Horizons Fall 2013

Nova Southeastern University

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A Gift That Will Keep on Giving

Born and raised in South Florida, Jo Ann Cremata spent many pleasurable hours on the ocean fishing with her family. So, it is important to Cremata that her legacy keeps our marine environment alive. Cremata has established a Charitable Gift Annuity that will provide NSU graduate students with research assistantships to study coral reefs. Her gift will also help to purchase materials for the Oceanographic Center Library.

You can make an indelible mark in our community by leaving your legacy to any of NSU’s schools or centers. During the past 50 years, legacy gifts have benefitted NSU students by supporting numerous scholarships and programs.

Join the ranks of our Legacy Society by including Nova Southeastern University in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of your IRA or charitable gift annuity and help students to realize their dreams.

For more information, call Elaine Blattner, director of development—South Florida, at (954) 262-2409 or email her at elaine@nova.edu.
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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:

The world has drastically changed during the past 50 years. Nova Southeastern University has been both a witness to those changes and an active part of that evolution.

During 2014, NSU will celebrate its 50th anniversary as an educational force offering academic excellence, cutting-edge research, and community service. Events to celebrate this milestone begin in December and continue throughout 2014.

NSU’s growth has been unparalleled, with approximately 27,000 students currently enrolled and more than 162,000 alumni across the globe. NSU is now the nation’s ninth largest, not-for-profit university.

As NSU’s sixth president, I am proud every day of the university’s accomplishments and proud to carry on the legacy set by my predecessors. I’m also proud to be setting NSU’s future in motion.

In this issue of Horizons, we chronicle the university’s transformation since its inception. We also showcase our campus media, student-athletes, student leaders, and our top faculty members.

Our alumni continue to make us proud. Horizons illustrates how numerous NSU graduates have successful careers in sports administration. We also spotlight a group of South Florida scuba divers—many of them NSU Law Center graduates—who found a way to support the Oceanographic Center while enjoying their hobby. In addition, Horizons profiles alumni Lenny Comma, president/chief operating officer of Jack in the Box, Inc., and Denis Edwards, executive vice president/global chief information officer of Edelman, the world’s largest public relations firm.

All this is proof that, for NSU, the first 50 years were just the beginning.

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nova Southeastern University
Entrepreneur H. Wayne Huizenga, whose name graces the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship and the Huizenga Sales Institute, has been honored with a bronze bench and statue on NSU’s main campus.

Huizenga was a member of NSU's Board of Trustees for 13 years and is now trustee emeritus. He is the only person in America to be responsible for three Fortune 500 companies and the development of six NYSE-listed companies. Huizenga also owned three major league professional teams—the Miami Dolphins, Florida Marlins, and Florida Panthers.

"H. Wayne Huizenga is a great entrepreneur, humanitarian, and supporter of education," said NSU President and CEO George L. Hanbury II. "We are proud that his first statue is on Nova Southeastern University's campus, where he has left an indelible mark through his unwavering support of higher education."

The bench includes a plaque with a quote from Hanbury: "We all plant seeds for shade trees under which we may never sit; however, H. Wayne Huizenga planted far more than most."

The bench and statue are located under a shade tree in the newly renovated courtyard in front of the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center. The sculpture was designed and crafted by internationally acclaimed sculptor Robert St. Croix.
Nova Southeastern University continues to attract experts who are leaders in their fields.

**Linda Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P.,** has been named dean of NSU’s College of Dental Medicine.

During her tenure as professor and chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences at Texas A&M University’s Baylor College of Dentistry, Niessen initiated advanced education programs in dental public health and geriatric dentistry.

Niessen’s research interests include geriatric oral research and education and oral health public policy. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Dental Public Health and the American Board of Special Care Dentistry.

Niessen received her bachelor’s degree in chemistry (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of New Mexico. She received her Doctor of Dental Medicine, master’s in public health, and master’s in public policy degrees from Harvard University.

**Ralph V. Rogers, Jr., Ph.D.,** has been appointed NSU’s provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Since 2008, Rogers has served as the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at Purdue University—Calumet. Previously, he held administrative positions as founding dean and professor in the College of Technology and Computer Science at East Carolina University and chair and professor in the Department of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering at Old Dominion University.

Under his leadership, Purdue University—Calumet received a record $14 million in external grant and contract funding.

Rogers earned baccalaureate (electrical engineering) and master’s degrees (industrial and systems engineering) at Ohio University and a Ph.D. in systems engineering from the University of Virginia.

**Jennifer O’Flannery Anderson, Ph.D.,** is NSU’s new vice president for advancement and community relations.

O’Flannery Anderson will provide leadership for NSU’s Offices of Advancement, University Relations, and Governmental and Community Affairs. She will be responsible for the university’s efforts in community engagement and support, including advancement; fund-raising; alumni relations; communications; public, governmental, and community relations; marketing; and advertising.

O’Flannery Anderson joins NSU from Florida Atlantic University where she was vice president for community engagement and executive director of the FAU Foundation. Previously, she was president and CEO of the United Way of Broward County.

She received her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University, master’s degree from the University of South Florida, and Ph.D. degree from Florida Atlantic University.

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Nova Southeastern University continues to attract experts who are leaders in their fields.

Linda Smelser, B.S., has taken the position of **vice president for clinical operations** at NSU.

Smelser will be responsible for the oversight and centralization of NSU’s Division of Clinical Operations, which consists of 25 health care centers in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. She also will be responsible for the full revenue cycle, contracting, marketing, and training and will ensure that research opportunities are available for all academic centers.

Smelser comes to NSU from the University of Central Florida’s College of Medicine where she was director of clinical operations, responsible for the development and operation of Pegasus Health—UCF’s first multi-specialty faculty practice.

Smelser earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

Bonnie Clearwater, M.A., has been named the **director and chief curator of NSU’s Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale**.

Previously, Clearwater served as director and chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in North Miami for 18 years. There, she transformed MOCA into a museum of international stature, recognized for its original and groundbreaking exhibitions, its collection, and its education and public programs.

Clearwater has organized historically important exhibitions for MOCA, the National Gallery of Art, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

She has written extensively on modern and contemporary art and is author of *The Rothko Book* (Tate/Abrams, 2006).

She holds a master’s degree in art history from Columbia University and a bachelor’s in art history from New York University.

Lisa Deziel, Pharm.D., Ph.D., has been appointed **dean of NSU’s College of Pharmacy**.

A faculty member with NSU’s College of Pharmacy since 1989, Deziel also has served in administrative positions, including executive associate dean, interim dean, acting chair of Pharmacy Practice, and assistant dean for academic innovation and technology.

Deziel is a licensed pharmacist in Florida and Georgia, a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist, and a fellow in the American Society of Health System Pharmacists.

