and serve breakfast to the families in residence.



COMmunications

■ On February 17, Larry Wickless, D.O., president of the American Osteopathic Association, visited NSU-COM to meet with students and faculty members and discuss issues of importance relating to the osteopathic medical profession such as the ongoing health care reform legislative process.



Pictured (from left) are: Lawrence Jacobson, D.O., vice dean; Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni; Dr. Larry Wickless; Howard Neer, D.O., associate dean for alumni affairs; Stephen Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., AHEC director and associate dean for community affairs; and Pablo Calzada, D.O., assistant dean of clinical operations and graduate education.

■ According to a recent poll conducted on the Student Doctor Network (*studentdoctor.net*), NSU-COM ranked first among applicants as the *Top Choice D.O. School* in the nation, earning 14.81 percent of the vote. The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine campus in Pennsylvania came in second at 9.26 percent.

Biomedical Informatics Program Launches Student/Alumni Network



On January 23, The Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I) program, which was established in 2006, launched its Student/Alumni Network (SAN). The network's mission includes sharing health care educational experience, facilitating member interaction with the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), increasing the visibility of NSU's

M.S.B.I. program, and creating partnerships with local health care organizations.

As the program's SAN develops, the goal is to serve as a valuable resource for current students and alumni. The network's second meeting, held February 6, featured a presentation from Jim McKeen, president of the HIMSS South Florida chapter, who discussed the network's strengths, interests, and future with the HIMSS Student Alliance. Also on the agenda was the creation of three subcommittees, which will provide several avenues for all members to be involved in any capacity, from any location. For additional information, please contact Josean Malcolm at josean@nova.edu.

NSU-COM Collaboration with Slovakia Reaps Educational Dividends



Pictured (from left) are: Anthony DeNapoli, Ed.D., dean of international affairs at NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services; Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of education, planning, and research; Dr. Peter Labas; Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., NSU chancellor; Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., NSU-COM dean; George Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president; and Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., executive director of education, planning, and research and Slovak Honorary Consul for Florida.

In February, Peter Labas, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, spent five days meeting with administration and faculty at NSU and the College of Osteopathic Medicine to further develop and actualize the collaboration agreement NSU-COM has with Comenius University. The first initiatives will focus on student and faculty exchanges, online course and program offerings from NSU-COM to Slovakia, faculty research, and collaborative grant initiatives.

This summer, Andrew Mariassy, Ph.D., who serves as professor of anatomy and assistant professor of public health, will be spending his sabbatical at Comenius University. In addition, three medical students from Slovakia will be coming to NSU-COM, and it is hoped that two NSU-COM students will be able to spend one or two months in Slovakia.

Interprofessional Grand Rounds

In the spirit of interprofessional collegiality, NSU-COM and the NSU College of Dental Medicine joined forces to cosponsor a series of noontime grand rounds featuring relevant topics for the primary care physician and dentist. The idea originated during discussions between Abby Brodie, D.M.D., associate professor and assistant dean of curriculum and educational affairs at the dental college, and Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, NSU-COM assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency. Dr. Brodie and Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., NSU-COM assistant professor and medical education specialist, then coordinated a series of six presentations for the 2009-10 academic year on topics of interest to both medical and dental practitioners. The six topics are as follows:

- Bleeding Disorders: Patient Considerations for the Medical and Dental Practitioner
- Infective Endocarditis: Update and Clinical Implications
- Orofacial Sports Injuries: Interdisciplinary Approach to Prevention and Management
- HPV Update: Considerations for the Medical and Dental Practitioner
- Addiction to Prescription Medications: The Role of the Physician and Dentist
- The HIV Patient: A Team Approach to Health Care



Pictured at the awards ceremony (from left) are Linda Delo, D.O., FOMA president and 1986 NSU-COM alumnae, Austin Bach, Allison Moore, Ryan Cantville, and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.

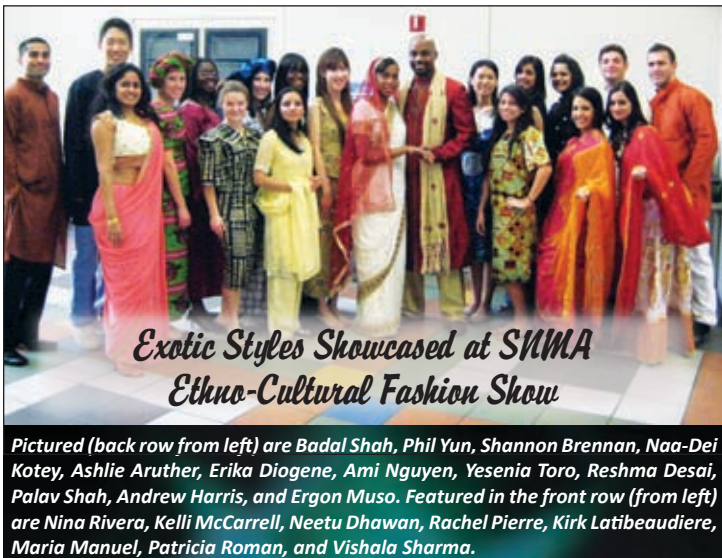
During the 107th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention, held February 18-21 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, a number of NSU-COM students were honored with various awards.

Winners of the FOMA Student Awards, which are presented each year to a first- and second-year NSU-COM student, were

Austin Bach (OMS-I), who received a \$300 cash award, and Allison Moore (OMS-II), who received a \$500 cash award. The FOMA Student Awards are based on criteria such as possessing leadership skills, supporting FOMA student district society initiatives, and showcasing significant interest in the osteopathic profession and osteopathic manipulative medicine.

OMS-III Ryan Cantville, who was the recipient of a FOMA Student Award in 2009, received the FOMA Seltzer Legislative and Healthcare Policy Award, which is accompanied by a \$250 cash prize. The Seltzer Award is presented to a student of good standing in the FOMA Student District Society at NSU-COM who possesses significant interest in the legislative process in the state of Florida, is politically active, possesses leadership qualities, and supports FOMA Legislative Committee initiatives.

In addition, OMS-III Christina Bergeron, who completed a core rotation at Florida Hospital East Orlando, received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Osteopathic Foundation of East Orlando for demonstrating excellence in leadership and academics. The scholarship is awarded to third-year core medical students from NSU-COM based on criteria such as exemplary grade-point average, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and curriculum vitae.



Pictured (back row from left) are Badal Shah, Phil Yun, Shannon Brennan, Naa-Dei Kotey, Ashlie Aruther, Erika Diogene, Ami Nguyen, Yesenia Toro, Reshma Desai, Palav Shah, Andrew Harris, and Ergon Muso. Featured in the front row (from left) are Nina Rivera, Kelli McCarrell, Neetu Dhawan, Rachel Pierre, Kirk Latibeaudiere, Maria Manuel, Patricia Roman, and Vishala Sharma.

On February 15, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) presented its Second Annual Ethno-Cultural Fashion Show in front of the HPD Library. The fashion show is an integral part of the Black History Month events the SNMA hosts to celebrate the achievements of African Americans throughout history. Staff and students of all disciplines within the Health Professions Division participated in the event, which allowed bystanders to witness traditional African American and Indian dresses modeled by a diverse group of students.

The attire included vibrant colors, beading, trim design, and authentic hand-stitched garments. The mistress of ceremonies and director of the event, OMS-II Nina Rivera, Ph.D, represented her Indian culture while wearing a traditional, elegant peach sari with gem-and-sequence details. The fashion show finale included SNMA President Rachel Pierre and Kirk Latibeaudiere wearing traditional Indian wedding garments.

Student Government Association Report

By Lindsay LaCorte, SGA President and OPP Fellow

The winter term is almost over, and I hope you are recovering from the cold and managing the stresses of medical school. For the OMS-1s, you are almost done with your first year, so have a safe and rejuvenating summer break. For the OMS-IIs preparing for board exams, I wish you good luck. I know you will all do well. For the OMS-III, good luck setting up electives and deciding what you want to do with your lives. For the OMS-IVs preparing to graduate and begin your medical careers, congratulations! We are so proud of you.

Your SGA has been busy, as usual, working to make your student experience the best it can be. Here are some of the projects we have been working on:

Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents

NSU-COM had the pleasure of hosting the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) Winter Quarterly Meeting. The meeting was a huge success, and we got to show off all the great things about our school to osteopathic medical students from around the country.

Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health

This year's TOUCH program has been completed and names were submitted to the Council of Student Government Presidents. These students will be recognized at the AOA House of Delegates in July 2010. The SGA will be distributing TOUCH pins to students at our TOUCH wrap-up event at the Fort Lauderdale Ronald McDonald House on April 22, 2010.

Student Organization Elections and Transitions

The SGA is currently working diligently to prepare our student organizations for the 2010-11 academic year. Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers. We look forward to working with you and helping your organizations grow.

Clubs of the Month

December – Christian Medical and Dental Association

January – Student National Medical Association and Rural Medicine Club

February – Sigma Sigma Phi

Making a Mark: NSU-COM Shines at HPD Research Day

When the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) held its inaugural Research Day in the spring of 2008, its comprehensive success ensured the event would become an enduring educational showcase for all six HPD colleges. On February 12, 2010, the Health Professions Division coordinated its second Research Day, which attracted an estimated 2,600 live and video-conference attendees to the HPD campus and featured 98 poster and platform presentations.

The event, which is coordinated by Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., HPD executive director of assessment, evaluation, and faculty development, and Kathleen Hagen, M.M., HPD director of faculty development, allows the six HPD colleges to spotlight the various research projects that are germinating through the creativity of their faculty members, students, and collaborative partners. According to Dr. Hardigan, Research Day is a win-win situation for all involved because it “helps us promote our research by presenting what the faculty does and showing it to the students. Many of our students go to class and leave without understanding that what they’re being taught is also what many of the faculty members are doing in the HPD labs, which is staying up-to-date in their own research,” he explained. “Research Day serves as a perfect venue to address this, which is something we’re extremely happy about.”

As was the case in 2008, the College of Osteopathic Medicine played an integral role in the event, with Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., associate professor in the Master of Public Health Program, and Eric Shamus, Ph.D., M.S., associate professor of sports medicine, serving as the point people for all NSU-COM-related oral and poster presentations. In all, NSU-COM students and faculty



members contributed 17 oral and 15 poster presentations to the event—the most of any HPD college.

Because most health professionals hope to become clinicians once they complete their various educational requirements, Hagen sees added value in coordinating such a vital research event every two years. “Most students are working toward becoming clinicians, but if they have a chance to learn about this other area they can get into and broaden their horizons, I hope we can play a role in nurturing a new generation of researchers,” she explained. “They just need the exposure to see how it’s done and how to pursue the research path if that’s something that interests them.”

“There are not enough physicians doing research today, especially D.O.s, so if we could inspire some of our students to pursue a research career, that would be a great outcome,” Dr. Hardigan said. “If even one or two students gain an interest in doing research based on what they learned during Research Day, we’ve accomplished our mission.”

Student Awards

Seven NSU-COM students earned HPD Research Day awards—as well as \$100 Barnes & Noble gift cards—for their stellar work:

Jakub Bartnik (OMS-III) – Platform Presentation

Hilary Gerber (predoctoral research fellow) – Platform Presentation

Preetam Gongidi (OMS-III) – Platform Presentation

Marlow Hernandez (OMS-III) – Platform Presentation

Heather Ruff (predoctoral research fellow) – Platform Presentation

James Sierakowski (OMS-III) – Platform Presentation

Maryanne Samuel (OMS-IV) – Poster Presentation



Dr. Fred Lippman and Dr. George Hanbury share a smile at HPD Research Day.

Platform Presentations

"Addressing Medical Management of Obese and Overweight Pediatric Patients in Palm Beach County Health Department (PBCHD) Clinics"

Samantha Alford, M.D. (PGY-3), Marsha Fishbane, M.D., Ph.D., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Surviving a Delayed Transdiaphragmatic Hepatic Rupture Complicated by an Acute Superior Vena and Thoracic Compartment Syndrome"

Jakub Bartnik (OMS-III), M.W. Parra, E.B. Rodas, and I. Puentes

"Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Awareness Survey for At-Risk African American Women"

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M. Marlow Hernández (OMS-III), and Edward Stephenson, M.P.H.

"Motion-Testing Palpation Using a Spring Model in Second-Year Osteopathic Medical Students"

David Boesler, D.O., Yasmin Qureshi, D.P.T., Ingrid Rachinski (OPP fellow), and Kati Rivera (OPP fellow)

"Myers Briggs Type Indicator: Applications for Teaching and Learning in the Health Professions"

Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.

"The Knowledge and Attitudes of Labor Interventions (KALI) Project"

G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., Hilary Gerber (predoctoral research fellow), M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A., Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., and Heather Ruff (predoctoral research fellow)

"Are We Bringing HIV Testing to the Forefront of Routine Patient Care?"

Preetam Gongidi, M.H.S. (OMS-III), James Sierakowski (OMS-III), G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., and M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A.

"Acquisition of MRSA Through Sexual Transmission and Treatment of Carrier Status: A Case Report"

Yana Gofman (OMS-III), Marlow Hernández (OMS-III), and George Termotto, M.D.

"Use of Latent Class Analysis to Risk Stratify Clinically Depressed Patients: An Evaluation Using Clinical and Biological Markers"

Marlow Hernández (OMS-III), Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O., Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., and Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.

"Drowning and Prevention"

Deborah Mulligan, M.D.

"Childhood Brain Tumors in the Acreage: A Potential Cancer Cluster in Palm Beach County, Florida"

Pedro Oyuela, M.D. (PGY-3), Alina Alonso, M.D., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Project HOPE: Survey of South Florida Residents' Knowledge and Opinions on End-of-Life Issues"

Heather Ruff (predoctoral research fellow), M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A., G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., Robin Jacobs, Ph.D., and Hilary Gerber (predoctoral research fellow)

"Complication with the Flu Vaccine, Injection Technique: Case Study"

Eric Shamus, Ph.D., Angela Garcia, Pharm.D., and Andrew Kusienski, D.O.

"Normative Data for Female Division II Rowers on Adjusted 5K Score Times"

Eric Shamus, Ph.D., Stephanie Chivers, M.S., Anthony Esposito (OMS-III), Alex Kendig (OMS-III), and John Gartin, M.A.

"Young Hispanic Heterosexual Men in South Florida Need HIV Testing, Too!"

James Sierakowski (OMS-III), Preetam Gongidi, M.H.S. (OMS-III), G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., Robin Jacobs, Ph.D., and M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A.

