Horizons Spring 2014

Nova Southeastern University

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The generosity of alumni and friends has nurtured Nova Southeastern University (NSU) for 50 years, enabling extraordinary achievements in teaching, research, and community service. Scholarship awards are essential to our students, many of whom rely on a combination of financial aid and student loans to fund their education. To meet this need, both spendable gifts and endowments are a priority to attract and retain a bright and diverse student body.

As we look ahead, those who make a commitment to the university will have a dramatic impact on our students’ futures and our legacy.

NSU’s A Day for Children brings thousands to campus each year for free health screenings provided through NSU’s Health Care Centers.
Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate’s, baccalaureate, master’s, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

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

Students are the business and the center of Nova Southeastern University.

Our priority is to offer students at every level the most contemporary education, stressing the importance of academic excellence. But we look beyond the textbooks and classrooms to offer our students real-world experiences that prepare them to excel in careers.

Preparing students to enter the workforce echoes NSU’s early days when many of our original students already had real-life work experiences. They came to NSU for more education and training to enhance their careers.

As NSU celebrates its 50th year, we are even more focused on our students’ careers. In this issue of Horizons, we show how NSU offers internships, study abroad, and clinical rotation programs. These opportunities take students out of the classroom and give them access to invaluable experiences.

Our article on the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, builds on that theme. Not only does NSU offer premium education for children at the Mailman Segal Center, but university students have the opportunity to work with the center’s youth.

NSU’s first half-century is paving the way for our future. In February, we broke ground for our $80-million, 215,000-square-foot Center for Collaborative Research (CCR), which will enhance and expand NSU’s research in areas such as cardiovascular disease, anti-cancer therapies, chronic fatigue syndrome, and autism. You can read all about the CCR in this issue, too.

NSU also honors its donors in this magazine. The university would not be able to provide countless scholarships without their generosity and continued support.

Horizons reflects how NSU’s strong core values of academic excellence, student centered, opportunity, and community are practiced by students, faculty members, alumni, and administrators.

We continue to be proud of our Sharks, some of whom you will meet in this issue.

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nova Southeastern University
With a few shovels of dirt, NSU has changed its future.

In February, NSU broke ground on its $80-million, 215,000-square-foot Center for Collaborative Research (CCR). The center will expand NSU research in areas such as cardiovascular disease, anti-cancer therapies, chronic fatigue syndrome, and autism.

“This new, multidisciplinary center will provide our world-class team of researchers with the tools they need to continue to make discoveries that will impact the way we all live,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of NSU.

The center will house NSU’s Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine; Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research; and Emil Buehler Research Center for Engineering, Science, and Mathematics. The center also will include Broward County’s only private incubator for information security businesses. NSU’s Technology Incubator will provide opportunities for qualified companies interested in leasing space and having access to some of NSU’s technology, equipment, and other resources.

The CCR will be the focal point of NSU’s connection to Florida LambdaRail, an ultra-high-speed broadband network that links the state’s higher education institutions. The center also will feature one of the state’s largest wet labs, which can store chemicals, drugs, tissue samples, and other biological materials.

The inclusion of a newly donated IBM supercomputer, nick-named Megalodon (for the biggest prehistoric shark that ever lived), will allow NSU researchers to analyze data generated by experiments in weeks or months, rather than the years required by conventional computers.

It is intended that the United States Geological Survey (USGS), which is currently located on NSU’s main campus and already enjoys a long-standing relationship with NSU, will occupy the entire first floor of the CCR. The USGS and NSU will partner on collaborative interdisciplinary research involving greater Everglades restoration efforts, hydrology and water resources, and more.

NSU is funding the center using a combination of its own reserves and tax-exempt financing. More than 300 construction-related jobs and another 150 research-related jobs will be created through this project. Construction will be completed in 2016.

For more information on the CCR, visit www.nova.edu/scr.
A pioneer in childhood education, Marilyn Mailman Segal always had a love for children. She also had an inherent intuitiveness as a childhood education specialist: For a child to develop educationally, there should be a component of learning and teaching behaviorally—and this holistic approach should begin in the early stages of life. She had this viewpoint in the early 1970s, when education began with the alphabet in kindergarten and the idea of learning had not yet been integrated with development.

The roots of Nova Southeastern University’s Mailman Segal Center for Human Development (MSC) began in 1972 with a Public Broadcasting Station’s film series. Segal had an idea to produce a series of parenting films and applied for a four-year, $500,000 grant. She was awarded the grant from the United States Federal Office of Human Development, and she began to produce her series, *To Reach a Child*.
“The value of play is really what my mother introduced, as well as the value of emotional development along with providing education,” said Wendy Masi, Ph.D., who worked with her mother, Marilyn Segal, and served as dean of what was then the Mailman Segal Institute of Childhood Studies. “My mother had already been doing community outreach as part of her research and teaching. The series of films led her to realize that instead of watching the films with parents, she could use them as learning and teaching tools.”

Segal established a school for parents as part of the series, which later grew into the center’s Early Learning Programs. “It just came from the wonderful feelings I had about children. The idea was that this would be a premier demonstration center that would make a statement about what is the best way to educate children, parents, and families—and how important it is for everyone to be involved. It’s not just enough to have great programs, but what’s really important is to show people that this is what can be done, this is what children and families deserve,” said Segal.

“Of course, we were always learning and changing. The foundation always considered how the parent, teacher,
doctor, psychologist, and speech or occupational therapist could work together as a team, so that the child had the chance to meet his or her highest potential,” said Segal.

Today, the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development is located in the Jim & Jan Moran Family Center Village, a state-of-the-art training and demonstration facility. Programs at the center include the Parenting Place”, the Family Center Infant & Toddler Program, and the Family Center Preschool. The Baudhuin Preschool and Starting Right programs offer classes for children and families dealing with autism and related disorders. The Autism Consortium, the Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism, and The Early Childhood Initiative also are housed there.

When it comes to external funding, Mailman Segal received many multiyear funding projects, according to Nurit Sheinberg, Ed.D., director of research and evaluation at MSC. Some of the grants are from private foundations (A.D. Henderson), organizations (Autism Speaks, the Organization of Autism Research, KaBOOM), South Florida agencies (Early Learning Coalition of Broward County), NSU-sponsored competitions (Quality of Life and President’s Faculty Research Development Grants), state contracts (Florida Department of Children and Families), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Mailman Segal is a teaching and professional development model for promoting evidence-based practices. This is achieved through collaborative interdisciplinary activities via hands-on research. It affords Nova Southeastern University students and faculty members the chance to apply what they learn in the classroom through experiences with children and families.

The center serves as an observation/training/practicum site for many NSU colleges. These include the Health Professions Division (Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Dentistry, and Pediatric Medicine); Center for Psychological Studies; Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice; Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences; and Abraham S. Fischler School of Education (including Speech-Language Pathology).

“We are able to provide unique opportunities—where undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students participate in hands-on experiences working directly with children and families,” said Roni Cohen Leiderman, Ph.D., dean of the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development. Because of this training, NSU students are sought after in their professions. “Our students have the important aspect of the didactic plus the experiential, and it makes them highly desirable in their fields,” added Leiderman.

HANDS-ON TRAINING

At Mailman Segal’s Baudhuin Preschool, students from the Center for Psychological Studies and the College of Health Care Sciences Occupational Therapy Program are supervised by their professors and the center’s staff members as they work with children with autism spectrum disorder.

Leticia Perez, a second-year, doctoral student at the Center for Psychological Studies, is doing her first practicum at Mailman Segal and has been working at the center since August 2013.

“We have great classes and teachers, but being here allows us to apply everything we learn,” said Perez. “We can experience in real life what we read. I knew I wanted to work with children and families, but this has really solidified my dedication. It is so important when you are going into a profession where you have to work with people. Not only is it challenging for you, but you realize how
challenging bringing up a child with autism spectrum disorder is for families. To see these families interact is one of the best learning experiences. Plus, we get to work with teachers, supervisors, and specialists. It is truly an interdisciplinary team.”

Perez and her colleagues also receive training in the assessment and diagnosis of autism and related disorders in young children at the center’s Unicorn Children’s Foundation Clinic.

“Here, students work under the supervision of a licensed psychologist to provide comprehensive psychodevelopmental evaluations for diagnosis and assessment. It is extremely valuable training,” said Leiderman.

Perez also runs a parent support group. “This gives parents a place to get advice from professionals and speak with other parents of children who have developmental delays. Plus, it gives me a chance to work on something now that I will be doing in my own practice in the future,” she said.

INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE

Sonia Kay, Ph.D., registered and licensed occupational therapist and assistant professor, works with her graduate students in one of the classrooms at the Baudhuin Preschool. “The experience here is that our students are working with children on every continuum, from low-functioning to higher-functioning,” said Kay.

In the class, Kay said, there are several children who receive occupational therapy services. “So we can match our students with those children. Our occupational therapy students learn about the kinds of services that they may have to provide as professionals in a school setting.”

Kay said the experience is invaluable. “NSU graduate students learn techniques in class, and they can immediately take that

Through the Years

1975

The Family Center, the precursor to the Mailman Segal Institute, is established by Marilyn Segal.

1979

Wendy Masi, Ph.D., begins the Parent/Child Program.

1980

The Family Center Preschool opens.

1981

The Mailman Family Center building is established.

1983

NSU acquires the Fort Lauderdale Oral School, the predecessor to the Baudhuin Preschool, and moves it to Davie.
learning and apply the concepts and the intervention techniques in a real-world setting at Mailman Segal.”

Chris Pruitt, a second-year graduate student in occupational therapy, placed a salad bowl, some straw grass, and utensils on a table. Pruitt’s assignment was to develop an occupational therapy exercise that will implement play with motor skills development.

“This gets us ready and prepared to work in the field. It’s one thing to be in a class, but actually being able to see how things apply is amazingly valuable. Today we’re working on fine motor skills—every child with autism spectrum disorder is different,” said Pruitt.

Students from the College of Dental Medicine also get training by working with special needs children at a dental clinic at Baudhuin.

“This is another example of how Mailman Segal sets the future, not only for young children who are in need of these services, but to train professionals who can take this work out into the communities,” said Leiderman.
Nova University was just a few years old when a group of forward-thinking Broward County women saw a way to help the fledgling university boost its research with the founding of the Royal Dames of Nova.