She attended Duke University for undergraduate studies; received a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy and a Pharm.D. degree from Mercer University College of Pharmacy; and a Ph.D. degree from NSU in computer technology. She completed a postdoctoral residency in clinical pharmacy at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale.
Covering the Campus

STUDENT JOURNALISTS KEEP THE CAMPUS INFORMED

BY JOHN DOLEN
he student is helping the NSU professor with all the elementals, teaching her what she needs to know for her future task. The student, a junior who is majoring in exercise and sport science, is patient, knowing the reward will be worth it.

Welcome to another day at one of NSU’s busy media centers. On this day, assistant radio director Tiffany Simmons is instructing Debra Nixon, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, about doing a radio show. Called In the Real, the program, which features the family therapy expert giving advice and taking calls from students, airs on NSU’s Radio X.

Elsewhere on NSU’s main campus, as classes are in full swing, there is plenty of activity. A homecoming edition of The Current, NSU’s student newspaper, is being published.

The campus TV station SUTV (Sharks United Television) is broadcasting closed-circuit on Channel 96 to the main NSU campus in Davie and is streamed online to the regional campuses from Jacksonville to Miami. At Radio X studios, programs are aired on FM 88.5, which NSU shares with Piper High School. NSU programs the hours from 6:00 p.m. to midnight daily. Like print and TV, the radio operation also has an online presence.

To accomplish all this requires a squadron of people, 53 in all, both staff members and volunteers. Coordinating this family is Michelle Manley, M.S., director of Student Media, who is trained in counseling and therapy. But along her intended path at NSU, she took a detour. In 2002, she got a job at the radio station.

“I was studying for an undergraduate degree in legal studies, but I fell in love with radio,” said Manley, who holds a master’s degree in conflict analysis and resolution from NSU. “It was exciting and different—no day was the same.”

Manley is a vibrant and personable coach who “pushes everyone to make things better,” said Keren Moros, who has done two stints at The Current.

NSU’s media programs attract a variety of students. For some, this is an extension of their communications studies. Others consider the experience beneficial to their future career paths.

Wherever these students are headed in their careers, says Manley, “having a multimedia component on their resume will make them stand out in this tech-heavy society.”

Moros, copy editor at The Current, values her media experience at NSU. “Since I want to write for a living, the media experience helps me constantly examine how I’m writing, the words I’m using, and the clarity with which I write,” said Moros, who is in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences’ M.A. in Writing program, which covers a broad spectrum of the trade: travel writing, nature writing, screenwriting, and even how to teach writing.

Such training, of course, could aid anyone who has to put a pen to paper for a living, from writing law briefs to doctoral theses. The communications aspect prepares students for a variety of careers beyond journalism—education, public relations, marketing, and law.

Academics and media are combined in a very specific way in a program that Manley began last year with Megan Fitzgerald, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. A multimedia conference brings together students from the media program,
NSU professors and directors, and local and national media figures (WSVN, CNN) to speak to high school students. In the first program, NSU speakers included Jodi Tandet, former copy editor for The Current, and representatives from NSU Public Affairs and the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Even if students in communications and broadcast journalism don’t have any connection to the media center during the term, their academics will intersect in the end. Would-be grads “from the communications and broadcast journalism classes do their final projects with us,” said Manley, “usually news packages or public service announcements.” For example, a student in Introduction to Broadcasting might do a public service announcement (PSA) on cancer research.

RADIO X MAKING WAVES

As Radio X program director, Brandon Pratts is in charge of all on-air staff. His job also involves the technical side of things, maintaining logs, PSA announcements, and the radio’s signal connection.

Radio X currently has 14 student DJ slots a week, two shows a night. In choosing DJs for the radio station, Pratts tries to get as many students involved as possible.

“If they show interest and intern in the process—which is two weeks of learning the controls, selecting music, practicing an on-air personality—we try to get everyone in,” said Pratts, 20, a biology major who plans to attend NSU’s College of Pharmacy. “Some are interested in being DJs because it’s in their field, like communications. Others just think it’s a cool way to get involved at NSU.

“Working with radio can definitely help students with their field of study, or even skills in general,” Pratts said. “Getting comfortable speaking to the public is one of the benefits of being on air. Marketing is another benefit.”

Finally, says Pratts, “radio gets every DJ connected with the community. Whether it is through ticket giveaways, common interest in music, or just the audience relating to the DJ.”

The NSU DJs have diverse roots that include Russian, Indian, and Spanish backgrounds. Pratts said they also handle the nightly request hotline. “DJs will play a request if the song fits the genre and we have it. Also, sometimes tickets to special events are given out on the air,” he said.

VERSATILE EDUCATION

Cross-training students in all media has become an important focus.

Saily Regueiro, a communications major seeking a career in broadcast journalism, is a triple threat: she has stints at Radio X, SUTV, and is in her second year as an editor at The Current.

At SUTV, she filmed and edited video. She was also involved in filming interview shows and doing promotional videos for Scuba Crew and various other student organizations. The station produces news, sports, and entertainment shows and also does commercials for local businesses, such as restaurants. The students have done snazzy ads for the Havana Coffee Company and the Tropical Smoothies Café, among others. They’ve also done commercials for an Atlanta-based software company.

At Radio X, Regueiro still does a Top 40 show, Wednesday Nite Picks. “The thing I love about doing the show is I am able to play a mix. I’ll go from something like Bruno Mars to Michael Bublé to the Ramones,” said Regueiro, who also is a member of the President’s 64, a group of students who provide valuable feedback and suggestions to George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU’s president.
The senior has no doubts about the value of her media work: “The hands-on work makes going to class a lot better. I can see things more clearly since I’ve already put the skills I’m learning about into practice.”

And she has learned how to handle herself on unusual assignments. One of her favorite assignments was covering World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). “I could not take enough pictures,” she said.

KEEPING CURRENT

Moros, who is now a copy editor at The Current, returned after a two-year absence. During the 2010–2011 school year, she was the newspaper’s features editor.

She’s concerned with learning all the tools to “give readers the right message.”

Which would be?

“It’s a message of involvement, knowing what’s going on at the university. Finding out how you can contribute,” she said.

During her tenure as features editor, The Current added a new feature called “Diary of a ___” filling in the blank each issue with a profession or an obsession. Moros would wander around campus seeking students doing something unusual. Once a group of medical students told her they didn’t know any interesting students “because they didn’t do anything but study.” Then one said, “Wait….” Conversations such as that are how she gets many of the topics for her columns.

From quirky to traditional, The Current covers it all and doesn’t shy away from the tough topics, Moros said. “I am learning to be a journalist. Sometimes that means showing the negative side, because that is the right thing to do.”

It’s clear that the value of the media center extends across many aspects of NSU’s academic and social life.

RADIO STATION COURTS LAW STUDENTS

BY JOHN DOLEN

In 2006, NSU inaugurated WLAW, the country’s first law school radio station. Now it may be one of two. It is that unique.

And it is constantly evolving as WLAW, tucked in a corner of the Shepard Broad Law Center’s library, tries to reach an even broader audience that is still primarily on campus.

“I want to make a greater effort to use WLAW as a conduit for all the Law Center organizations,” said Bobby Gonzalez, who has been with WLAW three years and is now the chief executive producer.