"Prognostic Factors for the Risky Behaviors of High School Students That Can Lead to the Leading Causes of Death Among Youths and Tomorrow's Adults"

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"The Gender Difference in the Specialty Choice Among Osteopathic Medicine Physicians in the United States"

Xinhua Yu, M.D., Ph.D., Jon Dodds, Ph.D., and Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M.

Poster Presentations

"Frequencies of Negative Cultures in Clients Treated with Antibiotics for Suspected Chlamydia or Gonorrhea"

Belma Andric, M.D., M.P.H., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Integrating Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment into Patient Management: A Case-Based Approach to Resident Instruction and Assessment"

Barbara Arcos, D.O., and Janet Hamstra, Ed.D.

"Physician Views on Physical Activity and its Impacts on Their Patients' Physical Fitness Level"

Delali Blavo (OMS-III) and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Mechanism of Shoulder Wristitis with Wrist Tennis—A Biomechanical and EMG Analysis"

M. Samuel Cheng, Sc.D., Cheryl Hill, Ph.D., Heather McCarthy, D.O., and Rebecca Huff (D.P.T. student)

"Baseline Neuro-Cognitive Functioning in a University Athletic Department"

Chelita DuBois, M.S., M.Ed., David Ritchie, M.A., Susana Quintana Marikle, M.S., Andrea Wharton, M.S., Viviana Galindo, B.S., David Scarisbrick, B.S., and Stephen A. Russo, Ph.D.

"Hemodynamic Consequence of Interventional Cardiac Catheterization in the Early Postoperative Period After Congenital Heart Surgery"

D.E. Eason, D.O., D.M. Khan, M.D., A.F. Rossi, M.D., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Treatment of Infected Teeth and its Affect on the Glycemic Control in Patients with Type II Diabetes"

Marina Kulick, M.D., M.P.H., Philippe Bilger, D.D.S., M.P.H., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Public Views and Behavior on Breast Cancer Screening Exams"

Neha Kumar (OMS-IV), Mehul Shah (OMS-IV), and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"The Broward County Collaborative to Reduce the Use of Substances, HIV, and Hepatitis (CRUSH) Evaluation Experience: Years 1-3"

Deborah Mulligan, M.D.

"Linking Academia and Home-Based Social Services to Assist Low-Income Seniors: A Senior Intervention and Education Program"

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, Gail Gannotta, LPN, and Jessica De Leon, Ph.D.

"Impact of Training on Administration and Interpretation of PPD Testing"

Claudia Giovannelli Porrata, M.D., M.P.H., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Testing if Parents are Making Healthy Nutritional Choices for Their Infants and Toddlers"

Rania Radwan (M.P.H. student) and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Gonadal Vein Injury"

Maryanne Samuel (OMS-IV) and E.B. Rodas, M.D.

"Implementing a Test-and-Treat Program for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in a Public Health Clinic Setting"

Joanna Drowos, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.

"The Determinants of the Distribution of Osteopathic Medicine Physicians in the United States"

Xinhua Yu, M.D., Ph.D., Jon Dodds, Ph.D., and Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M.





Dr. Foster

Dr. Hasty

Dr. Jacobs

Dr. Levy

Dr. Pandya

Dr. Snyder

Dr. Suci

Sandra Bertman, Ph.D., clinical associate professor of psychiatry and a distinguished professor of thanatology and arts at the National Center for Death Education at Mount Ida College in Newton, Massachusetts, recently coauthored a book titled *One Breath Apart: Facing Dissection*.

Rosebud L. Foster, Ed.D., M.S.N., professor of public health, special assistant to the HPD chancellor, and deputy director of the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, gave an oral and poster presentation at the American Public Health Association's 137th Annual Meeting and Exposition last November in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The oral presentation was titled "Health Care Professionals' Roles in Tobacco Cessation," while the poster presentation was titled "Implementation of Statewide Tobacco Training and Cessation in Prevention Through Collaborative Education and Service Linkages in Florida." Contributors to the presentation were: **Steven B. Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.**, associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director; **Steve Bronsborg, M.H.S.A., M.S.**, assistant director, tobacco program; and **Gustavo Saldias, M.P.H.**, associate director, AHEC Program.

Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency, had his article titled "Clinical Application of National Psoriasis Foundation Findings for Management of Psoriasis in Patients with Coexisting Hepatitis C Infection" published in the winter 2009 issue of *Psoriasis Forum*. In addition, he was named to the 2009 AOA Mentor Hall of Fame and provided a lecture on January 17 titled "Retinal Vascular Disease and Related Systemic Disorders: A Grand Rounds Approach" at the Broward County Optometric Association's 26th Annual Gold Coast Educational Retreat held at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale.

Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., assistant professor of preventive medicine in the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, served as lead author on the article titled "Factors Associated with Risk for Unprotected Receptive and Insertive Anal Intercourse in Men Aged 40 and Older Who Have Sex with Men" that was accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *AIDS Care: Psychological and Socio-medical Aspects of AIDS/HIV*. Dr. Jacobs coauthored the article with **M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A.**, **Raymond L. Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, **G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H.**, and **Patrick C. Hardigan, Ph.D.** She also coauthored an article titled "Predictors of the Importance of Spiritual and Religious Beliefs Among University Students" that appeared in the *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought*.

Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor and associate dean of education, planning, and research, and **Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**, executive director of education, planning, and research and project director of NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards

Preparedness, presented lectures at the Public Health Preparedness Summit held February 16-19 in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Levy discussed the topic "A National Training Model for Medical Reserve Corps," while Dr. Rokusek addressed the issue of "College and University Preparedness: An Interdisciplinary Campuswide Model Approach—Lessons Learned and Recommendations."

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, recorded an audio conference CME series on "Management of Chronic Constipation in Your Facility." She also provided lectures at North Shore Medical Center in Miami on "Management of Hyperglycemia in Frail Seniors" and in Hialeah to Palmetto General Hospital family medicine and internal medicine residents on "Acute Care of the Elderly." Dr. Pandya, who was recently elected to the board of the Florida American Federation of Aging Research, also participated in a professional development program for the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs. In addition, she had her article titled "Management of Diabetes in Long-Term Care Facilities: Benefits of Switching from Human Insulin to Insulin Analogs" published in the March issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*.

Robert Rosenstein M.D., FACC, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, had his response letter about the article "Biomarkers for Prediction of Cardiovascular Events" published in *JAMA—the Journal of the American Medical Association*. He also had his response letter on the article titled "Ticagrelor Versus Clopidogrel in Acute Coronary Syndromes" published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Glenn R. Singer, M.D., FACP, FCCP, FAASM, who serves as clinical professor of internal medicine, medical director of the Sleep Disorder Center at Broward General Medical Center and Broward Health's Weston Regional HealthPark, and associate director of medical education at Broward General, had his article titled "A Better Night's Sleep Can Help Diabetes" published on the Destination Diabetes Web site.

Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, had his book chapter on the topic "Glomerulonephritis" published in an online reference created by the medical publisher Wiley Blackwell called *essentialevidenceplus.com*.

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., associate professor of public health, was elected chair of the NSU-COM Preventive Medicine Residency Program's Research Oversight Committee at the Palm Beach County Health Department. He is serving as a peer reviewer for both the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* and received recognition for his cancer research from the National Cancer Institute, Cancer Information Service.

Staff/Student News

CMS-I Kristopher Kline had his research presented at the 2010 Biophysical Society 54th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, this past February. His coauthored project titled "Effect of Temperature on the Rates of Ca²⁺ Dissociation and Cross-Bridge Detachment in Cardiac Myofibrils Reported by Troponin C" was conducted with The Ohio State University Medical Center. Kline also served as coauthor of a paper currently being approved for publication in the *American Journal of Physiology - Cell Physiology* entitled "Effect of Ca²⁺ Binding Properties of TnC on the Rate of Skeletal Muscle Tension Redevelopment."

CMS-III Marlow Hernandez had his response letter to the article titled "The D.O. Difference: An Analysis of Causal Relationships Affecting the Degree-Change Debate" published in the January issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA)*. He also served as lead author of an article titled "The Osteopathic Physician and End-of-Life Care" that appeared in the January 2010 issue of the *Osteopathic Family Physician*, which is the official publication of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. Hernandez coauthored the article with **Susan Ledbetter, D.O., Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.**, and third-year students **Robinson Trevil** and **Candace White, M.S.**

Second-year students Jaclynn Moskow Rosenthal and Emily Young were selected to participate in the college's 2010-11 Predoctoral Research Fellowship Program. During their fellowship year, which will commence on July 1, 2010, Rosenthal and Young will have the opportunity to develop an individualized training program, engage in all aspects of the research process, and collaborate with others involved in the research field.

Mae Taylor, assistant to the vice dean, who is pursuing her master's degree in marine biology from NSU's Oceanographic Center, co-presented two research projects during the first few months of 2010: "Internal Parasites of Selected Mesopelagic Teleosts in the Offshore Tropical Western North Atlantic Ocean" at the American Fisheries Society Florida Chapter Meeting in Ocala and "Spiral Valve Parasites of Selected Tropical Pelagic Elasmobranchs from the Western North Atlantic Ocean" at the Florida Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting in Fort Pierce.

FOMA Convention Faculty Presentations

A number of full-time faculty members made presentations at the 107th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention, which was held February 18-21 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston. They are:

Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.
"Pediatric Immunizations Update"

Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI
"Professional and Medical Ethics"

Susan Ledbetter, D.O.
"Pain Control at the End of Life"

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD
"Acute Care for the Elderly" and "Disorders of Sodium Metabolism"

Andrea Sciberras, D.O.
"Acquired MRSA: An Emerging Epidemic"

Faculty Members Honored at External Funding Recognition Reception

On December 16, six NSU-COM faculty members were honored for their research efforts at the NSU Office of Research and Technology Transfer's inaugural External Research Funding Recognition Reception, which was held in the university's Faculty Club. Thanks to the efforts of the following individuals, millions of dollars in national grant funding has been received to enhance or create various programs and projects.

M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A.

Director, Behavioral Health Promotion Program/Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

"Young Hispanic Men 'Entre Culturas': Navigating Culture, Identity, and HIV Risk"
Funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research

"Proyecto SOL: A Risk Reduction Intervention for HSMH"
Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"Leadership Group for Adolescent Medicine Trials Network"
Funded by the National Institutes of Health

"Project POWER: A Health Promotion and HIV Risk Reduction for Black Men"
Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"Cyber Mentors: A Sustainable Model for Developing Minority HIV Researchers"
Funded by the National Institutes of Health

Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI

Program Director, Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program/Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

"ROCKET AF: A Prospective, Randomized, Double-Blind, Double-Dummy, Parallel-Group, Multicenter, Event-Driven, Non-Inferiority Study Comparing the Efficacy and Safety of Once Daily Oral Rivaroxaban with Adjusted-Dose Oral Warfarin for the Prevention of Stroke and Non-Central Nervous System Systemic Embolism in Subjects with Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation"
Funded by Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOG

Director of the NSU Women's Health Center/Associate Professor of OB/GYN

"A 12-Month, Open Label, Safety Trial of Flibanserin 50mg to 100mg Daily in Women with Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder"
Funded by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals

"A Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo and Active-Controlled Efficacy and Safety Study of the Effects of Bazedoxifene/Conjugated Estrogens Combinations on Endometrial Hyperplasia and Prevention of Osteoporosis in Postmenopausal Women"
Funded by Wyeth

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

Associate Dean of Education, Planning, and Research/Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

"Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness"
Funded by the U.S. Public Health Service/Health Resources and Services Administration

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.

Director of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program/Professor of Internal Medicine and Public Health

"Study of Rehabilitation and Wellness Programs for People Living with Multiple Sclerosis"
Funded by the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

Raymond Ounby M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.

Chair of the Department of Psychiatry/Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health

"ARRA: An Automated, Tailored Information Application for Medication Health Literacy"
Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health



Dr. Fernandez

Dr. Hasty

Dr. Johnson

Dr. Levy

Dr. Lou

Dr. Ounby

Student Medical Center Involved in H1N1 Research Project

The Student Medical Center, which is overseen by Sandi-Scott-Holman, D.O., is involved with an H1N1 research project in conjunction with the American College Health Association (ACHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which involves the center sending in data weekly to the national database.

With preliminary epidemiologic data on novel H1N1 flu suggesting significant risk among those in the college setting, ACHA deemed it epidemiologically valuable to identify disease burden and population-based attack rates of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) on college campuses. As a result, ACHA undertook an effort to enlist—on a voluntary basis—interested institutions of higher education such as NSU to submit data on a weekly basis regarding the number of new cases of ILI. New ILI cases reported include those seen in the student health service, those triaged over the phone by a health care professional but simply told to self-isolate and not be seen in the health service, and those known by the health service to have been seen in a local emergency department or urgent care center.

HPERS Presentations

Several NSU-COM faculty/staff members presented platform and/or poster presentations at the third installment of the Health Professions Educational Research Symposium (HPERS), which was coordinated by the NSU Institute for Educational Research in the Health Professions and held January 16 at NSU's Health Professions Division. The symposium's purpose is to provide a dynamic forum to engage faculty from across the nation in a dialogue about educational research and the scholarship of teaching in the health professions.

"Integration of Electronic Medical Records into Nursing Simulation Lab"

Elizabeth Oviawe, M.Sc., M.M.I.S.

"Enhancing Geriatrics Rotation Training Through the Use of WebCT"

Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed., and Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD

"Using Technology for Student Remediation"

Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed., Bart Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A., and Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.

