

Spring 4-1-2007

# COM Outlook Spring 2007

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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## NSUWorks Citation

College of Osteopathic Medicine, "COM Outlook Spring 2007" (2007). *COM Outlook*. 30.  
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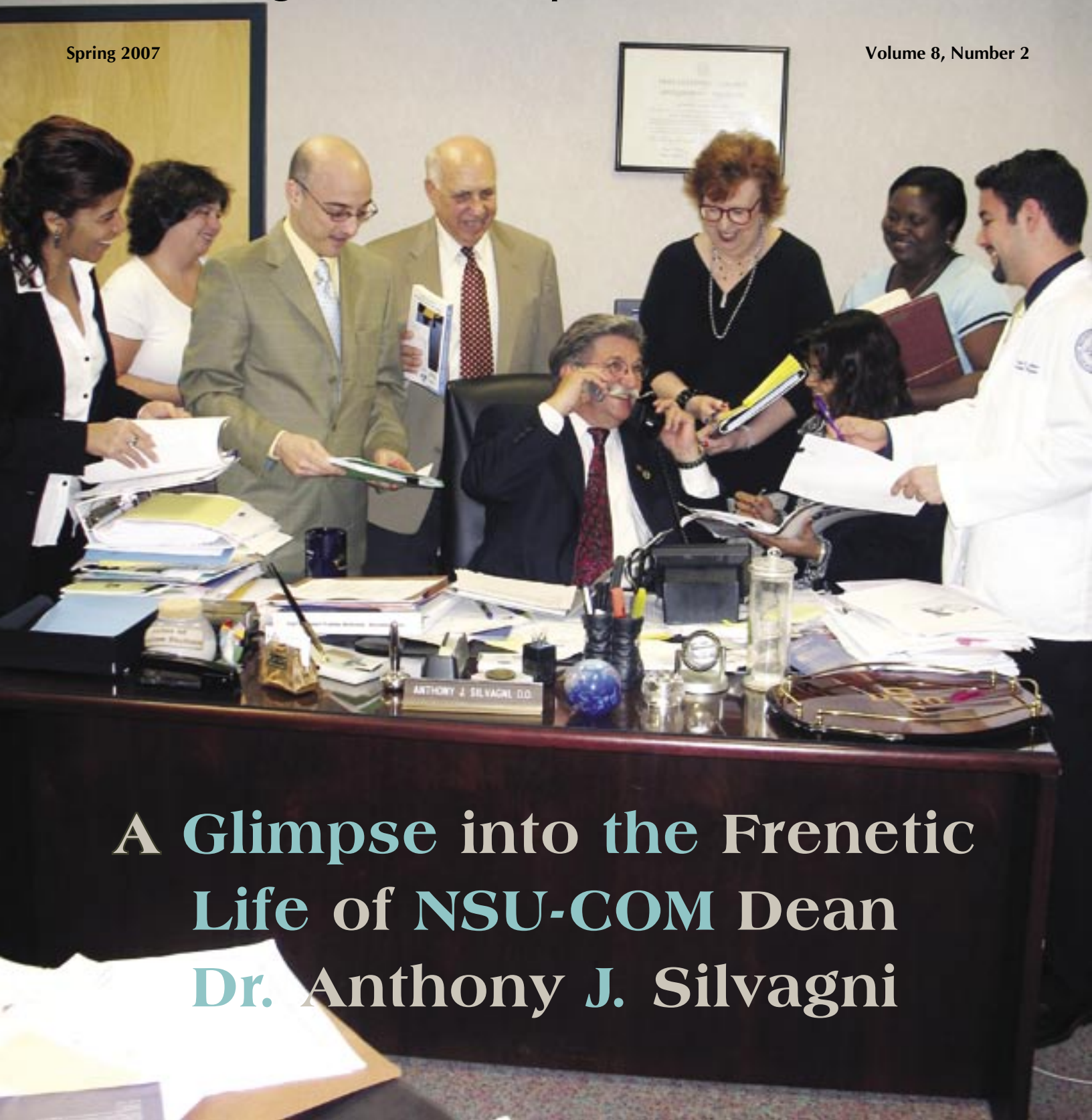
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# COM Outlook

*College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Spring 2007

Volume 8, Number 2



**A Glimpse into the Frenetic  
Life of NSU-COM Dean  
Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni**



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

**T**here used to be a time when osteopathic medical schools were one-dimensional institutions that rarely offered anything beyond the traditional D.O. degree. But that's certainly not the case today, which is evidenced by the multifaceted degree programs being offered by our college and through collaborations with other NSU schools.

Our College of Osteopathic Medicine is now a complex institution that is housed within a university that continues to become increasingly more diverse programmatically. Thanks to the collegial atmosphere that exists here at NSU, we have been able to establish an array of internal and combined graduate and professional degree programs that provide our students with even greater opportunities to maximize their abilities. For example, in July 2007, we will be launching the dual D.O./D.M.D. program with the College of Dental Medicine.

Students wishing to pursue additional health care educational opportunities can also enroll in other concurrent degree programs. This includes programs that combine the D.O. designation with a master of business administration (M.B.A.) or master of health law (M.H.L.). In addition, students can benefit from scholarship opportunities if they chose to pursue a concurrent master of public health (M.P.H.) degree. We also offer a master's degree in biomedical informatics (M.S.BI) and a master's degree in education (M.S.Ed).

In addition to our primary degree offering—doctor of osteopathic medicine—both the master of public health and biomedical informatics programs are run directly through our college. But it doesn't end there. We directly offer two predoctoral fellowships—one in research and the other in osteopathic principles and practice. Our college also operates two postdoctoral fellowships—one in sports medicine and the other in geriatrics. We also have a residency in preventive medicine that is directly run by the college, which is diametrically opposed to the traditional model of other osteopathic medical colleges where the residency programs are usually run by a hospital or health care institution. It's a tremendous undertaking because we must continually monitor all these programs for quality and value as well as ensure that

each program's objectives are being met.

Of course, the establishment of all these programs provides tremendous opportunities for all our students, whether they are in the osteopathic medicine, public health, or biomedical informatics program. The reason? It allows them to look at alternatives and provides them with broad opportunities to tailor the degree they're pursuing so it will include a general area of interest they can either utilize directly in their future practice or position or use to increase their ability to define and solve problems from a greater depth of knowledge.

The inclusion of these multifaceted degree programs gives us a depth of knowledge that fits into the education of our students—over and above the interdisciplinary environment of the Health Professions Division—because of the expertise that now exists in the college, which is shared by each program. As each of these programs grows, our students have the chance to acquire additional knowledge and awareness they wouldn't have had access to in a more traditional and narrowly focused medical school environment.

It also provides opportunities for those students, regardless of what program they're enrolled in, to have increased contact with other programs or to start considering dual involvement depending on their particular goals and interests. Without question, our expansion into other areas makes us a more desirable institution for health care students to receive their education because of the full breadth of programming and greater depth of opportunity we now have to offer.

The bottom line is that the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is no longer a medical school. We are a blend of medical care, public health, informatics, and community/preventive medicine. We have the ability to discover answers to questions, develop evidence-based medicine, and establish better ways to collect and store patient information that is secure through biomedical informatics. In addition, we are examining ways to take that data and interface it with other statistics to look for potential problems that can occur to a patient because of dangerous drug/food interactions or allergies.

The world as we know it is becoming increasingly more diverse and cutting edge—and so is NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O." The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "D.O." written in a slightly larger, more formal script at the end.





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

**I**'ve discussed the following topic before in a previous issue of *COM Outlook*, but I'm going to touch on it again because it bears repeating: Everybody seems to look at graduate medical education as being just residencies when the fact is that, when you talk about medical students, their clinical education exposure actually begins during their third year of medical school.

Over the past few years, a number of sister schools have been or are being established in the state of Florida, including new medical schools at Florida International University and the University of Central Florida, as well as the creation of the corpus of a medical program at Florida Atlantic University, which is a cooperative program with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Consequently, the biggest challenge to both new as well as all existing medical schools in Florida is going to be the continued provision of clinical curriculum in the third and fourth years that is presented to our student matriculants by hospitals, clinics, community health centers, physicians' offices, and other health care venues.

The creation of new hospitals may seem to be one of the remedies to this increasingly challenging issue. However, the establishment of new hospitals or the creation of additional hospital beds in the state of Florida does not ensure a solution. To put it bluntly, the medical staff—the mentors or mentors-to-be—at these hospitals have to be willing to share their time and expertise to provide the educational opportunities our third- and fourth-year students need to enhance their clinical skills. Unfortunately, the reality is that numerous hospitals throughout our Florida communities, many of which have been in existence for as many as 50 years, provide a minimal amount of teaching to third- and fourth-year medical students. That creates a significant challenge.

This issue needs to be underlined and reiterated again and again because you can't just build a hospital and say, "Oh, that's going to be a teaching hospital." You have to know you will have people who are committed to the educational requirements and standards set forth by the academic agencies and institutions that have to be met in that "teaching environment," in coordination with the willingness of the

clinicians to serve as clinical professors.

Historically, there's always been a resistance on the part of many clinicians to educate third- and fourth-year medical students, and it's even more pronounced today because so much pressure is placed on physicians due to underpayment by third-party payers and the crush of insurance costs. Sadly, the general cost of running a medical practice has gone beyond the reach of many practitioners.

There's no question that all our health professionals need to be able to be reimbursed for their professional services and their hard-earned knowledge gained through extensive education. It's especially important to note that physicians will spend anywhere from 12 to 14 years learning their professional craft, which includes four years of undergraduate education, four years of medical school, and three to five years in subspecialty training and residency certifications. With that amount of time invested in gaining both didactic knowledge and clinical experience and competency, a professional deserves to be reimbursed for lifesaving and life-altering services.

However, I also believe that all of us, as professionals and consumers, need to look forward and reach out to people who need us to serve as mentors and role models. It's sad to see so many unfilled opportunities for the medical school students of this nation, not just those at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. These students would much prefer to be taught clinically within their own communities and regions, and then be trained in those same communities and regions during their internships and residencies. But it's become an almost impossible task in today's world thanks to the federal non-funding of residencies and the inability of many physicians to give of their time, whether they are willing or not, because of the pressures and costs of practice.

Fortunately, we are very blessed here at NSU-COM to have the relationships we currently have with our affiliated hospitals, clinics, community health centers, and physicians' offices. However, the issues I've just discussed are going to provide a real challenge to all of us who are already presenting medical education, as well as those sister schools that are coming on board.

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



## **Health Professions Division**

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Chancellor

*Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A., Ed.D.*  
Provost/Executive Dean for Administration

## **College of Osteopathic Medicine**

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

*Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.*  
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*COM Outlook* is produced by  
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*COM Outlook* is produced quarterly in  
January, April, July, and October.

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## **16 Medical Mission to Guatemala Benefits Patients and Participants**

The 2007 Medical Mission to Guatemala, which took place January 5-23, included a 59-member contingent that featured a mix of physicians, students, health care professionals, and community volunteers. During this year's two-week stay in Guatemala, the participants interacted with about 1,600 patients at 13 sites.

## **20 A Glimpse into the Frenetic Life of a Medical School Dean**

On the surface, the life of a medical school dean may seem quite attractive to the other hardworking associates of a college. After all, what's not to like about the real or perceived compensation package, plentiful perks, and inherent sense of supremacy that comes with the position?

## **23 Who Will Be NSU's Biggest Loser?**

When NSU unveils its Biggest Loser champion sometime in April, that health-conscious individual will actually be a bona-fide winner in every sense of the word.

## **26 HPD Board of Governors Provides Guidance, Professional Savvy**

The success of an institution as vast and complex as NSU's Health Professions Division depends on an intricate and interdependent network of components, including its multifaceted Board of Governors.

## **34 Alumni Reunion Brings Comrades and Classmates Together**

A sense of celebration was in the air during the 11th Annual NSU-COM Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program, which was held February 9-11 at the Renaissance Hotel in Plantation, Florida.

## **36 Mary Smith Allegro Receives Distinguished Service Award**

What can you say about Mary Smith Allegro that hasn't already been said by countless individuals who have been touched by this remarkable woman who epitomizes so many wonderful traits such as style, wit, compassion, and grace?

## **DEPARTMENTS**

Dean's Message – 2

Chancellor's Communiqué – 3

News Briefs – 5

Looking Back – 11

Student Government Association Report – 12

Faculty Focus – 13

Student Organization of the Month – 15

CEME Profile – 18

Student Snapshot – 30

Alumni Corner – 32

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll – 37

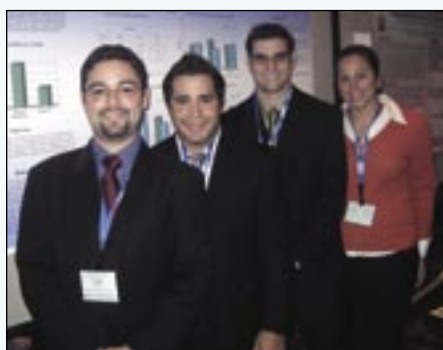
**D**uring the 104th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Louis Riccardo (M2) and Mehul Shah (M1) were presented with FOMA Student Scholarship Awards for possessing leadership skills, supporting FOMA student district society initiatives, and showcasing significant interest in the osteopathic profession and osteopathic manipulative medicine. In addition to receiving commemorative plaques, Riccardo earned a \$500 cash award, while Shah received \$300.



Attendees at the awards presentation included (from left): Matthew Harrison, D.O., FOMA Awards and Scholarships Committee chairman; Jennifer Dentici, LECOM-Bradenton; Mehul Shah; and Louis Riccardo.