“I’m aiming for a blend of programming that is both academic and lighthearted,” added Gonzalez, who is set to receive his law degree in December.

Although the station doesn’t tie in with a specific class, WLAW offers future lawyers public-speaking experience via the radio station.

“Academic benefits would be the public speaking aspect as well as developing a sense of dealing and speaking professionally about hot topics and developing a lawyerly presence on the air,” said Gonzalez. “During the course of our careers, we will all be faced with making public statements. WLAW provides our staff members with the opportunity to exercise and reflect on what they have said, and also to speak about what position they have taken on a particular issue.”

Gonzalez and Ellie Einhorn, junior executive producer, say that the term’s programming schedule is determined by the student staff members. One new student, for example, is interested in doing a program on immigration.

Gonzalez has relaunched his popular Law and Lyrics—part current legal events and part entertainment, with rock music interspersed with interviews of judges and other public figures. Einhorn, a third-year law student, said this year she is aiming for more interviews with students on her Girl Talk show.

When topical shows are scheduled, the station sends out emails to law students. It also disseminates links to local attorneys and past interviewees.

WLAW programming is accessed live online at www.live365.com or through shows archived on the Web site. It also can be found on www.Facebook.com/wlawradio. To voice an opinion on any show, call (954) 262-6262.
Growing up in Waterbury, Connecticut, Jean Johanna Latimer, Ph.D., thought she wanted to be a scientist, or maybe a journalist. Then a friend in her grammar school class was diagnosed with leukemia and later died from the disease.

Witnessing her friend’s illness worsen over four years made Latimer want to go into research to help end such suffering, she said.

“I realized where I should put my energies,” said Latimer, an associate professor in NSU’s College of Pharmacy. So, instead of being an investigative journalist, she is investigating ways to defeat cancer at the molecular level. She uses her writing skills for medical manuscripts and persuasive grant applications seeking continued funding for her work.

After earning a B.A. in Cellular Biology from Cornell University, she received her Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the State University of New York—Buffalo, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, where she met geneticist Stephen Grant, who would later become her husband. When he moved to California to take a job at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, she did postdoctoral work at the Laboratory of Radiobiology and Environmental Health at the University of California—San Francisco. They were married in Lake Tahoe.

After several productive years of breast cancer research at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, they arrived at Nova Southeastern University’s College of Pharmacy in 2011. They sometimes work on the same team, and their areas of expertise complement one another, Grant said. “As a geneticist, I work on the damage to the genome that causes cancer, and Jean works on the mechanisms that repair it,” he said.

NSU was a perfect fit for several reasons, Latimer said. The recession was shrinking research efforts in the Northeast, while NSU’s research program was growing; also she loves teaching and is able to do that here. Additionally, South Florida has a more diverse population than Pittsburgh, offering more patients with an unusual kind of breast cancer called “triple negative.”

These tumors are more aggressive and don’t respond to the most effective therapies currently available, she said. “For many decades, we treated breast cancer as if it were all one disease. Now we know there are at least seven types. Triple-negative is intrinsically more aggressive, and it is also the type for which we have the fewest treatments,” she said.

Of the nearly 200,000 new breast cancer cases each year, about 85 percent arise sporadically, while only about 15 percent occur because of a genetic predisposition, Latimer said.

About 40 percent of breast cancer cases in African American women are triple negative, and only about 17 percent in European white women, mostly descendants of Ashkenazi Jews.

“Jean can do what no one else can do,” Grant said. “She can grow cells from the human body almost every time.”

Her lab has about 150 breast tissue cell lines she created, including normal tissue derived from women who had breast reduction surgeries, and some tumor lines including 13 triple-negative tumors from European white and African American patients, with the goal to use these cultures for drug development and discovery.

“We’re interested in racial diversity specifically in breast cancer, in ancestral groups, and we have a novel model
system for studying normal breast in culture so we can look at environmental chemicals in the breast as well,” she said.

Latimer, Grant, and a team of researchers in Pittsburgh were able to determine that breast cancers that arise sporadically, rather than through inheritance of certain genes, likely start with defects of DNA repair mechanisms.

The study, published in 2010 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, showed that potent chemotherapy drugs that target DNA in later-stage cancers could be an effective way to treat the earliest of breast tumors.

The research also found that breast cells do not repair everyday damage to DNA as well as other tissues, such as skin.

“DNA repair is a process that occurs 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the nucleus of every one of your cells to reverse DNA damage,” Latimer said. The damage can occur because of exposure to radiation, chemicals, and other environmental factors, she said.

“The more these occur, the more likely these cells are to become a cancer cell,” but most take 50 years or more to develop, she said.

Latimer said the discovery that normal breast cells don’t repair themselves as well as some other cells has led to new research exploring ways to improve the cells’ protective abilities with the hope of reducing the number of breast cancer cases.

Another important area of research involves tumor stem cells, which are more resistant to treatment than tumor cells.

“If you kill the stem cells, the tumor will peter out, because without stem cells it cannot live. No one is doing it yet, but we’re working on an approach that doctors are waiting for. Any tumor that recurs, it’s because of the stem cells,” Grant said.

“We scientists are the ultimate purveyors of hope,” Latimer said. “We believe in what we’re doing. I’ll put my strength in with everyone else on these medical problems and see what happens.”

The couple’s 11-year-old daughter, Schaefer (her grandmother’s maiden name), attends the University School of Nova Southeastern University. Schaefer has her own lab coat, and they encourage her interest in science, “but right now, we’re being very supportive of her interest in dance,” Grant said.

Latimer has told Schaefer that if her friends ask what her parents do, “she should say we work for mankind. We’ve told her she doesn’t have to be a scientist, but she has to do something to help mankind.”

AROUND NSU

Horizons Magazine Wins Award

NSU’s Horizons magazine won second place in the trade/special interest publication category during the 2013 Sunshine State Awards. The statewide journalism competition, which recognized Florida’s best work during the calendar year of 2012, is sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), South Florida Chapter.

In this year’s competition, more than 500 entries from print, television, radio, and online media were evaluated by news professionals in other states. The Sunshine State Awards are a nationally recognized prestigious honor.

The winning Horizons magazines were published in spring 2012 and fall 2012. The issues feature a variety of articles on NSU’s 18 colleges and profiles on alumni, faculty members, and students. The cover story for spring 2012 showed how NSU’s leading-edge programs focus on the aging population. The fall 2012 issue included an in-depth story on NSU’s new Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research—the largest facility in the United States dedicated to studying reef ecosystems throughout the world.

Published twice a year, Horizons is distributed to alumni, students, and faculty and staff members. The award-winning issues were produced under the direction of Mara L. Kiffin, Horizons executive editor; Oline H. Cogdill, Horizons managing editor; Ron Ryan, director of NSU’s Office of Publications; and Susan Tischenkel-Hayward, associate director/senior graphic designer for NSU’s Office of Publications.