New Grant Awards

"Production of the Journal of Invitational Theory and Practice"

Received by **Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.**, associate professor and vice chair of the Department of Psychiatry, from the *International Alliance for Invitational Education*

Received amount: \$4,000

"Fitness Initiative for Senior Health"

Received by **Deborah Mulligan, M.D.**, clinical professor of pediatrics/director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, from the *Health Foundation of South Florida, Inc.*

Received amount: \$69,000

Recently Submitted Grant Proposals

"The Learning Effects of Motion Testing Palpation Using a Spring Model in Second-Year Osteopathic Medical Students"

Submitted by **David Boesler, D.O.**, Chair of the Department of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine, to the *American Osteopathic Association*

Requested amount: \$10,000

"PROJECT: SEAMIST"

Submitted by **Kelley Davis, Ph.D.**, associate professor of medical sciences and public health, to the *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*

Requested amount: \$3,729,977

"Reducing Maternal and Infant Death from Tetanus in Ghana"

Submitted by **Jessica De Leon, Ph.D.**, associate executive director of the Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC), to the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

Requested amount: \$66,448

"Addressing Mental Health Disparities Among Older Latinos: A Qualitative Exploration of Patient, Provider, and System Barriers to Treatment for Depression"

Submitted by **Jessica De Leon, Ph.D.**, associate executive director of the Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC), to the *Brookdale Foundation Group*

Requested amount: \$134,548

"Effects of Health Literacy on Health Disparities in HIV Clinical Outcomes"

Submitted by **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, chair of the Department of Psychiatry, to the *University of Miami*

Requested amount: \$26,899

"The South Florida Caregiving Research Collaboration (SFCRC)"

Submitted by **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, chair of the Department of Geriatrics, to the *National Institutes of Health*

Requested amount: \$999,949

"Teaching Self-Examination to Roma Women in the Slovak Republic"

Submitted by **Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**, executive director of education, planning, and research, to the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

Requested amount: \$78,685

"Southern Region Biomedical Information and Curriculum Education Center"

Submitted by **Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.S.**, director of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program, to the *Office of the National Coordinator*

Requested amount: \$2,720,000

"HIT: A Health Care Information and Technology Response"

Submitted by **Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.S.**, director of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program, to the *Office of the National Coordinator*

Requested amount: \$3,709,150

"SOL-II: An Internet-Based Group Intervention for HIV+ Hispanic MSM"

Submitted by **M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A.**, director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, to the *National Institutes of Health*

Requested amount: \$589,838

Survey Gauges Users' Opinions of HPD Library

By Lynne Joshi, M.S., M.L.I.S., HPD Reference Librarian and Liaison to the College of Osteopathic Medicine/College of Medical Sciences

Over 400 patrons of the HPD Library recently rated the library in an online survey of services. In general, HPD library users appreciate their library a great deal. At the same time, there are aspects with which patrons are less satisfied and which need improvement.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents said they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their access to library resources. However, almost 10 percent noted they would like to see the library's Web site updated and made more intuitive for users. When asked what they liked best about the HPD Library, the library's resources was mentioned most frequently, followed by the study space the library provides and the convenience of having the library located in the Terry Building.

One of the most notable findings was patrons' high satisfaction with HPD Library staff: 95 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with reference staff competency, and 89 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the assistance they receive from the library circulation staff; 94 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with reference staff courtesy; and 85 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the courtesy of circulation staff members.

Kaye Robertson, M.L.S., HPD Library executive director, noted that, "Though these results are impressive, 5 and 11 percent of survey respondents said they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the assistance they receive from reference and circulation staff, and 6 and 15 percent feel that reference and circulation staff members are not always courteous. We're going to look at that very closely because that's a score we want to improve."

Extending the hours of library operation was most often suggested when respondents were asked what change they would most like to see in the library. In addition, patrons expressed a desire for more space in the library and noted that during certain times of the semester it is difficult to find a place to study.

The survey will form a baseline against which to measure customer satisfaction in future years. Library staff members have already met to discuss the survey and ways to improve some of the findings. As part of that effort, the HPD Library is embarking on an *excellence in customer service* initiative that will incorporate student, faculty, and staff suggestions into the library's future plans.

As part of the initiative, the library will soon be undergoing renovations to create a quieter area for studying and a separate learning commons area for students collaborating on projects. Students will also find additional seating available as the ongoing conversion of print materials to electronic resources continues to free up valuable floor space. Additional improvements will include open access to the reference

librarian office, a redesigned Web site, brighter lighting, temperate thermostat settings, and a new circulation desk featuring staff with nametags.

Over the next several months, staff members will continue to look for and implement improvements. "Among the ideas we've talked about are better ways to identify ourselves as staff members, and to make sure we ask patrons if they need help," said Bonnie DiGiallonardo, M.L.I.S., HPD reference librarian. "Whatever we do, we're committed to improving service to our patrons."

Others survey findings were as follows:

- 27 percent of the respondents were from the College of Allied Health and Nursing, followed closely by the College of Osteopathic Medicine at 26 percent, and the College of Pharmacy with 23 percent.
- 69.2 percent of the respondents were graduate students; 13.4 percent were faculty members; 10.3 percent were undergraduate students; 8.1 percent were staff members; and 1.7 percent were from administration.
- Almost 55 percent of the respondents indicate they visit the library daily or at least several times a week.

The 10-question survey was designed by library staff and, on February 8, a survey link was sent in a mass email mailing to each HPD student, faculty member, and staff member. A link to the survey also was available on the HPD Library home page from February 8-15. OMS-2 Katherine Peicher won the random drawing for a \$25 Visa gift card for participating in the survey.

"Overall, the library should be pleased with the positive assessment it received from its students and faculty regarding the services it provides and the responsiveness of its staff," Robertson concluded.



Katherine Peicher receives her survey participation gift card from Kaye Robertson.

Looking Back...at Our First Board



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

To establish an institution like Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), or any significant entity, it usually takes the combined brains of a number of people, some with large contributions, some with lesser amounts—but all important.

True, the driving force behind the decision and the execution of the dream of an osteopathic medical school in South Florida was

Morton Terry, D.O., FACOI, chairman of internal medicine at Osteopathic General Hospital (OGH), who talked about it when others laughed, even smirked. But persistence, dedication, and drive won everyone over. And SECOM was born in 1979.

But there were others—members of the team, if you will—whose dedication to the dream ensured success, whether their contributions were major or supportive. Basically, the same board that managed Osteopathic General Hospital was the team planning the new college, and naturally, the OGH board members became the initial SECOM Board of Governors.

The officers of that board were as follows:

Emil Todaro, D.O.

(board chair and surgeon at OGH)

Merwin Meck, D.O.

(board vice chair, executive secretary of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, and national osteopathic leader)

Morton J. Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOA, FACOS

(board secretary, local orthopedic surgeon, attorney, and rising star of medical education in the American Osteopathic Association)

Daniel M. Finkelstein, D.O.

(board treasurer and a radiologist at OGH)

Unfortunately, all of them are now deceased, but their good work continues.

Several other osteopathic physicians, whose names are listed below, were members of the first board as well:

Louis Lang III, D.O., who at that time served as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

Melvyn Rech, D.O., an orthopedic surgeon at OGH who became chief of staff

Marcelino Oliva, D.O., a general practitioner and future president of the American Osteopathic Association



Dr. Melnick with Marie Morris at the 2010 NSU-COM Annual Alumni Reunion banquet.

Morton T. Smith, D.O., an area medical officer of the U.S. Postal Service

Alan Snider, D.O., an outstanding general surgeon from Largo, Florida

B. Boyce Swartz, D.O., an orthopedic surgeon at OGH

Daniel Wisely, D.O., a prominent osteopathic physician

Completing the original board was **Royal Flagg Jonas, J.D.**, legal counsel to both the old and new boards, and, of course, Dr. Terry. Of that first board, only Mr. Jonas and Dr. Oliva are still serving on the present HPD Board of Governors.

These board members, while under the OGH aegis, voted to authorize the sale of OGH to American Medical International, Inc. (AMI)—a hospital corporation in Los Angeles—and to use the proceeds to support the establishment of SECOM. Shortly after the purchase was completed, two additions were made to the initial SECOM board: **U.J. Appel**, the founding president emeritus of AMI, and **Thomas D. Wilson, M.P.H.**, appointed by AMI as executive director of Southeastern Medical Center (the new name for the hospital).

Working together as a team, this group established—far beyond its dreams, I believe—the present magnificent institution. From this dream came SECOM, then Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, and then the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University—a health professions giant with six schools, multiple clinics and campuses, and far, far more than the 40 students in the original SECOM class. We eternally owe a tip of our hats and a tremendous THANK YOU to all these great gentlemen.



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



Dr. Arcos



Dr. Blavo



Dr. Bowen



Dr. De Gaetano



Dr. Hayden



Dr. Johnson



Dr. Lane

Barbara Arcos, D.O., assistant professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, served as the NSU-COM representative at the February 26-27 NBOME Level 1 Standard Setting Committee meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

Gyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was named as one of South Florida's Most Powerful Black Professionals for 2010 by *Success South Florida Magazine*. Dr. Blavo and the other honorees were recognized at a black-tie reception held March 12 at Crandon Golf in Key Biscayne.

G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., professor of preventive medicine/public health and assistant director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, was quoted in an article titled "Broward, Palm Beach Counties Score Well on Health Grades" that appeared in the February 16 edition of the *Chicago Tribune*.

Stephen Cina, M.D., clinical professor of pathology and program director of the NSU-COM Forensic Pathology Fellowship at the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office, was elected president of the Florida Association of Medical Examiners and began serving as chair of the Anatomic Pathology Cluster of the Council on Scientific Affairs of the College of American Pathologists.

Brian J. Cross, D.O., clinical assistant professor of orthopedic surgery and director of the Orthopedic Trauma Service at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, was recently featured on the nationally televised *Today* show regarding the care he provided a patient who suffered a severe pelvic fracture when he was intentionally run over in a parking space dispute. The assault, which was captured on a security camera, caught the attention of the *Today* show, which flew down to Fort Lauderdale to film the patient when he visited Dr. Cross for his first postoperative checkup.

Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FAAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and associate dean of clinical and graduate medical education, was appointed to the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Board of Trustees.

Anna Hayden, D.O., clinical associate professor of family medicine, was appointed to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine by Governor Charlie Crist. Her term began on January 26, 2010, and will conclude on October 31, 2013.

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of OB/GYN and director of the NSU Women's Health Center, was featured in an article titled "Vaccines During Pregnancy: An Interview with Kenneth E. Johnson, D.O." that was published in the February 2010 issue of *The Whole Patient*, which is a supplement to the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

Heidi A. Lane, Ed.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and director of patient-centered education, was appointed chair of the Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE) Standards of Practice Committee. The ASPE is the international organization for professionals in the field of standardized and simulated patient methodology and is dedicated to "professional growth and development of its members, advancement of SP research and related scholarly activities, setting standards of practice, and fostering patient-centered care."

Rakesh Mittal, M.D., clinical associate professor of pediatrics, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, and director of the pediatric ER at Palmetto General and Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach, appeared on NBC 6/WTWJ in Miramar last October to discuss "Safety for Children During Halloween." He also appeared on Miami's WSFL TV 39 news program in January to discuss autism and has been invited to write a weekly pediatrics blog for the *Miami Herald*.

Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, was quoted in an article titled "Haiti's Survival Stories No Shock to Experts" that appeared on the CNN Web site on January 21.

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, appeared on a recent episode of *Dateline Health* to discuss "Developmental Issues in Children." The program, hosted by HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman, is dedicated to promoting the community's overall health and wellbeing and covers a range of contemporary health issues through interviews with health care experts, researchers, and policymakers.

Heidi A. Pomm, Ph.D., clinical associate professor of family medicine and coordinator of the Behavioral Science Program affiliated with St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program in Jacksonville, Florida, was interviewed for several articles on "Decreasing Stress Around the Holidays" and "Adult ADHD: It's Not Just a Kid's Problem," that appeared in various issues of *Health Source* and the *Florida Times-Union*.

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., executive director of education, planning, and research and project director of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, was quoted in the January 6 issue of the *Miami Herald* in the article titled "Aid Bottleneck Slowly Easing" regarding relief efforts in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

Mark Sandhouse, D.O., associate professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, was appointed in January to a three-year term as coordinator of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners OPP/OMM Committee. He also was inducted into the AOA Mentor Hall of Fame, which is "dedicated to



Dr. Mulligan



Dr. Packer



Dr. Pomm



Dr. Sandhouse



Dr. Sciberras



Dr. Scott-Holman



Dr. Wallace

recognizing excellence in mentoring by those who serve or have served as trusted advisors to members of the osteopathic profession.”

Andrea Sciberras, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was named interim program director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Broward General Medical Center.

Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine and director of NSU’s Student Medical Center, appeared on NSU’s Radio X (88.5 FM) in February to talk about the Student Medical Center and the various services it offers. Topics discussed included background information on why the center was developed, areas the health care providers specialize in, insurance concerns, overview of common student visits, and student health tips.

Joel D. Stein, D.O., FAAO, FAOASM, FACOPF, clinical associate professor of family medicine, served as course director for the very

first AOA-approved CME course offered by the American Academy of Osteopathy in manipulation under anesthesia (MUA).

Drs. De Gaetano, Wallace Receive Promotions

Because the college continues to experience growth along with the complexity that comes with such expansion, NSU-COM announced the following administrative appointments in January:

Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc., who previously served as associate dean for academic administration, has been elevated to the position of executive associate dean. **Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FAAFP, FACOPF**, who previously served as assistant dean of clinical curriculum and graduate medical education, was promoted to the position of associate dean of clinical and graduate medical education.

Clinical Campus Spotlight



Since 1976, Florida Community Health Centers, Inc. (FCHC) has been a leader in Florida’s primary and preventive health care field. Comprehensive preventive and primary medical and dental care is provided through a network of nine health centers located in the cities of Clewiston, Indiantown, Okeechobee, Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, and Pahokee.

FCHC is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) consumer-directed health care delivery corporation, designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), that is accredited by the Joint Commission for Accreditation on Healthcare Organizations. FCHC was established to serve the medically vulnerable and farm-worker populations in the South Central Florida counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

In 2008, FCHC provided services to approximately 40,000 patients, who generated nearly 145,000 visits. FCHC’s corporate

office is centrally located in West Palm Beach and houses centralized purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, quality improvement, human resources, and other administrative functions. This allows each center to utilize its resources for providing medical and dental services to the community.

The clinical affiliation between Florida Community Health Centers and NSU-COM, which has been in existence for over 15 years, allows an average of 45 NSU-COM students to rotate through FCHC’s sites annually.

As previously mentioned, FCHC is Joint Commission accredited and has an affiliation with the Everglades AHEC to promote and provide continuing education opportunities to its professional staff. FCHC provides multispecialty services, including Ryan White HIV services and case management, adult and pediatric medicine, OB/GYN services, dental care, chronic disease management initiatives, and an extensive quality improvement/risk management program. In addition, FCHC serves as the continuity-of-care clinical rotation site for Palms West Hospital pediatric residents.

Because FCHC is so entrenched throughout the communities it serves, it has established a longstanding tradition of humanitarian outreach. Since the inception of the REACH Fair nine years ago, FCHC has participated in the annual event held in the cities of Belle Glade and Clewiston, which includes the planning and promotion of these events as well as providing medical professionals for the two-day fair and onsite staff to provide outreach and educational materials.

In November 2009, FCHC broke ground on a new pediatrics and dental center to meet the growing needs of Okeechobee County families. This new center is slated to open in the fall of 2010 and will provide expanded services as referenced above. In addition, FCHC’s innovative program called Health Benefit Navigators provides face-to-face bilingual application assistance to families applying for Medicaid, food stamps, Social Security, and other public assistance programs.