**T**he AOA's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) recently granted pre-accreditation status to the following colleges of osteopathic medicine:

- Robert Morris University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Moon Township, Pennsylvania
- Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Aurora, Colorado



**M**2 students Roger Alvarez, Cesar Aguiluz, Michael Alvarez, and Stephanie Markle coauthored a poster article entitled "Ethnic Differences in the Treatment Outcome of Lung Cancer in Florida" that was presented at

the 12th Annual American Medical Student Association Poster Session in March. Their poster tackled the issues of what the differences in outcome might be for different ethnicities in Florida patients with lung cancer and what might explain these differences. In their epidemiological study of a Florida cancer database, and with assistance from public health faculty member Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H, they found that African American patients' lung cancer tended to be diagnosed at a later stage. They also received surgery less often and had worse overall survival rates than both Caucasians and Hispanics.



community and the general public about the myriad educational resources available through the CBAP. Attendees at the CBAP Open House included representatives from NSU-COM, Broward Community College, and the Town of Davie Fire Rescue Department.



discuss issues of importance to the profession. Pictured with Dr. Strosnider (center) are NSU-COM Dean Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni and Dr. Fred Lippman, who serves as chancellor of the Health Professions Division.

## Sports Medicine Division Implements Academic Rounds



**E**arlier this year, NSU-COM's Division of Sports Medicine implemented an academic rounds program to keep the new sports medicine team, which consists of physicians, physical therapists, athletic trainers, and psychologists, up to date on the latest advances in the field. The sports medicine team coordinates the health care of all NSU athletes that are seen at the University

Center. During the academic rounds presentations, students, fellows, and residents from the aforementioned programs are invited to attend and gain valuable insight from the sports medicine team members. According to David Boesler, D.O., associate professor of OPP and administrator of the sports medicine academic program, "This is one of the first interdisciplinary programs that has been initiated where people from different departments come together to provide excellence and continuity in patient care and teach others an interdisciplinary approach to the care of the athlete."





**M**2 students Mark Newberry and Kristina Trubey have been selected to participate in the NSU-COM Research Fellowship Program. Their



one-year fellowship, which will commence in July 2007, will allow Newberry and Trubey to work closely with the college's Behavioral Health Promotion Program and provide them with opportunities to engage in all aspects of the research process as well as collaborate with others in the research realm.

## NSU-COM Receives Six Stuey Award Nominations

**T**he College of Osteopathic Medicine was recognized in six categories when nominations were announced for the Eighth Annual NSU Student Life Achievement Awards. The awards, also known as the Stueys, serve as a celebration of NSU's best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and responsibility. A full summary of the Stuey Awards ceremony, which will take place April 17 in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on campus, will appear in the summer 2007 issue of *COM Outlook*.

Following are the NSU-COM affiliated individuals and organizations that received well-deserved Stuey nominations:



**Executive of the Year**  
*Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.*



**Administrator of the Year**  
*Scott Colton*



**Student of the Year**  
*Dana Block (M4)*



**Alumnus of the Year**  
*Ross Zafonte, D.O.*



**Co-Curricular Advisor of the Year**  
*Gary Hill, D.O.*



**Student Government of the Year**  
*NSU-COM Student Government Association*



Pictured with Cawley (left) is guest speaker Lesley Visser, the renowned sportscaster who became the first woman in history to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when she received the Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award in 2006.

**L**ynne Cawley, M.S., director of alumni affairs, emceed the Girls and Women in Sports Day Luncheon, which was held at NSU's University Center on February 7. Legendary sports reporter Lesley Visser served as the guest speaker. "It was a thrill and honor for me to introduce Ms. Visser as the speaker for the day," said Cawley. "What she did in the sports broadcasting world was unprecedented because women did not hold these types of jobs years ago. I was always a huge fan of hers, so for me to have

the opportunity to meet her and listen as she shared her stories with the young athletes in attendance was quite an honor." Cawley, who is a booster supporter and member of the NSU Athletics Hall of Fame Committee, has emceed the event for the past three years.



**M**2 student Mandar Jagtap coauthored an article entitled "Iododeoxyuridine Uptake in Proliferating Smooth Muscle Cells in Vitro" that appeared in the February 2007 issue of the *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology*. The study's purpose was to assess the maximum uptake of IUdR by proliferating smooth muscle cells in vitro

to determine the optimal concentration to be administered in an in-vivo experiment.



**T**he student chapter of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) recently staged a production of *The Vagina Monologues* that served as a fundraiser for Women In Distress of Broward County, which is a local organization that assists the victims of domestic violence. "Throughout the year, most of our philanthropy work has benefited this organization," said AMWA President Chrissy Caito. "In fact, it is estimated that we have provided over \$4,000 worth of items and money to the organization."

## NSU-COM Students Serve as Presidential Ambassadors

**S**even NSU-COM students are currently representing the university with distinction in their role as presidential ambassadors. They are Dana Block (M4), Ashley Chapman (M3), Mary Chrisochos (M1), Maria Farrell (M1), John Stowers (M2), Leyda Su Ham (M4), and Maria Terneus (M2). In this role, they communicate the image of the university to people throughout the state as well as the local community through close contact with alumni, dignitaries, and other guests who visit the campus.

"Our presidential ambassadors—undergraduate or graduate students who come together for service to the university—bring honor and prestige to all of us through their commitment to excellence and their generosity in donating their time in community service hours to the community," said NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D. "The diligence of our presidential ambassadors provides lasting impressions to the community of what is best about our university—our students—and the ideas they hold dear."

Faculty and staff members as well as administrators nominate presidential ambassadors during the winter semester nomination process. After a review of the applications, a selection committee interviews the nominees and chooses the 35 individuals who will serve as NSU presidential ambassadors.



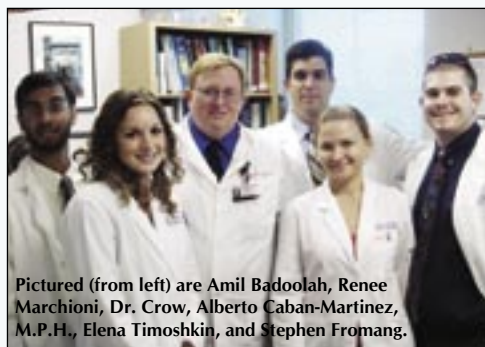
**T**he annual Saw Bone Clinic, which was co-hosted by the NSU-COM Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA) and Synthes Orthopedics, was recently held on the HPD campus. The clinic, which is coordinated by

SOSA, allows orthopedic residents from Broward General Medical Center and representatives from Synthes Orthopedics to educate students on the techniques used in orthopedic surgery.



**M**3 student Amrita Mukherjee (second from right, front row) showcased her altruistic nature in February by coordinating a fundraiser for Florida Hospital-East Orlando's pediatrics department nursing

contingent, which was attempting to collect funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Mukherjee rallied support from fellow students and hospital residents to raise a significant sum for the JDRF.



Pictured (from left) are Amil Badoolah, Renee Marchioni, Dr. Crow, Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., Elena Timoshkin, and Stephen Fromang.

**I**n November 2006, NSU-COM's OPP fellows visited Florida Hospital-East Orlando, where under the supervision of William Thomas Crow, D.O., FFAO—the hospital's family medicine/

neuromuscular medicine residency director—the OPP fellows observed the application of OMT among hospitalized patients and practiced various OMT modalities with the hospital's family medicine/neuromuscular medicine residents.



**I**n January, Charlene LePane, D.O., a Mount Sinai Medical Center internal medicine resident, assisted Major League Soccer (MLS) by providing entrance physicals at the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel for the 62 players who competed in the 2007 adidas MLS Player Combine at Lockhart Stadium. The physicals

were performed to make sure the players (primarily college seniors) were fit enough to participate in the event, which served as a way for the athletes to showcase their talents to MLS coaches prior to the 2007 SuperDraft. She also presented her case report entitled "Valproic Acid Induced Fulminant Hepatic Failure" at the American College of Osteopathic Internists 66th Annual Convention in October 2006.

## Student Ethics Committee Hosts Inaugural Presentation

*By M2 Student Aaron Farmer*

**O**n February 1, the Student Professional Ethics Committee hosted a presentation by Jeffrey Brosco, M.D., Ph.D., who serves as associate professor of clinical pediatrics and director of clinical services at the University of Miami's Mailman Center for Child Development. During this insightful presentation, students debated various ethical issues we will be facing in the coming years as third- and fourth-year osteopathic medical students.

Topics discussed included how to deal with inappropriate behavior with coworkers and mentors, physician-patient interactions, and even issues such as how to handle the stresses of medical school. The most important part of the presentation was that Dr. Brosco actively promoted student participation, allowing attendees to express their opinions about the different situations and dilemmas. Considering that ethics is such a fluid topic, with many people having different opinions, this is something we hope to promote and continue in future presentations.





**O**PP fellow Albert Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., made one oral and two poster presentations at the American College of Preventive Medicine's conference held February 22-26 at the InterContinental

Miami Hotel. His presentations centered on the topics "Cardiovascular Mortality in the U.S. Workforce: Occupations in Need of Behavioral Interventions," "Cancer Mortality in the U.S. Workforce: Identification of Occupation in Need of Screening Interventions," and "Secondhand Smoke Exposure in the U.S. Workforce." He also served as primary author of a research article entitled "Dental Care Access and Unmet Needs Among U.S. Workers: The National Health Interview Survey 1997 to 2003" that appeared in the February 2007 issue of the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.



Donna Kaminski with Todd Fralich, M.D., who serves as one of NSU-COM's IGC clinical preceptors.

**M**2 student Donna Kaminski served as a delegate for the 2007 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections that was held in Los Angeles, California, in late February. The symposium is a scientifically focused meeting of the world's leading researchers, who are working to understand, prevent, and

treat HIV/AIDS and its complications. Topics presented included immunology, vaccines, virology, pathogenesis, HIV drug resistance, pharmacology, and opportunistic infection.



Shannon Cahill, Tiffany Sizemore, and Kristina Trubey, with the help of several Target employees, loading the gifts into their vehicle.

collect \$2,200, spend a day shopping at a local Target store, and purchase an array of toys, electronics, and other gifts that were then distributed to the children temporarily living at Women in Distress.

## Friends Together: Families Forever

By M1 Student Ritchelle Martinez



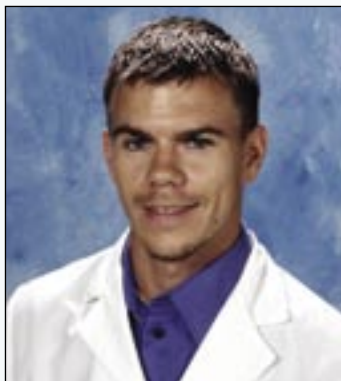
Friends Together participants included Joshua Cohen, Richard Garrett Hanzel, Teresa McDill, Daniela Perez-Velasco, Sandy Lau, Andrea Gajeton, Thuy Le, Ritchelle Martinez, Gauri Sunkersett, Caeti Cashman, and Laura Martin.

**O**n January 12-14, M1 and M2 students traveled to Avon Park, Florida, to attend Friends Together, which is a camp for patients and families affected by HIV and AIDS. Started by Cathy Robinson Pickett and Steve Pickett in 2000, Friends Together is dedicated to serving the HIV-infected community by promoting awareness and providing support.

This year, the activities focused on training to help the individual, caregivers, and family members form strategies to cope and live with the disease, while workshops targeted issues such as the social impact of HIV, the politics of HIV in health care, and the role of medical professionals. The camp also provided opportunities for families coping with HIV and AIDS to socialize with others who understand the challenges they face.

The camp is a unique experience in that all counselors, volunteers, and campers learn from each other. The atmosphere is best described by M1 student Daniela Perez-Velasco, who said, "This is how the world should be."

For further details regarding upcoming camp dates, please visit [www.friendstogether.org](http://www.friendstogether.org).



**P**rofessionalism is manifested in ones outward appearance and gestures, yet the mindset of a professional stems from certain ideals and values. How will these principles assist in transforming NSU-COM student doctors into model physicians? That was the question posed by the Student Professional Ethics Committee's Professionalism Essay Contest, which was open to all NSU-COM students. This year's winner, Joshua David Green (M1, pictured), shared his insights about how NSU-COM students maintain a professional attitude while providing compassionate care.



**T**he AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which encompasses the Glades REACH Fair in Belle Glade and the Hendry/Glades Community Health Fair in Clewiston,

took place during the weekend of March 2-4, 2007. This year marked the Sixth Annual Glades REACH Fair and the Fourth Annual Hendry/Glades Community Health Fair, which serve as interdisciplinary HPD humanitarian medical missions comprising students and faculty from audiology, dental medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, medical sciences, pharmacy, physical therapy, public health, and the physician assistant programs from Davie and Naples. A comprehensive look at this year's AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health will appear in the summer 2007 issue of *COM Outlook*.



**M**4 student Alia Abdulla coauthored an article entitled "Potentiation of High-Let Radiation by Gemcitabine: Targeting HER2 with Trastuzumab to Treat Disseminated Peritoneal Disease" that was published in the March 15, 2007, issue of *Clinical Cancer Research*, which is the official publication of the

American Association for Cancer Research.



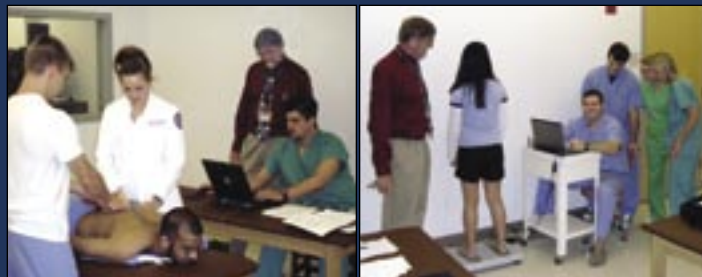
**O**PP fellows Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., and Elena Timoshkin participated in the Advanced Ligamentous Articular Strain (LAS) Course

that was held March 3-4 at Mesquite Community Hospital in Dallas, Texas. The course enhanced their OMT skills with a modality that is not regularly taught at NSU-COM. LAS is a technique developed by William Sutherland, D.O., that allows the tension in all the ligaments of a normal joint to be balanced and centers adjacent bones in their articular grooves and spaces.

## Students, Fellows Participate in Ongoing OPP Research Projects

*By Michael Patterson, Ph.D., Assistant Chair  
Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice*

As part of the ongoing academic activities of the OPP division of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, the undergraduate teaching fellows participate in ongoing research activities. One such project involves measuring how subjects weight bear during quiet standing. Differences in weight distribution between feet and from front to back of each foot are altered by many factors, including somatic dysfunctions. In later parts of this project, dynamic weight distribution within and between feet will be measured before and after osteopathic treatment to determine possible treatment effects.