The other winners in the 2013 trade/special interest publication category were 850—The Business Magazine of Northwest Florida, which won first place; and City & Shore Magazine (published by the South Florida Sun Sentinel) which won third place.
Nova Southeastern University, which has been firmly rooted in Broward County for more than five decades, will celebrate its golden anniversary during 2014. Its unprecedented growth has undoubtedly surpassed the founders' dreams. Today, NSU is home to a 314-acre main campus, with nearly 27,000 students enrolled and more than 162,000 alumni across the globe.

The story of how the university came to be is a tale with many roots—and one, like many good stories, which continues to be passed down from generation to generation. During the university’s commencements—where nearly 8,000 degrees are conferred annually—there’s a feeling of accomplishment that spreads throughout the NSU community. There is also an underlying pride in the success story of how “the little university that could” became the nation’s ninth largest, not-for-profit, private, research university.
nce upon a time (in the early 1960s), a group of forward-thinking South Florida pioneers met weekly for breakfast at Cope’s restaurant in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Calling themselves The Oatmeal Club, they discussed the future growth of Broward County, which included ideas to develop an educational center that would develop smart, civic-minded citizens who would, in turn, serve the people of the area. It would be an integrated system that would begin at kindergarten and reach to the postgraduate level. The ideal student would experience growth through every educational stage of this model. The capstone of the complex would be an independent university.

In 1961, members of The Oatmeal Club incorporated the not-for-profit South Florida Education Center, Inc. (SFEC). With the cooperation of the Broward County Board of Public Instruction, the SFEC formed the Nova Educational Complex, which included Junior College of Broward County (now Broward College) and Nova Elementary School. In 1964, Nova High School opened. That same year, The Oatmeal Club started a small graduate college, Nova University of Advanced Technology, on Las Olas Boulevard. “The name Nova is a derivative of the Latin word novus (new) and the visionaries believed that their concept was new and different,” according to Julian Pleasants, Ph.D., who wrote the book The Making of Nova Southeastern University: A Tradition of Innovation, 1964–2014, a comprehensive history of NSU.

In 1965, a gift of $300,000 from Edwin Rosenthal and a $1-million gift from Louis Parker made possible the construction of NSU’s first two buildings, which today bear the men’s names. The facilities were built in Davie on what had been Forman Field, a training field for naval aviators during WWII that had been owned by brothers Hamilton and Charles Forman, early supporters of the university. In 1961, the land was designated by President John F. Kennedy for educational use only.

The Rosenthal Student Center was completed in 1967. The Parker building, dedicated in 1968, provided research facilities for the Germ-Free Lab and the Life Sciences programs.
Opposite page: Abe Fischler, left, (university president 1970–1992); Mary McCahill (chairman of Nova’s Board of Trustees 1976–1988); and James Farquhar (first chairman of Nova’s Board of Trustees, 1964–1973) view the university’s beginnings when the small graduate college, Nova University of Advanced Technology, opened its doors at 232 East Las Olas Boulevard in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Top left: With the development of new facilities and a dormitory, the university was able to admit its first class of 17 Ph.D. students (above). The students, enrolled in four different degree programs, were taught by 17 faculty members. In 1970, the first 5 of those 17 Ph.D. students graduated.

Top right: A generous donation from Louis Parker, left, made possible the construction of the second building on the university’s main campus. Warren Winstead, Nova’s president, second from left; George Caldwell, Sr., of Caldwell Scott Engineering and Construction Company of Fort Lauderdale; and C.I. Rice, NSU’s vice president, accompany Parker in this 1967 photo.

Bottom: In 1969, the Hollywood Education Center was completed. It was renamed the Mailman-Hollywood Building to honor Abraham Mailman, a major university supporter.
Nova Southeastern University grew into the nation’s ninth largest, not-for-profit, private, research university. Today’s main campus in Davie, Florida, contains beautiful, functional buildings.

With the development of the new facilities and a residence hall, the university was able to admit its first class of 17 Ph.D. students, who were enrolled in four degree programs. The students were, coincidentally, taught by 17 faculty members. In 1970, five of the seventeen Ph.D. students graduated.

“The vision was that it would become the M.I.T. of the south,” said Abe Fischler, who left the University of California—Berkley in 1966 to come to Nova. “With my science background, it seemed like a good fit,” he added.

Four years later, in July of 1970, Fischler became president of the small school. Later that year, the university entered a partnership with the New York Institute of Technology.

“I looked around and asked myself, ‘what do we have here?’ We have the opportunity to make a difference. We changed the name to Nova University, and we changed the orientation. We were going to become a practical university,” Fischler said.

The idea was to bring education to people where they were located, when
they wanted it, and when they needed it. “What we promised them was a class orientation, but we’d bring it to them. Their school would become their laboratory,” he added. Fischler’s idea of this learning module required “distance learning,” which was fairly unheard of at the time.

As much of a savvy businessman as he was an educator, Fischler created an education model that also was low on overhead. He gathered colleagues he knew from Harvard and Berkley to join in the endeavor. He would pay the professors’ expenses and fly them to meet with their new students, whether it was in a library or in a hotel meeting room.

“Our didn’t have to provide buildings, most of the time, we were able to find places to meet,” he said. “For the educators, it gave them a chance to see what was going on throughout the country.” It also was a chance for them to interface with students in different situations than they had access to in their usual classrooms.

The name Nova University was retained until 1994 when the medical sciences were introduced to the school by a merger with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, creating one of the most important milestones in the school’s history.

This is when Nova Southeastern University was formally introduced. The new arrangement brought a medical school, pharmacy school, optometry school, a College of Allied Health, and a College of Medical Sciences to the Nova campus.

One of the primary forces behind the merger was the late Morton Terry, a doctor of osteopathy, the founder of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, which later became Southeastern University of the Health Sciences. Terry was determined to have osteopathic medicine receive its due, and he knew the merger with Nova University would help to bring credibility to the study of osteopathic medicine.

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., the chancellor of Nova Southeastern University’s Health Professions Division, remembers working on the merger of the two universities with Morton Terry.

“To work with Dr. Terry was both an honor and an inspiration,” said Lippman. “Dr. Terry was one of the first physicians in Broward County to practice in African American communities back in the 1960s, when that was unheard of. He was the kind of doctor who went out into the streets. He knew what was going on in the neighborhood. He was, and still is, an inspiration for me.”

VISION 2020 STATEMENT
By 2020, through excellence and innovations in teaching, research, service, and learning, Nova Southeastern University will be recognized by accrediting agencies, the academic community, and the general public as a premier, private, not-for-profit university of quality and distinction that engages all students and produces alumni who serve with integrity in their lives, fields of study, and resulting careers.

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of Nova Southeastern University, a private, not-for-profit institution, is to offer a diverse array of innovative academic programs that complement on-campus educational opportunities and resources with accessible, distance-learning programs to foster academic excellence, intellectual inquiry, leadership, research, and commitment to community through engagement of students and faculty members in a dynamic, lifelong learning environment.