NSU-COM Answers the Call in Haiti

From collecting and donating clothes, food, money, and medical supplies to making humanitarian trips to Haiti, NSU-COM alumni, students, faculty members, staff members, and administrators have stepped up to the plate to aid victims of the earthquake-ravaged region. The following pages illustrate just how committed NSU-COM is to helping the devastated island nation recover from the grisly effects of this deadly natural disaster.

Raising Money for a Worthy Cause

On February 15, officers from the Rural Medicine Club (RMC) and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) presented a \$1,000 check to NSU President George Hanbury II, Ph.D., which is being donated to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund to benefit the beleaguered citizens of earthquake-ravaged Haiti. "As future leaders, the members of the Rural Medicine Club felt it was our responsibility to come together and collectively work to raise money and awareness about the catastrophe in Haiti," said Palav Shah, who serves as the club's president. "We decided to donate to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund through the recommendation of our advisor, Dr. James Howell, because we wanted 100 percent of the funds to go directly to Haiti, which is what this foundation has promised. Collaborating with the SNMA was an easy decision since it is one of the biggest service organizations on campus and does a spectacular job of representing minorities."



Attendees at the check presentation ceremony included (from left): Delia Celestine, M.P.H., assistant professor of public health and administrative director of the Department of Rural Medicine; Reshma Desai, RMC OMS-II representative; Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., NSU-COM dean; Palav Shah, RMC president; Rachel Pierre, SNMA president; George Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president; Badal Shah, RMC vice president; and Pallavi Luthra, RMC secretary.



OMS-IV Joy Kang Travels to Haiti

When OMS-IV Joy Kang was offered the opportunity to assist in the relief effort by traveling to Haiti from January 28 through February 3 with a 125-member team coordinated with the Come Over Ministry and Proyecto America, she didn't hesitate for a moment. Initially, Kang and her cohorts were located in the city of Jimani in the Dominican Republic, which is about an hour away from Port-au-Prince. However, due to restricted border hours, they were unable to efficiently deliver services to Haiti. "Everyone was dedicated to helping, so we all agreed to relocate to Haiti to enhance our efforts," Kang said. "While there, we worked at a refugee camp in Cite Soleil, which houses 4,500 affected Haitians from the neighboring areas and local homes near Port-au-Prince. Lack of time and disorder were definite challenges, but we were grateful to set up over 120 tents, provide warm food and sanitary supplies, and offer medical services to the affected Haitians."



The experience proved to be quite an eye-opening one for Kang, who was profoundly affected by what she witnessed during her time in Haiti. "As a fourth-year medical student, as a public health student, as a woman of faith, and as a fellow human being, I have learned so much about the needs of the global community around me," she explained. "I have been to different third-world countries in the past, but this experience has opened my eyes to see the desperation and the sorrow of people who have suffered through such a terrible disaster. As I look back on the trip, I wish I could have given more smiles and hugs to the Haitian people because, most of all, they need hope."



Dr. Brian Cross Recounts Emotional Experience in Earthquake-Stricken Haiti

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

On a day that will be forever etched in the memories of millions, if not billions, of people around the globe, a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010, decimating communities, claiming over 250,000 lives, and injuring countless others.

As the world responded to this profoundly catastrophic event by providing various sorts of support, myriad medical personnel, including Brian J. Cross, D.O., also mobilized to do their part in the humanitarian outreach effort by traveling to Haiti to offer their healing/surgical skills to the battered populace.

"It truly was a brutal assault on your emotions," said Dr. Cross, who used that simple statement to encapsulate his harrowing four-day experience in Haiti, where he served as an orthopedic trauma surgeon at the Project Medishare/ University of Miami (UM) Global Institute hospital situated on the grounds of the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince. Dr. Cross, who serves as an NSU-COM clinical assistant professor of orthopedic surgery and director of the Orthopedic Trauma Service at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, said the decision to travel to Haiti on January 22, was based on one basic human emotion — empathy. "I participated because I felt I could help. It was as simple as that."

Shock to the System

Making the decision to leave his wife Shelly and three-year-old daughter Casey was difficult enough. But as he prepared to board the chartered plane at Opa-locka Executive Airport, a sense of trepidation nearly overwhelmed him. "The most difficult moment was actually making the decision to get on the plane," he admitted. "You basically have no idea what you're getting into. There were reports on CNN of riots and unrest and armed citizens, so I had my concerns. But once you get on the plane, you're committed. You don't want to be a liability; you want to be an asset."

Dr. Cross, who traveled to Haiti with a team of anesthesiologists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and

nurses, may have summoned up the courage to board the flight. However, nothing could have prepared him for the assault on his senses that would occur once he deplaned in the earthquake-stricken region.

"When we landed at the airport in Port-au-Prince at night, the first feeling I had was fear," he explained. "We basically landed on a runway with very little light that no longer had a fully functioning airport. There was significant damage, and you could see that the buildings were cracked, although they were still erect. Nobody was in the buildings because they were deemed unsafe and unusable, and air traffic control was basically a big desk set up outside in the middle of a tent. There were planes taking off and landing about 100 yards from where we were standing, so the noise was deafening. And there were no customs or passport screening areas, for obvious reasons.

"The most difficult moment was actually making the decision to get on the plane," he admitted. "You basically have no idea what you're getting into. There were reports on CNN of riots and unrest and armed citizens, so I had my concerns. But once you get on the plane, you're committed. You don't want to be a liability; you want to be an asset."

"Everyone pitched in to remove the supplies from the plane and place them onto a flatbed truck," added Dr. Cross, who earned his D.O. degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1996. "We were able to pack an entire operating room on the plane, including anesthesia and surgical equipment that was donated from Broward Health, private citizens, and the University of Miami, so we came with everything we would need to operate on a patient. Then we all went about a half mile up a dirt road to the UM compound located on the airport grounds, which was set up a few days after the earthquake hit."

Once he arrived at the hospital site, Dr. Cross immediately assessed his surroundings, which turned out to be as rudimentary as you would expect following such a massive natural disaster. The hospital consisted of nothing more than three large tents and a less-than-hygienic latrine that had been dug beyond the living quarters. It may not have been luxurious by any stretch

of the imagination, but to the hundreds of Haitians who had been brought there for urgent care, it meant everything.

The hospital compound, which comprised a surgical ward, a general medicine/pediatrics ward, and sleeping quarters for the volunteer medical personnel, also was primitive in other respects. "We had no running water, no conventional bathrooms, no showers, and no hot food so to speak," said Dr. Cross, who did his orthopedic surgery residency at Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital in Ohio before completing an orthopedic trauma fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. "Anything we needed we had to carry in on our backs, so I brought a week's worth of protein bars and about nine liters of water with me from Florida. We did get the occasional hot meal delivered to us from people in the community, but I basically lived on protein bars and water during my four-day stay."

Dr. Cross and his medical brethren did have the opportunity to avail themselves of the amenities provided at the United Nations (UN) complex that was situated about a mile down the road, but it was a luxury he rarely found the time to indulge. "The UN buildings, which basically served as a base camp for all the operations going on in Haiti, had some cracks in them, but they were still fully functional," he explained. "You could go there to use a toilet, take a cold shower, or grab a hot meal and a beer, but we really didn't have much time to go the UN compound. Even when we had a chance to go, we were usually too tired to walk that mile, so I went four days without taking a shower."

Grabbing some much-needed shuteye also was a precious commodity that was hard to come by. "There were probably 300 cots in the tent, which were lined up next to each other about a foot apart," he explained. "All the medical personnel, male and female, slept under the same tent. Unfortunately, you didn't get much sleep because there's a helicopter flying directly over your tent every 10 minutes, and every 15 minutes there's a plane landing on the runway, which is only a half mile away."

Fortunately, the hospital site was surrounded by security, which allowed Dr. Cross and his cohorts to perform their tasks with a reassuring sense of serenity. "There was a private security force of about 20 personnel there," he stated. "In addition, the University of Miami had developed a strong relationship with the U.S. military, so the army's 82nd Airborne Division had set up camp right next to us. As a result, we had armed personnel guarding the camp at all times."

Turning Despair into Hope

During his four-day stint in Haiti, Dr. Cross dealt with numerous orthopedic cases in the makeshift surgical ward, which consisted of an operating theater with four functioning operating rooms. "We were very lucky because about four hours before I arrived, someone had donated a portable fluoroscopic X-ray unit, so we had limited X-ray capability in the operating room that gave us the ability to stabilize fractures with external fixation" he explained. "Primarily, what we were seeing were lower extremity fractures of the femur and tibia, including a number of open fractures that had been festering since the earthquake occurred 10 or 12 days ago. We also saw patients that had previously undergone amputations that needed to be brought back for debridements to ensure the stump didn't get infected."

Incredibly, Dr. Cross, who communicated with his patients through translators, only had to perform one amputation, which involved a case where a previous amputation had become infected to the point of necessitating further surgery. "I had one patient who was very sick and had become septic from an open fracture that someone had previously amputated below the knee. Unfortunately, the limb had become badly infected, so I had no choice but perform an amputation above the knee, but that was the exception," he said. "I critically evaluated each patient, and if I thought the limb was salvageable under the best conditions, meaning I had this patient back at Broward General and had all the necessary tools at my disposal, I didn't want to do any amputation. I wanted to give these patients the benefit of the doubt because, let's face it; it's difficult enough to make a living in Haiti. If you don't have a leg or you don't have an arm, it's going to be that much more difficult. So I didn't want to amputate unless I thought it was absolutely necessary."

With a patient census that included 270 adult and 78 pediatric patients, the Project Medishare/UM Global Institute hospital was the largest fully functioning hospital in Port-au-Prince while Dr. Cross was there. That meant many of the most severe cases were brought to the facility, which was hampered by some unavoidable obstacles. "Several excellent anesthesiologists, including Dr. Stephan Otmezguine from Broward Health, were onsite. However, we did not have general anesthesia capability, so we couldn't put anybody to sleep," he said. "Fortunately, we were able to do all our surgeries under regional or spinal anesthesia, so the patients had very good pain control. But we had no capability to do lab work, and there was no blood available for transfusions, so when you operated, every drop of blood was precious. You really had to take your time and do it correctly because you couldn't afford to lose a single drop."

"Injured people were being brought to the hospital by relatives and by strangers who found them in the street, while



some were being sent to us from other hospitals that didn't have our medical capabilities," he added. "Of course, some patients that were brought to us were beyond our capability to help, so they were either medevaced to one of the U.S. military hospital ships anchored offshore or airlifted to one of the hospitals here in South Florida. In fact, I personally sent four critically injured patients to Broward General while I was in Haiti."

Not surprisingly, the experience exacted an emotional toll on Dr. Cross, who dealt with pediatric patients that had lost both parents or had no relatives at all to care for them. "It was a difficult situation," he admitted. "The emotional ups and downs are as extreme as you can imagine. They come so rapidly, it's almost hard to comprehend. While I was there, we were able to get four ORs up and running simultaneously and do about 30 surgeries a day. I tried to stay in the operating room as much as possible because everything there was controlled and going very well. One minute you'd be high-fiving your buddy because you just helped save someone's life, and you had this feeling of complete elation—and then you'd walk out of the OR into the patient ward and it's immediately the deepest sadness you can imagine. It's funny because you have an idea of what you're going to see because you've watched it on CNN before you got there, and you know the devastation, but you have no idea how it's going to affect you emotionally. It was the biggest emotional rollercoaster I've ever experienced in my life."

Because the hospital experience was so taxing psychologically, Dr. Cross decided to turn down an opportunity to venture into the heart of Port-au-Prince and visit the decimated city. "I met a medic from the 82nd Airborne who offered to take me into the city because he was going there to pick up some patients, but I honestly didn't feel I was emotionally capable of it," he said. "I saw enough suffering where I was, so I didn't feel the need to see any more."

Homecoming Generates Mixed Emotions

When the time came to return to the United States, Dr. Cross found himself experiencing a paradoxical mix of emotions. "Coming home was such a dichotomy because I've never wanted to get out of a place more in my life, but I've never wanted to stay in a place more either," he explained. "I was torn emotionally because there is so much more to do there, and there are so many more people who need to be helped. I met people over the course of those four days that I'm going to be friends with for the rest of my life because you form this intense bond when you're working so hard and under such difficult conditions. Even though you've done your best and you've worked as hard as you can, you know there's still so much more to do."

"The experience has absolutely changed my life," admitted Dr. Cross, who was understandably thrilled to reunite with his wife and daughter. "It's given me a whole new outlook. One of the things I realize now is that we really have nothing to complain about in this country. Our lives here are pretty good, and we have so much excess. Plus, we have access to things the people in Haiti can't even imagine. So the next time something goes wrong in my life, it's going to be that much easier for me to shrug it off and say, 'I really can't complain.'"

Despite the myriad emotions he felt upon his return, Dr. Cross takes solace in the fact that he and his cohorts managed

to save lives and positively impact the health of numerous other ailing Haitians during their four-day stay. "The thing I am most proud of is that in four days, after performing almost 100 surgeries in less-than-perfect conditions, not one intraoperative death occurred while Dr. Swirsky and I were running the OR," he stated. "It is truly a testament to what doctors, nurses, and technicians can accomplish when you take the reins of administration, government regulation, and the medicolegal system off and focus strictly on the patient. That's something I wish we could do here everyday."

SNMA Digs Deep to Help Haiti

By OMS-I Ashley Startzman, SNMA Historian



After the devastation that occurred following the earthquake in Haiti, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) wanted to contribute to the relief efforts taking place. As an organization, we have initiated a number of projects to raise money in order to provide as much relief to the Haitian people as we can.

The SNMA vice president, Nina Rivera, who holds a Ph.D. in immunology, took time out of her schedule to hold an Immunology Review Fundraiser for the first-year medical students. Over 100 students were in attendance, and the event turned out to be a huge success, raising over \$1,000 to put toward our donation.

The Radiology Club generously made a contribution of \$250 to the SNMA to donate to Haiti, so we truly appreciate the support we have received from our fellow classmates. Throughout this time, the SNMA has also been selling T-shirts and sweatshirts and will continue to do so in order to provide as much support to Haiti as possible.

With the help of all students involved in the SNMA, the Rural Medicine Club, and the Radiology Club, we have raised over \$3,000 dollars thus far. This is a project we will continue to do for many years to come. The shaking may have stopped, but Haiti will continue to need support for years to come.

The money raised will be donated to the AMHE, which stands for Association des Medecins Haitiens a L'etranger and has been in existence since 1972. The donations received will help defray the cost of medical supplies and needed medical equipment for the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, which was severely damaged.

Another portion of the proceeds will go to Project Medishare and the Women of Hope to purchase drugs to send to the people of Haiti. These organizations were chosen because they are affiliated with physicians we work very closely with through the SNMA.