In the left photo, M1 student **Justin Green** palpates a spinous process of fellow **Amil Badoolah** as fellow **Renee Marchioni** holds a pressure sensor that measures the palpatory force he uses. At the same time, fellow **Alberto Caban-Martinez** monitors the computer recording the forces. **Dr. Patterson**, who has collected data on the forces used by osteopathic experts in this palpatory task, is observing the procedure. This project is directed toward determining whether students can easily learn and retain a specified palpatory force to use in their patient examinations and is part of an effort aimed at developing techniques to better train osteopathic students to use palpatory diagnostic methods and manipulative forces. A President's Faculty Scholarship Award, which was presented to Drs. Patterson, Shamus, and Elaine Wallace, funded the project.

In the right photo, undergraduate teaching fellow **Stephen Fromang** collects data from the department's new computerized scales that are capable of measuring dynamic weight-bearing characteristics. **Dr. Patterson** (left) observes as former fellow and M4 student **James Hunt** and current fellows **Elena Timoshkin** and **Melissa Morgan**, who are also involved in the study, observe as M1 student **Li-Hsien Pai** steps on the scales. This initial study is being undertaken to measure the reliability of the scale system prior to its use as a research instrument. The scales were purchased recently with funds from the college's faculty research funds that were awarded to Dr. Eric Shamus.



### New D.O. Schools Will Help Alleviate Physician Workforce Shortages



**F**irst-year enrollment at the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine is projected to increase to more than 4,474 in 2011-12—a 45.3 percent increase since 2002-03.

With the addition of COM Mesa of A.T. Still University of Health Sciences in Mesa,

Arizona, Debask College of Osteopathic Medicine of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, and the TOURO College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City, a new wave of future osteopathic physicians will be prepared to help meet the nation's increasing health care workforce shortage.

These three schools (slated to admit their first classes in fall 2007), two additional schools in the states of Washington and Colorado (planning to open in 2008), and the growth in class sizes at the existing colleges all will help strengthen the osteopathic medical field's ability to provide high-quality health care to patients nationwide. And with osteopathic medicine's special focus on primary care, especially in rural and urban underserved areas, osteopathic physicians will be able to have a greater impact on the U.S. population's health and well being.

Growing numbers of D.O.s will provide some relief to projected physician workforce shortages, which are slated to reach a critical point over the next 10-to-15 years. Barring significant changes in U.S. health care delivery systems, the gap between the nation's demand for physicians and the number of physicians practicing medicine will exceed 50,000 by 2020.

The number of colleges of osteopathic medical education (COMs) and affiliated branch campuses has grown from just 5 in 1963 to 14 in 1980 to 26 today, increasing the role osteopathic medical education can play in addressing the projected shortages. The concomitant swelling ranks of D.O.s constitute a critical sector in the U.S. health care system. Active osteopathic physicians now number more than 53,000, or 7 percent of the nation's 744,000 physicians, and 2,900 more are graduating each year. By 2010, COMs will graduate more than 4,400 D.O.s annually.

"There is no doubt that the osteopathic profession is increasing both its presence and its importance in the national health care arena," said Stephen Shannon, D.O., M.P.H., president of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). "Osteopathic medicine's approach has much to offer future physicians, the patients they will serve, and the U.S. health care system."

*Source: AACOM*

### Gardasil Vaccine Available at Student Medical Center

*By Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O.*

*Director, NSU Student Medical Center*

**Y**ou may have heard of a new vaccine called Gardasil that helps prevent cervical cancer, which became available in late 2006 and is approved for females ranging in age from 9 to 26. You may also be wondering if this vaccine is a good choice for you. As a result, I would like to share a few of the questions I am asked on a daily basis regarding this new vaccine.

**Q:** "Is it covered by my insurance?"

**A:** Yes, Gardasil is covered under NSU's Chickering Group insurance plan. It is also covered under Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna, and Humana. Please check with your individual plan for specifics in regard to coverage.

**Q:** "How many injections do I need?"

**A:** You will need three doses of the vaccine. Ideally, the doses are given during the initial visit, two months after the first dose, and six months after the first dose.

**Q:** "What exactly is HPV?"

**A:** Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common causes of sexually transmitted infection in the world. In 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that at least 50 percent of sexually active individuals will catch HPV during their lifetime. There are many different types of HPV. Some types cause genital warts while others can lead to cervical or vaginal lesions.

**Q:** "Can I still get the vaccine even if I have had an abnormal pap smear because I am not sure if I have HPV?"

**A:** Yes. You may benefit from the vaccine because most people are not infected with all four types of HPV (6, 11, 16, and 18) in the vaccine. The clinical trials showed that individuals who were infected with one or more of the vaccine types prior to vaccination were protected from disease caused by the remaining HPV types contained in the vaccine.

I hope this has answered a few of the questions you may have had regarding this new vaccine. If you would like to make an appointment to discuss the issue further, please call the NSU Student Medical Center at (954) 262-1262.



# Looking Back...at Getting an Admissions Director



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

**F**irst, there were Mort Terry (the president), me (the dean), Frank Mulick (our financial man borrowed from Osteopathic General Hospital), and Pamela Terry (Mort's daughter and our first secretary). Actually, we had three rooms on the third floor of the hospital's unused annex. From this nidus, we were supposed to develop Southeastern

College of Osteopathic Medicine. Well, you can't get recruits for your school until you have an admissions department, and that meant, at the very least, an admissions director.

While mulling over this next step, an old friend of ours walked in to see us. He wanted to volunteer in any capacity—part-time, full-time, and very soon—to provide whatever we needed in the way of help. Here was Albert Weiner, D.O., who had recently retired from a lifetime of psychiatry practice and just moved to the Miami area. And he brought with him a good understanding of students and youth—not a bad beginning from which to do admissions. Although he had little admissions experience, he had good knowledge of the osteopathic profession and keen insight into students.

I don't remember Mort asking me what we should do, but I think he may have read my face. And he offered Al the position of assistant dean for admissions and student affairs. What serendipity—a capable friend who came to us at just the right time.

Of course, Al went to work immediately and started to develop his department. Within a year or so, he was hospitalized with a serious illness, and we decided it was time to get him some help. I told Mort I would place an ad in *The Chronicle*; after all, that was the publication all colleges went to when searching for experienced higher-education personnel. Mort stopped me and said, "Why don't you put the ad in the *Miami Herald*?" In my best authoritative tone, I said, "Mort, how many people with admissions experience do you think are sitting around Miami, just hoping that somebody will be looking for them?" "Probably none," he said, and added, in his jocular best, "It couldn't hurt." Well, he was the boss, so I placed an ad in the *Sunday Herald* (holding a copy in reserve to send to *The Chronicle* the following week).

We got one call Monday morning from a young

lady who had just moved to North Miami Beach with her dentist husband. She had worked for a couple of years in the admissions department of Stern College for Women, which is a branch of Yeshiva University. Her name was Marla Frohlinger.

Was I surprised! Mort turned out to be right, we had our admissions person—and we saved the cost of an ad in *The Chronicle*.

After she was with us awhile, she explained what happened. Marla and her husband were just about settling in, and Marla was anxious to get back in the saddle. Together, they agreed on that weekend for her to start her search. So she made one call, had one application, and we had ourselves an admissions director.

Unfortunately, Al died a year or so after that, and Marla stepped into his position. She made a great run of it, developed the admissions department into a smooth-running, excellent unit. In addition to that, she took a strong hand in student affairs, supervising all student functions and organizations, including the college's Student Council.

Interestingly, one of her functions was to initiate and operate the yearly registration/orientation weekend for incoming students and graduation weekends, which included both the commencement ceremonies and a senior banquet. She still does that.

When we started to add new schools, we decided that since she was doing such a splendid job with the College of Osteopathic Medicine, we would concentrate all admissions for all schools in her office (after all, admissions are admissions from school to school, with only minor variation).

As everyone knows, she has continued to do a splendid job with all her assignments, now with six schools and many more programs added to her schedule. Over the years, she has arranged probably 30 orientation weekends, graduation ceremonies for at least 75 or 80 classes, and individual school graduation banquets for all of them. Quite a record.

Thus, we have only had two persons in that position, but we apparently made very good choices since Marla is coming up on her 25th year with us.



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

# Student Government Association Report



By Kathryn Rooth, SGA President

## **SGA Clinical Preceptor of the Year**

Congratulations to Dr. Ruth Lucci, an internal medicine hospitalist at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, who received the SGA Clinical Preceptor of the Year Award. A selection committee composed of students and faculty members selected Dr. Lucci based on the nominations she received from third- and fourth-year students. She will be officially recognized during the NSU-COM Senior Awards Banquet in May.

## **Student D.O. of the Year**

Congratulations to M2 student Roger Alvarez. Similar to the Clinical Preceptor of the Year Award, a selection committee chose Roger to be this year's Student D.O. of the Year. He will now continue on and have an opportunity to become the National Student D.O. of the Year.

## **Getting Ready for D.O.**

### **Day on the Hill**

D.O. Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C., will be held on April 27 this year. SOMA and SGA students are working together on a letter-writing campaign to solicit donations that will help fund their trip to D.O. Day on the Hill, which allows students and D.O. physicians across the country to gather together and lobby their congressmen.

## **Clubs of the Month**

Sigma Sigma Phi (November 2006); AMWA (December 2006); ACOEP (January 2007); SNMA (February 2007).

## **Smoking Cessation**

The Third Annual Be Smart, Don't Start Antismoking Poster Contest was held in late March. This event was initiated in 2004 and designed to reinforce the dangers of smoking tobacco to local middle school students. The contest is in cooperation with AHEC's smoking cessation information sessions, which are presented by NSU-COM's M1 students every year in conjunction with the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout. A banquet was held on April 11 to honor the finalists and winners, and that information will be shared in the summer 2007 issue of *COM Outlook*. The students who participated in the planning of this year's event were Jessica Wilson-Chan, Xiomara Richardson, Nat Kittisarapong, and Paul Thompson.

## **Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health (TOUCH)**

TOUCH offers local and national recognition to students who perform significant amounts of community service. Students will receive a TOUCH lapel pin and be honored at a presentation in July during the annual House of Delegates meeting of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) in Chicago. It is

the SGA's hope that this recognition will inspire others to become more involved and exemplify TOUCH's motto, which is, "Changing our world, one community, one person, one hour at a time." To this end, the SGA has initiated an online tracking program for community service.

## **5k Fun Run Event Date Change**

The 5K fun run to raise awareness about childhood obesity has been moved to occur in conjunction with the Autism Walk, which is being held on April 21. There will still be a health fair afterward focusing on raising awareness about childhood obesity and providing education about prevention and healthy lifestyles. The SGA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the FOMA for its generous \$1,000 donation.

## **Senate Meeting**

Student leaders voted down the resolution presented by the SOMA, which attempted to add another student seat for each osteopathic school at the House of Delegates in Chicago and delegate the student seat to the SOMA president. The FOMA also did not support this resolution.

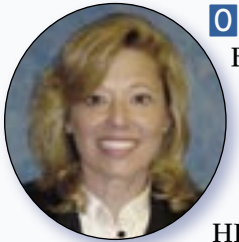


NSU-COM students with AOA President John Strosnider, D.O., during his February 2007 visit.





**E**laine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc., professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, was recently named to the AOA Mentor of the Year Hall of Fame for the third successive year. She has also been named in *Who's Who Among American Teachers* for the fourth time in her career, which is a significant honor since only five percent of American teachers are nominated twice.



**O**n February 22, NSU-COM's Behavioral Health Promotion Program collaborated with the Miami-Dade County Health Department-Office of HIV/AIDS and the University of Miami to sponsor a Project SHARE (Sharing HIV/AIDS Research Education) seminar focusing on HIV prevention for men who have sex with men. The seminar, which was held at the Rusty Pelican restaurant in Key Biscayne, Florida, attracted approximately 120 health department personnel, community providers, and other relevant community representatives from Tallahassee and Miami-Dade



and Broward counties. During the event, NSU-COM Behavioral Health Promotion Program personnel M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., and Jacob Warren, Ph.D., presented an informative lecture entitled "Cyber Talk: Chat Room-Based Recruitment of Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men." Drs. Fernandez and Warren were the only local researchers invited to present at the seminar.



**R**obert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, has been selected by the National Board of Medical Examiners to participate in the COMLEX-PE Planning Committee in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. He is also involved with a pilot project called Presenting to an Attending Physician, which involves educating second-year students about making case presentations to an attending physician prior to beginning their third-year clinical rotations. On the speaking front, Dr. Hasty gave a lecture on "Prevention of Medical Errors 2007" at the Atlantic Regional Osteopathic Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in April.



**M**onica Warhaftig, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, recently became board certified in hospice and palliative care. She also had an abstract published in the March 2007 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* that was entitled "Development of an Interdisciplinary Falls Clinic."



**L**eonard 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 manager of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, attended the National Public Health Preparedness Summit that was held February 19-23 in Washington, D.C. During their stay, Drs. Levy and Rokusek were able to meet with officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the CDC, and the Department of Homeland Security to discuss emerging issues as related to national preparedness.



**N**aushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, presented a lecture on diabetes at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' 44th Annual Convention and Exhibition held March 14-18 in Kissimmee, Florida. She also gave three lectures at the American Medical Directors Association's 30th Annual Symposium, which was held in late March in Hollywood, Florida, and presented a seminar in January to seniors at the Rotary Club in Chennai, India.



**H**ilda De Gaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor of pediatrics and director of systems, presented a lecture entitled "Pediatric Immunization Update" at the NSU-COM 11th Annual Alumni Reunion and the 104th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention, which were held in February. She also discussed the same topic at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' 44th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Orlando, Florida. In March, Dr. De Gaetano presented a lecture in Holmes and Brevard counties on the "Psychosocial Effects in Children of Bioterrorism and All-Hazards" for the NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness.



**J**oseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., FAAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME, and Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of NSU's Women's Health Center, were recently elected as officers of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. De Gaetano will serve as vice president while Dr. Johnson will act as treasurer. In addition, Drs. De Gaetano and Johnson were nominated and accepted as new trustees of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.