The group was renamed the Royal Dames of Cancer Research, Inc. in 1969 to raise funds for cancer research being conducted at the Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, Inc. The Goodwin Institute later was renamed the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, which then became a part of Nova Southeastern University.

That association is still going strong as NSU celebrates its 50th anniversary and the Royal Dames enters its 45th year of supporting cancer research at the institute.

This year, the Royal Dames members were recognized for contributions totaling more than $1 million to NSU. The group’s name was added to NSU’s prestigious Shark Circle on the Fellows Way monument. (See page 38.) During the Celebration of Excellence, the group also was presented with a replica of sculptor Kent Ullberg’s mako shark, which is the centerpiece of the shark fountain located in front of the Don Taft University Center on NSU’s main campus.

Accolades for their work are appreciated, say the members. But the contributions made to cancer research are more important. The group’s support has been instrumental in the discovery and development of two new anti-angiogenic cancer drugs at the institute that received U.S. patent approval in 2011. In addition, the money the Royal Dames raises is crucial for training and educating numerous undergraduate and graduate students to conduct cancer research.

“The Royal Dames members have been wonderful in their support for the drug discovery efforts that are happening [at the institute],” said Appu Rathinavelu, Ph.D., executive director of NSU’s Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research and associate dean, institutional planning and development, at NSU’s College of Pharmacy. “Their generosity and care for human life is the key for providing the most essential financial strength, energy, and enthusiasm that drive our research efforts to fight cancer, one of the deadliest diseases known to mankind,” added Rathinavelu.

“We want to help find a cure for cancer—it’s that simple,” said Nell McMillan Lewis, Ed.D., a member of the Royal Dames for more than 25 years. She has served as president and secretary, among other leadership roles. “It takes a lot of money to fund research, which is a long, ongoing process. The money we raise can only be used to support the research and educational programs at the institute,” added Lewis, who also sits on NSU’s Board of Trustees.

Membership in the Royal Dames is by invitation only; it is capped at 100 active members and another 50 or so lifetime members. Each member pledges $2,500 for a life membership. One of the moving forces behind the group’s inception was the late Theresa Castro, whose family owned Castro Convertible Sofas. Being asked to join is an honor that its members cherish. Rhonda Ritchie Aslaksen, a video producer and writer whose clients include NSU, said she saw her Royal Dames membership invitation four years ago as a way to show her appreciation to the university. “I have had such a long and wonderful relationship with NSU. When the opportunity to join came, it gave me a chance to give back to NSU, as well as support the institute,” said Ritchie Aslaksen, vice president of ways and means for the Royal Dames’ board of trustees. “It’s rewarding to know that meaningful research is being conducted right here in Broward and that our group can impact that.”

In this vintage photo from 1970, Theresa Castro, who was one of the moving forces behind the Royal Dames’ inception, presents Leo Goodwin Sr. with a plaque to commemorate his work as a philanthropist.
The group’s major fund-raiser is the annual Tiara Ball, one of the oldest fund-raising galas in Broward County, held each November. The group schedules several smaller fund-raisers during the year, including both a spring and a fall luncheon.

The group also keeps current with occasional events. This past year, members gathered at the Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research at the Oceanographic Center to hear Jean Latimer, Ph.D., an associate professor in NSU’s College of Pharmacy, discuss her research in breast cancer.

NSU’s growth will bring new opportunities to the Royal Dames. The Center for Collaborative Research (CCR), a multidisciplinary research center that will be completed in 2016, will house the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research. (See story page 3.)

“This is a very rewarding time to be a member of the Royal Dames of Cancer Research,” said Ritchie Aslaksen. “The new CCR will fill us with an even greater sense of pride for the ongoing fund-raising efforts that benefit the institute.”

“Through our support of cancer research,” added Lewis, “the Royal Dames organization is a part of NSU’s future.”

For more information on the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, visit www.rgicr.nova.edu.

Linda Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., dean of NSU’s College of Dental Medicine, has been elected a council delegate representing the Dentistry and Oral Health Sciences Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In this role, Niessen will serve a three-year term.

AAAS is an international nonprofit organization that seeks to advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world and publishes the journal, Science.

Niessen and Michael A. Siegel, D.D.S., M.S., FDS RCSEd., professor, were featured in Dentistry Today magazine as “Leaders in Dental Continuing Education.” This is the tenth time Niessen has received this honor and the sixth time in a row that Siegel has received this recognition. Siegel is chair of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences (oral medicine) at the College of Dental Medicine and professor of internal medicine at the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Appu Rathinavelu, executive director of NSU’s Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, says the Royal Dames members “have been wonderful in their support for the drug discovery efforts that are happening [at the institute].”

Escape to the Caribbean with your fellow Sharks on a four-day alumni and friends cruise setting sail February 5, 2015, aboard Royal Caribbean’s Liberty of the Sea departing from Fort Lauderdale’s Port Everglades. The NSU Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Shepard Broad Law Center and the Colleges of Optometry and Dental Medicine, are planning interdisciplinary, continuing-education presentations. Reserve your cabin at www.planningcruises.com/rw/view/3119.
Going Global

NSU students find opportunities that shape their experience for careers in the real world.
Sara Gawish studied Shakespeare in London and Spanish in Spain the summer before she graduated from Nova Southeastern University with a double major in marketing and management. “When you travel, you realize how much there is to learn and how to relate to people from all backgrounds,” she said.

Now, in her job as a sales associate with Entertainment Cruises in Hoboken, New Jersey, Gawish said the experience continues to resonate. “It helped me to become more worldly and inquisitive. I want to talk to international visitors, find out more, and have conversations with them. It also gave me a level of understanding I didn’t have before.”

Pharmacy student Danielle Lerch had an eye-opening experience in Slovakia when she learned “a completely different side of pharmacy” that she said “broadened her view of the profession.”

Alixandra Tucci, a junior finance major at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, not only received on-the-job training during an internship at an investment management firm in Fort Lauderdale, but she received a part-time salary. “Getting paid when you’re a college student is always helpful,” she said.

As a university that began by training people who already had real-life and work experience under their belt, it’s no surprise that NSU focuses on the future of its students’ careers by providing myriad opportunities. Study abroad programs, paid and unpaid internships, and clinical
rotation programs for its health care professions “take students out of the classroom and outside of their comfort zones,” said Brad Williams, Ph.D., vice president of student affairs and dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies.

A study by the Council for International Education Exchange found that employers valued study abroad in hiring university graduates, but NSU’s personalized approach gives the university’s students a more well-rounded edge.

“One thing we do is help the students be able to translate their study-abroad experiences into terms employers can understand. This is where the benefit is,” said Alejandra Parra, Ph.D., associate director of the Office of International Affairs at NSU. “There is work to be done to prepare a student to go abroad; we work with them while they are there, but the follow-up from the trip is also of the utmost importance.”

Many of these international experiences are led by a faculty member, which was the case for Lerch’s pharmacy semester in Slovakia. “The faculty member will plan and coordinate and organize as part of the course,” said Parra. The International Studies Office gets involved in helping with logistics, support, and risk management.

Lerch says having the familiarity of her mentor, Ana Maria Castejon, Ph.D., who led the trip to Comenius University in Bratislava, added to the experience. Castejon, associate professor in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, previously had worked with Comenius University, the largest university in Slovakia.

“Understanding the practice of pharmacy from a global perspective is not a traditional curricular outcome in most U.S. pharmacy programs,” said Castejon, who is currently the principal investigator of an ongoing multidisciplinary research study involving a nutritional supplement and autism. “But a joint effort between NSU and Comenius University resulted in a course that covered different topics ranging from pharmacognosy to how pharmacy professionals practice outside of the United States. What we found was that the study abroad program not only fostered learning, but promoted global citizenship,” said Castejon.

“One day, we left the pharmacy class and went to the medical university and we heard a lecture about autism. To sit in on that and get that kind of information was incredible,” Lerch said. In addition to labs and classes, the students toured hospitals and community pharmacies in Slovakia. “We were paired with pharmacists from the community. It gave us the chance to see how their system worked and how it differed from ours,” said the second-year pharmacy student about the semester-long study abroad, where she spent 21 days with 30 other students and 2 faculty members.

Students from NSU regional campuses in Palm Beach and Ponce, Puerto Rico, joined the Davie campus students, allowing Lerch the opportunity to study with other NSU pharmacy students that she said she would otherwise have not met.

MEDICAL OUTREACH

At the College of Osteopathic Medicine, international medical outreach programs provide health care to underserved international communities. In addition, the experiences offer students the chance to use their clinical skills in settings that may have medical and public health challenges different from their own.
Andrew Dec, a fourth-year medical student, spent five weeks in the Philippines doing a medical rotation at Mary Chiles General Hospital in the Anesthesia Department. “I had the opportunity to participate in my first Operation Smile, a mission organized to correct cleft lips and palates, while on location in Manila. Experiencing the difference in medical practice compared to the United States and assimilating into the rich culture that exists in South Asia were incredible, life-altering experiences,” said Dec, currently an anesthesiology resident at the University of Kentucky.

NSU medical students can take advantage of rotation opportunities in 28 countries on five continents. “The international rotations allow our medical students and faculty members to learn and share different health care delivery systems and also introduce the osteopathic profession around the world,” said James T. Howell, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean for professional relations at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine and director of the International Medical Rotations Program.

Not only do the programs teach practical experience, but they make students better clinicians, according to Anthony DeNapoli, Ed.D., NSU’s executive director of the Office of International Affairs. “NSU students who are engaged in these international rotations return to the United States with a global medical mindset,” said DeNapoli. “Their experiences will undoubtedly change the way they think, view, understand, and care for a changing patient population in America.”

REAL-WORLD WORK EXPERIENCE

Internship programs also are an important draw for students making their decision to attend NSU. “Internship opportunities are very essential in recruiting students when they are making a decision about higher education,” said Shari Saperstein, executive director of NSU’s Office of Career Development.

Saperstein says the office provides a holistic approach to helping match a student with the right internship. “It’s a very personalized process. What we do at the core of our advisement services is help students really put their fingers on what will complement their interests, work well with what they are learning in the classroom, and ultimately, what will be the most valuable to them upon graduation.”