Thank you to all who have been generous by donating money to help us assist the Haitian people.



Hell in Haiti: Detailing a Country in Crisis

By Andrea Sciberras, D.O., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

(Dr. Sciberras' account of her humanitarian medical outreach visit to Haiti is expressed in a very candid – and descriptive – manner. As a result, certain details may prove disturbing to some readers.)

In early February, I made a three-day trip to Haiti with an HIV/AIDS foundation that had three HIV clinics—one each in Port-au-Prince, Delmas, and Leogane. Two were completely demolished, while the one in Delmas suffered partial damage.

The first reaction I had when getting off our charter plane was the stench. No amount of Vicks VapoRub inside my tuberculosis mask could mask the smell of decay, rotting bodies, *Pseudomonas* infections, feces and waste, and overall despair and helplessness. Even Zofran—a powerful anti-nausea drug—did not help with the nauseousness I felt the entire trip.

Most of the volunteer physicians in Haiti currently are staying in town or at the airfield in makeshift hospitals. Because there are not enough doctors out in the communities, we deployed to the hardest-hit areas, including Leogane, which I visited with several others. Leogane is a city approximately one hour from Port-au-Prince that was affected severely. It took us five hours to get there as there are really no roads or direct routes anymore, as you can imagine. Although we had some military presence with us, they were unable to prevent the roaming criminals and gangs from stopping us at their makeshift roadblocks and demanding money or valuables.

Along the way, we experienced the rubble and the numerous people running alongside our SUV, begging for anything that would help the crumbling of a nation that was already fallen. Most of the deceased bodies had been moved to mass graves; however, you would occasionally see a limb or other body part sticking out of the debris. The most disturbing discovery was finding a near-term fetus in an abandoned building lying next to a pizza carton. Along with the people begging for help, we saw groups united in prayer, with hope still brewing among this mass disaster. Tent cities—some with real tents and some makeshift from sheets and clothes—were everywhere, as were dirt and sickness.

When we finally arrived in Leogane, we met up with a contact I had at the church there, which was demolished along with several other churches throughout the greater Port-au-Prince area. The entire congregation was living in one big tent, which

is where we ended up staying since our clinic was completely destroyed. When we arrived, a woman was giving birth. Normally I would be happy and excited to bring a new child into the world, but in this case, I didn't know how to feel.

Our hosts were very gracious and thankful to have us. Although their community was destroyed, they still had faith. There is hardly any medical help out in the smaller communities, and it almost seems as if these people have been forgotten. It was heartbreaking to see a man walking around on an ankle that was bent 90 degrees inward because he was unable to get medical care.

While I was there, I attempted to treat these orthopedic injuries with the few supplies I had. The amount of infections I saw was overwhelming. We brought some oral antibiotics with us, but we really needed strong intravenous antibiotics for these infections. It was such a helpless feeling not to be able to have and help more.

In addition, tetany was starting to run rampant. It was heart-wrenching to watch someone die of tetany, which causes severe muscle spasms of the entire body if not treated. People writhe in pain from the severity of these contractions because they cannot relax. As a result, their bodies arch in spasm, and eventually they die, basically suffocating because their respiratory muscles spasm and become paralyzed. It was a horrible experience to see people endure such misery. We did not have any tetanus shots or toxoid with us, or any medications to help ease their suffering while they died in agony.

I watched many others succumb from overwhelming infections/sepsis. Sadly, one villager coughed up an entire BUCKET of blood before passing away. What about taking *heroic measures* when someone was coding? Heroic measures to me meant allowing them to pass on in peace. Unfortunately, morphine was in a limited supply, as were Tylenol and Ibuprofen. In fact, I even had to do a circumcision on a male with gangrene using a local injection of lidocaine because there were no stronger anesthetics available.

Amid the hope of many villagers, there also comes a lot of anger. Unfortunately, many evil people have resorted to looting, raping, and pillaging. I treated many female rape victims—if they had the courage to come see me. With Haiti's high AIDS rate, I was worried about these girls contracting HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, or becoming pregnant. I would give them penicillin shots to hopefully prevent syphilis, but I did not have the resources to prevent the other diseases.

One of the worst incidents occurred one day around 3:00 a.m. when I was awakened by horrified screams. A 14-year-old virgin had tried to fight off her attacker, so he lit a match and threw it on her genital region. I gave her all the silvadene cream I had and put in a makeshift suprapubic catheter. Unfortunately, she will probably become septic and die from her wounds.

In summary, yes, it was very frustrating not having the proper medications and supplies. I do know, however, that I did make at least a little bit of difference in the lives of some. I am hoping that, writing this a month later, more machines, medications, and supplies have arrived and that the relief effort is becoming more organized. People often ask, "How can I contribute? Should I send money, food, medicine, etc.?"

I can't tell you, or them, what to do. All I can advise is do what your heart tells you. And pray.

Anatomy 101: Cadavers Serve Vital Role in Student Training

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

Before the introduction of cutting-edge teaching tools such as simulated patients and related devices, human cadavers were considered the best—and only—way for medical students to truly gain a personal, hands-on perspective of the human anatomy in its purest form. Although the use of cadavers in medical training has been the norm for centuries, it remains a touchy—and sometimes taboo—subject.

At NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, and throughout the various NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) colleges and programs, cadavers and prosections (already dissected cadavers) are a vital part of the learning process. Currently, the HPD houses a number of prosections and 24 cadavers, which are predominantly dissected by NSU-COM students.

"Students who work with the cadavers and prosections include those in the medical, dental, optometry, physical therapy, occupational therapist, physician assistant, nursing, anesthesiology assistant, and sonography programs," said Gerald Conover, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Anatomy in the College of Medical Sciences. "However, it's primarily the medical students who do the dissections, while the other students analyze the dissections and prosections and learn from them."

According to Dr. Conover, who began working at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM) in the early 1980s, cadavers remain the gold standard for students to truly learn the anatomical intricacies of the body. "It really is the best way for medical students to learn," he stressed. "A good number of the nation's medical schools still use cadavers, but there are some that have phased them out, and I think they're shortchanging the students by doing so."

NSU-COM students are exposed to the world of dissection during the inaugural semester of their first year of study, spending approximately two hours a week working with the cadavers and prosections, although they are offered the opportunity to visit the lab at other times to gain additional educational access to the bodies. "The students don't spend a lot of time with the instructors formally," Dr. Conover explained of the course, which runs from August through December. "On the whiteboard, there are illustrations of what the students will be doing

with the cadavers so they can refer to it, talk to the instructors, and look at the prosected ones as well. There are instructors, like myself, present in the lab, and we also have student assistants, so there is a lot of help available. We also provide lectures on what students are going to be doing before they come into the lab."

During the course, six students are assigned to a table, where they will work on the same cadaver—which the students call a *patient*—throughout the semester. Although they have the opportunity to view other cadavers and prosections, students can only perform dissection procedures on the body they are assigned. However, unlike anatomy courses of the past, the students are allotted much less time to actually perform dissections. "We have more students per cadaver, and the anatomy courses are less detailed," he explained. "It's much more oriented toward clinical anatomy than it used to be, and the trend is to make the basic sciences more akin to the clinical sciences."

Benefits of a Cadaver-Based Education

Working with cadavers can be an especially edifying experience for the students, who have the chance to gain firsthand insight into the human body that simply can't be replicated by using simulated devices or reading about the process in a textbook. When students cut into an actual cadaver, they are exposed to pathologies—and surprises—that truly enhance the educational experience.

Because each cadaver comes with a brief medical history, the students generally know the pathology or injury-related trauma that caused death. "We saw one person who died from head trauma, and when we opened up the spinal column, we saw there was a massive amount of blood around it, which meant it was a subdural hemorrhage," Dr. Conover explained. "Then when we went up to the head and removed the skull cap, we saw a lot more blood. The cadavers really teach the students a lot. For example, when you discover joint replacements, you view many things you don't see on artificial models. There was one cadaver that had a replacement of the artery from the abdomen all the way down to the leg area, so it was interesting to track how the surgery was done."

To demonstrate the students' appreciation to the individuals who selflessly donate their bodies to benefit future generations of physicians and mankind in general, the college coordinated its inaugural Cadaver Appreciation Ceremony in September 2009. According to OMS-II Jaclynn Moskow Rosenthal, who helped make the event a reality, "These individuals trusted us with their bodies in hopes of advancing medicine and making us better physicians," she said. "Sometimes while in the anatomy lab, it is easy to forget we are studying someone's parents, grandparents, children, siblings, and spouses."

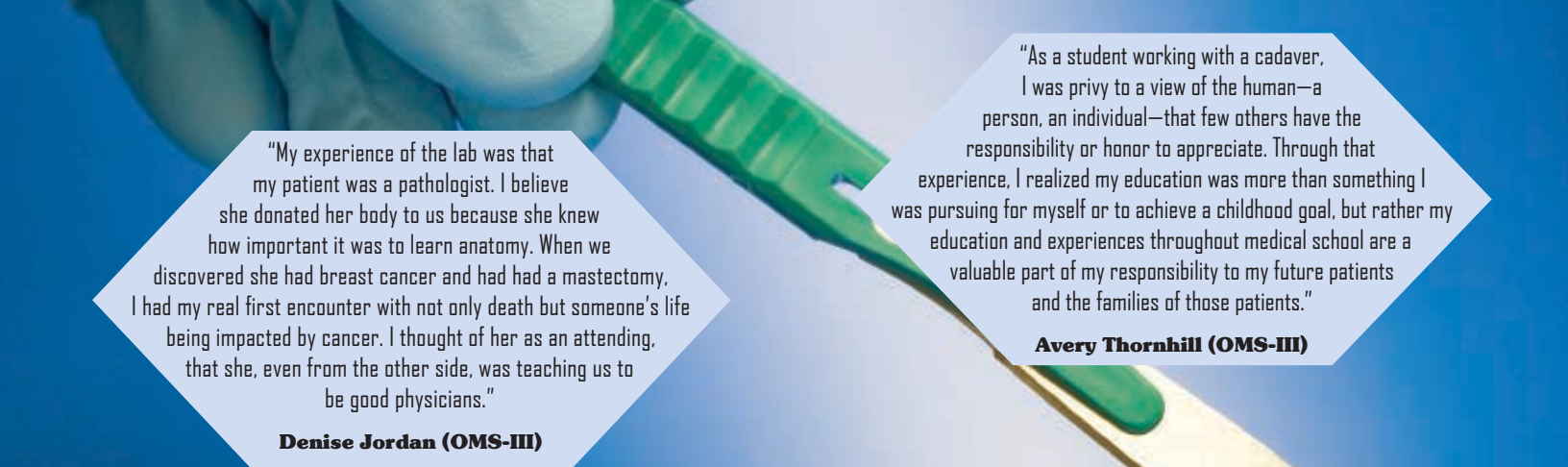
Dissecting a Student's Point of View

When students initially walk into the Gross Anatomy Lab, many are wracked with anxiety since it will be their first encounter with an actual cadaver. While a first glimpse is likely to induce a slight weak-in-the-knees reaction from some students, rarely does anyone become visibly ill from the experience. "Some people are just shocked by their first sight of a dead body and the emotion of it all," said Lindsay LaCorte, an OMS-III student and OPP fellow who also serves as Student Government Association president.

Unlike some students, LaCorte actually had been exposed to a prosection during her undergraduate studies. Nevertheless, although she

"Gross anatomy is one of the first and most memorable experiences in an eager young student physician's career. It's not meant to teach us merely anatomy—just structures, actions, and innervations. Our cadavers become our first patient, our teacher, and as much time as we spend with them, many even come to think of them fondly as a friend. No matter what the interest level in anatomy, no matter how much or little time a student spends in lab, upon completion of gross anatomy, each student physician walks out a changed person. Those generous souls who donate themselves to our education will have a direct impact on the careers of many physicians, and in return, the thousands upon thousands of patients those future physicians will treat. To me, they are heroes. To my future patients, they are the foundation of their physician's education. And to everyone, they are a true example of self-sacrifice and charity."

Bryan Peterson (OMS-II)



"My experience of the lab was that my patient was a pathologist. I believe she donated her body to us because she knew how important it was to learn anatomy. When we discovered she had breast cancer and had had a mastectomy, I had my real first encounter with not only death but someone's life being impacted by cancer. I thought of her as an attending, that she, even from the other side, was teaching us to be good physicians."

Denise Jordan (OMS-III)

"As a student working with a cadaver, I was privy to a view of the human—a person, an individual—that few others have the responsibility or honor to appreciate. Through that experience, I realized my education was more than something I was pursuing for myself or to achieve a childhood goal, but rather my education and experiences throughout medical school are a valuable part of my responsibility to my future patients and the families of those patients."

Avery Thornhill (OMS-III)

wasn't quite as nervous or emotional as some of her classmates were at the unveiling of their cadaver, LaCorte had her share of butterflies circling her stomach. "It wasn't until we unzipped the bag and I saw her that I was like, 'This is an extremely important thing.' I felt like, 'Wow, this woman did something really selfless so I could learn, so I really need to take advantage of this experience.'"

Because students have an opportunity to gain a brief bit of knowledge about their patient before they begin the dissection process, they achieve a greater understanding of what they may expect to see. "There's a post on the side wall that tells you things such as the age at death, when they died, and what they died of," LaCorte explained. "My patient was an older woman who had gall stones but had died of natural causes. The aspect my group liked best was that we knew she had gall stones, which didn't kill her. But it was listed on the wall, which meant we could search for them and see what they looked like."

As LaCorte previously expressed, the most overwhelming emotion she endured was in regard to understanding how important the experience was going to be—and fearing making a mistake. "I didn't want to do anything wrong," said LaCorte, who plans on pursuing a career that combines sports medicine with osteopathic principles and practice. "I was nervous about making a mistake and disrespecting the body. Unfortunately, making mistakes comes with the territory because we're learning."

"What I enjoyed about it the most was the tactile aspect," she added. "I'm a very tactile person, so I enjoyed learning how to do dissections properly, open things up, and see everything so clearly better than in a book. We have great anatomy books and videos, but being able to physically move a muscle out of the way and see it three-dimensionally, you can't get that any other way. It truly was a great learning experience."

Just as physicians are taught to maintain a certain emotional distance from their living, breathing patients, medical students are expected to adopt that same philosophy with their cadavers. "You do form a relationship with the cadaver because you get to know the person in a sense," LaCorte explained. "But we learned that you have to keep your emotions in check to a certain degree. The course also helps students who maybe weren't sure about pursuing a career in surgery. People who didn't like the cadaver experience may not like the surgical experience. It helps you know your limits."