CORE VALUES
• Academic Excellence
• Student Centered
• Integrity
• Innovation
• Opportunity
• Scholarship/Research
• Diversity
• Community

For more information on NSU’s 50th anniversary, visit www.nova.edu/nsu50.
University School of Nova University opened in 1971 as an independent, college preparatory school to educate students in grades prekindergarten through 12. In 2009, University School underwent a massive renovation that included a new pre-kindergarten through grade 5 Lower School building and the new Epstein Center for the Arts.

The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center, named after longtime South Florida real-estate developer Alvin Sherman, serves the residents of Broward County as well as the university’s students and faculty and staff members. The five-story, 325,000-square-foot library is one of the largest library buildings in Florida and offers full collections of research materials, specialized databases, popular fiction, nonfiction books, magazines, journals, CDs, and DVDs.

Today, the university offers degree, non-degree, and certificate programs at more than 52 national and international locations. It also has regional campuses in Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Miramar, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Tampa, Florida; Nassau, Bahamas; and San Juan, Puerto Rico, where students can receive in-person instruction without leaving their home city.

Field-based programs are in place in 12 other states. Using advanced distance technology and NSU’s sophisticated teaching methods, students also can earn selected degrees worldwide at international sites such as Belize, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

Collaboration and contributing to the community were early benchmarks of the university and remain integral. NSU is credited with creating the first private-public partnership of its kind in the United States during 1999 when the NSU Board of Trustees and the Broward County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a 40-year agreement between Broward County and the university for the construction of a joint-use, 325,000-square-foot, full-service library on the main campus.

At the library’s 2001 groundbreaking, Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., the school’s current chancellor and its fifth president, called the new building, “the intellectual center of the continued on page 22
On July 1, 2008, the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale (above) became a part of the expanded creative campus of NSU when the two institutions agreed to a merger. This brings the association of NSU and the museum full circle. Through the assistance of James Farquhar and Mary McCahill, the museum moved in 1969 to 426 East Las Olas Boulevard, which had been an annex to Nova University. The museum broke ground in 1984 for its present building at the corer of Andrews Avenue and Las Olas Boulevard.

In 2008, Forbes magazine included NSU in its gallery of luxurious college campuses, focusing on university buildings that combine style and function. NSU’s campus master plan won an award in 2009 from the Florida chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In October 2013, the Oceanographic Center was awarded the prestigious LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. This is the foremost program for buildings that are designed, constructed, maintained, and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.
Today, there are 18 schools, colleges, and centers within NSU. These include a law school, medical school, dental school, and business school. The university also has the only college of optometry in the state of Florida. Associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, specialist, doctoral, and first-professional degrees are offered in 150 programs.

Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences began as a small entity in 1976, and is fondly known as NSU’s “liberal arts heart.” It offers quality undergraduate majors, minors, and certificate programs. It also offers degrees in humanities, math, science, technology, performing and visual arts, and social and behavioral sciences.

Abraham S. Fischler School of Education
The Abraham S. Fischler School of Education (FSE) is credited with transforming traditional learning methods, nurturing future educators, and developing school leaders. FSE was one of the first schools to offer field-based doctoral programs in education.

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship
The business school opened in 1971 with no designated building; classrooms were scattered throughout the campus. Today, the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship is housed in the 260,000-square-foot, five-story Carl DeSantis Building.

Shepard Broad Law Center
The Shepard Broad Law Center holds court in the Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall. Today, nearly 1,000 students study law at NSU from throughout the United States and internationally. The Law Center was fully accredited by the American Bar Association in 1982, and became a member of the American Association of Law Schools in 1989. In 2013, The National Jurist ranked the Law Center as one of the Top 25 most diverse law schools in the nation.

Graduate School of Computer and Informations Sciences
The Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (GSCIS) is an innovative college that began in 1975 as a graduate computer science program. In 1983, it began offering online graduate programs and created the first electronic classroom in 1985. Now, GSCIS hosts more than 300 classes online. Students living in every state in the United States and in 20 foreign countries are being taught using new mobile, cloud, and security labs.

Center for Psychological Studies
The Center for Psychological Studies is well regarded for its education and training in psychology service to the community and clinical research and has been since its inception as a Behavioral Sciences Center in 1972. It was officially named a center in 1986. A decade later, it relocated into the 65,000-square-foot Maltz Psychology Building. It is one of NSU’s top grant-receiving schools, with funding by organizations including the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Oceanographic Center
The Oceanographic Center’s 10-acre campus near Port Everglades affords immediate access to coastal and open ocean environments and ecosystems. The sprawling Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research, the only research facility of its kind in the nation, was completed in 2012. With state-of-the-art classrooms, the center is the largest facility in the United States devoted to coral reef research.

College of Osteopathic Medicine
The College of Osteopathic Medicine’s first class was ready to take on the world in 1979. Almost 35 years later, the college offers the only D.O.-accredited, preventive medicine residency program in the United States. Its clinical training program includes rotations and extensive clinical experiences at NSU’s award-winning health care centers, community medical centers, geriatric centers, international sites, and state correctional medical facilities. Only 230 students are selected each year from more than 5,000 applications.
College of Pharmacy
The College of Pharmacy enrolled its first 49 students in 1987. The college continues to be recognized for its students’ passing rates on pharmacy licensing exams, which is greater than 97 percent, exceeding national averages.

College of Optometry
When NSU’s School of Optometry began in 1989, it was the only college of optometry in Florida. And, it still is. The college offers the only online Master of Science degree in Clinical Vision Research and the only five-year extended optometry and one-year preparatory optometry programs in the United States.

College of Health Care Sciences
The College of Health Care Sciences has been educating entry- and advanced-level clinicians since 1993 through both online and campus education programs. Students who graduate enter the fields of occupational therapy, physician assistant, vascular and cardiovascular sonography, anesthesiology assistant, audiology, and physical therapy.

College of Nursing
NSU responded to the critical shortage of nurses by launching a nursing program that became the College of Nursing and a program for those seeking careers as nurses with bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. A high-tech simulation lab offers realistic clinical situations for hands-on training.

College of Medical Sciences
The College of Medical Sciences offers a Master of Biomedical Sciences degree for those seeking careers in health care and higher education. Courses in anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology equip students with the basic scientific training to ensure their success in careers as health care providers.

College of Dental Medicine
When NSU’s College of Dental Medicine opened in 1997, it became the first new dental college in the United States in 24 years. It now runs the largest community dental clinics in Florida. Each year, the college receives approximately 3,500 applicants for 110 seats.

Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice
The Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice offers concentrations in human services and criminal justice, plus specializations including gerontology. Programs are designed for those interested in pursuing careers in a variety of service professions with government agencies, hospitals, law enforcement, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation centers, not-for-profit organizations, and other public and private entities.

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences emphasizes human social relations in a program that is multidisciplinary, multiprofessional, and multicultural. Partnerships with the Center for Psychological Studies; the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development; and the Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice form the Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies.