Tucci, a junior finance major and Razor’s Edge Leadership Program scholarship student, previously had an internship at a large financial firm. When she wanted another internship, she contacted Diane Klein, assistant director of employer relations and internships, at NSU’s College of Undergraduate
President’s Internship Vision

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of NSU, points to a statistic cited in the Wall Street Journal:

“About 92 percent of law students who worked as summer associates last year received job offers.” The article echoes a new initiative he has introduced, which will first target Nova Southeastern University’s undergraduate population. “During the fall of 2015, any undergraduate who comes here and stays with us for three years will be guaranteed an internship,” said Hanbury. “And we will provide them with a paid internship in the discipline of their choice.”

Hanbury states that, in today’s higher education environment, it is important to prepare students for careers and that it is NSU’s responsibility to help students connect the dots. “I tell undergraduates that their time here is a time to explore, don’t just focus on one discipline,” he said. If undergraduates want to pursue an internship in something outside of their area of focus, Hanbury said the program will be set up to support that, too.

“We are here to not only make sure our students accomplish their academic goals and dreams, but that they are as prepared as their peers to enter the global economy as leaders.”

The Office of Career Development will be facilitating the undergraduate internship programs, he said.
Already a bustling place, with pharmacy and nursing students coming and going each day, as well as courses offered in education, psychology, business, and the arts, NSU’s Palm Beach campus is about to get busier.

The third floor of the 75,000-square-foot building has been transformed into an intensive care unit, a simulation suite, and classroom space with state-of-the-art computer labs for its new respiratory therapy program, which recently was accredited. When the fall 2014 term begins, the campus hopes to have 30 students working toward a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy degree.

NSU is the only institution in the state to offer a bachelor’s degree in respiratory therapy. Students can be employed in the field with an associate’s degree and a state license, but the new bachelor’s degree “opens up doors to management, research, and education,” said Marianne Jankowski, D.H.Sc., RRT, chair of the Department of Cardiopulmonary Sciences at the Palm Beach campus. “It can also be a stepping stone to master’s degrees or to a physician’s assistant or anesthesiology assistant degree.”
Already, several practicing respiratory therapists are working online toward their Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy degree in the new completion program.

One of them is Maureen Lintner, a working mother of three who lives in Miami-Dade County and fits her online class work in between her full-time job and caring for her family. She is so busy that she jokes that she should do well in her class on sleep disorders.

Lintner earned her associate’s degree in respiratory therapy in 1991, and she is currently a senior respiratory therapist at South Miami Hospital. As soon as she heard that NSU was offering a bachelor’s degree, she signed up for the online program.

“I jumped on the opportunity,” said Lintner. “I went back for the depth of knowledge and to improve my skills in technology.” Lintner, who says she loves working with patients, is also leaving the door open for postgraduate degrees or teaching in the future.

The biggest challenge for Lintner, who has been away from academic life for nearly two decades, has been learning how to navigate computerized learning. But she found a ready support system.

“Everyone at the college has been extremely helpful, and all the professors are encouraging,” she said. “It was a tough transition for me, but they made it very comforting. It has been a wonderful experience.”

About half of the respiratory therapy students’ credits are devoted to hands-on practice. Later, they are placed as interns in health facilities all over the state, with NSU paying the cost of their housing, an attractive bonus. Both the interns and those overseeing their work get a chance to see if they are a good fit, and many students receive job offers.

Faculty members who run both the online completion program and the upcoming on-campus respiratory therapy program bring extensive clinical experience with them. Jankowski is highly knowledgeable in all aspects of the field, including hyperbaric treatment and intensive care. Lisa Farach, M.S., director of clinical education, has worked in adult, pediatric, and neonatal intensive care units and is pursuing a Doctor of Health Science degree. Assistant professor Jennifer Bencsik, M.H.A., RRT, has practiced in surgical intensive care units, trauma, and pediatric home care. Guy Nehrenz, Ed.D., M.A, RRT, executive associate dean of the College of Health Care Sciences, has extensive pediatric and medical flight experience.

With its new bachelor’s degree in respiratory therapy, NSU is ahead of the professional curve, putting its new program in place just as the American Association of Respiratory Care has declared the bachelor’s degree one of the priorities for a 2015 initiative to broaden expertise in the profession.

Respiratory therapists treat patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities and conditions, from newborns to the elderly, including people with neuromuscular disease, chronic lung disease, genetic abnormalities, and trauma.

Like many medical professions, respiratory therapy is growing. The field is expected to add jobs at a rate of 19 percent a year from 2012 to 2022 and pays an average of $55,000 a year, according to 2012 figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. There are career opportunities not only in Florida, but all over the country, in settings from hospitals to home care.

The new, $2-million, third-floor unit impressed a group of evaluators during their January 2014 visit, the last major step before accreditation of the program. “One of them said that in 100 site visits he had never seen one like ours,” said Jankowski.

What the evaluators saw, in part, was a 10-bed, intensive-care training facility as well equipped as some hospitals. This included 12 types of ventilators; a glass chamber to measure a patient’s lung function; and a simulation center where students work with adult, pediatric, and infant computerized mannequins. The adult simulators are programmed with 150 adult diseases, the child simulators with 18, and the infants with 15, more than some therapists might encounter in years of practice. The mannequins can speak and describe their symptoms to students.
Jennifer Benczak, standing, assistant professor, and Lisa Farach, director of Clinical Education, work with a volunteer in a glass chamber that measures a patient’s lung function.
About 200 students at the Palm Beach campus are working toward a doctorate in pharmacy, with about 50 pharmacy doctorates awarded each year.

The four-year program includes one year of advanced pharmacy experience, supervised by doctors and pharmacists. NSU students with the purple pharmacy school patch on their white coats intern at hospitals and pharmacies throughout Florida.

The students’ classes at the Palm Beach campus are taught via live video broadcast, attended simultaneously by students at NSU’s main campus in Fort Lauderdale and at the campus in Puerto Rico.

“This is the center of a heavily populated area and we are able to attract students to the north and the south of Palm Beach Gardens,” said Nile Khanfar, Ph.D., M.B.A., assistant dean for the College of Pharmacy, who runs the pharmacy program at the Palm Beach campus. “We also have excellent, nationally recognized hospitals where our students work.”

Pharmacy students participate in community service projects, one of which is teaching a course at Jupiter High School on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. This is one of the leading causes of death in Palm Beach County, said Julie Kincaid, M.S., coordinator of student services and student recruitment for pharmacy at the Palm Beach campus.

“They take a leadership class in their first year, and service to the community gets instilled there,” said Kincaid. “Then they continue to serve throughout their enrollment here at NSU. In a professional program, the students are groomed to be professional leaders within the community.”

PHARMACY PROGRAM

Programs include

- Business Administration
- Cross-disciplinary programs in the humanities
- Education
- Interdisciplinary Arts
- Leadership/Business
- Leadership/Education
- Management
- Mental Health Counseling
- Pharmacy
- Respiratory Therapy
- School Counseling
- School Psychology
- Speech-Language Pathology

After several years in temporary quarters, the Palm Beach campus moved into its 75,000-square-foot campus, located on Military Trail just north of Interstate 95, in 2011.

In addition to state-of-the-art facilities for clinical training in respiratory therapy and pharmacy studies, the campus includes a fully equipped gym and computer labs for students. The Palm Beach campus also provides space for continuing education classes and community meetings.

About 200 students at the Palm Beach campus are working toward a doctorate in pharmacy.
The nursing programs at the Palm Beach campus emphasize working with patients.

NURSING PROGRAM

The Palm Beach campus also features two distinct nursing programs: The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) and the M.S.N.—Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (A.P.R.N.), which prepares students to become family nurse practitioners. There are 260 students in the A.P.R.N. program and 40 in the D.N.P. program, said Andra Hanlon, Ph.D., A.R.N.P., CPNP, Doctor of Nursing Practice program director, and associate dean of graduate programs at the College of Nursing.

Both programs focus on working with patients. The nurse practitioners focus on primary care and keeping people out of the hospitals, said Hanlon. Family nurse practitioners, who already have a bachelor’s degree and experience in nursing, may work in clinics, with underserved populations, or in private practice.

Students in the D.N.P. program are nurses who already have a master’s degree and experience in nursing. Each student designs a project that provides medical treatment in an innovative way. One group of students put together a church-based clinic to identify and reduce hypertension in African Americans. Another student devised a core-strengthening program to reduce the number of overuse injuries in young athletes.

Some contact local hospitals—students are based all over the country, said Hanlon—and set up projects in conjunction with those hospitals.

“A chief nursing officer may have a project, but not have (doctoral candidate) nurses, so the hospitals love to have our students,” said Hanlon.

Doctoral students work one on one with faculty mentors. Students and mentors are in frequent contact by phone and by email.

“That’s what sets us apart, the close mentoring,” said Hanlon. “And every student is actually making a difference in health care.”

AROUND NSU

HANBURY NEW SSC PRESIDENT

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of Nova Southeastern University, is the new president of the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) for the 2013–14 and 2014–15 academic terms. Hanbury succeeds Kevin M. Ross, president of Lynn University, who just completed a two-year term.

In his role as conference president, Hanbury will act as chair of the SSC Presidents Council. He will be working closely with conference commissioner Jay Jones and the presidents of the league’s eight other member institutions.

TRAVISANO GETS GLASS CEILING AWARD

Jacqueline A. Travisano, M.B.A., CPA, NSU’s executive vice president and chief operating officer, has been named a 2014 recipient of the Glass Ceiling Award presented by the Florida Diversity Council. Travisano was 1 of 13 women honored during the Fourth Annual Florida Women’s Conference in March 2014.

Recipients of the Glass Ceiling Award were honored for having demonstrated leadership excellence, maintaining a steady increase in responsibility throughout their careers, establishing a record of accomplishments in areas of expertise, providing a positive influence in the workplace, and demonstrating integrity and high ethical standards.

Travisano’s career encompasses more than two decades of service to higher education and nonprofit organizations in various capacities. Immediately prior to joining NSU, Travisano served as vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer at St. John’s University in Queens, New York.

She holds an M.B.A. from Chatham University, a B.S. in Business Administration from Robert Morris University, and is a Certified Public Accountant.
CULTURALLY DIVERSE PROGRAMS AND events flourish at Nova Southeastern University. Throughout the year, NSU’s campus community and the general public can learn about black history, view a Holocaust exhibit, see a new French film, or listen to a talk on Muslim journeys.

Susie Gilot, who is working on her master’s degree in human resource management, believes the university’s extensive multicultural programming is a reflection of a diverse student body.
“There are so many different cultures on campus,” Gilot said. “People don’t always understand other cultures. NSU has created activities to help people learn about the different rituals, traditions, and histories of cultures.”