**E**dward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, presented a lecture in Miami on the "Psychosocial Reactions of Children During a Disaster" for the NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness. In addition, he participated in two health fairs as a representative of the college's pediatrics department: the Hallandale Elementary School Community Health Fair and the 16th Annual Love Jen Family Festival, which was hosted by NSU.



**P**ablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., associate professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, was promoted in January to the position of assistant dean of clinical operations. In this role, Dr. Calzada will be responsible for the oversight and direction of the NSU-COM medical clinics and the practice of medicine and clinical education that occurs there. He will also serve as the NSU-COM liaison for the North Broward Hospital District.



**J**ames Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, was honored as a distinguished award recipient at The Opera Society's 2007 Cultural and Humanitarian Awards ceremony, which was held March 30 at the Tower Club in Fort Lauderdale. In addition, Dr. Howell was elected to the National Rural Health Association's Minority Committee.



**C**yril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was recently inducted into the American Osteopathic Association Mentor Hall of Fame, which "is dedicated to recognizing excellence in mentoring by those who serve or have served as trusted advisors to members of the osteopathic profession in the tradition established by A.T. Still, M.D., D.O."



**T**he Student Government Association and the HPD Library are sponsoring a project to recognize faculty members who have had a positive influence on the educational experiences of HPD students. Two NSU-COM faculty members—David Boseler, D.O., associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice, and Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics—were chosen as "Featured Faculty" for February 2006. Students are asked to write a brief explanation about why a particular faculty member deserves recognition. Those who earn "Featured Faculty" recognition are honored with a display in the HPD Library that features a brief biography, student comments, and photos.

## Dr. Howard Neer Receives FOMA Lifetime Achievement Award



*Dr. Neer (right) receives his FOMA Lifetime Achievement Award from the organization's president, Richard Thacker, D.O.*

**H**oward Neer, D.O., FACOPF, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs, received the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) during its 104th Annual Convention held February 22-25, 2007, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Dr. Neer received the award in recognition and appreciation of his dedication as a leader,

physician, educator, mentor, and osteopathic visionary, as well as for his lifelong commitment to provide quality health care to the patients of Florida and the osteopathic profession.

Since 1995, the FOMA Lifetime Achievement Award has been presented to an osteopathic physician who has made a significant contribution to the osteopathic community in Florida over the span of his/her lifetime and carved a path for osteopathic physicians nationwide.

## FOMA Faculty Presentations

A number of NSU-COM full-time and clinical faculty members made presentations at the 104th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention, which was held February 22-25 at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. They are:

**Barbara Arcos, D.O.** – OMT Workshop

**Stanley Cohen, Ed.D.** – Medical Ethics

**Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.** – Pediatric Immunization Update

**Robert Hasty, D.O.** – Prevention of Medical Errors and Asthma Update

**Gary Hill, D.O.** – Cardiovascular Risk Reduction in Dyslipidemia

**Gregory James, D.O.** – Domestic Violence

**Michelle Johnson, D.O.** – Herpes Update

**Merrill Krolick, D.O.** – Hyperlipidemia Update 2007

**Susan Ledbetter, D.O.** – Dementia Overview

**Frederick Lewis, D.O.** – Bipolar Spectrum Illness in Primary Care and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

**Archie McLean, D.O.** – HIV/AIDS

**Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.** – Risk Management

**Joseph Namey, D.O.** – How to Prevent the #1 Killer: Smoking

**Anthony Ottaviani, D.O.** – Insomnia Update

**Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD** – Osteoporosis Update and Office Management of Osteoarthritis

**Joel Rose, D.O.** – Florida Laws and Rules and Code of Ethics

**Monica Warhaftig, D.O.** – Restless Leg Syndrome

## Student Osteopathic Orthopedic Association (SOOA)



**T**he Student Osteopathic Orthopedic Association (SOOA) may not be one of the larger clubs on campus, but what it lacks in size is more than offset by the dedication and commitment displayed by its members and officers.

The club, which currently has about 160 members sprinkled throughout the four current NSU-COM classes, is a no-nonsense academic association that prides itself on exposing its members to all facets related to the field of orthopedics. And that's just the way M2 student Paul Ghattas, who serves as the current SOOA president, likes it. "I know some people think it's a small club and that there aren't many members, but if you think about the fact that there are actually about 40 students from each class that join the club, it's a pretty good size for such a specific medical specialty," he explained. "There are also pluses to having a small group because we can do things other large groups may not be able to do. In a very specialized club like this, you want only those who are very interested and see orthopedics as a legitimate future career choice."

When Ghattas joined the club as a first-year student in 2005, he was unaware of all the choices that awaited him in the orthopedic field, which is why the organization plays such a vital role in the educational process. "Within the field of orthopedics, you can specialize in surgery that is specific to the hands, knees, spine, etc. In fact, there are even orthopedic plastic surgeons," he stated. "It's a pretty diverse field, which is one of the things I've learned by being involved in the club."

For a \$50 fee, which covers all four years of their medical school experience, SOOA members can partake in an array of activities such as a mentorship program, journal club, and fracture conferences that help them hone in on their true medical calling. "The mentorship program is an ideal opportunity for members to see the field of orthopedics firsthand alongside a local orthopedic surgeon," Ghattas explained. "We also offer fracture conferences, which is something we've been doing for a few years now in conjunction with the orthopedic surgery residency program based at Broward General Medical Center."

"Dr. Joel Rush is the director of this program, which allows our members to visit the hospital every Friday around 6:45 a.m.," he added. "At the conferences, our members, along with the current residents and attending physicians, analyze and interpret all the radiology associated with the patients that have come in during the past week. Just being there and listening gives us a unique opportunity to apply what we are currently learning in the classroom. Dr. Rush is great because he always makes sure we understand the terminology, which is significant because until you learn it, orthopedics is a foreign language. He acknowledges the fact that we are there as students and puts it in simple terms for us, which has been quite helpful."

The journal club, which was the brainchild of the association's faculty adviser, Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., provides another outlet for SOOA members to remain abreast of what is happening in the field of orthopedics. "Many medical students don't realize that keeping current about medical research is something that's going to become second nature to them as their careers evolve," Ghattas stated. "They will be reading journals for the rest of their lives, so this gives them practice on how to understand a case study, review it with peers, and evaluate what the positives and negatives are of approaching a patient from a particular angle."

SOOA members also benefit from the fact that the national office of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics is housed in NSU's Health Professions Division and is overseen by Dr. Morris, who serves as the academy's executive director. "Dr. Morris oversees all the osteopathic orthopedic residencies and is a great resource to have because he can expose us to so much," Ghattas explained. "I feel very honored to work with him. Anytime we need something, Dr. Morris is always there to help us, give us suggestions, and lead us in the right direction."

When his tenure as SOOA president concludes in May 2007, Ghattas hopes his peers have gained a scope of invaluable knowledge they wouldn't have had access to without being associated with the Student Osteopathic Orthopedic Association. "My goal is to give our members the opportunity to get a head start on their careers and give them a better understanding of what the world of orthopedic medicine has to offer," he explained. "If I can get them into the operating room to see actual surgical techniques, expose them to the fracture conferences, and be a part of journal clubs while also making sure they take advantage of all the wonderful resources we have here at NSU, then I will feel like the club has served its purpose."





## Medical Mission to Guatemala Provides Rewards for Patients and Participants

**W**hen the participants of NSU-COM's annual Medical Mission to Guatemala visit the Central American country, the humanitarian undertaking takes on a distinctly different feel each and every time. That was certainly the case in 2001 when a massive earthquake struck nearby El Salvador and sent seismic shocks deep into the heart of Guatemala where the health care contingent just happened to be staying.

Fortunately, the 2007 medical mission, which took place January 5-23, was a much tamer affair for the 59-member contingent that featured a mix of physicians, students, health care professionals, and community volunteers. During this year's two-week stay in Guatemala, the participants interacted with about 1,600 patients at 13 sites.

"We returned to familiar areas such as San Antonio, Panajachel, and Santa Catarina that are located near the Lake Atitlán region of Guatemala, but we also traveled by bus to a number of new sites that were located thousands of feet up in the mountains," said Camille Bentley, D.O., FACP, who serves as an NSU-COM associate professor of family medicine and president of DOCARE International. "It was a very interesting experience because we discovered there were clear differences in the ailments we treated.

"We noticed we had more parasitic problems and gastrointestinal complaints closer to the lake because of the patients' close proximity to polluted water," added Dr. Bentley, who has been involved with the college's Guatemala medical missions since their inception in 2000. "However, up in the mountains, the problems were more skin-related due to the harsher elements. We also discovered that people living in the mountains, despite being quite isolated from outsiders, were actually healthier as a whole, which I think is due to their lack of Western influences. Because the area by the lake has become a tourist attraction, you see the local children eating fast-food items like chips and candy that are not available in the mountain villages."

Although the medical mission participants have certainly dealt with their share of life-threatening cases over the past decade, Dr. Bentley estimates that about 60 percent of their time is spent providing preventive care and education. "The common complaints Guatemalans suffer from are quite preventable," she explained. "For example, we see a lot of incidents of reflux and acid indigestion, and much of that has to do with their diets. They start drinking coffee when they're very young because coffee is cheap and they grow the beans. In addition, they may eat a bland diet, but they use a significant amount of seasoning to spice it up.



# 2007 Medical Mission to Guatemala

"We also stress the importance of drinking more water, washing their hands frequently, and boiling their drinking water whenever possible," she added. "In some areas, water is piped in, but it's not a sophisticated filtration system like we have here in the United States, so it frequently contains bacteria that causes severe gastrointestinal distress."

The prevention theme is also enhanced thanks to the generosity of the medical mission team, which brings vital items such as hats, clothes, sunscreen, sunglasses, multivitamins, over-the-counter medications, shampoo, moisturizer, soap, towels, and shoes to improve the quality of life for those patients they come in contact with each year. "Many of the participating students will even leave their sneakers behind when the medical mission is over," stated Dr. Bentley. "That's how committed they are to helping those less fortunate than themselves."



Interestingly, although donations such as those mentioned above are both welcomed and solicited, Dr. Bentley was asked by one of her contacts in Guatemala to avoid distributing clothing to the Mayan women in certain areas. "We brought some clothing with us that was collected by the students prior to the trip, but we were actually asked to refrain from giving the clothing out to some of the women because they are being urged to maintain their traditional style of dress and culture."

"The women and young girls never leave their small towns, so the local authorities really don't want them wearing Western clothing," she added. "However, it was perfectly fine for us to bring American clothing for the young boys and men because they have to leave their villages to work, and they can't wear their traditional clothing in the factories or when they travel to other countries for seasonal employment."

As Dr. Bentley reflected back on the latest Medical Mission to Guatemala, she recalled the sense of camaraderie and fulfillment felt by all the participants, including Dr. Bentley herself. "I get a true sense of satisfaction from seeing the students and all the other participants as they help people," she stated. "The students truly enjoy the learning experience and the valuable cultural exposure they receive. We've been going back to some of these regions for seven years, and when we ask the patients when they last saw a doctor, they'll frequently say, 'A year ago when I saw you.' It's great to know we're making a positive difference in their lives from a health and wellness standpoint."

## Guatemala Medical Mission Participants

### Medical Practitioners

Ginory Almari, D.O.	Trif Almos, M.D., Ph.D.	Ron Bekic, D.O.
Camille Bentley, D.O.	Hans Bez, D.O.	Marianne Carroll, D.O.
Jennifer Capezzuti, D.O.	Mike Funk, P.A.	Elisa Ginter, D.O.
Aisey Gurrea, D.O.	Donna Harrison, M.D.	Daniel Kesden, M.D.
Harold Laubach, Ph.D.	Susan Ledbetter, D.O.	Jennifer Ludovici, R.N.
Olga Martinez, D.O.	Patricia Meyer, D.O.	Pattie Murray, R.N.
Robert Norman, D.O.	Dinh Pham, M.D.	Emily Roubenstein, D.O.
Zsuzsanna Seybold, M.D.	Joel Spalter, M.D.	Don Tillman, M.D.
	Linda Waidelich, R.N.	

### NSU-HPD Students

Tamara Boots (M2)	Samantha Butt (P.A.)	Kacey Cotoli (M4)
Amber DeChambeau (M4)	Sarah Ferrer (M2)	David Fisher (M4)
Lindsay Fox (M2)	Joshua Green (M1)	Christina Han (M2)
Ryan Herbert (M4)	Tiffany Hue (M2)	Joanna Isbell (M4)
Collin Johnston (M2)	Ryan Kenny (M2)	Irene Kuizon (M4)
Mathew Levine (M2)	Sharon Londo (M2)	Khoi Luong (M4)
Anne McLendon (M2)	Ingrid Rachinski (M1)	Jessica Ranheim (P.A.)
Doni Rivas (M2)	Katiera Rivera (M1)	Iris Saleh (M4)
Kamaldeep Singh (M2)	Ian Vincent (M2)	Michelle Weiner (M4)
	Roya Zolnoor (M4)	

### Community Volunteers

David Bentley	Victoria Laubach	Nason Rouhizad
Charles Seybold	Matthew Tillman	Glenn Waidelich

## Palm Beach Centre for GME Provides Cutting- Edge Education

**T**he Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education (PBCGME)—the anchor for NSU-COM's Palm Beach Academic Center—comprises three acute inpatient hospitals affiliated with HCA Healthcare, which is the nation's leading provider of health care services. HCA is composed of locally managed facilities that include approximately 190 hospitals and 91 outpatient surgery centers in 23 states, England, and Switzerland.

### Columbia Hospital

The hub of its campus is a 250-bed acute care facility (with an 88-bed psychiatric unit called the Pavilion at Columbia Hospital) accredited by the AOA as well as the Joint Commission.



Columbia Hospital, which is the sponsor of all AOA-accredited internship and residency programs in the Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education, has been actively involved in osteopathic medical education since it

was founded in 1975. With an experienced, motivated, and energetic teaching staff, Columbia Hospital boasts excellent didactics in addition to strong clinical rotations, with ample opportunity for "hands-on" experience. Many of Columbia Hospital's attending physicians, as well as the regional and associate director of medical education (DME), are themselves graduates of its training program. Columbia Hospital is the base for internal medicine, family practice, and dermatology residencies.