Mailman Segal Center for Human Development
The Mailman Segal Center for Human Development in the Jim & Jan Moran Family Center Village is one of the largest and most highly respected comprehensive early childhood demonstration and professional training centers for childhood, parenting, and autism education. Through its Autism Institute, the center offers model programs for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families.

University School
Since 1971, the University School of Nova Southeastern University has been educating students in prekindergarten through grade 12. The independent, college preparatory school is known as the “school without walls” because of its philosophy that each child learns in an individual way. The school has become a model for educators because of its unparalleled approach.
1960s

1964
Nova University is chartered by the state of Florida as Nova University of Advanced Technology. The university starts to receive gifts to enable it to begin construction. The first structure on Nova’s main campus was a mailbox. From this humble beginning grew today’s Nova Southeastern University.

1965
The facilities for Nova are built in Davie, Florida, on what had been Forman Field, a training field for naval aviators during WWII, which, in 1961, was designated by President John F. Kennedy for educational use only.

The Physical Sciences Center and the Physical Oceanographic Laboratory are established.

Nova University receives several gifts that allow the construction of the Rosenthal Student Center, as well as establishing an endowed chair in physics.

1967
Classes at Nova University formally begin. There are 17 faculty members, some of whom are pictured above, and 38 staff members on hand to teach the 17 students. Today, the average class size remains small, at about 22 students, and there are no teaching assistants.

After receiving a gift from Louis Parker, the university begins construction on the Louis Parker Physical Sciences Building.

1961
The not-for-profit South Florida Education Center, Inc. is incorporated. The center is the idea of The Oatmeal Club, a group of forward-thinking South Florida pioneers who met weekly to discuss the future of Broward County and its growth.

1970s
Researchers work with incubators at the Leo Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, which had formerly been known as the Germ-Free Life Research Center.
1970
Five of the original seventeen Ph.D. students graduate.

Abraham S. Fischler, Ed.D., is appointed president of Nova University of Advanced Technology, Inc. He will hold the position until 1992. Fischler initiates the first doctoral distance education program in the nation, which is considered the forerunner of today’s online education model. Under Fischler, enrollment flourishes—going from 57 to 10,600 students, new residences are built, and the Oceanographic Center expands.

1973
The Center for Computer-Based Learning is housed in the Mailman-Hollywood Building, which was named to honor Abraham Mailman, a major supporter and donor to the university. Today, the Mailman-Hollywood Building contains classrooms and offices for faculty and administrators of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

1976
Nova College is established on the main campus. It was renamed the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences in 1989. Today, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences offers 35 undergraduate majors, 53 undergraduate minors, 3 certificate programs, and 2 graduate degree programs (an M.A. in Writing and an M.S. in Experimental Psychology). The college also offers Undergraduate Honors, Dual Admission, and Travel Study programs.

1979
The Institute for Marine and Coastal Studies opens at the Oceanographic Center. The OC has become a world leader in marine biological research with focus on coral reef science and shark conservation. The OC’s proximity to the Atlantic Ocean affords immediate access to coastal and open-ocean environments and ecosystems.

The Center for the Study of Law, which opened in 1974, moves to the east campus in 1979. The center’s first class had graduated in 1977. Today’s law students have the third highest bar passage rate in Florida.

1980s

1981
The Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine admits its charter class as an independent institution. Today, NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine ranks as the 14th largest medical school in the nation in terms of total enrollment. It currently offers a variety of internship, residency, and fellowship programs that provide postgraduate training positions.

The Florida School of Professional Psychology merges into Nova University, and the Psy.D. degree in clinical psychology is offered.

1983
NSU begins offering online graduate programs, creating the first electronic classroom in 1985. In 1989, the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (GSCIS) formed and is now housed in the Carl DeSantis building. The school’s courses are an effective blend of theory and practice. All programs enable working professionals to earn a master’s or doctoral degree without interrupting their careers. NSU had first introduced its graduate computer science program in 1975.

1987
The School of Social Sciences is established and offers the Ph.D. program in family therapy, which prepares graduates for careers as professors, researchers, supervisors, and senior clinicians. The school is now called the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The College of Pharmacy enrolls its first 49 students. Pharmacists from all over world have now successfully completed the College of Pharmacy’s continuing education programs. The students’ passing rates on pharmacy licensing exams continue to be above 90 percent, exceeding national rates.
1989
The Center for the Study of Law is renamed the Shepard Broad Law Center in honor of attorney Shepard Broad’s extensive support. The Law Center returned to the main campus in 1992 and is housed in the Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall. NSU’s Law Center installed the first wireless system in a law school in 1996 and was the first U.S. law school to provide totally wireless access to its students, and faculty and staff members. The Law Center continues to advance the use of technology in legal education.

1994
Nova University merges with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to form Nova Southeastern University. This is one of the most important milestones in the school’s history. The new arrangement brings a medical school, pharmacy school, optometry school, the College of Allied Health, and the College of Medical Sciences to the campus. One of the people behind the merger is the late Morton Terry, a doctor of osteopathy.

1997
The College of Dental Medicine becomes the first new school of dental medicine to open in the United States in 24 years.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine wins the 1997 American Medical Association’s Paul R. Wright Excellence in Medical Education Award, the first osteopathic medical school in the United States to be selected.

The Health Professions Division moves to its new facilities on the main campus. The new complex encompasses 365,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory, clinic, and office space.

1998
Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., is named president and CEO, a position he holds until 2010. A longtime member of the board of trustees and its chairman from 1988–1995, Ferrero sparks NSU’s technological advances and ensures that almost two million square feet of facilities were built, including buildings that house the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Alvin Sherman Library, two student housing complexes, and the Don Taft University Center. He also initiates numerous partnerships for the university with organizations such as the United Way and the Urban League. He was named chancellor of the university in 2011.

1992
Leo Goodwin Sr. Residence Hall is dedicated as NSU’s fifth student dormitory. This residence hall houses up to 320 students and is now the primary residence facility for freshmen. Leo Goodwin Sr. Residence Hall is among several housing options now available on NSU’s main campus for undergraduate and graduate students, completing the college experience. NSU’s residence halls offer students an array of benefits including academic and social opportunities and the chance to become more involved with campus activities. Some floors in the residence halls are “theme communities,” designed for specific majors or leadership skills. The Leo Goodwin Sr. Residence Hall and the Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall, which houses the Shepard Broad Law Center, are named in honor of an entrepreneur who was committed to the advancement of education and research.
2003
The Carl DeSantis Building, housing the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship and the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, opens. The Huizenga Business School provides degree and certificate programs in a variety of business fields including accounting, finance, marketing, human resource management, and public administration. It is named in honor of businessman and entrepreneur H. Wayne Huizenga, a member of NSU’s Board of Trustees for 13 years, who is now a trustee emeritus.

2006
The state-of-the-art, 366,000-square-foot University Center opens. Renamed in honor of businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Don Taft, the facility features three NCAA competition courts in the main arena, as well as two intramural courts, group fitness and instruction rooms, cardio and weight training areas, squash courts, a rock climbing wall, and The Flight Deck.