Gilot, a past president of the Pan-African Student Association, said she has volunteered to help present NSU’s Black History Month events for several years. “I’ve learned so much and met so many people I never thought I would meet—such as African kings and queens and an ambassador from Haiti.”

NSU’s annual African Presence Art Exhibition and Black History Month events have become staples in the community. Held each February, the programs include book signings, films, discussions, poetry, and musical offerings. The African Presence Art Exhibition drew only 50 people when it began 11 years ago; now it attracts more than 300 people from the community on opening night and hundreds more during the month.

“They come because they know NSU will offer a program that is inspiring and entertaining, but also relevant and of substance,” said Mara L. Kiffin, M.S., director of internal communications and chair of the African Presence Organizing Committee and the Black History Month Committee. “Two of NSU’s Core Values are diversity and community, and these events incorporate those values.”

NSU’s Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center provides the setting for an array of culturally diverse events year-round. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the library hosts related art exhibits, film festivals, dance concerts, and special programs for children. The library’s past events have included French and Irish film festivals, a Chinese New Year’s celebration, and the Holocaust-related Hélène Berr, A Stolen Life exhibit.

“The Alvin Sherman Library is not only about books or research. As a cultural center, we recognize our role as a portal to the entire world’s knowledge and a bridge to the community,” said Lydia M. Acosta, M.S., vice president for information services and university librarian of NSU. “Our free cultural events help engage and expose the community to the beauty of our differences and, at the same time, our similarities.”

NSU’s Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences also has much to offer in terms of culturally diverse programming. The popular Distinguished Speakers Series brings in renowned researchers, scientists, authors, politicians, filmmakers, artists, and activists. Recent speakers have included retired general and former CIA director David Petraeus, genomic researcher J. Craig Venter, and author Rebecca Skloot. The lectures are typically open to the public, but may require tickets.

The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is also home to the Performance Series, an annual student event that includes dramatic pieces, improvisational comedy skits, and music and dance performances. All events are open to the public. A recent addition to the Performance Series is Novapool, a dance project in which students perform onstage at NSU alongside an Internet-streamed live performance at Liverpool John Moores University in England.

“NSU is proud to be part of this community and to contribute to South Florida’s diverse arts and cultural programming,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. “I often see community leaders, alumni, and parents of current students at lectures, productions, and research programs. I know this elevates student experiences, as well. A preeminent education has to go beyond the classroom.”

NSU’s Museum of Art is a major resource for culturally diverse programming available to the public. In addition to its permanent and visiting art exhibits, the museum hosts art discussions; classes; lectures; film viewings; and the Art of Wine and Food Series, a monthly event that features a guest chef and sommelier-led wine tastings. The museum’s exhibitions and events often coincide with cultural themes, such as Bob Adelman’s photography during Black History Month and the works of American painter William Glackens.
Those who can still comprehend what they read when they reach the age of 85 owe a debt to Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., a leading medical researcher investigating how to prevent age-related cognitive decline and the importance of what’s come to be called health literacy in helping people maintain their well-being.

Ownby, professor and chair of the College of Osteopathic Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, has spent much of his 22-year career researching the behavioral and biological aspects of cognition and memory in aging. Author or coauthor of more than 100 papers, he has received a steady stream of research grants from the National Institutes of Health.

“The work I’ve done on mood and cognition and the implications of depression is hopefully contributing to identifying disorders and treating them,” said Ownby.

Last year, Ownby received the Third Annual Provost’s Research and Scholarship Award from George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of Nova Southeastern University. "It was a great honor to receive the Provost’s Award from the president of the university,” Ownby said. "Other people who have received it are world-renowned researchers in their fields.”

Ownby did not come to psychiatry—or South Florida—by a straight line. He grew up in rural southeastern Ohio, “where it’s kind of hilly and nice,” but he didn’t get interested in psychiatry until college.

“I did volunteer activities, including serving on a crisis intervention line, as an undergrad at Ohio University,” he said. “I also did volunteer work with geriatric psychiatric patients at a state hospital. That got me interested in a career in mental health.”

After earning a Ph.D. in Psychology and a postdoctorate in neuropsychology, Ownby returned to Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine to become a psychiatrist.

“I came to Florida because of my parents and the weather,” Ownby said. "I came a lot to visit for spring break and Christmas. When the chance arose to consider Florida, it was an easy choice.”

Ownby completed his residency training in psychiatry at the University of Miami, where he stayed on as a faculty member for 10 years. He founded Miami’s Brain Fitness Program at the Center on Aging, researching and developing strategies to help people support their mental acuity as they age. He has established a similar brain fitness program at NSU.

Research, Ownby said, is an interactive endeavor, very much dependent upon the environment in which it is conducted. "NSU is a great place to work,” Ownby said. “They’re always very supportive of what we do—the entire organization. The university’s Vision 2020, with its focus on developing NSU as a research institute, fits my skill set perfectly.”

Ownby is recognized as an expert not only at NSU or within the psychiatric community, but also in the world at large. He was prominently quoted in a New York Times, May 1, 2013, article about new research on the connection between depression and Alzheimer’s disease.

“We can’t prove that depression in your 40s causes Alzheimer’s later in life,” he said. “But we do have evidence that reducing mood disorders is good for you. Not just with Alzheimer’s, but also diabetes, heart attacks, and every important illness associated with aging.”

Depression, Ownby said, is a greater threat to well-being today than it was in earlier eras,
a result of the dramatic and continuing changes in social organization, working habits, and personal life that began two centuries ago, at the advent of the Industrial Revolution. “Most people used to live in a village social organization,” he said. “Today, people may feel isolated, and may be isolated. Ongoing stress, now that we work all the time, is a problem. Changes in family, social organization, and the decline of the intergenerational family all increase the stress that causes depression.”

One of Ownby’s passions is teaching medical students, in part because the increase in mood disorders means “the vast majority of mental health care” is delivered not by a psychiatrist, but by a primary care physician. “I’m very committed to medical education,” he said. “I’m always thrilled when a medical student goes into psychiatry. Last year, we had eight. But I like to teach physicians, too. They are the first people consulted for anxiety and depression.”

Ownby and his team received a $1.35-million federal grant to create innovative methods to evaluate patients’ health literacy—the knowledge and capacity to participate in your own health care. He pioneered research into medication adherence among HIV patients.

“Adherence and health literacy are critically important aspects of delivering health care,” Ownby said. “The changes in the health care system force people to take more and more responsibility for their own care.”

Raymond Ownby stresses the importance of people maintaining their health literacy.

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Philanthropists Winifred and Joseph Amaturo were awarded the President’s Award for Excellence in Community Service at NSU’s annual Celebration of Excellence, an event with special significance as NSU celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Established in 1997, the President’s Award for Excellence in Community Service recognizes extraordinary professional engagement activities by a member of the South Florida community. The award encourages the ongoing pursuit of service and exemplifies NSU’s community core value.

Winifred Amaturo is president of the Amaturo Family Foundation, which funds education, medical research, and the arts, including an advanced reading program for more than 5,000 children in Broward County.

Joseph Amaturo is a prominent entrepreneur having owned and managed 22 radio and television stations and served as chairman of Muvico Theaters, Inc. He is active in both his family foundation and community organizations such as the Broward County Performing Arts Center, YMCA, United Way of Broward County, and Urban League. In 1994, NSU inducted Joseph Amaturo into the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship’s Hall of Fame to honor his outstanding business achievements. He was honored with NSU’s first Doctor of Commerce Honorary Citation by Abraham S. Fischler, one of NSU’s previous presidents, in 1998.

“As we celebrate NSU’s 50th anniversary, it is fitting that we honor two members of our family who helped us get to where we are today,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU’s president and CEO, in presenting the award.
Unlocking Clues to Coral Survival

BY MICHELLE T. MICHAELS

From her corner office in NSU’s iconic, glass-walled Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research at NSU’s Oceanographic Center (OC), Nicole Fogarty, Ph.D., looks out on an unconventional workstation: the Atlantic Ocean.

With the complex Florida reef system a short boat ride away, the NSU assistant professor and her students are working to unlock clues to the survival of some of the world’s most endangered corals. The target of their research: the impact various threats are having on the corals’ future, and how the delicate animals are adapting to an environment that has led to a dramatic loss of their species.

“People just think of them as slimy rocks, but they are really quite remarkable,” Fogarty said of the corals she has dedicated her life to researching. Coral reefs are considered the rainforest of the sea, harboring thousands of ocean species and the key to the health of the marine world’s ecosystem. That’s why, with Florida being the home to 84 percent of the nation’s reefs, NSU built the $50-million Center of Excellence at the OC.

It was that investment in an ecosystem Fogarty finds so meaningful that drew the Dayton, Ohio, native to the coral reef center, the largest of its kind in the United States. “It has really put NSU on the map for its dedication to coral reef research,” said Fogarty, who joined the center’s faculty in July 2012.

The center’s spectacular architecture and proximity to the Florida reef system, she added, makes coming to work feel less like, well, work. During a tour of the grounds, she shows off a laboratory brimming with coral specimens, some taken from ocean reefs, some from corals cultured in large seawater tanks in the center’s outdoor nursery.

“Having your study system in your backyard makes it extremely accessible,” Fogarty said.

It’s a system Fogarty has spent years researching, with the help of funding from the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian Institution’s Marine Science Network, the American Academy of Underwater Science, and the Florida State Wildlife Grants Program, among others.

She first fell in love with the ocean and its underwater beauty during childhood scuba-diving trips to the Florida Keys and the Caribbean. She eventually pursued a bachelor’s degree in biology at Wittenberg University—where she took courses in marine studies in the Bahamas, Duke University Marine Laboratory, and Bermuda from 1996 to 1997.

But Fogarty’s fondness for corals sprouted in 2001 and 2002 as a research assistant at the University of North Carolina—Wilmington, where she got her first experience studying coral reproduction. After a subsequent stint as a research technician at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, she attended graduate school and earned a doctoral degree in biology from Florida State University, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce.