With a year's worth of perspective to reflect on, LaCorte looks back at the cadaver experience fondly. "It really helped me develop my feeling of respect for the patient and my respect for

life," she said. "I'm so thankful to the people who donate their bodies to science because we can learn so much about medicine after someone has passed away. In fact, I will be donating my body to science one day as well."

Detailing the Donation Process

Before students can actually benefit from investigating the secrets that lie beneath the skin of their deceased patients, a rarely discussed process must occur to actually obtain the cadavers. Because a person's decision to donate his or her body to science is so vitally critical to the educational process of medical students, it is of paramount importance that each body be carefully scrutinized before it is allowed to be used for such purposes. As a result, organizations such as the Anatomical Board of the State of Florida have fashioned extremely stringent guidelines regarding the donation process.

For example, although almost all donations are gratefully accepted, the Anatomical Board of the State of Florida, which is responsible for distributing the cadavers to the various Florida medical schools, places certain limitations on the acceptance of a donation. According to Anatomical Board documents, "A body cannot be accepted if an autopsy has been performed, if the cause of death is from a highly infectious disease, if there have been excessive traumatic injuries, or if the body is very obese. We prefer the body be intact, but, if you wish, the eyes may be removed for donation."

Once a cadaver has been dissected or prosected, the Anatomical Board states that, "After study, within two years after receipt of donation, final disposition will be made by cremation. The family may request for the remains to be returned. However, if this does not occur, the Anatomical Board will cremate the body and scatter the ashes over the Gulf of Mexico."

In terms of making the actual body donation, Anatomical Board of the State of Florida documents explain that arrangements can be made with a funeral home prior to or at the time of death to have the body uplifted, prepared, and delivered to one of the two receiving facilities operated by the board, which are located in Gainesville and Miami. The funeral home will also assist in obtaining the information and documents required before the body can be accepted. For residents of Miami-Dade and Broward counties, the University of Miami medical school can be notified at the time of death and will arrange for delivery of the body directly to the school. Staff at the University of Miami would then obtain the vital statistics information and prepare the body for study. State regulations require that the cost of preparation and/or transportation to the medical school be borne by the family or estate. However, the Anatomical Board has established a Donor Assistance Fund that will reimburse up to \$500 of the funeral home expenses charged to the individual's estate.

Additional information on this vital education program can be obtained by calling the Anatomical Board of the State of Florida at 1-800-628-2594 or visiting its Web site at www.med.ufl.edu/anatbd.

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Progress in Action: Student Recruitment Strategy Undergoes Subtle Overhaul

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

When Sandra Pierce was hired as the NSU-COM recruiter in January 2008, she faced a daunting task in terms of convincing various doubters the college even required such a position. "When I came on board two years ago, we had over 3,000 applicants for 230 available slots," said Pierce, who possesses a diverse background in advertising, marketing, event direction and strategic planning. "Based on those figures alone, I can certainly understand why someone would ask, 'Why do we need a recruiter?' However, because of my background, I'm doing more than just recruiting; I'm also promoting and representing the Health Professions Division and the university in general."

In addition to recruiting for the D.O. program at numerous nationwide events, Pierce also promotes the college's Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics programs as well as the various other programs housed at NSU's Health Professions Division. "Because I'm on the road traveling all over the United States, Dr. Silvagni and Marla Frohlinger, who serves as HPD executive director for student services and professional coordination, decided it would make sense for me to also promote other HPD programs when I'm out recruiting for the College of Osteopathic Medicine," she explained. "Because part of our mission is to reach specialized groups of potential applicants such as underrepresented minorities and nontraditional students, much of my effort is designed to outreach to these groups to expose them to the opportunities our medical school may afford them."

"There are certain events I attend that are premised only in nature, like the AED National Honor Society, the American Medical Student Association, or the Student National Medical Association," she added. "But many times I'll attend a graduate professional health fair. For instance, I went to the

National Institutes of Health summer intern recruiting event last year, which attracts thousands of high school and college students. About 300 health professional schools show up to recruit, so I bring my laptop computer and look up information for potential applicants about other HPD programs as well. In essence, I really end up doing de facto recruiting for all the NSU programs because I am often asked if NSU offers programs such as psychology and speech pathology, which are not under the HPD umbrella but offered at NSU."

Of course, there are other elements in play that underscore the importance of having someone as resourceful as Pierce representing the college as its recruiter, especially when you consider the proliferation of new medical schools throughout Florida in recent years. "In my opinion, there are certain places you simply need to be represented at because even if you did not currently need to get another student to come here, it's important to be seen because the numbers from those areas will start decreasing," she stated. "Basically, it's an out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality. You also have to deal with increased competition as new medical schools open up in Florida and across the United States. There are now nine medical schools in Florida, so there are a lot of opportunities for prospective students to choose from. As a result, you need to keep your name out there—you need to be known. Fortunately, NSU-COM has a growing reputation and a strong base of alumni to promote the college, but we are still in a building mode to continue to increase our awareness as a world-class medical school."

In today's ultra-competitive recruiting environment, where high-quality candidates are actively pursued, the integration of interactive communications and public relations strategies is a crucial element needed to attract the most qualified applicants.

"If you're not a well-known school, it's certainly going to be more difficult to attract the best quality candidates," Pierce admitted. "You certainly want to attract the best candidates because if part of our mission is to train students to be the best physicians possible, we've got to have the best students. The better the candidate is, the better the class will be. And the more competitive we are, the better our reputation will be, which means we'll be able to attract top-quality students to all our other programs. If you have the best faculty members and the best administration, which I truly believe we have here, but your program is not well known and you're not out there tooting your own horn, then you are not going to reap the benefit of attracting those high-quality applicants."

When NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine accepted its first class of 40 students in 1981, the majority were Florida residents—which is a trend that continued for many years as the college gradually enhanced its programming and burnished its reputation. Today, the student mix has shifted to a 50-50 ratio of in-state versus out-of-state enrollment. "As a result, we don't just recruit within the state of Florida; we recruit nationally," Pierce explained. "Our recruiting territory is literally the entire United States, which explains why I've already traveled to about 20 states in my role as the college's recruiter. I try to participate in events where I can meet as many people as possible at one time. Consequently, even though I haven't personally visited every state, I have interacted with undergraduates and advisors from all 50 states at the various national events I attend."

In her role as a multifaceted recruiter, Pierce makes sure she interacts with numerous regional and national undergraduate premed and health advisors since they are the individuals responsible for informing their students about graduate programs that exist here at NSU's Health Professions Division. If the advisors are unaware that NSU has a college of osteopathic medicine or of the quality of the programs, it's a good bet that many of the premed students attending those schools will be unaware of this fact as well.

"There is an organization called the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) that holds a national meeting every two years and coordinates four regional meetings in the off year, so I make it a point to attend all NAAHP meetings because the advisors are going to be there representing their schools and universities," she explained. "It's not just about being there and handing out information; it's also about building relationships with the advisors. For example, I visited Idaho for the first time in 2008 and went to

three regional events at undergraduate schools in the southern part of the state. I was impressed with Idaho because a lot of the premed students had heard about osteopathic medical schools, but most had not heard about our medical school. So even though we are one of the largest allopathic or osteopathic medical school programs in the nation, there are many who still are unaware we exist."

In an effort to further outreach to the nation's premed and health advisors, Pierce also participates in an annual HPD advisors' workshop, which is a two-day event created and organized by the HPD Office of Admissions and held on the NSU campus. The workshop, which is an invitation-only event, features 30 or so advisors who get a crash course in the numerous programs offered through the Health Professions Division's six colleges. "Over a two-day period, they listen to presentations by the deans from the six HPD colleges, learn about our programs, and take a comprehensive tour of the university," Pierce said. "Last year, I was able to invite some of the advisors I had met during my nationwide recruiting efforts, so we now have a personal relationship

with these advisors. It's also beneficial for me to be part of the event from an educational standpoint because I gain more information about the HPD programs, which I can then pass along when I am out in the field recruiting."

The business of recruiting, however, involves much more than just traditional face-to-face interaction, especially in today's tech-driven society where young adults spend a majority of their time communicating on

Twitter, Facebook, and numerous other social networking sites. "Recruiting

is partly about being at an event physically, but there many other available tools that help you follow up on requests for information and promote the college and its programs in the world of cyberspace," she explained. "So I've worked to make sure we have a visible social networking presence while also using various other means of reaching out to students and advisors."

Pierce also spent a significant amount of time creating an incisive DVD entitled "How to Interview for Medical School" to help future medical school applicants prepare for the grueling—and often intimidating—interview process they face during the matriculation process. "I'd only been here for about a month when Dr. Robert Hasty, who is an assistant professor of internal medicine, came to me and said, 'I think we need a promotional piece about how to interview because a lot of physicians get asked by future students about how to prepare for medical school interviews and what questions



they are likely to be asked.' He thought it would be a good tool for me to use for recruiting, and I totally agreed."

Working closely with Dr. Hasty, Pierce created a storyboard and outline of what she thought should be included in the DVD and then began recruiting various students and faculty members to participate in the filming process. "I wanted it to be a very generic soft sell so people would request it as a service to help them without it being overtly about NSU-COM and osteopathic medicine," she explained. "But I also wanted to include a bonus section about us so that after they watched the 12-minute main DVD portion about interviewing for medical school in general, they could learn more about NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine specifically."

By the time it was completed in 2009, the DVD, which is available free of charge, had evolved into a truly comprehensive overview of the interview process that included discussions about the psychology of the interview, the art of the interview, dressing for the interview, and the magic of becoming a physician. An additional bonus segment about the similarities and differences between the allopathic (M.D.) and osteopathic (D.O.) professions was included to educate viewers that may not be aware of the parallels and distinctions.

Since its debut, the DVD has become an unqualified success, earning raves on the Student Doctor Network Web site and becoming a popular giveaway item when Pierce displays it at the NSU-COM booth at the numerous recruiting events she attends. "At most recruiting events, the various schools and universities give away small trinkets such as pens, key rings, letter openers, and stress balls," said Pierce, who also assisted with updating the college's new marketing DVD. "I thought the 'How to Interview for Medical School' DVD would make a better giveaway."

In addition to creating a physical DVD for onsite distribution, Pierce made it available for request on the college's Web site (<http://medicine.nova.edu/do/admissions/index.html>). "We have received over 1,000 requests for the DVD over the past several months through our Web site," she stated. "We also uploaded it to YouTube several months ago, where it has already been viewed over 5,000 times. I also provide the DVDs to premed and health advisors for them to use in their presentations at their schools and universities."

During her tenure as the college's recruiter, the annual applicant pool has increased an impressive 28 percent to over 4,000, which exemplifies the positive impact of her recruiting efforts. "We had the largest applicant increase of any osteopathic medical school in the United States for the 2008-09 academic year," she stated proudly. "But I can't take full credit for the increase because it's a joint effort with Ellen Rondino, who serves as the college's admissions counselor, the Office of the Dean, and the Admissions Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Edward Packer. Thanks to other factors like increased publicity and the growing esteem of NSU-COM, it's definitely an exciting time to be part of such a great college and university."





Medical Explorers Program Introduces High School Students to Health Care Opportunities

By OMS-II Nina Rivera, Ph.D.

Sigma Sigma Phi President and Chair of the Medical Explorers Program

Running through the halls of high school and approaching senior year, students often wonder, "What do I want to do professionally when I grow up?" Unfortunately, current economic times leave little to no room for career development programs in the public school system. Sigma Sigma Phi (SSP), which is a national honorary osteopathic fraternity, and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) at NSU-COM teamed up to bridge the gap by creating the Medical Explorers Program.

On Monday evenings, high school students from around Broward County meet at NSU-COM to participate in a variety of hands-on medical clinics, which are taught by medical students, professors, and clinicians across multiple programs at the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD). During the first clinic, NSU-COM faculty members Dr. Marti Echols and Dr. Heidi Lane brought in standardized patients and operated the I-Stan mannequin to teach the students how to acquire vital signs. With the I-Stan model, the students were able to observe the effect on vital signs during different situations, such as a coding patient.

Thanks to the combination of cutting-edge technology and expert NSU-HPD clinicians, our high school students were also

able to learn how to distinguish between different pathological heart sounds as taught by Dr. Robert Hasty using the Harvey model. As in years past, Dr. David Thomas, a skilled surgeon, hosted the annual Suture Clinic in which he and his residents and fellows taught the high school students how to suture using pigs' feet. Dr. Howard Hada, who also participates annually in the program, taught the high school students about microbiology and the efficacy of antibiotics.

One of the biggest assets and attractions of the Medical Explorers Program is the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Clinic hosted twice per year by Dr. David Boesler. This clinic introduces the concepts and principles of osteopathic medicine and allows the high school students to learn, apply, and benefit from some of the techniques. In our Athletic Training Clinic, Dr. Pradeep Vanguri and Dr. Eric Shamus from the Sports Medicine Clinic joined forces to teach the high school students the art of preventative athletic taping. Taking further advantage of the exceptional Department of Sports Medicine, Dr. Andrew Kusinski was invited to teach the Athletic Shoulder Injury Clinic.

Although the Medical Explorers Program generally has clinicians teach the clinics, many clinics have medical students



teaching concepts and demonstrating techniques. In the Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic, NSU-COM students brought their own equipment and demonstrated techniques for examining the ears, nose, throat, and cranial nerves. Participating high school students were allowed to practice performing these exams on each other. NSU-COM students also host the Neuroanatomy Clinic in which high school students are taught about the anatomy of the central nervous system as well as functions of different areas of the brain. In order to transition into clinical application, in the follow-up clinic, NSU-COM students teach the high school students how to perform a neurological exam. They also teach the Radiology Clinic focusing on the art of reading X rays, CT scans, and MRIs.

In order to expose the high school students to as many aspects of health care as possible and to take advantage of the wide range of HPD programs, the Medical Explorers Program showcases the College Night Clinic. In this particular event, a private high school counselor and students from each of the major programs at HPD are invited to discuss their field with both high school students and their parents. During this panel discussion, the invited high school counselor provides details regarding applying to colleges, obtaining financial aid and scholarships, and many other pertinent details. Each student speaker describes his or her path to a particular field, the experience of being in the programs at HPD, and the features of the profession. This clinic also allows the parents to gain a better understanding of the transition into college and play a stronger role in helping their child along his or her chosen path in health care.

To further broaden their experience, the Medical Explorers Program has teamed up with other HPD programs to host clinics. In conjunction with the College of Dental Medicine, dental and medical students taught the high school students how to make dental molds. In our Nursing Clinic, Dr. Margaret Peggy Davis, Sabrina Stern, M.S.N., (assistant professor of nursing), nursing students, and medical students demonstrated the methods of multiple procedures such as inserting IV lines, wound care, tracheostomy care, preparing insulin injections, and catheterization. Expanding the integration of other programs, the College of Pharmacy has introduced the Compounding Clinic in which high school students are taught the craft of drug development. Together, these joint clinics extend the scope of the Medical Explorers Program and help the high school students make a more-informed decision about their future.