### Palms West Hospital

Palms West Hospital is a 175-bed acute care facility with a wide variety of services geared to excellence in medical education. A recent \$47 million expansion has significantly increased the number of beds available, augmented the capacity of the Emergency Department, and established a new Pediatric Unit and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Palms West Hospital is

located in a younger population center of Palm Beach County, which is among one of the fastest-growing communities in the country. Palms West boasts exemplary surgery, emergency medicine, pediatrics, pediatric emergency, pediatric intensive care, and obstetrics/gynecology services. Palms West is currently accredited for residencies in family practice and pediatrics, surgery, and emergency medicine.

### JFK Medical Center

A recent \$76 million hospital expansion has increased JFK to a 424-bed facility. A new emergency department is triple the size of the previous facility, and the modern new facility is home to 41 beds, including 5 trauma and 8 fast-track beds. JFK boasts excellent critical care services, an advanced neurosciences center (neurological disorders, brain and spinal surgery, pain management, sleep disorders, and stroke) and a cutting-edge heart institute (open-heart surgery, invasive cardiology, and cardiac rehabilitation).

The PBCGME currently provides two didactic programs per day at both Columbia and Palms West Hospital, as well as regularly scheduled programs at JFK Medical Center and the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

### Academic Partners

To enhance the quality of care rendered in its facilities, as well as the academic programs offered to its externs, interns, and residents, the Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education has formed strategic alliances with some of the area and world's finest health care organizations:

The **West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center** provides primary- and secondary-level health care to eligible veterans in a seven-county area along Florida's Treasure Coast. Comprehensive services include medical, surgical, and psychiatric inpatient care and outpatient services in each specialty. In addition, extended care services offer community residential care, adult day health care, respite, hospice, and nursing home care. In addition to clinical rotations, internal medicine residents may take classes in biomedical informatics at the VAMC, leading to a master's degree from Nova Southeastern University.



**St. Mary's Medical Center** serves as the clinical site for the PBCGME's Pediatric Neonatal Intensive Care Rotation as well as the training site for its General Surgery Trauma Service.

**Miami Children's Hospital**



# Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education

## JFK Medical Center



provides weekly interactive radiology teleconferences, which are beamed live and in real time, to PBCGME's pediatric residents. In partnership with Miami Children's Hospital, Palms West Hospital's Kidsville is ready for any children's emergency thanks to a winning combination that features the latest pediatric equipment, board-certified pediatricians, and a staff trained in the special medical needs of children.

The **Palm Beach County Health Department** serves as the clinical site for PBCGME's family medicine and pediatrics residency programs. This unit boasts a prototypical managed care program in which PBCGME residents are assigned "families" and are responsible for the delivery of care from infants to geriatrics. The Palm Beach County Health Department also hosts a dually accredited residency in public health/preventive medicine.

The 280-bed **Joseph L. Morse Geriatric Center** is one of the nation's foremost private geriatric facilities, providing long-term care, short-term rehab, and a hospice inpatient unit. A fellowship-trained, board-certified medical director supervises the geriatric training.

At the **University of Miami Calder Library** and the **NSU Health Professions Division Library**, house staff and faculty members are able to complete searches and request articles through interlibrary loan systems and electronic library access.

The attractiveness of its programs is enhanced further thanks its location in the heart of Florida's Gold Coast.

## PBCGME Fast Facts

- The PBCGME currently accepts 12 students from NSU-COM who are doing their third-year core rotations, along with an average of 12 students each from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Many more students rotate through its facilities on elective rotations.
- PBCGME is a founding member of the CEME. In fact, its regional DME, Bradley Feuer, D.O., J.D., was the consortium's first vice president and inaugural Bylaws Committee chairman.

Palm Beach County offers the best of everything, for any lifestyle. From unspoiled beaches to world-renowned shopping, Palm Beach boasts exciting nightlife, modern performance centers and concert venues, and proximity to Orlando's popular theme parks.

### PBCGME Postgraduate Particulars

In addition to two osteopathic internship programs, the PBCGME is accredited for residency programs in family practice, internal medicine, dermatology, pediatrics, general surgery, and emergency medicine. Its dermatology program is run as a fellowship to its internal medicine residency. The PBCGME is currently exploring the feasibility of a combined internal medicine/pediatrics program, as well as several other osteopathic residency programs within its facilities.

The JFK Medical Center recently announced plans to begin an ACGME-accredited internal medicine residency training program in cooperation with the University Of Miami Miller School Of Medicine. Several other allopathic residency programs, including a cardiology fellowship, also are planned for JFK Medical Center.

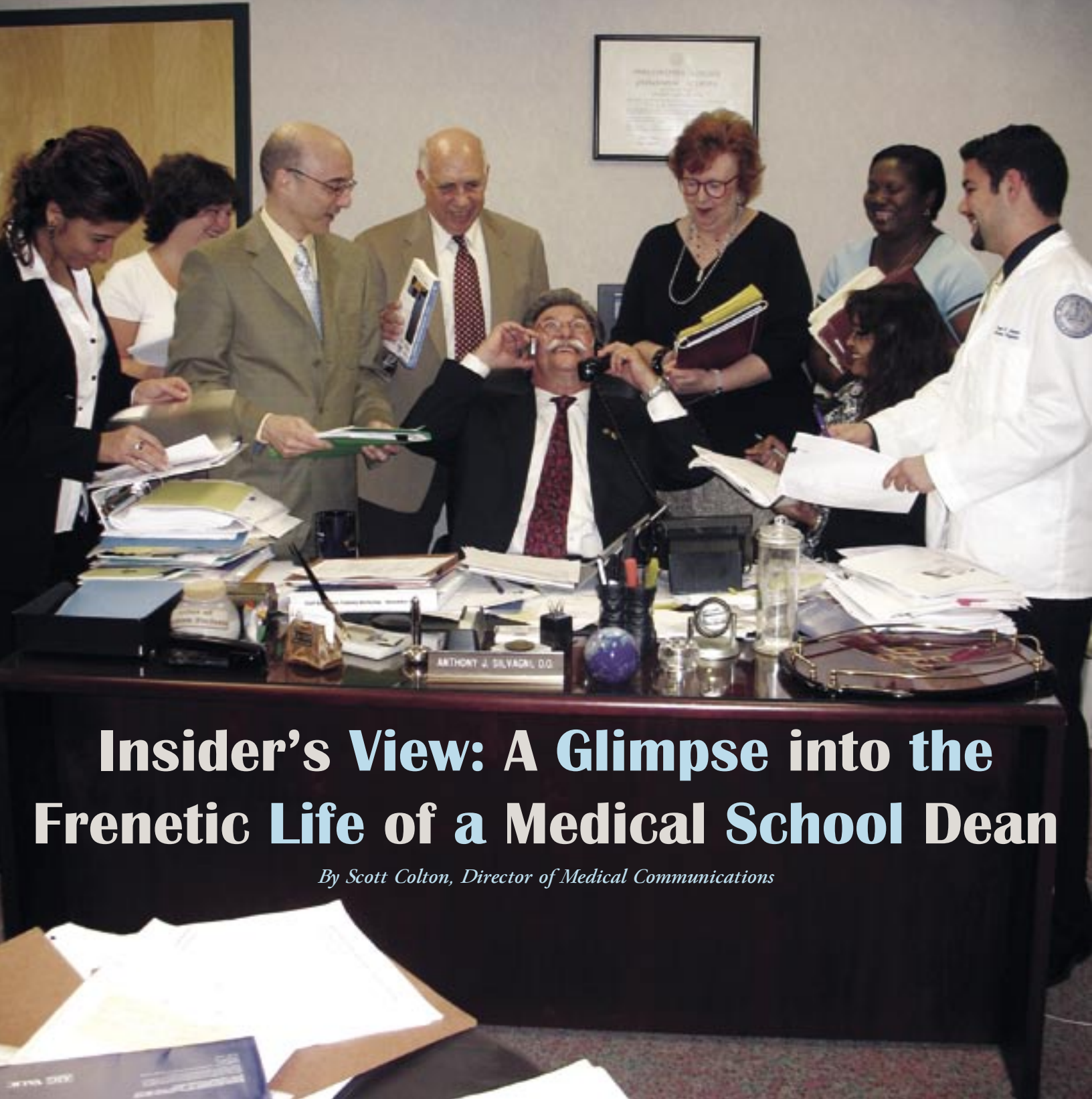


Since 2005, *COM Outlook* has featured informative spotlights on the various organizations that comprise the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education. The accomplishments and contributions of this interactive 18-member network are indeed merit worthy because each participating institution provides exceptional postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.





**It may sound like a dream job to those who aspire to it, but if that's the case, why is the average lifespan of a medical school dean in the United States a meager 2.4 years? To unearth the answer, COM Outlook went straight to Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, who has served as commander and chief of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine since the summer of 1998.**



## **Insider's View: A Glimpse into the Frenetic Life of a Medical School Dean**

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

# Frenetic Life of a Medical School Dean

**O**n the surface, the life of a medical school dean may seem quite attractive to the other hardworking associates of a college. After all, what's not to like about the real or perceived compensation package, plentiful perks, and inherent sense of supremacy that comes with the position?

It may sound like a dream job to those who aspire to it, but if that's the case, why is the average lifespan of a medical school dean in the United States a meager 2.4 years? To unearth the answer, *COM Outlook* went straight to Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACP, who has served as commander and chief of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine since the summer of 1998 and worked in a dean's role for 15 consecutive years.

"A medical school dean basically works for four groups—the board of trustees, the university administration, faculty and staff, and the students," said Dr. Silvagni, who previously spent 6½ years serving as vice president and dean for academic affairs at the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri, in the 1990s. "Each one of these groups assumes that you work for them, and their needs and missions are very different. You have to establish and maintain a successful working relationship with all these groups, so you're always at risk. The pressure can be enormous, which is why the majority of deans return to private practice or faculty positions after one-to-five years, although a small number move on to a higher administrative position, while very few stay on as dean."

## Dr. Silvagni's Secrets to Success

So what are the secrets to success for Dr. Silvagni, who is enjoying his career more than ever after nearly nine years as NSU-COM dean? "Everybody fits somewhere," he explained. "I did many different things throughout my career, including being a pharmacist and a solo primary care physician, and I did them well. The good news for health care in this country is there are a lot of good physicians. But not all physicians are good administrators. My master's degree included administration, and I've held many administrative positions over the years," added



Dr. Silvagni, who worked in a nine-hospital system in three states in Appalachia, chaired positions at various colleges, worked as an administrator at several large teaching hospitals, and held multiple faculty positions at both the state and private-school level. "I've also conducted research, including bench research, which very few doctors have done. I think it's the combination of all these experiences that gives me a unique set of skills, which allows me to be able to have the flexibility a successful dean needs to have."

Of course, even the savviest of deans are doomed to disappoint if they fail to surround themselves with a driven, talented, and forward-thinking team that is striving for a shared level of institutional achievement and approbation. "Everyone looks at the dean as the person who sets the tone and provides the leadership to an institution, but you could say the same thing about the quarterback of a football team," surmised Dr. Silvagni. "The quarterback sets the tone and provides the leadership to that team. But if you were the best quarterback that was ever born in the history of the world and you did not have a good team around you, no one would ever know. Without a good offensive line, without a good defense, without good receivers and runners, you could never be successful no matter how good you are individually."

"I've been blessed that I'm at an institution that features an exceptional team of staff, faculty, and administrators that is committed to the goals we have set as a group," he added. "I may have the skill set and the experience, but more importantly, it's about the people I work with because without them nothing would happen the way you would like it to happen. I also have the luxury of working at a university where we're not hindered by strong and predetermined traditions and dogma. University administration allows, and encourages, its deans to be creative. The students our college attracts are also unique in their academic and scholarly achievements, coupled with their true compassion and commitment to all people."

Another key to Dr. Silvagni's success has been the invaluable support he receives from his wife, Dianna, who earned her



# Frenetic Life of a Medical School Dean

law degree in 1990 and has been involved politically in the osteopathic profession for many years. “My wife, though she is a professional in her own right and has her own career, threw herself wholeheartedly into many of the political aspects a dean has to be involved with at the national, regional, and local level, both within and outside the profession.”

Over the years, Dianna has complemented her husband’s skills by being intricately involved in organizations such as the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association, the Auxiliary to the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, and the Broward County Medical Association Alliance. In fact, her professional acumen resulted in her being elected president of all three entities at various times. Dr. Silvagni also credits Dianna for helping to boost the college’s—and his own—esteem thanks to the high regard those within the profession have toward her due to her own impressive achievements.

## **Long Hours and a Maelstrom of Minutiae**

Medical school deans may be envied for their lofty job titles and generous compensation packages, but the unvarnished reality is this: They earn every penny—and more—for the political minefields they must artfully avoid and the immense workloads they must contend with on a weekly basis. For example, Dr. Silvagni estimates he spends over 100 hours a week (including most weekends) working on college and other professionally related endeavors. “My life mostly revolves around numerous meetings during the day and then following up at night with the paperwork I have to complete regarding the matters that were decided or met upon,” explained Dr. Silvagni, who endorses an open-door policy of administration. “I’m also always preparing for lectures and meetings I have to attend locally, regionally, and nationally.”

In addition, because of the complex configuration that is NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Silvagni must remain abreast of an alphabet soup list of departments and programs such as AHEC, CBAP, CEME, and IGC and be in the loop on all major decisions concerning everything from clinical teaching sites and hiring decisions to student concerns and financial issues.

Then there is the never-ending barrage of human traffic that waits outside his office each day. Most of these individuals, who pop in without an appointment, hope to snare a few minutes of the dean’s increasingly precious time. More often than not, these valued members of the NSU-COM family are welcomed with

affectionate greetings and hearty hugs that have endeared Dr. Silvagni to both staff and students alike.