“She has a resume I’ve definitely found very interesting,” said Josh Stocker, an NSU master’s degree student studying marine environmental science and coastal zone management. Under Fogarty’s direction, Stocker is studying the effects sex steroids—namely estrogen and progesterone leached into the water through the sewer discharge system—are having on coral reproduction and growth. Understanding those impacts can lead to better strategies in mitigating the pollution, Fogarty said.
Hunter Noren, a marine biology master’s degree student from West Palm Beach, said working in Fogarty’s lab has been an amazing experience. “From the start, I was included in projects and have had many great opportunities,” said Noren, whose master’s degree project is studying deep-water mesophotic reefs to see if they are a viable source of larvae that can help repopulate shallow reefs. “[Fogarty’s] previous work with the Smithsonian has allowed us to perform this research at a fantastic research facility, Carrie Bow Cay, that is operated by the Smithsonian.”

Noren has accompanied Fogarty on three trips to Belize, where they dive the reefs to collect samples for the grad student’s thesis. While there, the two have conducted experiments on Fogarty’s own project, coral hybrids, profiled in a documentary by the South Florida PBS station, WPBT-2, on the hybridization of elkhorns and staghorns.

The corals are important reef builders and among the ecosystem’s most threatened species. And yet, in the midst of their decline, Fogarty said, the staghorn and the elkhorn have found a way to thrive, together, by creating a hybrid species. That has both pros (continued survival, for example) and cons (diluting the parental species’ genome).

But the experienced researcher has found some reasons for optimism: The relatively "new" coral, in existence for the past 10,000 years but cropping up in more locations over the past 10 to 15 years, can survive in just three feet of water. "It seems to be pretty robust," Fogarty said. "The fact that they can survive in that extreme environment is encouraging."

AROUND NSU

GRANTS AWARDED AT NSU

NSU’s Oceanographic Center has been awarded part of a $400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to help fund a project in conjunction with Florida Atlantic University’s SeaTech facility.

Richard Spieler, Ph.D., a professor and director of Academic Programs at NSU’s Oceanographic Center, will study the effects electromagnetic field emissions—which are created by offshore energy generating devices, such as windmills—have on marine life in and on the seafloor.

Faculty members from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and the Oceanographic Center have earned a federal research grant of nearly $500,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense’s Army Research Office to fund new equipment and support several undergraduate and graduate research projects. The grant will be used to support research through January 31, 2015.

The principal researchers include Robert Smith, Ph.D.; James Munoz, Ph.D.; Aurelien Tartar, Ph.D.; Jaime Tartar, Ph.D.; and Jose Lopez, Ph.D.

The U.S. Geological Survey has awarded the Oceanographic Center a grant of more than $84,000 to investigate Florida’s hydrogeology and groundwater resources and a grant of $16,000 for technical and laboratory assistance to research and monitor threatened and endangered species.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER OPEN

The new Employee Health and Wellness Center has opened on the third floor of the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center on NSU’s main campus.

The clinic is being run exclusively by faculty physicians from NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Open from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, the clinic provides full primary-care services to all NSU employees, their spouses/partners, and adult children on their medical plan. The mornings are kept open for walk-in sick or injured employees; the afternoons are used for scheduled appointments. Contact the center at (954) 262-8477.
Classroom a Stage for Dance Professor

BY ANDREA ROBINSON

On a cold, rainy day, Augusto Soledade’s students begin a strenuous warm up in a small studio on the second floor of the Performing and Visual Arts Wing at the Don Taft University Center on NSU’s main campus.

“I need you to dance like there is no tomorrow,” Soledade, M.F.A., tells the students. Soledade, an associate professor of dance at NSU’s Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, closely watches each movement as he pushes his students in the Latin and Caribbean dance class.

Soledade, an accomplished dancer, choreographer, and artistic director of Augusto Soledade Brazzdance in Miami, is bringing Afro-Brazilian and Caribbean dance to the forefront in South Florida for a new generation. The NSU classroom is a stage where he guides aspiring dancers or dance hobbyists.

He believes his mission is to instill in students and audiences an appreciation of dance as an art form. In a society that stresses math, science, and technology, Soledade is up for the challenge. Since 2011, he has shown NSU students the value of dance, and helped audiences better understand the science of movement through the human form.

“This is the best part of my day,” said Destinee Hughes, a junior majoring in communications with dance as her minor. “He actually speaks to you on campus and makes jokes. I can talk to him about everything,” added the NSU cheerleader.

Wilna Eugene, a junior psychology major from Margate, said Soledade is patient and helpful in helping her understand his vision. “I like that about him. He’s attentive. He knows each of our quirks and where we need help.”

Dance was an informal part of Soledade’s childhood in Brazil. But he didn’t start formal dance training until his early 20s—while he earned a degree in journalism at Federal University at Bahia. One semester he substituted dance for a physical education class. After two more classes he was hooked, and earned a second bachelor’s degree in dance. Soledade later received his M.F.A. degree and learned choreography from the State University of New York (SUNY). “I was constantly creating works and improving my choreographic skills.”

Augusto Soledade Brazzdance provides the professor with an outlet to express his creativity, beginning informally in 1998 at SUNY. It wasn’t until he came to Miami in 2004 that the company blossomed into what it is today. Brazzdance is an extension of Soledade’s NSU laboratory, where his research comes to life. “The company [is] the place where I develop my research, that is then accepted and credited at the university level,” he said.

From October through April, the company stages at least three major events in South Florida—all scripted by him. Soledade depends on grants from private foundations and public sources to offset production and personnel expenses. Among the awards are the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship in 2008, the Individual Artist Fellowship from the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (twice-time winner), and the Miami-Dade Choreographer’s Fellowship from Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs and the Rocker Family Foundation of New Jersey (five-time winner). In 2012, he received a $45,000 Knight Arts challenge grant from...
the Knight Foundation, 1 of 34 recipients out of 1,162 who applied. He hopes the visibility and reputation that the awards and grants have helped build will lead to more funding.

Tatiana Hernandez, program officer for arts at the Knight Foundation, said the award speaks to Soledade’s work and reputation in the dance community. “Dance is growing in South Florida. Choreographers are creating new companies. We wanted to encourage him.”

Soledade’s company also is a boost for NSU. Four student interns have worked for Brazzdance, gaining real-world experience in marketing, graphic design, and dance. One dance student, Camille Arroyo, performed on stage.

Michael Caldwell, D.M.A., director of the Division of Performing and Visual Arts in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, said Soledade enriches the department and NSU’s standing in the arts through his reputation as an artist/teacher, his dance troupe’s accessibility, and his awards, such as the Guggenheim Fellowship in choreography.

“He has worked to make sure students have benefitted from having access to his troupe. This makes all the difference,” Caldwell said. “Arts are about real-world experience. He is on the cutting edge of what we’re doing.”

Back in the NSU studio, the students rehearse more movements that Soledade cobbled together. Marina Poupart, a freshman dance major, is slightly off pace. Soledade stops the class to give her individual attention. “He is always willing to work with us no matter what. If someone has a problem, he will speak with them privately. He’s respectful like that,” said Poupart, who aspires to be a production choreographer.

That attentiveness is part of what endears Soledade to students and peers, like Michelle Murray, a former board member of Brazzdance. “He stops and breaks down info for the students. That’s not an attribute that everybody has,” Murray said.

Soledade takes the accolades in stride. “For someone who started dancing so late, I’ve been blessed to get so far,” he said.

Patrick Hardigan’s Fall Model will be used to help predict the impact of medication and dosage on injurious falling.

AROUND NSU

NSU RESEARCHER RECEIVES U.S. PATENT FOR DEVELOPING FALL PREVENTION MODEL

Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., executive director for Health Professions Division research at NSU, has received a U.S. patent for an algorithm he developed called the Statistical Model for Predicting Falling in Humans, also known as the Fall Model.

The Fall Model will be used to help predict the impact of medication and dosage on injurious falling. “Our goal is to develop a multidisciplinary fall prevention program and ultimately reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries due to falls,” said Hardigan.

The Fall Model uses a robust amount of unidentified patient information from the state of Florida and other public sources—such as height, weight, and age—combined with each respective patient’s clinical diagnosis and prescription medication regimen to determine the patient’s likelihood of falling. The result is a “likely” or “not likely” determination.

This model will eventually be computerized in an easy-to-use template for use in health care settings, including hospitals, pharmacies, nursing homes, and clinics.

Hardigan also was elected president of the Association for the Behavioral Sciences in Medical Education—a national association of interdisciplinary educators focused on the behavioral side of medicine and health care education.
Donors Advance Goal to Increase Scholarship Support

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Charles W. Daniels Scholarship
Donor: Robert S. Lafferty of The Lafferty Family Foundation
College: All undergraduate programs
Purpose: To recruit and retain outstanding undergraduate students

David Spector Memorial Scholarship
Donor: Howard D. Spector
College: Center for Psychological Studies
Purpose: Support graduate students with an interest in treating drug and alcohol addiction

Lori and Seth Wise/BBX Scholarship
Donors: Lori and Seth Wise on behalf of BBX Capital
College: H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Purpose: Support graduate students studying real estate

Travisano Family Endowed Scholarship for Undergraduate Students
Donors: Peter and Jacqueline A. Travisano, NSU vice president and COO
College: H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Purpose: Support undergraduate business students

Jacquelyn and Bruce Rogow Law Scholarship
Donors: Jacquelyn and Bruce Rogow
College: Shepard Broad Law Center
Purpose: Support law center students through a matching gift challenge based on alumni contributions

McDonald Family Scholarship
Donors: The McDonald Family Foundation, Inc.
College: Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Purpose: Support undergraduate students

East Florida Physician Alliance Medical Foundation Endowment
Donor: East Florida Physician Alliance, Inc.
College: College of Osteopathic Medicine
Purpose: Make it possible for students to participate in medical conferences

Chartwells Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Compass Group USA, Inc., by and through its Chartwells Division
College: Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Purpose: Support undergraduate students

NON-ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Marta and Jim Batmasian Genocide Prevention Fund
Donors: Marta and Jim Batmasian
College: Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Purpose: Attract and retain graduate students with a commitment to genocide prevention (In addition to scholarships, this fund will support teaching and research in the field of genocide prevention.)