Organized by NSU-COM students Nina Rivera Ph.D., Keivan Abtahi, Chantelle Dufresne, Nitin Wadhwa, Naimah Wajid, and Matthew Uhde, the Medical Explorers Program provides hands-on medical clinics for about 60 high school students throughout the school year. This program offers the opportunity to medical students and other HPD students to sharpen their teaching skills and give back to their community. Furthermore, through the comprehensive and advanced programs at NSU-COM, the Medical Explorers Program bridges the gaps in the public school system by providing an enriching atmosphere with the latest medical technology for high school students to enhance their educational growth and development.



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 1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)
 2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)
 2001 - Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)
 2002 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
 2003 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 2004 - Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)
 2005 - Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('87)
 2006 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)
 2007 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
 2008 - Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)
 2009 - Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)

Trustees at Large

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

2009-2010 Officers

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

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

Andrew Gross, D.O. ('93)
 Vice President

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

William Stager, D.O. ('89)
 Treasurer

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

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

Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.
 Director, Alumni Affairs

Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro
 2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.
 2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
 2005 - Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.
 2006 - Howard Hada, Ph.D.
 2008 - Cyril Blavo, D.O.
 2009 - A. Alvin Greber, D.O.
 2010 - Harold Laubach, Ph.D.

Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)
 2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)
 2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
 2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)
 2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
 2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
 2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)
 2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)
 2009 - Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)
 2010 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)

FOMA Alumni Reception - February 19 - Hyatt Regency Bonaventure




Alumni in the News

Robert Blackburn, D.O., FACOFP ('86), the 2009-10 president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association and past president of the NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee, passed away at the age of 55, along with his wife Sarah, on January 10, 2010.


Gatherine Chacin, D.D.S., M.P.H. ('09), who graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Master of Public Health Program, is currently pursuing an epidemiology fellowship with the Puerto Rico Department of Health and the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine.

Angela D'Alessandro, D.O. ('01) recently joined Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida, where she practices pediatrics at the Cape Coral and Fort Myers offices. Dr. D'Alessandro, who did her residency training at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, also completed a fellowship in pediatric rheumatology at Duke University Medical Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



Linda Delo, D.O. ('86), who served as FOMA awards chair in 2009, was installed as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association during the organization's 107th Annual Convention held February 18-21 at the Hyatt Bonaventure in Weston.

Robert A. Edwards, D.O. ('94), who is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery, currently serves as a physician partner with a multispecialty group called Horizons Diagnostics, LLC and is the director of the Center for Vein Care and Surgery of Horizons Diagnostics, LLC in Columbus, Georgia.



John Geake, D.O. ('93) was honored with the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award in January at the 12th Annual NSU Celebration of Excellence ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie. Each year, this prestigious event brings together community leaders and industry pioneers who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and alma maters. Dr. Geake, who has been a steadfast NSU-COM supporter over the years, currently works as a family medicine practitioner at Riverside Glades Medical Center in Moore Haven, Florida.

Hema Jadoonanan, D.O. ('05), who is board certified by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and works in a private practice in Delray Beach, Florida, has joined the medical staff at Delray Medical Center.

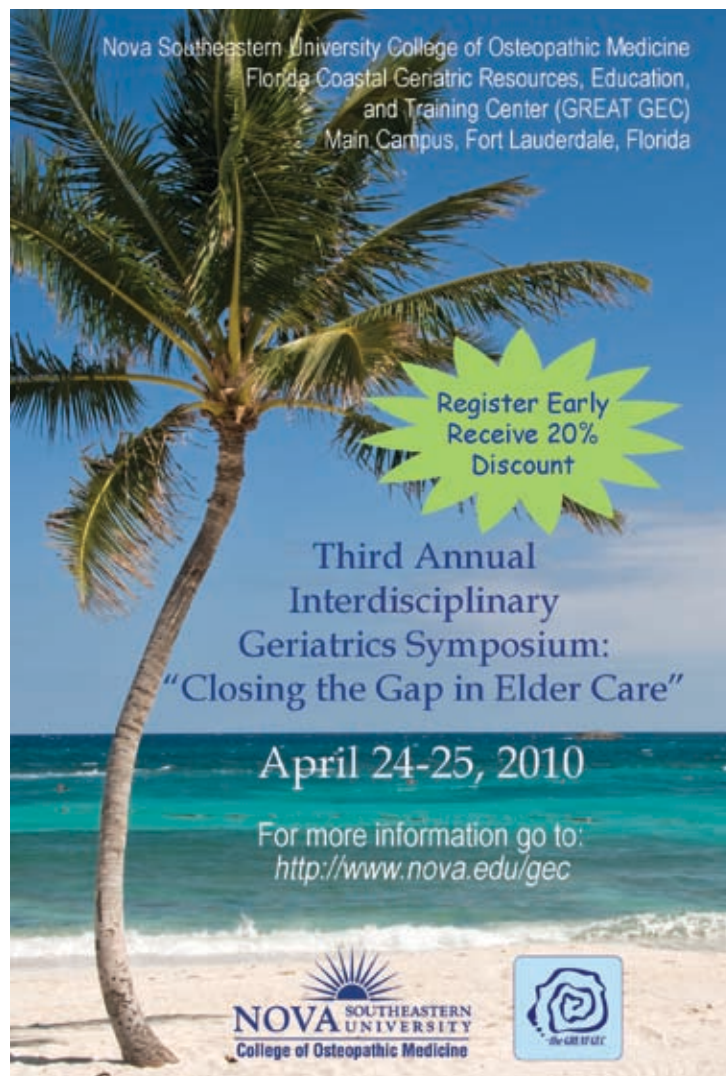
Garmen M. Marrero, D.O. ('06), who completed her family practice residency training at Wellington Regional Medical Center in October 2009, accepted a position with the Century Village Medical Center in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

Tobi Reidy, D.O. ('05) will begin her fellowship training this summer at the Indiana University School of Medicine Colon and Rectal Residency Program at Kendrick Regional Center for Colon and Rectal Care, which is based at St. Francis Hospital-Mooresville. Dr. Reidy, whose fellowship training will begin in July 2010, currently is completing a general surgery residency at Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati.

James Turner, D.O. ('88) was recognized for his contributions to emergency medicine when he received the Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award from the West Virginia American College of Emergency Physicians. He also was elected to serve a three-year term on the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians Board of Directors.

Sherry Turner, D.O. ('07), who represented the Charleston Area Medical Center and its emergency medicine residency program at the West Virginia Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Assembly held in Huntington, West Virginia, won first place for her original research project titled "Geriatrics Trauma in West Virginia: Alcohol and Injury Patterns." As the first-place winner, Dr. Turner will receive an all-expense-paid trip to present her research at the 2010 American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting in May. In addition, Dr. Turner was named president elect of the national resident chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians and will serve an eight-year term on the Foundation of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine.

Jessica Upchurch, D.O. ('07) was named chief resident in the Charleston Area Medical Center internal medicine residency program in West Virginia.



Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education,
and Training Center (GREAT GEC)
Main Campus, Fort Lauderdale, Florida


Register Early
Receive 20%
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Third Annual
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April 24-25, 2010

For more information go to:
<http://www.nova.edu/gec>

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY
College of Osteopathic Medicine



CATCHING UP WITH...

Drs. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98) and Jack Goloff ('85)

Fast Facts: *Mariaelena Caraballo, D.O.*, who graduated in 1998, has been married to her husband, Juan, for 28 years and has three children: Thomas, Christie, and Daniel, who is a first-year student at NSU-COM.

Why did you decide to become a physician? I wanted to be a physician since high school and had initially intended to go into medical research. I earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Miami, however, and went to work as an engineer at IBM for eight years. I later decided to pursue my dream and become a physician. I volunteered at a health department clinic, and the physician I worked with was a D.O. family physician. It only served to solidify my desire to pursue osteopathic family medicine and made me realize that what I really wanted to do was family medicine.

Why did you decide to attend SECOM/NSU-COM, and how did you learn about osteopathic medicine? As I was searching for medical schools in Florida, I discovered osteopathic medicine and NSU-COM. I was fascinated by the entire osteopathic philosophy because it was what I felt

Fast Facts: *Jack Goloff, D.O.*, who is a member of SECOM's inaugural graduating class in 1985, is married to Rosemary Chase-Goloff and has two children from a previous marriage—Jeffry and Tara.

Why did you decide to become a physician? My interest in medicine came from a broader love of the sciences and a fascination with the interaction of physics, biology, chemistry, and psychology. I had focused my undergraduate education in biology, especially in ecology and biological systems. Learning how habitats of plants, animals, and climates interact gave me an appreciation of systems. It was not much of a stretch to conceive of medical arts as a holistic community of organs, tissues, and the processes that connect them, so I became fascinated with the prospect of entering the healing arts and caring for people.

Why did you decide to attend SECOM/NSU-COM, and how did you learn about osteopathic medicine? I was born at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Hospital in 1959, and my uncle was an intern there at that time. The founding fathers of SECOM had trained and were practicing there at that time. The opening of SECOM the year I was graduating from college seemed like more than coincidence to me; it felt like destiny. SECOM was the only school to which I applied to further my education. I was only interested in osteopathic medicine and wanted to be part of a groundbreaking new school. Osteopathic medicine is the only discipline that is holistic and offered the opportunity to learn and practice manual manipulation as an adjunct to traditional medical care. SECOM needed a certain breed of student in its charter class—people who could not only handle the academic load but were willing to cling tenaciously to the founders' vision of creating an osteopathic school to be proud of. I wanted to be part of that process.

medicine should be all along. It was a perfect match. I visited the North Miami Beach campus and loved the school, the environment, and the amount of attention paid during the lectures.

What are you doing professionally? I have been working for Hospice of Palm Beach County (HPBC) for eight years and at Bethesda Memorial Hospital's inpatient unit. I also see HPBC patients affiliated with the Boca Raton/Delray Beach nursing home team and serve as the director of medical education for Palms West Hospital, which is a member of the Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education. At Palms West, we have residencies in pediatrics and internal medicine/pediatrics. We also have a traditional rotating internship and, starting this year, a fellowship program for pediatric hospitalists. It is a one-year fellowship geared toward pediatricians who are interested in strengthening their inpatient skills for either hospitalist work or to follow their inpatient patients.

What has been the most fulfilling aspect of being a physician? Caring for and educating patients on their health. I love to teach, whether it be my patients, their families, medical students, residents, or the nurses I work with.

Any words of wisdom you care to share? I want to stress to current and future alumni the importance of supporting our school. NSU-COM was available to teach, nurture, and make us what we are today. It is our responsibility to maintain this legacy.

What are you doing professionally? I have had a long career dedicated to medical education. I have served as a residency program director and as a faculty member at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine. My background in evidence-based medicine prepared me for the next step in my career. As a result, for the first time, I am in private practice in Fort Lauderdale.

Although my residency training and certification is in family practice, with a CAQ in geriatrics, I decided that the South Florida community needed a primary care pain practice to care for patients that are selected, verified, and appropriate.

I have been teaching the care of pain patients in the office setting since the mandate by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to include pain as the fifth vital sign. I see an average of 19 patients a day in my Florida Department of Health-registered pain management clinic, where the majority of my patients are in their 40s, 50s, and 60s. I am finding great joy in the improvement in function and quality of life I can facilitate.

What professional achievement are you the proudest of? Completing a one-year fellowship in clinical teaching at Michigan State University.



Alumni Reunion Highlights Education and Comradeship



The 14th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Weekend, held January 29-31 at the Renaissance Hotel-Plantation and NSU's main campus, got off to a rousing start with a welcome reception and continued to gain momentum throughout the various events that mixed education and entertainment. "This was a very special year as we celebrated the inaugural

class of 1985's 25th reunion," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "This year, for the first time, we created a kid's room during the Friday night reception where students from the NSU-COM Pediatrics Club volunteered to spend time with the children of alumni by playing games, coloring, and watching movies. It was a huge success, and we're hoping to add this service next year during the Saturday night banquet as well."

Participants spent Saturday and Sunday mornings at NSU's Morris Auditorium earning CME credits by attending incisive lectures by NSU-COM alumni and faculty members. "The evaluations indicated that the CME sessions were extremely well received and beneficial to those in attendance," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs. "We make sure to include lectures the alumni request during the previous year's evaluation process. In addition, for the second consecutive year, we held a hands-on CME workshop in the OMM Lab. Many of our physicians, although initially trained in osteopathic manipulative medicine, don't regularly practice it, so

a refresher course was requested by the alumni and taught by our faculty. We definitely see a need for hands-on sessions, so this is a practice that will continue at future alumni reunions."

The Saturday evening banquet proved to be a major success as 180 attendees turned out to honor the classes of 1985, 1990, and 2000. "We had 14 alumni from the class of 1985 come back to celebrate their 25-year reunion," Cawley said. "With only 33 currently in the class, which had 35, having 12 come back was great to see. Each year we continue to get more and more returning alumni. For many of this year's attendees, it was the first time they had seen the campus because the classes of 1985 and 1990 graduated from the North Miami Beach campus before Southeastern University of the Health Sciences merged with Nova University. We always conduct tours of the campus during the reunion, and they were so impressed."

In addition to honoring the classes of 1985, 1990, and 2000, Harold Laubach, Ph.D., who serves as founding dean of NSU's College of Medical Sciences, was this year's recipient of the Alumni Association's Living Tribute Award for his numerous contributions to the college and the osteopathic profession. "It was truly a special evening for Dr. Laubach as his family and many of his friends and colleagues joined us in honoring this great teacher and mentor to many in the osteopathic profession," Cawley said. "Dr. Laubach has taught just about every graduate we've had, so the response of alumni giving back to the college in his honor has been great."

Please mark your calendars for the 15th Annual Alumni Reunion CME Weekend, which will be held February 4-6, 2011, and honor the classes of 1986 (25 years), 1991 (20 years), and 2001 (10 years).

Old Friends Share New Experiences at Alumni Reunion Banquet



Dr. Laubach Receives Living Tribute Award



Dr. Laubach (left) poses with Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89), who served as Alumni Association president in 2009.

Harold E. Laubach, Ph.D., who serves as founding dean of NSU's College of Medical Sciences, has been affiliated with the university for almost 30 years. Starting in 1981 as an associate professor and founding chairman of microbiology at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM), it's no surprise that Dr. Laubach has positively impacted the lives of numerous medical students over the years.