“It is really important to realize that each person who comes to you is there for a reason,” he explained. “They are there because they weren’t able to solve an issue on their own, or they felt I absolutely had to know about something as soon as it occurred. As a result, I look at it from that perspective and treat it as such, although sometimes I do have to multitask while they are talking to me because there are things with very abrupt deadlines that I have to complete immediately, but people are very understanding of that.”

Dr. Silvagni credits his multitasking background—and his fondness for concentration-heavy hobbies like piloting boats and flying private planes—for facilitating his adeptness as a medical school dean. “These abilities really prepared me for being a dean,” said Dr. Silvagni, who earned his pilot’s license when he was in his 20s.

“When you pilot a plane, you’re taught to think orderly, always be ahead of the plane, and stay focused—otherwise you’ll die.

“It is extremely easy to become overwhelmed at times,” admitted Dr. Silvagni, who must also sift through the 200-plus emails he receives on a daily basis. “But it’s important to remember that people are very sensitive to the dean’s response to whatever they ask. If I were to bark at someone, not in anger but in frustration, it would be misunderstood and hamper future communication—and communication is the key to running any successful institution.”

What continues to drive Dr. Silvagni as he approaches the decade point as NSU-COM dean is the sheer love for what he does—and the unadulterated joy he gets from watching the college continually grow in both size and stature. “I always think of myself as the person responsible for creating the environment where everyone can enjoy chasing his or her greatest potential, whether it be the student, faculty, or staff member,” he said.

Not surprisingly, he sites graduation as his favorite dean’s-related activity because it represents the ultimate accomplishment for both the students and all those involved in the college’s educational process. “I love graduation. That’s the time I most feel at peace with the fact I don’t see patients anymore,” he explained. “I really miss seeing patients, but at graduation the sacrifice seems worth it because I get to see all these new physicians getting their diplomas as they prepare to embark on their careers. It’s a wonderfully gratifying feeling.”



*Dr. Silvagni credits much of his success to his wife, Dianna, who complements his talents by serving in both local and national osteopathic leadership roles.*



# Who Will Be NSU's Biggest Loser?

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**W**hen NSU unveils its Biggest Loser victor sometime in April, that health-conscious individual will actually be a bona-fide winner in every sense of the word.

Modeled after the popular television program *The Biggest Loser*, where contestants diet, exercise, and sweat their way to potential glory, NSU opted to incorporate the concept into its culture of wellness late in 2006 and offer it to interested full-time employees who could greatly benefit from a regimented exercise routine.

"The Biggest Loser program came about through looking at what programs we currently offer in terms of wellness to our employees," said America Minc, M.B.A., who serves as assistant director of Campus Recreation. "We then looked at what programs we could put on for our employees that would help improve their quality of life and get them to take a more proactive approach toward their personal health

and well being.

"I watched *The Biggest Loser* on TV and thought it would be a great program to bring to NSU employees," added Minc, who coordinated focus groups to hone in on employee fitness habits. "What I discovered in these focus groups is that the reason many of our employees don't work out here at the University Center RecPlex or don't work out at all is because they have never stepped foot in a gym before and are intimidated by the equipment. Another reason that came up was that some employees said they would feel uncomfortable working out on campus side-by-side with their students."

To address these issues, Minc envisioned a program that would help break down those emotional barriers and lead employees to enhanced levels of self-esteem, health, and fitness. "I knew that education was important in terms of making them feel comfortable, teaching them how to use the equipment, and providing them with guidelines as far



# Who Will Be NSU's Biggest Loser?



NSU Biggest Loser participants and alternates are (front row, kneeling) Katy Twist and Vernie Riley. Middle row (from left) are Gigi Mardy, Mary Toledo, Kelly Ferguson, Lisa Meadows, and Annette Blackwell (alternate). Back Row (from left) are Lesa Phillips, Cindy Mallard, Kacey Atkinson, Josh Appelt, Christine Hellkamp (alternate), and Megan Smith-Heafy (alternate). Not pictured are Rhonda Bobb and Robin Trezza.

as exercising safely to achieve weight loss and build strength and flexibility.”

Armed with a wealth of information, Minc contacted Robert Oller, D.O., who serves as CEO of NSU Clinics, and shared her idea for bringing *The Biggest Loser* concept to NSU. However, because he was not familiar with the television show, Dr. Oller’s initial response was understandably unenthusiastic. “Absolutely not,” he replied. “Who’s going to want to be *The Biggest Loser*?”

Because she was so confident of the concept, Minc quickly guided Dr. Oller to The Biggest Loser Web site so he could witness firsthand how the program worked. After assessing the information, Dr. Oller replied, “Okay, I’m in,” and the twosome began moving forward with the project. “We started talking about ways the Health Professions Division could help us because we wanted measurable biometrics such as blood sugar and cholesterol in addition to obvious measures such as weight lost, blood-pressure improvements, body-fat composition, and overall fitness levels.”

That led to a discussion with Andrew Kusienski, D.O., who serves as the primary sports medicine physician at NSU’s Sports Medicine Clinic. “Dr. Kusienski and I got together and decided what each participant would need to be screened for in terms of a pre-program physical,” said Minc. “We worked it out with the Family Medicine Clinic to have all the participants get their blood work done there, and then they would come to the Sports Medicine Clinic to get their physicals done by Dr. Kusienski and his crew.”

During the online application process, which was launched toward the end of last year, 75 employees signed up to participate in the NSU Biggest Loser program. By early January, all 75 hopefuls were screened to see if they would be eligible to fill one of the 12 slots available in the competition. “We gave all the applicants their body-mass index (BMI) scores and decided that our criteria for BMI was going to be for individuals in the 25-to-39-percent range,” she said. “We also invited the applicants in for a brief interview, which gave them a chance to further explain why they deserved a spot. Since this is a pilot program, we are only offering it to 12 people and breaking them into two teams of six.”

Once all the information was analyzed, the applicants were placed into low, moderate, and high-risk categories, and the final group of 12 was selected. The three-month weight loss competition, which began the week of January 15, has been a comprehensive one that incorporates a range of protocols to ensure the health and wellness of the participants.

“Aside from Dr. Kusienski’s screenings, we are doing a fitness assessment here at Campus Recreation that includes a three-minute step test for estimated VO2max, which measures a person’s cardio-respiratory capacity as he or she exercises so you can get a better reading on that person’s cardiovascular fitness,” Minc explained. “We also test their flexibility, body-fat composition, and muscular strength so we can establish a baseline fitness level and can get a good feel on where they’re at physically. That’s how we formulate their individual program, or as I call it, ‘homework.’

“They each get a prescribed exercise regimen for their homework,” she added. “Outside of that, they also have



# Who Will Be NSU's Biggest Loser?



three group workouts per week and are mandated to come to at least one of them, which range from water aerobics and treadmill workouts to kickboxing. The participants can workout outside of NSU, but they all had to purchase a heart-rate monitor to make sure they were training within their appropriate cardiovascular zones. In addition, if they're not a RecPlex member, we are allowing them to use the facility between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, so they can come in on their lunch hours and do their workouts."

The NSU Biggest Loser program also formed an allegiance with the university's Center for Psychological Studies and its Guided Self-Change Clinic (GSC), which coordinates a program centering on healthy lifestyles. "Through this program, we are able to offer the participants weekly, one-on-one motivational coaching sessions as well as biweekly group sessions," said Minc. "They are meeting with the clinicians at the Guided Self-Change Clinic to learn strategies to change behaviors and learn coping mechanisms to stay on the right track once the actual contest is over."

"Dr. Linda Sobell, who developed the motivational interviewing concept and principles, was eager to partner with the Biggest Loser program so we may begin to study how this counseling and coaching can ensure success in terms of life-changing behaviors on a long-term basis," she added. "The GSC program was the missing link in bringing the Biggest Loser program full circle and offering a comprehensive approach to weight loss and health from a long-term maintenance perspective."

In addition, the participants' progress will be tracked by Diane Emery, who serves as director of benefits at NSU's Office of Human Resources. "She will be monitoring our

12 participants from a claims standpoint for the next year to determine how health claims are affected by the positive implementation of activity into their lifestyles," stated Minc. "We are anticipating a reduction in claims from this group as well as an improvement in health status. Not only will the participants be saving money, they will be saving all NSU employees money by keeping health care costs down."

The winner and runner up of the NSU Biggest Loser competition, which will be determined by whoever loses the greatest percentage of overall body weight, will also receive rewards that extend beyond their own sense of personal satisfaction. "At first, I didn't think about offering a prize because I thought the ultimate reward would be changing your life by losing the weight and improving your health and fitness," Minc explained. "But then I realized that wasn't going to be a motivator for everyone, so I hooked up with the NSU Office of Business services, which donated prizes such as a digital camera and two-night hotel stays."

According to Minc, the NSU Biggest Loser program, which has already stirred significant interest among the students to include their participation in future competitions, is an important addition to NSU's culture of wellness because it educates the participants and lets them know it is never too late to start taking proactive steps toward improving their health and wellness.

"Our society is pretty much reactive; we don't do anything until the doctor tells us to do it," she stated. "We want people to take some individual ownership of their health and fitness. In terms of the students, research shows that life behaviors that are formulated regarding how you're going to live the rest of your life are done during these years. Consequently, we want to make sure we're providing our students with a proper foundation of how to live a healthy lifestyle and how to make positive and low-risk choices like not smoking or drinking excessively, eating right, exercising, etc."

"It's important for us to educate on a comprehensive level and not just for the physical aspect because the body can move, yet it's the mind that makes all things happen," she concluded. "You are in control of your behaviors, your will power—everything is your choice. You just have to know how each choice will positively or negatively affect the process."

If you would like to learn more about Campus Recreation and the NSU Biggest Loser program, please visit [www.rec.nova.edu](http://www.rec.nova.edu).







# HPD Board of Governors Provides Guidance, Professional Savvy

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**T**he success of an institution as vast and complex as NSU's Health Professions Division depends on an intricate and interdependent network of components, which includes everything from employing visionary administrators and dedicated faculty and staff members to establishing beneficial alliances with community leaders and various local, state, and national entities.

One such alliance that helps ensure the HPD's continued growth and success is its multifaceted Board of Governors, which was established in the early 1980s when Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) was still in its infancy and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences and a blockbuster merger with Nova University were still unimagined dreams.

Today, the HPD Board of Governors consists of community and professional activists as well as a mix of NSU Board of Trustees members and university and HPD administrators. The board, which meets quarterly and serves in an advisory capacity, also features participation from the academic deans of each HPD college, the CEO of NSU Clinics, and the HPD provost and executive dean for administration, who attend the meetings to share information about their individual areas, solicit input, and exchange ideas.

Of course, the Board of Governors that exists today is dramatically different than the entity that existed several decades ago. "You have to remember that in the early years of SECOM, the administration was really limited to a few people," explained HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph.,

Ed.D. "There was also a significant amount of integration of our board members either working or participating as department chairs or members of the faculty or as attorneys of the corporation, so there was a constant and daily flow of communication between the board members and SECOM founder Dr. Morton Terry. It didn't just relate to having quarterly meetings.

"Dr. Terry would rely heavily upon that day-to-day communication," Dr. Lippman added. "He also rarely did a thing without talking to Royal Flagg Jonas—our current Board of Governors chairman—in regard to any contracts or affiliation agreements because Mr. Jonas was the attorney for the corporation and for what eventually became Southeastern University of the Health Sciences. When the merger with Nova University occurred in 1994, the Board of Governors evolved into a body that obliges itself to provide advice and consent within the realm of presenting the best and most efficient academic presentations possible within the realm of university policy."

Of the 24 members who comprise the Board of Governors, 8 of those also serve on the NSU Board of Trustees, which helps ensure that issues of importance to the HPD are addressed at the university level. "Dr. Terry always had a clear vision of what this organization was all about," said Jonas, who first befriended Dr. Terry in the late 1940s. "To him, it was a clearinghouse for ideas so each school would know what the others were doing and spur improvement."

To put it succinctly, the Board of Governors

functions as an academic and administrative think tank where opinions, ideas, and advice flow as freely as rain during a summer thunderstorm. "Our board members are very wise and knowledgeable people, and that is why the interplay that goes on is so key," stated Dr. Lippman, who also makes a comprehensive presentation to the board at each quarterly meeting. "They offer wisdom, advice, experience, and a sense of professional guidance on a range of issues. There are always gems of information that come forward during these meetings, and there are specific suggestions that are often made by certain members, but they're not hard-line directives. Essentially, the unit acts as

a mentoring group to us as an academic unit."

Jonas, who has been involved with the Board of Governors since its inception, wholeheartedly concurs with Dr. Lippman's sage assessment, adding that, "the original Board of Governors consisted of high-quality people who were predominantly handpicked by Dr. Terry to serve on the board," he explained. "Dr. Terry had a true instinct about people, and that's one of the reasons he accomplished all the things he did, because he made sure he surrounded himself with dedicated and accomplished people."

*(Note: Thomas Carney, D.O., and Mervin Meck, D.O., are emeritus members of the HPD Board of Governors.)*

## Board of Governors Membership



**Ronald Assaf** - In addition to his role on the Board of Governors, Assaf also serves as the current chair of NSU's Board of Trustees. He founded Sensormatic Electronics Corporation in 1966 for the purpose of developing theft deterrent devices for retail stores. In 1971, he was elected chairman of the board of Sensormatic, and in 1974, Assaf assumed the additional duties of president. He continued to serve as Sensormatic's chairman until 2001, when Tyco International acquired the company.



**Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.** - Since becoming NSU president in 1998, Ferrero has led the university to new levels of esteem and excellence. However, his relationship with NSU stretches back to the 1970s when he served as a member of the Shepard Broad Law Center Board of Governors. Prior to becoming NSU president, Ferrero served as a trial lawyer and partner in the firm Ferrero & Middlebrooks, P.A. Ferrero also serves as president of the HPD Board of Governors.



**Daniel Barkus, D.O.** - Dr. Barkus, who serves as treasurer of the HPD Board of Governors, has been involved with NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine (previously known as SECOM or the Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine) since 1981 when he became professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In fact, over a quarter century later, he is still making a major contribution to the college in the same position.