Interiors by Steven G. Scholarship
Donor: Steven Gurowitz of Interiors by Steven G.
College: Mailman Segal Center for Human Development
Purpose: Support children with autism enrolled in early intervention programs

Sandy Roberts Learning Abilities Scholarship
Donor: Scott Roberts
College: H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Purpose: Support undergraduate students with learning issues so they can achieve academic excellence

Diane Whitehead R.N. to B.S.N. Changing Lives Scholarship
Donor: Linda Strommen, associate dean, College of Nursing
College: College of Nursing
Purpose: Support single-parent students in the last two years of the R.N. to B.S.N. program

Kaufman Lynn Construction Changing Lives Scholarship
Donor: Kaufman Lynn Construction
College: Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Purpose: Support undergraduate students

Changing Lives Scholarship for Aviation Students
Donor: Kim Durham, dean of NSU’s Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice
College: Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice
Purpose: Support undergraduates pursuing an aviation administration concentration

JMS Construction Services Changing Lives Scholarship
Donor: Jason Shlimbaum for JMS Construction
College: Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Purpose: Support undergraduate students

Rothman-Reis Family Changing Lives Scholarship
Donor: Alyssa Rothman, director, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Office of Information Services
College: Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Purpose: Support undergraduate students who demonstrate excellence in research

Donors can support scholarships through the NSU Fund by designating a gift in any amount to student scholarships. A donor can establish a named scholarship with a donation of $1,000 each year for five years. For $25,000, a donor can create a named scholarship in perpetuity. Students interested in scholarship opportunities can go to www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships.
NSU honored 16 outstanding graduates during its annual Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards. The awards, the most prestigious honor that NSU presents to its past graduates, recognize alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and/or community and are committed to advancing the university’s values and goals.

“The true measure of a university’s greatness can be found in the achievements of its alumni,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of Nova Southeastern University.

Mark A. Blais

For Mark A. Blais, Psy.D. (’91), associate chief of psychology at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, everything is related to personality. “It’s an area open for exploration. I went into psychology interested in assessment, and more and more became interested in the science of personality.”

Blais heads a three-year pilot program with the Boston Red Sox to examine personality traits that enhance or impair a player’s ability. “I’m looking for the points where non-ability factors like personality become as important as ability,” he said. “All teams use some form of psychological assessment, but not many are based on the science of personality. Instead, most are based on theories from a coach or player’s perspective on what makes a good player. I saw this as an opportunity to bring empirical science in to see if we could predict successful players.”

In his role at Massachusetts General Hospital, Blais’ days are “a bit of a mosaic,” he said. At the academic medical center, he may start with an hour of supervision. Afterward, he may see patients before heading to an administration meeting, followed by research. He also has an active part in the hospital’s internship training. “A chance to work with the best and brightest young psychologists keeps you up to date and connected to new generations. Students keep you in touch with how psychology is being shaped and evolving,” Blais said.

Blais lists NSU professor Bady Quintar, Ph.D., as one of his guiding influences. Beyond the professional, Blais had other life-changing events at NSU: He met his wife, Cathy Conboy, Psy.D. (’90), while waiting in line to register for classes.

Blais is an eight-time recipient of the Massachusetts General Hospital Psychology Internship Excellence in Teaching Award (1994–2012), and he also received the Department of Psychiatry Mentorship of Clinical Faculty Award in 2007. In 2009, he received the Theodore Millon Award from the American Psychological Association.
Michele Liscio

When marriage and family therapist Michele Liscio, B.S. (’00), M.S. (’03), and D.M.F.T. (’07), returned to school while working as a Montessori teacher, the flexibility NSU offered was a natural fit. What she didn’t know is how her career would take rewarding twists combining her love of teaching with helping others—and a bit of international travel.

“I went into childhood education, and [because of that] I was answering questions on parenting and couples issues. That led me to think that the next avenue could be in counseling,” she said. Pursuing master’s and doctorates in family therapy positioned her perfectly for her next opportunity.

After she received her degrees, a friend told her about a job working with military personnel and their families at worldwide installations. “It was solution-focused, helping in the moment with issues like deployment, behavior, communication, and other individual and family issues,” she said.

During the next four years, with assignments up to three-months long, Liscio worked with day-care centers, schools, individuals, and couples at military installations. “I was able to give back to my country and do a job I love,” she said. And it combined her years of experience working with children and families with her education in family therapy.

Today, Liscio is the first to hold the designation of marriage and family therapist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in West Palm Beach, where she provides clinical assessment and treatment. This includes individual, couple and family therapy; crisis intervention; and coordination with other VA or community service providers. “There’s opportunity for growth as far as seeing what the need will be. Veterans typically have been an older population, but we are starting to see younger couples and families,” she said.

Liscio also is a volunteer for the Red Cross of Broward County and State Emergency Responders and Volunteers of Florida (ServFla). She was named Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Student of the Year in 2006. Liscio has received honors from many of the military installations where she worked.
Tara E. Levine, M.D. (University School, ’91), is a primary care physician with Deerfield (Florida) Medical Group, where she treats mostly geriatric patients for a variety of conditions. Her oldest patient is 106 years old. During her residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, she received the Johanson Excellence in Medical Humanism Award.

Michele Liscio, B.S. (’00), M.S. (’03), and D.M.F.T. (’07), is a marriage and family therapist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in West Palm Beach, Florida. (See profile on page 32.)

David S. Metcalf II, M.S. (’96) and Ph.D. (’98), is the director of the Mixed Emerging Technology Integration Lab at the Institute for Simulation and Training at the University of Central Florida. He is responsible for mobile, simulation, and IT enterprise systems development. His company, Moving Knowledge, provides advanced learning technologies to corporate clients, including Johnson & Johnson and Google.

Karen McKenzie, D.M.D. (’08), is the director of dental services at Central Florida Health Care, Inc., in Sunrise, Florida, where she is responsible for administering, maintaining, and expanding the program of primary, secondary, and preventive dental care. McKenzie supervises the dental staff of the health center and provides dental advice and counsel to the corporation’s CEO and board of directors.

D. Duane Mohon, O.D. (’98), is the owner, president, and solo optometrist of Eye Care Alabama, Inc., in northeast Alabama. He also provides eye services for two nursing homes, free vision screening at six elementary schools, and free eye health and vision services for a young adult drug rehabilitation program and a county-wide indigent care program.

T. Patrick Quinn, M.S. (’96) and Ph.D. (’10), is a natural resource specialist III for Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division, Marine Resources Section. He is responsible for the management of Broward County’s Manatee Protection Plan and Sea Turtle Conservation Program and the coordination of the county’s participation in the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup.

James Turner, D.O. (’88), is dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, reporting directly to the university president. As the chief academic officer for the college, he provides supervision on all academic matters for the College of Osteopathic Medicine and leads and evaluates its faculty and staff members.

Osmel Delgado

Osmel Delgado, Pharm.D. (’02), administrative director of clinical operations for Cleveland Clinic of Florida, is passionate about the pharmacist’s role in patient care. During his eight years at Cleveland Clinic, Delgado developed a groundbreaking program to provide discharged patients with comprehensive information about their medicines.

“Pharmacists have such an important role in health care where they directly impact the medication management for patients,” said Delgado. “Patients come into hospitals already taking some medications, and a hospital may add 10 more. We took a look at our operations and put our pharmacists in front of patients. Pharmacists can be a resource so patients have successful outcomes and understand their medicines. Patients should leave a hospital knowing who their pharmacist was,” said Delgado.

Growing up in South Florida, Delgado watched as NSU blossomed. “I saw the tremendous growth of the institution. I naturally gravitated there. The health professions division provided a great learning environment. It provided the opportunity to cross-collaborate with other health care students while obtaining a degree. You meet classmates in the same year, and then there are the alumni. You have that bond, that relationship.”

Carsten Evans, Ph.D., was one of the professors who helped mentor Delgado. “Professor Evans brought a lot of energy, and he encouraged us to make a difference,” said Delgado, who also listed Elizabeth Shepherd, Pharm.D., FASOP, assistant dean of student services and experiential education, as an influence. “I worked with her my four years there, and she provided guidance,” said Delgado. “The pharmacy professors were always available, accessible, and had a vested interest in my well-being.”

Delgado supervises 85 full-time employees, manages a $40-million annual drug expense budget, and oversees the surgical operations of the hospital, which includes 11 operating-room suites and 3 outpatient-surgical suites. He says success in leadership means to “surround yourself with people smarter than you. And enable them to become successful by supporting them and providing guidance along the way.”

In 2009, the South Florida Business Journal recognized Delgado with the Mover and Shaker Award. The Cleveland Clinic also honored him with the Caregiver Award in 2012 and the Excellence in Pharmacy Leadership Award in 2011.
AGE: 20

HOMETOWN: Hobe Sound, Florida

WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR? My major is athletic training, and I am planning to graduate in 2015.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NSU? I chose NSU because it offered me everything that I could have ever asked for. I loved the small class sizes, the modern look, the great location (close to the beach!), and all of the incredible opportunities.

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN? I am an athletic senator for the Undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA); a member of the Beta class for the Razor’s Edge Leadership Development Program; the NSU women’s rowing team; the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC); and the Athletic Training Student Organization (ATSO); and an Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) Presidential Fellow for NSU.

WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT? I am very passionate about all my involvement, but I truly love being a part of the Student Government Association. On the SGA, you can really make a difference for the entire NSU community, and that is something that I love. Advocating for the students is the group’s main priority, and I am very proud to say that I can help change things for the better.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SHARK? Everything about being a Shark is great. But I love the fact that I am an athlete on campus and represent NSU all across the nation.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE NSU TRADITION? Electric Water Works. [A welcome back to school party on the main campus with water-based attractions and music. It is planned and funded by the SGA.]

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SGA? I have always been involved in the student government in the past, and I wanted to continue to be a part of something great.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS OR WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR? My favorite class is Injury Evaluation, part of the athletic training curriculum. We learn all about the different muscles and how to test for certain injuries. It’s a very hands-on class, and my two professors, Dr. [Megan] Colas and Dr. [Pradeep] Vanguri, do an amazing job teaching it.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS? My favorite place on campus is in NSU’s Medicinal and Healing Garden next to the Parker building. It is so beautiful out there and a great spot to eat lunch.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS? I want to be a physical therapist as well as an athletic trainer who works with a professional sports team, and I hope to eventually have my own clinic.

WHAT IS A FUN FACT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU? How about two? I never rowed a day in my life before college. I was recruited off the soccer field to come row for NSU, and I love it. [The NSU rowing team, of which Scott is a member, captured the program’s first NCAA Division II National Championship last spring.] I also love going to concerts. Country music is my favorite genre, and the concert atmosphere is so fun!

Kelly Scott’s favorite class is Injury Evaluation, where students learn about the different muscles and how to test for certain injuries.
Years ago, a practicing occupational therapist made three-hour drives on Texas highways just to spend one hour with a patient.