2008
On July 1, 2008, the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale becomes a part of the expanded creative campus of NSU when the two institutions agree to merge. In addition to its world-class permanent collections and traveling exhibitions, the museum has become a destination for members of the community with its classes offered to children and adults, lecture series, and book events held in its on-site bookstore.

2010
George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., is named sixth president and COO. In 2011, he is named president and CEO. During his investiture, Hanbury introduces his Vision 2020, which has become a cornerstone for progress as NSU moves forward into the 21st century.

2012
The Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research opens at the Oceangoic Center near Port Everglades. It is the largest facility in the United States dedicated to studying coral reef ecosystems throughout the world. NSU received the largest grant in its history to build the center—a $15-million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology. NSU contributed an additional $35 million to build and furnish the center. The Center of Excellence also houses NSU’s National Coral Reef Institute, Guy Harvey Research Institute, and Save Our Seas Shark Centre.

2013
The College of Osteopathic Medicine opens the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, the only one of its kind in the nation. The institute treats patients with conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis, and Gulf War illness, as well as conducting basic clinical research. The institute is directed by Nancy Klimas, chair of Clinical Immunology at NSU and an internationally recognized figure in the treatment of chronic fatigue syndrome and other neuro-immune disorders.

2014
The Health Professions Division’s Center for Collaborative Research, a $70-million training research facility with full-service laboratories, is scheduled for groundbreaking.
community.” He welcomed all county residents to use the $43-million facility. In 2003, the library received a gift of $7 million from South Florida real-estate developer Alvin Sherman. In recognition of his generous gift, the library was named the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. As of September 30, 2013, the Sherman Library has distributed more than 88,000 library cards to Broward County residents.

On July 1, 2008, the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale became a part of the expanded creative campus of Nova Southeastern Unviersity when the two institutions agreed to a merger.

THE FUTURE

When George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., became the sixth president of NSU, he spoke of a shared vision for the university. It was the first time Vision 2020 was mentioned. It is now a cornerstone for the school moving forward into the 21st century.

A vital part of Vision 2020 is recognition for the university’s landmark research. “We have always been, in the past 50 years, a teaching institution, but for the first time in our history, we are now including research as a major component of that,” said Hanbury. The president’s goal is to increase grant funding at NSU from the current $82 million to $300 million by 2020.

One of the biggest feathers in NSU’s research cap was the completion of the Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research, the largest facility in the United States dedicated to studying coral reef ecosystems throughout the world. NSU received the largest grant in its history to build the center, when it applied for and received a $15-million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology. Nova Southeastern University contributed an additional $35 million to build and furnish the center, as well as revamping an adjacent research vessel marina. The center also houses NSU’s National Coral Reef Institute and Guy Harvey Research Institute as well as the U.S. Save Our Seas Shark Center.

Scheduled for groundbreaking in 2014 is Nova Southeastern University’s Center for Collaborative Research—a $70-million, 214,131-square-foot training research facility with full-service laboratories. Plans include offices that will serve as the United States Geological Survey’s headquarters for its involvement with the Everglades Restoration Project.

Hanbury’s concept for the university’s Academical Village is inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s plan for the founding of the University of Virginia, which
Jefferson called his Academical Village. In the “Jeffersonian concept,” scholars and professionals are brought together with students to blend theory with practice in an academic setting. The $500-million, mixed-use project would take 30 acres that NSU now occupies on University Drive and turn it into a high-tech research/office park with retail space, residences, a hotel/conferencing center, and a research-medical center. The project, which is currently in development, will add to NSU’s existing $2.6-billion economic impact in the state of Florida.

Nova Southeastern University continues to attract top researchers throughout each school and college. Some of these include Nancy Klimas, M.D., professor, researcher, and expert in chronic fatigue syndrome and Gulf War illness—College of Osteopathic Medicine; Jean Latimer, Ph.D., associate professor and breast cancer researcher—College of Pharmacy; Peter Murray, Ph.D., associate professor and dental stem cell researcher—College of Dental Medicine; and Bernhard Riegl, Ph.D., associate director of NSU’s National Coral Reef Institute, professor, and coral reef researcher—Oceanographic Center; to name only a few of the many top-notch researchers on the university’s faculty.

“I feel very comfortable that we will continue to attract those types of faculty members, who will encourage and entice our existing faculty to do even more research while helping to recruit quality students,” said Hanbury.

“Fifty years ago, no one could have anticipated how far NSU would come… Our future is limitless,” said Ron Assaf, who was elected to NSU’s Board of Trustees in July 1994 and became chairman in May 2005.

The early founders of the university contributed to a solid foundation, which continues to thrive today. These visionaries included Tinsley Ellis, Bob Elmore, George English, Jim Farquhar, Robert Ferris, Charles and Hamilton Forman, Leo Goodwin, Bill Horvitz, Coleman Judd, Henry Kinney, A.L. Mailman, Mary McCahill, August Paoli, Louis Parker, Henry Perry, Dwight Rogers, Edwin Rosenthal, Alex Schure, Marilyn (Mickey) Segal, Myron Segal, and Bob Steele, and the five presidents who came before George L. Hanbury II—Warren Winstead, Fischler, Stephen Feldman, Ovid Lewis, and Ferrero.

Quite an achievement. Quite a legacy.
From 30-Something Student to Skyscraping Success

BY DAVE WIECZOREK

Denis Edwards (B.S., Computer Information Systems, ’01) looks out the windows of his office on the 62nd floor of Chicago’s Aon Center and admires his view of skyscrapers, Gold Coast neighborhoods, and the sparkling blue waters of Lake Michigan. He reaches below his desk and pulls out a travel-pack guitar from a black case.

“I try to play every day and can take it when I travel. It fits quite nicely in the overhead bin,” Edwards said. “I’ll play it here in the office, usually when everyone else has gone home. I can sit and think and strum the guitar. It’s relaxing.”

Those are a few minutes of grace notes for a man who finds himself in the corporate pressure cooker a long way from Nova Southeastern University and his home in Florida.

In January 2013, Edwards was named executive vice president and global chief information officer at Edelman, the world’s largest public relations firm with 4,800 employees and affiliates in more than 30 cities. Edwards oversees Edelman’s information technology systems and infrastructure, including internal and client-facing solutions.

“My job is to provide leadership to the people who keep our systems running and the people who can help grow our business,” said Edwards, 53, who grew up near Lakeland, Florida. “It’s my role to have a vision for how Edelman leverages technology to do the things that make us efficient and profitable—such as leveraging social media to shape opinion to drive brand awareness for our clients.”

Edwards’ career path includes stops as a senior executive with ManpowerGroup, a workforce solutions provider; Cadbury-Schweppes, the world’s biggest confectionery company; PricewaterhouseCoopers; and Marriott International. His career arc, however, has been anything but conventional. Edwards began his undergraduate studies at NSU when he was 35 and already a vice president for Alliance Entertainment, a Coral Springs, Florida, firm that pioneered music Internet Web sites.