**Daniel Finkelstein, D.O.** - Dr. Finkelstein, a respected radiologist, played an integral role in the development of SECOM during its early days. His involvement included serving on the executive and building committees, acting as chair of the Finance Committee, and functioning as professor and chair of NSU-COM's Department of Radiology. Dr. Finkelstein was also affiliated with SECOM precursors Biscayne Osteopathic Hospital and Osteopathic General Hospital.



**Howard Braverman, O.D.** - Dr. Braverman was a practicing optometrist and managing partner of a successful multidisciplinary practice called the Braverman Eye Center that included, at various times, up to nine ophthalmologists and four optometrists at five locations from 1972 through 1998. Dr. Braverman also served as a clinical professor at NSU's College of Optometry and was named Optometrist of the Year by the Florida Optometric Association.



**Rosebud Foster, Ed.D.** - Prior to joining NSU-COM full-time in 2001, Dr. Foster had already built a legendary academic and health care-related career that included a lengthy stint as an administrator at Florida International University in Miami. Dr. Foster currently serves as special assistant to the HPD chancellor and professor of public health and family medicine. She is also intricately involved with the AHEC Program and the Master of Public Health Program.



# HPD Board of Governors



**Royal Flagg Jonas, J.D.** – In addition to serving as chairman of the Health Professions Division Board of Governors, Jonas is a member of NSU's Board of Trustees. He first formed a friendship with the deceased HPD Chancellor Dr. Morton Terry in the late 1940s that endured until Dr. Terry's death in 2004. Over the years, he served as Dr. Terry's legal adviser and assumed greater responsibilities with the formation of SECOM and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences.



**Marcelino Oliva, D.O.** – Like Dr. Neer, Dr. Oliva has carved out an impressive osteopathic medical career that includes stints as president of both the American Osteopathic Association and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. Although he retired from active practice in 1997, Dr. Oliva has remained active in a number of pursuits that include assisting Nova Southeastern University's Health Professions Division in his role as a governmental consultant and lobbyist.



**Peter Keller, D.D.S.** – Dr. Keller, who currently functions as executive associate dean of Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine, has been affiliated with the dental school since 1996, where he initially served as chairman of both admissions and continuing education.

Prior to joining NSU's College of Dental Medicine, Dr. Keller spent over 25 years working in private practice in Hollywood, Florida. He received his D.D.S. degree from New York University.



**Anthony Ottaviani, D.O.** – In his role as regional dean of NSU-COM's West Coast Academic Center, which is located at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida, Dr. Ottaviani is responsible for overseeing all the pre- and postgraduate clinical training NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine students receive at Sun Coast. In 1995, Dr. Ottaviani earned Physician of the Year honors from the Florida Medical Association and the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society.



**Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.** – In his role as HPD executive dean for professional affairs, Dr. Morris is responsible for an array of responsibilities that includes regulating all HPD continuing medical education activities and overseeing the computer needs of the division. Dr. Morris, who

is secretary of the HPD Board of Governors, also serves as executive director of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics and is a former president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.



**David Rush** – Rush, who also serves on the NSU Board of Trustees, is a respected businessman who serves as president and CEO of A.B.J. Incorporated and Rush Holdings, Inc. Throughout his career, he has received several gubernatorial appointments that include serving as chairman of the Florida High Technology and Industry Council, chairman of the Florida High Speed Rail Transportation Commission, and as a member of the Southern Technology Council.



**Howard Neer, D.O.** – A revered figure in osteopathic medicine, NSU-COM's associate dean of alumni affairs has successfully traversed all avenues of the osteopathic profession, from opening a flourishing family medicine practice to serving as president of the American Osteopathic Association

and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. He also assists the Health Professions Division with negotiations related to student health insurance as well as issues regarding professional liability insurance.



**Joel Rush, D.O.** – Since graduating from SECOM in 1985, Dr. Rush has established a reputation as one of the premier osteopathic physicians in Florida. In addition to running his own orthopedic practice, Dr. Rush serves as program director of the college's orthopedic residency program. In 2000, he was elected to the HPD Board of Governors, making him the youngest member of this prestigious group—and the only NSU-COM alumni representative.

# HPD Board of Governors



**Sandra Schwemmer, D.O.** - Dr. Schwemmer, who has been an HPD Board of Governors member since 1996, has a long and storied history with the College of Osteopathic Medicine. After conducting her rotating internship at Osteopathic General Hospital, Dr. Schwemmer became a clinical instructor at SECOM and a medical staff member at Southeastern Medical Center. She is currently president and CEO of Professional Emergency Services, Inc. in Tavernier, Florida.



**Sidney Stern, O.D.** - As a successful optometrist, Dr. Stern operates eight wholly-owned Dr. Stern's Visual Health Centers, three public health optometry centers, and the Florida Optometric Physicians Network. He has served as president and chairman of the board of the Florida Optometric Association and received that organization's Optometrist of the Year and Legislative Man of the Year honors. He has also functioned as chairman of the American Optometric Association's Eye Care Benefits Center.



**Phillip Shettle, D.O.** - Dr. Shettle, a former president of the American Osteopathic Association, currently practices at Shettle Eye Center in Largo, Florida. He has served as a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology at NSU-COM for many years and has received numerous honors throughout his career, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Osteopathic Association in 1997 and the Physician of the Year accolade from the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society.



**J. Kenneth (Kenny) Tate** - Tate has established a number of private companies in South Florida over the past 30 years. Most recently, he formed a group of companies operating under the TKO Apparel name that import men's and women's clothing under private labels for many of America's better known national brands and/or retailers. Tate is also the managing owner of the Villa del Ray Golf Club—an 18-hole championship golf course located in Delray Beach, Florida.



**Barry Silverman, M.D.** - Dr. Silverman, whose commitment to Nova Southeastern University is evidenced by his additional role as vice chair of the Board of Trustees, is a founding member and chairman of the OrthopaedicCare Center of South Florida, which is located in Miami. In 2001, Dr. Silverman was appointed to the Florida Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for the Southern District and is a fellow of the American Academy of Surgeons.



**Jay Tischenkel, R.Ph.** - Tischenkel, who serves as director of institutional advancement for the Health Professions Division, was previously the CEO of Continental Drug Corporation—a New York public company operating pharmacies, duty-free shops, and restaurants in hotels and airports throughout the world. He is a past president of the Dade County Pharmacy Association and a recipient of the Southeastern University of the Health Sciences Distinguished Service Award.



**Robert Steele** - Steele has contributed many years of service to NSU since taking his seat on the Board of Trustees in 1973, including a stint as board chairman. Steele and his wife, Millicent, have been quite philanthropic in their support of NSU and acted as university ambassadors across the country. Professionally, he grew a small Miami company into South Florida Mack Truck, Inc., which is the largest Mack truck distributor in the United States.



**Sylvia Ulrich, M.A.** - Ulrich, who lends her vast expertise to both the Nova Southeastern University Board of Governors and Board of Trustees, is president and chairman of the board of both Westchester General Hospital and Southern Winds Hospital in Miami, Florida. A winner of the HPD Distinguished Service Award in 2001, Ulrich has served as trustee and vice president of the Federation of American Hospitals and trustee of the American College of Osteopathic Hospital Administrators.



## Getting to Know... M2 Student Nicholas Strobbe



### Why did you decide to matriculate at NSU-COM?

I wanted to attend an osteopathic medical school, and I really wanted to stay in Florida. My brother also attended NSU-COM, and he was very happy about his experience here, so that was also a big factor in my decision to come here.

### Had you ever heard of osteopathic medicine before applying to medical school?

Absolutely. My father is an osteopathic physician ('77 KCOM) and is the administrative physician of Gulf Coast Medical Center in Tampa and executive physician director of the Florida Institute for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging. I spent some time researching the qualities and ideals of osteopathic physicians before applying to medical school, and that further solidified my decision to become a D.O.

### Why did you decide to pursue a career as a physician?

I have been surrounded by medicine my whole life. I took a great interest in the sciences at a young age. Becoming a physician was really a "no-brainer" for me because I

have been saying I wanted to be a doctor since I can remember. Being a physician will give me the wonderful opportunity of connecting with all different types of people, and I feel this will be a very rewarding experience on its own. I am very excited about my future career as an osteopathic physician.

### What has been the most enjoyable aspect of your NSU-COM matriculation so far?

I think my greatest experience here is the fact that after years of anticipation, I am finally learning how to become a physician. That in itself feels great. I also like getting to know all of my classmates because everyone is different and we are all striving for the same goal. It is really awesome to feel all the energy of all of these great minds in one lecture hall learning how to save lives.

### What has been the least enjoyable aspect of your NSU-COM matriculation so far?

That's funny. Well, one thing I can say is that no one enjoys taking tests. I definitely fall into that category. However, every physician in the country has at one point had to go through this "rite of passage," so in the long run I know it will pay off. My motto is, "There's always light at the end of the tunnel."

### Please list significant club activities you have participated in and leadership positions you have held during your NSU-COM matriculation:

I attended the NSU undergraduate college. In undergrad, I spent time in the fraternity Beta Theta Pi and assumed many roles in that fraternity from risk management to social



Nick poses with his brother Mike, a 2004 NSU-COM alumnus who currently serves as the chief internal medicine resident at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida.

# Student Snapshot: Nicholas Strobbe



chairman. Currently, I am in multiple NSU-COM clubs, but I do not hold any chair positions. I am a member of LOG and have spent time as a tutor for the organization's anatomy reviews, but that is about the extent of my involvement in club activities here at NSU.

## **What advice would you give to future NSU-COM students about coping with the stresses and challenges that come with attending medical school?**

Learn how to time manage. Find a balance between the things you love to do for fun, family, and schoolwork. If you can figure this out, it's smooth sailing. Also, never doubt yourself and your abilities. I am a firm believer that if you put your mind to something and work hard for it, you can achieve anything.

## **What is your favorite way to unwind after a hard day of studying?**

Being a pilot, I love to get airborne. I love to fly, whether it is aerobatics, practicing for my flight instructor rating, or just kicking back and taking a quick trip to the Keys or the Bahamas for the afternoon or weekend. Flying is what keeps me balanced.

## **My peers would be surprised to know this about me:**

Most people know I fly, but I don't think many people know I am working on my commercial/flight instructor rating. I am also pretty young for my class; I just turned 22 over winter break.

## **The funniest thing that ever happened to me:**

I don't even know where to begin; there are a lot. As a student pilot on my first cross-country flight, I was supposed

to fly to Ocala, Florida, from the Tampa Bay area. I spent a great deal of time planning my flight, and I put a lot of hard work into it. However, there was one catch when I actually was in the airplane making the flight. Apparently, John Travolta has a home and a private runway that looks a great deal like Ocala International and is about five miles away from it. So when I saw a big runway, I decided it was Ocala International and proceeded to land there.

After parking my airplane, I noticed Mr. Travolta himself walking toward me. After a brief conversation, he pointed me in the right direction and wished me happy flying. I quickly completed the flight, feeling a little embarrassed, but it was a great learning experience. Better to make that mistake as a student than with a plane full of passengers.

## **When I graduate I plan to pursue a career in:**

This is a tough question. I plan on pursuing an internal medicine residency and later joining my dad and brother in practice at Gulf Coast Medical Center in the Tampa Bay area. However, I have spent some time reading about becoming a mission specialist for NASA. I feel that with my age, future degree as a physician, and flying experience, I would be an excellent candidate for the program. It has always been a dream of mine to fly into space, so there is no harm in trying. If that doesn't work out, I will always have a great opportunity to practice with my family, where I grew up.

## **Three words that best describe me:**

- positive
- aviator
- altruistic





## NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

### Past Presidents

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

### Trustees at Large

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

### 2006-07 Officers

**Gregory James, D.O. ('88)**  
President  
**Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)**  
President Elect  
**Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)**  
Vice President  
**Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O. ('94)**  
Secretary  
**Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)**  
Treasurer  
**Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)**  
Immediate Past President  
**Howard L. Neer, D.O.**  
Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs  
**Lynne Cawley, M.S.**  
Director, Alumni Affairs

### Living Tribute Honorees

2002 – Mary Smith Allegro  
2003 – Arthur Snyder, D.O.  
2004 – Lori Dribin, Ph.D.  
2005 – Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.  
2006 – Howard Hada, Ph.D.

### Distinguished Service

2007 – Mary Smith Allegro

### Celebration of Excellence

#### Distinguished Alumni

1999 – Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)  
2000 – James Turner, D.O. ('88)  
2001 – Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
2003 – Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)  
2004 – Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
2005 – Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
2006 – Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
2007 – Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)

## NSU-COM Alumni Reception at the FOMA Convention

*February 23, 2007 – Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale*



A group of former classmates staged a reunion at the NSU-COM alumni reception, including class of 1990 attendees (from left) Jeffrey Grove, D.O., Robert Nisenbaum, D.O., Ronald Renuart, D.O., and Ahmad Peter Martinez-Noda, D.O.



Drs. Gregory James, Richard Thacker, Christopher Guzik, Robert Blackburn, Jeffrey Grove, Michael Euglund, Ronald Renuart, Jamal Haddad, Paul Elliott, Donald Howard, Suzann Leslie, and Ahmad Esmailbegui.



Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., NSU-COM dean; Dianna Silvagni, J.D., AAOA immediate past president; Howard Neer, D.O., NSU-COM associate dean of alumni affairs; Gloria Neer; Judy Ajluni; and Peter Ajluni, D.O., AOA president elect.



## Alumni in the News



**T**yese Gaines Reid, D.O. ('06) recently wrote an insightful book entitled *The Get a Life Campaign* that will be published in May 2007. In the paperback, Dr. Reid shows other busy women how to reclaim their lives from the taxing responsibilities of work, school, and family. "I want busy women to realize that regardless of our circumstances, we're all going through the same thing," she explained. "I hope readers will use the book and figure out how to have a life despite the challenges that exist."

**G**aston Dana, D.O., FAAMA ('92), who is board certified in internal medicine, emergency medicine, and medical acupuncture, is currently working in the emergency department at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin, Indiana. Dr. Dana also serves as medical director for internal medicine and chief of staff at Johnson Memorial and as co-chairperson for the AAPS' emergency medicine oral board exams.