Flash-forward a few decades, and that same healer is now an assistant professor at NSU’s College of Health Care Sciences, set to pioneer a new field to help amputees worldwide—via virtual world technology.

That’s the dream of Sandra Winkler, Ph.D., registered and licensed occupational therapist, who is beginning year two in a three-year program made possible by a $900,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

A few floors above her in NSU’s Terry Building is an educator who had a similar grand idea three years ago after watching her granddaughter playing on the computer. Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed., joined the child, and they both became avatars flying around in a virtual world.
But as Echols was playing, it dawned on her that the virtual world might be a great teaching tool. Echols, assistant dean of medical education, found, to her surprise, that no one else in her field was using it. Thus began a three-year journey that has resulted in NSU osteopathic students learning bedside manner and diagnostic techniques in a 3-D online universe called Second Life.

Both Winkler and Echols use Second Life, owned by Linden Labs, which leases animated locales on the Internet, much like a computer game.

Echols describes it as a tool to enhance distance learning “by providing students and teachers with a new way to interact, collaborate, and engage. ...Users can reside, socialize, and interact as avatars.”

Trevine Albert, in his second year of premed, is one of four NSU students involved in the beta testing of Echols’ program. While the first official course is planned for the fall 2014 semester, students such as Albert have been involved not only in the testing, but also in offering ideas for the technicians at NSU constructing the site.

“Our generation will be more tech savvy,” said Albert, who gives the example of the changes in tracking of diabetics. “It used to be that diabetic patients would use a glucose monitor at home and record results in a notebook that they would bring to the doctor. Now, glucose monitors are available that automatically send daily readings in real time to the physicians.”

Albert, who will become student government president in June, explains the mechanics of the program Echols and her staff are building. “You experience different patient scenarios,” he said. Once logged in, he enters what is called the NSU-COM Virtual Clinic. As his avatar, which he has named T-Mac, he proceeds to one of the patient rooms.

“It might be a patient who fainted and is in the hospital,” said Albert. “I would practice asking questions to find out the source of the injury. But if I asked the wrong type of question, I wouldn’t get anywhere. Instead of saying, do you bruise easily, I would be prompted to take a more open-ended question, like ‘What were you doing at the time?’ ”

Echols, who uses the avatar name Mardi Charisma (who said learning can’t be fun?), stresses that, in addition to the generational appeal, there are other distinct advantages for future students. “These exercises can be done any time, any place.”

**WORLDWIDE RESEARCH**

In the occupational therapy division, Winkler is recruiting 96 amputees from around the world for her research study.

Amputees face other problems that Winkler believes her program can help. For instance, amputees may do well at the treatment centers, but at home, conditions are totally different. Some families have to relocate closer to treatment centers, which can create a hardship. “I wanted to find a medium where I can be in the patient’s life on a daily basis. I want to bridge time and space,” said Winkler.

Half the participants, who will be recruited from veterans hospitals and
support groups, will be randomly selected for the virtual world experience. The other half will be randomized to more traditional e-learning tools and video instruction on prosthetics. Then results will be compared.

Currently, Winkler has a doctoral and a master’s degree student working with her. More students will be drafted as the program further develops. Winkler will be looking for doctoral students “to leverage the technological infrastructure.”

She has been working with technicians on the site’s development for a year. It may take another year to recruit the participants. While they will come from all over the world, they won’t physically come to the campus. They participate by computer. For those entering the virtual world, Winkler says, it “will be more like Disneyland, where you go to ‘Rehabilitation Island.’” In this case, the island community is named Virtual Health Adventures.

The project does not provide therapy in the traditional sense, but rather provides a path for amputees to learn how to self-manage their health.

“For example, there is a museum where amputees can learn about the history of prosthetic devices and how the technology has advanced from iron and steel to wood and aluminum,” said Winkler. “Amputees typically receive new prosthetic devices every three to five years; this Rehabilitation Island can keep amputees in touch with new technologies.”

In a conference center, amputees can “attend” presentations on how to manage pain. An outdoor workout area provides instruction on conditioning, and a virtual car provides a choice of possible modifications. There is even a kitchen displaying devices to help people cook. Note-cards inform amputees how to purchase these items in real life.

“By joining our group, amputees can develop relationships where they can share contact cards,” said Winkler, who is as concerned about emotional health as physical therapy.

While Winkler and Echols are pioneering educational and research opportunities in Second Life, their departments were not the first to use the technology at NSU.

Greg Horne, executive director of the Office of Innovation and Information Technology (OIIIT), purchased Second Life space back in 2007. Among other uses, OIIIT developed a virtual campus, so that students anywhere in the world with Internet access can get a good view of NSU. Horne has worked with both Winkler and Echols and is convinced they have embarked on good programs.

Echols has even branched into the world of art for instruction in her teaching program. While second-year students learn the techniques described by Albert in the Virtual Clinic, third- and fourth-year students will be introduced to the virtual Art Observation Center. Where to turn for the art? To the NSU Museum of Art. It is important for medical students to learn “to observe.” They must learn to “look at the texture and color of a patient’s skin and pick up all the subtle nuances,” Echols said.

These unusual research ventures reinforce the innovation that is one of Nova Southeastern University’s Core Values. “This is what NSU is all about,” said Echols. ■
A new, commemorative monument pays tribute to NSU’s generous donors, while also serving as an oasis for the main campus in Davie.

Fellows' Way honors Fellows Society members who have given to NSU since its founding in 1964. The Fellows Society was created to acknowledge individuals, corporations, and trusts who have made cumulative gifts of $50,000 or more or who have committed to making a minimum gift of $50,000.

Fellows' Way is located in the heart of the NSU campus, between the Carl DeSantis Building and the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center. The architecturally intriguing monument features seating areas on each side and is gracefully landscaped.

“NSU Fellows provide scholarships and opportunities for NSU students to reach and fulfill their potential in their lives, fields of study, and resulting careers,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., president and CEO of NSU.

For more information about the Fellows Society, contact fellows@nova.edu.

FROM LEFT: Jacqueline Travisano, NSU executive vice president and COO; William and Susan Gallo of the Fellows Society; Alan B. Levan, NSU Board of Trustees member, and Susie Levan, both cochairs of the Ambassadors Board; George L. Hanbury II, NSU president and CEO, and Jana Hanbury.
Kelsey DeSantis

President and CoFounder of the Heroes Entering Life’s Opportunities (H.E.L.O.) Foundation and NSU’s Student Veterans Association

By Kara Pound

AGE: 25

HOMETOWN: Lancaster, California

BACKGROUND: A United States Marine Corps veteran, she joined the Marines at age 18 and spent five years on active duty.

WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR? Business administration

HOW HAS BEING A VETERAN IMPACTED YOUR TIME AT NSU? It has been a tremendous growth for me. I’m president and cofounder of H.E.L.O., and it has been my biggest accomplishment. H.E.L.O. basically brings student-veterans together and creates camaraderie. Helping people is true satisfaction. I’m also the president and founder of the NSU Student Veterans Association. We give veterans a place to come together, to narrow the gap between the community and those who have served.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A VETERAN CONSIDERING NSU? NSU has a lot to offer, and we need more student-veterans who have leadership experience. After my first week here, I knew NSU was the school for me with its small class sizes and experienced professors. During my classes, I have never had to question whether or not I felt engaged.

WHAT’S THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SHARK? The best part of being a Shark is that I feel there is so much potential for growth. [Our university leaders] want to see the Sharks grow and want to see that school spirit. For me, that’s the best part—being at a university that allows me, as a newcomer, to come in and be like, “Hey, this is something that we’re missing. Can we do this?”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE CLASS OR PROFESSOR AT NSU? There have been so many, but I would point out Randy Pohlman [Ph.D., the dean emeritus of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship]. I took his Organizational Behavior class—and I was amazed. I would look around and see every other student in the class engaged. And that’s not an easy thing to do. He’s also a veteran.

WHAT IS ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE ASK YOU ABOUT? They want to know about my “date” with Justin Timberlake. We went to the Marine Corps Ball. A Marine had asked [actress] Mila Kunis to the ball. So, I made a video and invited Justin and he accepted. We went to the Marine Corps Ball together—the whole shebang. We went to the cocktail hour and dinner. He danced with all of my friends. He was incredibly respectful—a very awesome, down-to-earth, cool guy.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR DOWNTIME? Mixed martial arts training! It’s one of my big passions—fighting competitively.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS? This is a big year for me because I’m a senior at NSU. After what I’ve experienced these past two years here, I’m considering doing my M.B.A. here. But I’m taking this year kind of slow, because things are really speeding up for me.

Kelsey DeSantis: “Helping people is true satisfaction.”
Steph Hammerman
COFOUNDER OF FITWELL ORGANIZATION

BY KARA POUND

AGE: 24

HOMETOWN: Long Island, New York

WHAT PROGRAM ARE YOU IN? I am working on my master’s degree in college student affairs from the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NSU? The master’s degree program I am enrolled in is small. We are able to communicate with professors and a small community of students. We are taught by the dean of the college and professionals who have been in the business for a long time. They have the experience, and they know what they’re talking about.

YOU WERE BORN THREE MONTHS PREMATURE AND DIAGNOSED WITH A MILD FORM OF CEREBRAL PALSY (CP). TELL ME A BIT ABOUT THE LIMITATIONS YOU HAD GROWING UP. There were physical limitations, like moving a little slower from one place to the next. The way that I walk is a little bit different. But I went to a mainstream school and had great friends. My life as a child wasn’t very different. The only thing that was different was that I used crutches, and, as I got older, I started using a wheelchair to get around. I try to equally balance the walking and using the chair. The chair helps me live an independent lifestyle.