In addition to earning both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in microbiology and parasitology from Oklahoma State University, Dr. Laubach completed a fellowship in molecular biology at the University of Iowa and a research fellowship in immunology at the University of Alabama. He also served an honorable two-year stint in the U.S. Army, which included time spent in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. As a result of his military accomplishments, Dr. Laubach received the Army Accommodation Medal as well as a Bronze Star Medal for his heroism.

His first association with the osteopathic profession began in 1979 when he spent a year working as assistant professor and acting chairman of microbiology at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Laubach then relocated to Missouri in 1980 to accept a position as assistant professor of microbiology at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

However, because he was intrigued by the challenge and excitement involved with creating the Department of Microbiology at a new osteopathic college in South Florida called Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in North Miami Beach, Dr. Laubach left Kirksville to launch what has been a prolonged and prestigious career at SECOM, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, and Nova Southeastern University.

Over the years, he has taught courses on bacteriology, immunology, mycology, parasitology, virology, and public

health to thousands of appreciative NSU students. Not surprisingly, when the NSU College of Medical Sciences was established in 1993, Dr. Laubach was appointed as dean—which is a position he still holds today.

His career achievements in regard to academic appointments, professional affiliations, abstract presentations, publications, research, and grants are far too numerous to mention in the space allotted. However, while the aforementioned achievements are indeed merit-worthy, it's his dedication to several generations of students that has earned Dr. Laubach the NSU-COM Alumni Association's Living Tribute Award. He has been a steadfast champion for the students, imparting the knowledge they need while always having their best interests at heart. Dr. Laubach also adheres to an open-door policy of support, which allows students to benefit from his wisdom and his friendly, easygoing manner.

Over the past three decades, he has helped countless students deal with and conquer the academic challenges they face while also serving as a compassionate mentor. Because he truly is interested in the students' well-being, he is much more than an academician to the students—he is a treasured friend.



Class of 1985

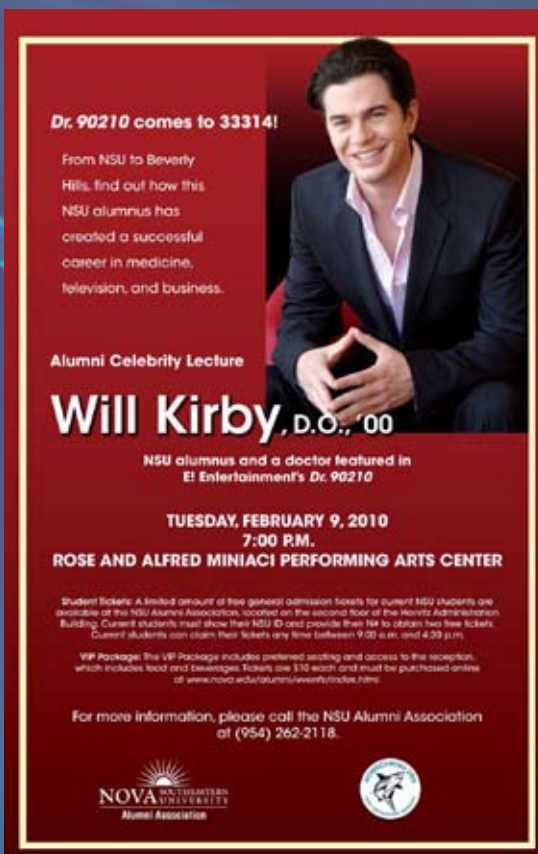
Back row (from left): Lee Gibson, D.O., Jack Goloff, D.O., Bruce Rankin, D.O., Layne Nisenbaum, D.O., Clyde Meckstroth, D.O., Paul "Chip" Roberts, D.O., Donald Teplitz, D.O., and Donald Howard, D.O. Front row (from left): James Warrington, D.O., Yvonne Duffe, D.O., Arnold Melnick, D.O., Harold Laubach, Ph.D., Eshan Kibria, D.O., David Heller, D.O., and Howard Stein, D.O. (not pictured: Edward Williams, Jr., D.O.)



Class of 1990

Back row (from left): Henryk Malczak, D.O., Jeffrey Grove, D.O., Michael MacDonald, D.O., Michael Jackowitz, D.O., Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D. (NSU-COM dean), Ronald Renuart, D.O., Heidi Handman, D.O., and Douglas Gotlin, D.O. Front row (from left): Jeffrey Glover, D.O., Dana Glover, D.O., Gladys Martinez, D.O., and Stephen MacDonald, D.O.

DERMATOLOGIC SUPERSTAR: Dr. Will Kirby Shares His Hollywood Success Story



Dr. 90210 comes to 33314!

From NSU to Beverly Hills, find out how this NSU alumnus has created a successful career in medicine, television, and business.

Alumni Celebrity Lecture

Will Kirby, D.O., '00



NSU alumnus and a doctor featured in E! Entertainment's *Dr. 90210*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010
7:00 P.M.
ROSE AND ALFRED MINIACI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Student Tickets: A limited amount of free general admission tickets for current NSU students are available at the NSU Alumni Association, located on the second floor of the Horvitz Administration Building. Current students must show their NSU ID card and provide their fee to obtain two free tickets. Current students can claim their tickets any time between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

VIP Package: The VIP Package includes preferred seating and access to the reception, which includes food and beverages. Tickets are \$10 each and must be purchased online at www.nova.edu/alumni/veranst/index.html.

For more information, please call the NSU Alumni Association at (954) 262-2118.

On February 9, as part of NSU Homecoming 2010, the university's Alumni Association arranged for 2000 NSU-COM alumnus Will Kirby, D.O., FAOCD, to participate in an informative and fun-filled lecture that drew a vast and varied mix of NSU-COM students and others interested in the secrets of his success to the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Kirby, who has crafted a successful and multifaceted career in medicine, television, and business, captivated the audience with his witty repartee as he answered questions posed to him by an equally amusing Dr. Anthony J. Silvangi, who serves as NSU-COM dean. Following the lecture, which featured an opportunity for audience members to ask questions, Dr. Kirby spent about an hour signing autographs and posing for photos.

His rise to prominence began in 2001 when he emerged as the winner on the CBS reality show *Big Brother*. Capitalizing on his instant fame, Dr. Kirby went on to host NBC's *Love Shack*, serve as a medical correspondent for the entertainment news program *Extra*, and guest star on daytime TV's most popular soap opera—*The Young and the Restless*. He also is a featured physician on E! Entertainment Television's *Dr. 90210* and frequently appears on the daytime syndicated medical talk show *The Doctors*, where he educates viewers about a multitude of dermatological conditions.

Although his celebrity continues to grow, which was evidenced last year when he became the spokesman for Neutrogena Dermatologics, Dr. Kirby has used his medical savvy to become one of California's leading dermatologists. In addition to serving as a medical expert in legal cases involving dermatology, Dr. Kirby lectures frequently at national medical conventions on advanced laser tattoo removal techniques and has published multiple articles in medical journals. During his brief career, he has supervised more than 50,000 laser procedures and supported the profession through his membership in organizations such as the American Osteopathic College of Dermatologists, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Society of Dermatological Surgery, and the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery.



Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

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

2010 Donors

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

Dr. James W. Howell ('94)

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

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
(in honor of the class of 1985)

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

Abbott Laboratories

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

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)
(in honor of Lori Dribin, Ph.D.)

Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)

Dr. Soling Li ('00)

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)

Dr. Todd Schwartz ('88)

Dr. David Spight ('99)

Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)
(donated to the Department of Family Medicine)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

*Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
(in memory of Robert Klein, D.O.)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson
(in memory of Robert Klein, D.O.)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)

Dr. Elizabeth Biggers ('06)

Dr. Joel Biggers ('06)

Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

*Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

Dr. Steven Gillon ('86)

*Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Maureen "Mimi" Houlton ('89)
*(in memory of Alice Carney and in honor of
Thomas Carney, D.O.)*

Dr. And Mrs. Lawrence Jacobson
(in honor of A. Alvin Greber, D.O.)

Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)

Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)

Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)

Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

Dr. Laura E. Michael ('93)

*Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)

Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

Dr. George Geisler ('98)

*Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)

Ms. Mary Smith
(in memory of Lee Ann Ralph)

Dr. Howard Stein ('85)

Dr. Lydia Wallace ('06)

**in honor of 2010 Living Tribute Award
recipient Dr. Harold E. Laubach*

Cumulative List (1999-2010)

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

Drs. Andrew J. Hanley and
Evangelos G. Poulos

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

Dr. George Linsey

Mr. Howard Spector

Dr. Paul Winner

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

Heritage Circle

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. James W. Howell ('94)

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni

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

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

Abbott Laboratories

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Raymon Prieue ('86)

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

Dr. Stanley Zimmerman ('91)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

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

Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)
 Dr. Charles Chase ('89)
 Dr. Robert Crook ('88)
 Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)
 Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)
 Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
 Florida Society ACOFP
 Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)
 Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)
 Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)
 Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
 Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)
 Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)
 Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)
 Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)
 Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)
 Dr. Gregory James ('88)
 Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)
 Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)
 Dr. Soling Li ('00)
 Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)
 Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)
 Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)
 Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)
 Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)
 Dr. Michael Ross ('88)
 Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)
 Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)
 Ms. Geraldine Terry
 Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)
 Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)
 Dr. John Windsor ('89)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)
 Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)
 Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)
 Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
 Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)
 Dr. James Beretta ('88)
 Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)
 Broward County Osteopathic
 Medical Association
 Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)
 Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
 Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
 Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)
 Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)

Dr. Bruce David ('88)
 Drs. Felix Fernandez/Ravi Mehan ('00)
 Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)
 Dr. Brad Glick ('89)
 Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)
 Dr. John Gordon ('92)
 Dr. Thomas Green ('98)
 Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)
 Dr. James T. Howell
 Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)
 Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)
 Dr. Walter J. Kay
 Dr. Robert Klein ('91)
 Drs. Jared and Susan Lechtenstein ('01)
 Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)
 Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)
 Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
 Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)
 Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)
 Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)
 Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)
 Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)
 Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)
 Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)
 Dr. Todd Schwartz ('88)
 Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)
 Ms. Lorraine Snyder
 Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85) and
 Dr. Robyn Zelnick ('87)
 Dr. David Spight ('99)
 Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)
 Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)
 Dr. Aye Unnoppet ('00)
 Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
 Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)
 Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Ms. Mary Smith
 Dr. Bridget Bellinger ('86)
 Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)
 Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)
 Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)
 Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo
 Dr. Edgar Bolton
 Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)
 Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)
 Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)
 Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)
 Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)
 Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)

Dr. Alan David ('92)
 Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)
 Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)
 Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)
 Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)
 Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)
 Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)
 Dr. Diana Graves ('86)
 Dr. A. Alvin Greber
 Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)
 Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)
 Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)
 Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)
 Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)
 Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)
 Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)
 Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)
 Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)
 Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
 Dr. James Liang ('99)
 Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)
 Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer
 Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)
 Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)
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 Dr. William E. Osborn III ('96)
 Dr. Anthony Ottaviani
 Dr. Edward Packer
 Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
 Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)
 Mr. John Potomski
 Dr. David Rabaja ('94)
 Dr. George Ramie ('96)
 Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)
 Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)
 Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)
 Dr. Steven Sager ('90)
 Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)
 Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)
 Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)
 Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)
 Dr. William Sjoval II ('96)
 Dr. William H. Stager ('89)
 Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)
 Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)
 Ms. Louise Todaro
 Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)
 Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)
 Dr. Ira Weiner
 Dr. Margaret Wilkinson

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 Dr. Barnet Alpert
 Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)
 Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)
 Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)
 Dr. Leslie Arroyo-Barrows ('86)
 Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi
 Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)
 Dr. Daniel Barkus
 Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)
 Dr. Paul Bates ('86)
 Dr. Ronald Bekic ('04)
 Dr. R. Patrick Bell
 Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)
 Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)
 Dr. Elizabeth Biggers ('06)
 Dr. Joel Biggers ('06)
 Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)
 Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)
 Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)
 Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)
 Dr. George Campbell ('99)
 Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)
 Dr. Octavia M. Cannon
 Dr. Robert Cano ('95)
 Dr. James Caschette
 Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05)
 Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)
 Ms. Ann Cawley
 Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)
 Dr. David Cisko ('88)
 Dr. Jules Cohen
 Dr. Stan Cohen
 Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)
 Mr. Scott Colton
 Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98)
 Dr. Robert D'Amico ('87)
 Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90)
 Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)
 Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87)
 Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)
 Dr. Jon and Janee Dodds
 Dr. Cynthia Chobanian Egan ('89)
 Dr. George Elias ('99)
 Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)
 Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)
 Dr. Gary Gary
 Dr. Steven Gillon ('86)
 Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)
 Dr. Joanna L. Greenblatt-Drowos ('04)
 Ms. Marcia Groverman
 Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock ('86)
 Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)
 Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)
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 Dr. Myron Howell
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 Dr. Thelma Jamison
 Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and Yoyen Lau ('93)
 Donna Kaplan
 Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)
 Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)
 Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95)
 Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)
 Dr. Mi Kim ('90)
 Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)
 Dr. Mark Khorsandi ('99)
 Dr. Stephen Krathen
 Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)
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 Dr. Michele Lapayowker ('90)
 Dr. Kim Lark ('94)
 Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)
 Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)
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 Dr. Jason Lue ('99)
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 Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)
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 Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92)
 Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)
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 Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)
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 Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)
 Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87)
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 Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)
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 Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93)
 Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)
 Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86)
 Dr. John E. Williams ('96)
 Dr. Michael Williams ('00)
 Dr. Scott Yagger ('89)
 Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)
 Dr. Adrian M. Zachary ('98)
 Dr. Christopher Zub ('99)
 Dr. Steven Zucker

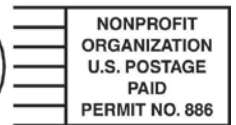
Alumni Testimonial: Why I Give Back to NSU-COM

"When I graduated from SECOM in 1993, I was determined not to give a penny to the school. During my internship, I all of a sudden realized what a good education I received and how this experience put me ahead of some of the other doctors, especially in terms of hands-on experience and skill level. All the discipline instilled in me paid off. I knew the education I received was steps above other medical schools and there was a method to the madness. I appreciate the late Dr. Morton Terry and his dedication to produce quality physicians. It is all about the students and level of education they receive. I am so pleased to have the opportunity to be part of the growth and prosperity of NSU-COM. It is important to be able to give back to the school in any way I can."

John Geake, D.O. ('93 alumnus)



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



2010 Calendar of Events

April 24-25, 2010

Third Annual Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Symposium

Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division
*Coordinated by the NSU-COM Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education,
and Training Center (GREAT GEC)*

July 28-August 1, 2010

FSACOFP Annual Convention and National Family Practice Update

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, Florida

September 24-26, 2010

FOMA Mid-Year Seminar

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida

October 24-28, 2010

AOA Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition

San Francisco, California