**V**ictoria Dreisbach, D.O. ('97) was named president elect of the Connecticut Valley Hospital medical staff for 2006-07 and will serve as president in 2007-08. She has also been nominated to serve as one of two representatives for all psychiatrists in the state of Connecticut to the Assembly Committee of the American Psychiatric Association. In addition, Dr. Dreisbach had an abstract accepted for display at the International Association for Law and Mental Health annual meeting and will be part of a panel making a presentation in Padua, Italy, in June 2007.



Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni with Drs. Glenn K. Moran (left), and Gregory James.

**G**regory James, D.O., M.P.H., FACP ('88) received the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine's Recognition Award in February 2007, which honors osteopathic physicians who best exemplify the high standards of the profession and dedication to public service. During the same

awards ceremony, which was held on the NSU-HPD campus,

**G**lenn Moran, D.O., FACP ('88) was acknowledged for his service to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Moran, who established the Board Recognition Award in 2004, was honored for his service to the board as a member from 2000 through 2006 and for his contributions as chair in 2003-04.

**B**ridget Bellinger, D.O. ('86) has been elected president of the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society. She also served

as Doctor of the Day on March 27 in the Florida House of Representatives. State Representative Janet Long (District 51) sponsored Dr. Bellinger for this honor.



**W**ill Kirby, D.O. ('00), who currently practices clinical and cosmetic dermatology in Los Angeles, California, has launched a comprehensive skincare line called Kirby Cosmeceuticals. Dr. Kirby's medical practice is limited to diseases and surgery of the skin, hair, and nails with an emphasis on facial cosmetic enhancement and complexion enrichment. Dr. Kirby's Web site can be accessed at [kirbydermatology.com](http://kirbydermatology.com).

**J**oshua D. Lenchus, D.O., R.Ph. ('00), a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, has been named as a key clinical faculty member for the University of Miami's Internal Medicine Residency Training Program at Jackson Memorial Hospital. After completing his training at the University of Miami, he accepted a position there as assistant professor of clinical medicine. Dr. Lenchus, who is the only D.O. in the university's Division of General Medicine, has already been involved in many administrative and teaching roles during his short tenure. He has also been active in organized medicine and received the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians' Key Contact Award for his efforts in legislative advocacy at the state and national levels.



**R**oss Zafonte, D.O. ('85) was honored with the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award on January 25 at the Ninth Annual NSU Celebration of Excellence ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. Each year, this event brings together community leaders and industry

pioneers who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and alma maters.



Scott Colton

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



# Alumni Gala Honors Mary Smith Allegro



A sense of celebration was in the air during the 11th Annual NSU-COM Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program, which was held February 9-11 at the Renaissance Hotel in Plantation, Florida. It proved to be an exciting and fun-filled weekend that allowed the attendees to renew friendships, honor the classes of 1987 and 1997, earn continuing medical education credits, and celebrate the myriad contributions of Distinguished Service

Award recipient Mary Smith Allegro, who is retiring from the college this year after decades of dedicated service.

A welcome reception was held Friday evening at the Renaissance, with approximately 125 alumni, family, and faculty members coming together to share memories of their medical school days. "They have an opportunity to peruse their old yearbooks and laugh along with their former classmates as they recall their days at SECOM," said Lynne Cawley, M.S., who serves as the college's director of alumni affairs. "Once they start telling stories, you never know what you're going to hear. The majority of those in attendance were from Florida this year, but we continue to have alumni from places such as Arizona, New York, and New Jersey that make the return visit each year."

This year's CME lectures proved to be immensely popular, drawing one of the largest audiences to date. "We felt like we had one of the best quality programs ever," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs. "We always focus on primary care, and some of this year's lectures included coronary artery disease, child vaccinations, peripheral artery disease, and a demonstration in the Harvey Lab by Alvin Greber, D.O. The lectures, which are presented by our alumni and faculty, received high marks on the evaluation forms and serve as an excellent way to earn eight hours of free CME credits."

Approximately 150 alumni, faculty, and students were in attendance at the Saturday evening banquet to congratulate and celebrate the alumni from the classes of 1987 and 1997. "The accomplishments of our alumni continue to amaze me," admitted Cawley. "They are so involved with patient care and so active in professional organizations, yet they still find the time to mentor our students and be involved in the Alumni Association. As always, Dr. Neer and I look forward to working with the association's leadership as we continue to grow."

However, the night truly belonged to Smith Allegro, who was honored for her nearly 50 years of service to the college and the osteopathic profession. "Mary was, and is, loved by all," stated Dr. Neer. "She was the students' mother, father, mentor, and caretaker. Whatever they needed, she was there for them."

"We really wanted to do something to recognize Mary since she is planning to retire, and we knew it would be a great opportunity to coordinate something at the reunion with so many alumni gathered together," explained Cawley. "We kept this a secret from her for six months, and it turned out to be a very special night."

Planning is already underway for the 12th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Program, which will be held February 8-10, 2008.





# 11th Annual Alumni Reunion Photo Gallery





## A Lifetime of Dedicated Service: Mary Smith Allegro



*Smith Allegro receives her Distinguished Service Award from Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90), immediate past president of the NSU-COM Alumni Association.*

**W**hat can you say about Mary Smith Allegro that hasn't already been said by countless individuals who have been touched by this remarkable woman who epitomizes so many wonderful traits such as style, wit, compassion, and grace?

Over the past five decades, Mary has shared a significant bond with the osteopathic profession that began with her affiliation with Osteopathic General Hospital (the ultimate forerunner of SECOM and NSU-COM) and has continued in her current role in the college's Office of Student and Administrative Services.

She launched her illustrious career in 1961 at Osteopathic General Hospital in North Miami Beach as a switchboard operator, but it wasn't a position she remained in for long. Impressed with her abilities and work ethic, hospital administrators soon promoted Mary to the position of office manager, where she was responsible for 50 employees in the Admissions and Business Office. As the years progressed, she also earned the moniker "Medicare Mary" because of her thorough understanding of the Medicare system and her perpetual willingness to help patients and physicians with

their Medicare billing issues.

Her friendly demeanor and outgoing personality also earned her many close friends and admirers on the hospital staff, including a certain doctor named Morton Smith, which culminated in marriage in 1970. In 1980, Mary's connection to osteopathic medicine grew even stronger when she began working at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) in the role of "Girl Friday," assisting with admissions and financial aid issues and serving as secretarial support to Drs. Morton Terry and Arnold Melnick. "I was excited to become a part of helping to get the school started," she explained. "That was when I realized how rewarding it was to be a part of these eager young lives."

Much beloved by the students, Dr. Smith and Mary soon became affectionately known as "Dean Smith and Mother Mary." Over the years, they frequently opened their home and hearts and invited out-of-town student applicants to spend the night at their house. The students also knew they had a friendly place to celebrate holidays and enjoy a delicious meal if circumstances prevented them from returning home. On one memorable occasion, the couple even entertained 52 guests for Passover dinner. Consequently, to say the students were truly a part of their family would be a vast understatement.

Dr. Smith, who was a member of the college's Board of Trustees, initially served as director of the Opa-Locka clinic before transferring to the main campus to become associate dean of student affairs. He and Mary were married for 30 fulfilling years until his untimely death in the late 1990s.

When new schools were added throughout the 1980s, resulting in the formation of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, Mary's loyalty and innate abilities earned her a promotion to registrar of the university. She served in that capacity until 1994, which is when Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences merged to become Nova Southeastern University.

In 1995, she received the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for her countless contributions to the osteopathic profession. Her contributions to NSU-COM were acknowledged in 2002 when she became the inaugural recipient of the NSU-COM Alumni Association's Living Tribute Award.

As she heads off into retirement, Mary, who is remarried to Joseph "Sonny" Allegro, is looking forward to spending more time with her children, grandchildren, and stepchildren—and exploring new adventures once she makes her graceful exit from the osteopathic profession.

Now that Mary is embarking on an exciting new chapter of her life, her extended family at NSU-COM wishes her all the best life has to offer and thanks her for the numerous contributions she has made toward enhancing the educational experience of our students.

# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

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

## 2007 Donors

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

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

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

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

\*Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

\*Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

\*Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

### 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

\*Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)

\*Dr. William Sjovall II ('96)

### Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

\*Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)

\*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

\*Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)

Dr. Diana Graves ('86)

\*Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)

\*Dr. William Holt ('86)

\*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

\*Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

### Friends (up to \$99)

\*Dr. Michael Friedman ('94)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

### Friends (continued)

\*Dr. Earle Hayes ('02)

Dr. Jim Huang ('01)

\*Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)

\*Dr. Arnold Melnick

*\* in honor of 2007 Distinguished Service Award  
honoree Mary Smith Allegro*

## Cumulative List (1999-2007)

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

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. George Linsey

### Chancellor's Council (\$5,000+)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson

Dr. Stanley Zimmerman ('91)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Charles Chase ('89)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

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

Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)

Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

Dr. James Beretta ('88)

Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)

Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)

Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)

Dr. Bruce David ('88)

Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)

Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

Dr. Brad Glick ('89)

Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)

Dr. John Gordon ('92)

Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

## 500 Club (continued)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)  
 Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)  
 Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)  
 Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)  
 Dr. James T. Howell  
 Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)  
 Dr. Robert Klein ('91)  
 Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)  
 Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin  
 Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)  
 Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)  
 Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)  
 Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)  
 Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)  
 Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)  
 Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)  
 Dr. Michael Ross ('88)  
 Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)  
 Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)  
 Ms. Lorraine Snyder  
 Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85) and Dr.  
 Robyn Zelnick ('87)  
 Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)  
 Drs. Ron Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)  
 Dr. James ('88) and Sherry Turner  
 Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)

## 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)  
 Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)  
 Dr. Bridget Bellingar ('86)  
 Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)  
 Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo  
 Dr. Edgar Bolton  
 Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)  
 Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)  
 Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)  
 Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)

Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)  
 Dr. Alan David ('92)  
 Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)  
 Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)  
 Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)  
 Dr. Diana Graves ('86)  
 Dr. A. Alvin Greber  
 Dr. Thomas Green ('98)  
 Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)  
 Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)  
 Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)  
 Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)  
 Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)  
 NSU-COM Class of 1994  
 Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)  
 Dr. Edward Packer  
 Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)  
 Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)  
 Mr. John Potomski  
 Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)  
 Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)  
 Dr. Steven Sager ('90)  
 Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)  
 Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)  
 Dr. William Sjoval II ('96)  
 Dr. William H. Stager ('89)  
 Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)

Ms. Louise Todaro  
 Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)  
 Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)  
 Dr. Ira Weiner  
 Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)  
 Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

## Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)  
 Dr. Comfort O. Adewumi ('00)  
 Dr. Barnet Alpert  
 Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)

Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)  
 Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)  
 Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi  
 Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)  
 Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)  
 Dr. Daniel Barkus  
 Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)  
 Dr. Paul Bates ('86)  
 Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)  
 Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)  
 Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)  
 Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)  
 Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)  
 Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)  
 Dr. Juanita Brown ('91)  
 Dr. Douglas Bushell ('98)  
 Dr. George Campbell ('99)  
 Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)  
 Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)  
 Dr. James Caschette  
 Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)  
 Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)  
 Dr. David Cislo ('88)  
 Dr. Jules Cohen  
 Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)  
 Drs. Christopher and Catherine  
 Cooper ('98)  
 Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90)  
 Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)  
 Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87)  
 Dr. George Elias ('99)  
 Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)  
 Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)  
 Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)  
 Dr. Gary Gary  
 Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)  
 Ms. Marcia Groverman  
 Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock ('86)



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

## Century Club (continued)

Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)	Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)	Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)
Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)	Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)	Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)
Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)	Dr. Albert Lopez ('92)	Dr. Melvin Sarnow
Dr. Edward Hartwig	Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)	Dr. Theodore Schock ('87)
Dr. William Hayes ('89)	Dr. Jason Lue ('99)	Dr. Sandra Schwemmer
Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)	Dr. Sonal Majmunder ('94)	Dr. Robert Sculthorpe
Dr. David C. Hellman ('88)	Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)	Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)
Dr. Richard Herman ('89)	Dr. Cindy Marika ('87)	Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)
Dr. Marc Herschelman ('91)	Dr. Clyde Meckstroth ('85)	Dr. John Shover
Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87)	Dr. Arnold Melnick	Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni
Dr. William Holt ('86)	Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96)	Mr. Stanley Silverman
Dr. Myron Howell	Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)	Dr. Rita Sivils ('92)
Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)	Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97)	Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94)
Dr. Lawrence Jacobson	Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92)	Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder
Dr. Thelma Jamison	Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)	Dr. Margaret Starr
Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)	Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)	Dr. Mark Stich ('87)
Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93)/Yoyen Lau ('93)	Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)	Dr. Colene Stout
Donna Kaplan	Dr. Merideth Norris	Dr. James Sullivan ('87)
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)	Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87)	Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan ('88)
Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)	Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)	Dr. Richard J. Susi
Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)	Dr. Aeyal Oren ('99)	Dr. James H. Taylor
Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)	Mr. Alexander Packman	Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)
Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)	Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)	Dr. Richard Thacker ('92)
Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)	Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)	Dr. David Thomas
Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95)	Dr. Ramsey Pevsner ('03)	Dr. Dafna Trites ('94)
Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)	Dr. David Rabaja ('94)	Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)
Dr. Mi Kim ('90)	Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)	Dr. Claudine Ward ('02)
Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)	Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)	Dr. Douglas P. Webster
Dr. Mark Khirsandi ('99)	Dr. Michael Rasansky ('06)	Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93)
Dr. Stephen Krathen	Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)	Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)
Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)	Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94)	Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86)
Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)	Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92)	Dr. Margaret Wilkinson
Dr. Michael Landman ('88)	Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)	Dr. John E. Williams ('96)
Dr. Kim Lark ('94)	Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)	Dr. Michael Williams ('00)
Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)	Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)	Dr. Paul Winner
Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)	Dr. Allan Rubin	Dr. Scott Yagger ('89)
Dr. Soling Li ('00)	Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)	Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)
	Dr. David Saltzman	



# Bal Fantastique Honors Dr. Howard Neer

The 26th Annual Bal Fantastique, which was held March 10, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale, is a gala dinner/dance that honors the vision of Dr. Morton Terry who, along with numerous other dedicated individuals, created a world-renowned health care teaching facility called the Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division. During the evening, Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs, was presented with the HPD Distinguished Service Award for his numerous contributions to the osteopathic profession and the Health Professions Division.



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