YOU BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY TO PASS THE CROSSFIT LEVEL 1 TRAINER TEST. HOW DID YOUR TIME AT NSU AID IN THIS? I’m the world’s first female with CP to be a Level 1 trainer. There was a man with CP who was certified before me. I work for CrossFit Conquest in Davie about 20 hours each week. Basically, I train athletes and help them achieve things in the fitness realm that they aspire to achieve. We’re there to support them and encourage them. We train people from all walks of life—football players, musicians, firefighters, police officers, and undergraduate and graduate students from NSU.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SHARK? A sense of community. You can find people who have similar interests as you and can support you. It has been nice to be able to have that support on campus.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH AT NSU? I’m a cofounder of the FitWell Organization that stresses fitness and wellness on campus. We’re a student-run organization that wants to see people be healthier by teaching them through interactive, yet educational, experiences. Anyone on campus can come to our events and participate. I also am an instructor of an extreme fitness class offered at the RecPlex. It’s a high-intensity workout for anyone looking for a more intense regimen.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS? I want to work with a university’s recreation department where I’ll be able to assist in creating an inclusive environment and help people understand that fitness is for everyone. Down the road, I want to open my own fitness facility.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL STUDENTS CONSIDERING NSU? I would tell them to follow their passions, and if they are really and truly interested in something—even if something doesn’t exist yet, like the fitness and wellness organization—you can make your experience work for you.
Swimming a Lifesaver for Student-Athlete

BY WALTER VILLA

In a way, swimming kept Jonathan (J) Key from drowning in a sea of despair.

Key, a senior at Nova Southeastern University, was eight years old when a coach in his hometown of Waynesville, North Carolina, discovered his talent in the water. By the time he was 12, Key was beating much older children regularly.

“I joined my high school varsity team as a seventh grader,” Key said. “I found that I could beat these high school guys—seniors who were two feet taller than me and twice my size. I could crush them in the pool, and it was at that point that I decided: ‘This is what I need to do.’ ”

But Key had a bigger obstacle to overcome—his severe dyslexia. (He was diagnosed at age seven.) Key’s parents, Barbara and Jonathan, noticed their son’s issues with reading and writing in the first grade, but it was a year before he was tested and diagnosed. When his parents enrolled him in a private school where there was one teacher for every three students, Key flourished and studying became fun. “We knew,” said his father, “that given the proper instruction, J was just as smart as anybody else.”

Key went on to Carolina Day High School and excelled, both in the classroom and in the pool, where he set 11 school records, 4 conference marks, and 1 state standard. His swimming earned him a scholarship to NSU, but as a freshman, he fared poorly in the classroom.

“When I continued to have problems, I knew I had to do something,” Key said. Meetings with C. A. Tolchinsky, Ed.D., manager of NSU’s Student-Athlete Academic Services, changed Key’s academic direction.

“By entering the Academic Success program, we got a handle on what his struggles were academically,” Tolchinsky said. “Key is a role model for any student needing help.”

Key explained that his coach and some professors knew about his dyslexia, but he hadn’t utilized NSU’s full resources until he met with Tolchinsky. “I kind of wanted to prove I could do it on my own,” he said. The campus resources used to help Key also included the Office of Disability Services, the Office of Career Development, the Office of Academic Services, and the Office of Undergraduate Student Success.

Once he got help, Key’s academics and his swimming advanced. As a junior, he finished in the top 10 in two Sunshine State Conference Championship events—seventh in the 200-yard breaststroke and ninth in the 400-yard individual medley.

“He’s more confident now,” said Hollie Bonewit-Cron, NSU swim coach. “He walks around with a little more swagger, and it’s nice to see.” Academically, Key’s grade point average went from a low of 1.15 to a high of 3.4.

He also was the recipient of a 2013 Wilma Rudolph Award, given by the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics. The award honors student-athletes who overcome adversity en route to achieving academic success.

Key, a criminal justice major, is on track to graduate in spring 2014. He recently completed an internship with the Coconut Creek Police Department and is interested in working on a tactical squad such as a SWAT team. Obviously, Key is not letting dyslexia hold him back.
It was June 2013, national championships were looming. Lauren Boudreau, in her third year as captain of NSU’s women’s rowing team, was determined to win. What she needed was a strategy to clinch it. “We came together as a team. I wanted to help lead the team to that recognition. We developed a plan. The team worked really hard and was able to achieve that goal,” said Boudreau, who also was among the 30 top nominees for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Woman of the Year award last year.

After graduating with her bachelor’s degree, Boudreau, now 22, no longer is rowing. She has set her sights on a new goal: to become a great doctor after she graduates from NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. What she learned as a student-athlete will play a big role in getting her there, she said. “I firmly believe a lot of the lessons I learned through sports and rowing will help me succeed in anything I do in the future. It is something I will use the rest of my life and definitely as a doctor with my patients.”

Leadership skills
There are more than 400,000 student-athletes on about 18,000 collegiate teams in the United States. Only a sliver of them will become professional athletes. In 2013, 1.2 percent of men’s college basketball players and 0.9 percent of women’s basketball players went on to play professionally, the NCAA reports.

As NSU student-athletes move on to nonathletic careers, they say their sports experience will help prepare them for rigors off the field.

Research backs that up, showing that playing sports can increase grade point averages and test scores. A survey of executive vice presidents at 75 Fortune 500 companies showed that 95 percent played sports in high school, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, indicating that student-athletes can have leadership skills, higher incomes, and better jobs.

Participating in sports builds self-esteem and self-discipline, teaches time management, and shows students how to work as a team, as well as how to deal with adversity and criticism, according to various studies.

Michael Mominey, M.S., NSU’s director of athletics, who oversees 17 Division II intercollegiate teams with 385 student-athletes, said athletics better prepares students for nonathletic careers.

“I believe that intercollegiate athletics is a platform to prepare students for life—personally and professionally,” he said. “Life skills such as accountability, responsibility, teamwork, and discipline are just a few attributes that are taught through athletics, and they are obviously very relevant to be successful in life.”

NSU embraces the NCAA’s Division II philosophy that emphasizes academics. “We subscribe to the true meaning of what the term student-athlete means—a student first and an athlete second,” Mominey said.

NSU increased its student-athlete Academic Success Rate (ASR), which measures degree completion, for the fifth straight year to 92 percent, 21 percent higher than the national average, the NCAA announced in February. Six NSU teams had perfect 100 percent ASRs.

Ralph V. Rogers, Ph.D., NSU’s provost and executive vice president of academic affairs, who played as a center forward on Ohio University’s basketball team, knows the benefits of athletics firsthand.

“You can go through the whole list of things it prepares you for: teamwork, being part of something bigger than...
yourself, management of time, and being part of a group that keeps you focused and connected,” he said.

Also important is that athletics teaches a student how to learn from failure, he said. “If they score on you, you don’t get to feel sorry for yourself. It teaches you to get up and go on.”

Stephanie Sarosi, 26, who played center on NSU’s women’s basketball team for three years and is now enrolled in the College of Optometry, said she mastered time management as she juggled her course load and athletic career crammed with practices, meetings, travel, and games. “I am really good at that,” she said. “I learned to prioritize.” She also learned leadership and responsibility. “The younger girls look up to you for advice and decision making.”

Time management is critical, agreed senior Samira Tanaka, 21, who plays shortstop on NSU’s women’s softball team. “No procrastination,” she said. The business administration major, who is a Brazilian of Japanese descent, is exploring playing on a Japanese corporate team after graduation. But if that doesn’t happen, the teamwork skills she has learned will serve her well working in business, she said.

Psychology major Stefano Fanfoni, 23, from Cremona, Italy, was playing soccer at an Italian university when he participated in a soccer trial in Milan. He was scouted there by NSU’s men’s soccer coach Giuseppe (Joe) DePallo, who is from Milan.

Offered an athletic scholarship, his life changed abruptly. With the move to Florida came a rethinking of his priorities. While he loves soccer, the senior decided it won’t be his career. He has put academics in front of sports and has been accepted in NSU’s family therapy master’s degree program.

“With soccer, I was always out there. That allowed me to be able to manage myself in a lot of situations. It increased my self-esteem,” he said.

Derrick Wood, 21, a senior on the men’s track and field team who concentrates on high, triple, and long jumps, is giving thought to going pro. But if he decides against that, he will link his athletic experience to a career with his major in exercise and sports science, which offers him latitude on a career choice.

Involved in track and field since the sixth grade, Wood said the sport has been a positive experience. It has taken him to other parts of the country, allowed him to meet many different people and relate to them. In the process, he learned more about himself. “For me,” he said, “it is more of a confidence thing, believing in yourself.”
FLETCHER FIRST SCHEMEL PROFESSOR

Mary Ann Fletcher, Ph.D., has been named the first Schemel Professor for Neuro-Immune Medicine. The Schemel Professorship was established in 2013 through a $2-million endowment from the Schemel Family Foundation.

“Dr. Fletcher is recognized throughout the medical research community as a leader in the study of the immunology of infectious diseases,” said Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In her role, Fletcher oversees the research lab and conducts proteomic and genomic research at the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine. Located at NSU’s main campus in Davie and led by Nancy Klimas, M.D., the institute is the first in the nation to study neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative disorders such as chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis, Gulf War illness, Parkinson’s disease, and multiple sclerosis using the newest proteomic, genomic, and computational techniques. The program recently received a $4.1-million grant from the Department of Defense to study Gulf War illness.

“I am honored and grateful to the Schemel family and NSU for believing in me and allowing me to devote my efforts to helping find better treatments for these diseases that impact so many people and deserve our attention and resources,” said Fletcher.

Fletcher joined NSU from the University of Miami, where she spent the previous 40 years, most recently as a tenured professor and director of the E.M. Popper Laboratory of Clinical Immunology, which is being relocated to NSU.

BRUCE ROgow HONORED

Bruce Rogow, J.D., a professor at NSU’s Shepard Broad Law Center since 1974, has been honored with the first Allan Terl/Paul Joseph Civil Liberties Award from the Broward County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida.

A longtime civil rights attorney, Rogow has argued more than 450 civil and criminal cases in federal and state appellate courts, including 11 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court. He has had more than 100 cases in the Florida Supreme Court.

Allan Terl and Paul Joseph were two of the founding members of the Broward County Chapter of the ACLU, which began in 1983.

Fletcher First Schemel Professor

Mary Ann Fletcher oversees the research lab at the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER IN TOP 100 CIOS

Tom West, M.B.A., has been named one of America’s top 100 Chief Information Officers by IDG Enterprise. West, NSU’s vice president of the Office of Innovation and Information Technology, joins others from across the country in being recognized in the Premier 100 Awards Program. In his role at NSU, he provides the university with the technological resources to support teaching, learning, and research.

As CIO, West is specifically charged with leveraging technology to support strong, student-centered administrative systems; advancing the university’s research and mission; empowering faculty teaching, knowledge production, and technology transfer; and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the university’s operations.

Along with the other honorees, West was featured in the February 27, 2014, issue of Computerworld and on its Web site (www.computerworld.com) and at the Premier 100 IT Leadership Conference.
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