He wanted to earn a master’s degree in computer science, but when he started applying to colleges, he discovered the bachelor’s degree he had earned years earlier was from an institution that was nationally accredited versus regionally accredited. He had to start all over.

Edwards and his wife, Christine, a graphic artist, were already living in Coral Springs, “so NSU was a great fit. A lot of the NSU students would sort of use me as a mentor. I would spend time with them.”

Back to School

Edwards would approach his professors the first day of class and explain his background and purpose for being back in school.

“If it was a course where I felt like I already had the knowledge,” he said, “I would ask the professors to take a little different approach with me, give me something that would challenge me more than the normal curriculum. Having me as a student was also good from their perspective, because they could say, ‘Hey, Denis, is this right? Is this what you’re seeing in the real world?’ ”
“For me, it has never been about what city or what company. It has been more about, ‘What can we do as an organization?’ ”

—Denis Edwards

One of his computer-science professors at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences was Greg Simco, Ph.D. “Greg would get us into discussions and debates. I found that refreshing,” Edwards said.

Simco remembers Edwards’ time at NSU. “Denis provided a synergy to the delivery of the subject matter, discussions, and future directions in computer science and systems,” said Simco, currently a professor of computer science at the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences. “Students like Denis are bright and knowledgeable but they also realize they can always learn more, refine their knowledge, and grow as people and computer scientists. Denis’ discipline of computer science, along with his interpersonal skills, enhanced the productivity in the program.”

Edwards’ philosophy about business has been constant throughout his career journey. “For me, it has never been about what city or what company,” he said. “It has been more about, ‘What can we do as an organization?’ At Edelman, we’re about shaping good messages about issues that affect people around the world. The way I contribute to that from a technology perspective is significant.”

It’s likely that NSU has not seen the last of Edwards. “I’m thinking of doing my Ph.D. in computer science at NSU,” he said. “I want to teach where it’s warm, when I’m finished doing this, so maybe after I get my Ph.D., they’ll let me teach at NSU.”

If that happens, Edwards won’t have an office with the glorious view that he has now, but you can bet he’ll still have a guitar under his desk.

AROUND NSU

THE FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLING OF RECENT DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS TO SUPPORT NSU STUDENTS.

- George and Susu Johnson, AutoNation, and Patriot National Insurance Group joined to establish the H. Wayne Huizenga Legacy Scholarship to honor Huizenga’s contribution to higher education. The scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students exhibiting high academic achievement, exemplary service to the community, and leadership in extracurricular activities.

- NSU Board of Trustee member J. Kenneth Tate and his wife, Sandy, created the Tate Family Renewal Endowment to encourage undergraduates to maintain their academic achievement. The scholarship is awarded to students who initially received the Tate Family Scholarship and are still in need of financial support in order to complete their degree.

- Jennifer O’Flannery Anderson, Ph.D., NSU’s vice president for Advancement and Community Relations, established the Jennifer O’Flannery Anderson and Peter Anderson Scholarship for academically talented undergraduate students.

- The Batchelor Foundation provided support for graduate students’ research at NSU’s Oceanographic Center by creating the Batchelor Foundation Marine Scholarship.

- NSU Board of Trustee member Michael Zager and his wife, Lainie, established the University School Suns Endowed Scholarship to encourage talented middle school students to continue their academic journey at University School through high school graduation. University School parents Eric and Elizabeth Feder and Craig and Deborah Perry have generously supported the Suns Endowed Scholarship Fund.

- Berge and Meline Markarian honored their son, a faculty member at the Fischler School of Education, by establishing the Daniel H. Markarian Changing Lives Scholarship for students seeking to become social studies teachers.

- Karen Rose, a staff member at NSU’s Law Library and Technology Center, established the Rose Family Changing Lives Scholarship for law students at the Shepard Broad Law Center.

- Mohan and Meenu Gupta (both M.D.s) endowed a scholarship to provide support for students in NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine who complete part of their medical training in a clinical rotation or outreach program in India.

- Great Expressions Dental Centers endowed a scholarship at NSU’s College of Dental Medicine for students who are committed to expanding access to oral health for underserved communities.

- The Center for Higher Education Chief Information Officers’ Studies endowed the Dr. Trudy Abramson Scholarship for students pursuing a doctoral degree in computing technology in education at NSU’s Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.

- NSU staff member Maria Tako, established the Tako Family Changing Lives Scholarship for students at the Shepard Broad Law Center.

- Wei J. Chen’s gift to the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences led to the creation of the Wei Chen Scholarship to support graduate students interested in studying the resolution of social, political, and historical cross-cultural challenges.

- Adam Goldberg and Elena Minicucci, who graduated from and work at the Shepard Broad Law Center, pledged their support to the Law Center Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund.
The last words Leonard (Lenny) Comma (M.B.A., ’97) says on his voice mail message are telling: “Remember, never let fear hold you back.” For Comma, president and chief operating officer of Jack in the Box Inc., and alumnus of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, living by those words has brought him to where he is today.

As of January 1, 2014, Comma’s duties will be expanded when he assumes the additional titles of chairman and chief executive officer of Jack in the Box Inc.

“Lenny is fully prepared and capable of leading this company to even greater success in the future,” said Linda Lang, the company’s current chairman and CEO, who is retiring.

After graduating from Drexel, Comma was hired as a franchise representative for Mobil Oil, now ExxonMobil, which brought him to Fort Lauderdale. That’s where he learned that the company would cover his tuition for NSU’s M.B.A. program. He attended classes at NSU on weekends for two years and received his M.B.A. in 1997.

“The great thing about the NSU M.B.A. program was that it focused on real-world business,” Comma said. “Every professor was an active professional, so we got a balanced, real-world focus that was fully applicable to the business world.”

In the business world, Comma says, that often means making tough decisions and implementing changes that may be unpopular. “In each new assignment I got, I was bold in making the changes that needed to be made,” he said.

Comma credits the education he received first as an undergraduate in finance at Drexel University in Philadelphia and later at NSU, where he participated in the Huizenga Business School’s executive M.B.A. program, in preparing him for the real world of business. He participated in Drexel’s five-year co-op program, in which students work in their chosen field six months out of every year.

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For example, he said, one of his professors was the vice president of Human Resources at Sunbeam. At the time, Sunbeam had just hired a new CEO who was referred to as The Hatchet. “So while Sunbeam was going through this major restructuring, the professor was using his experiences to teach us,” Comma said. “That was real-life practices we were learning about.”

Because NSU focused on present-day issues rather than simply theory, Comma said he was better prepared for the realities of the business world.

“This was the late ’90s, and we were experiencing the birth pains of moving into a more global economy and entering a more technological environment, and both were impacting the business world,” he said. “Mostly, what I took away from NSU was that the business world I was going into, in which I was going to lead, was going to require a constant mode of managing and leading change.”

Comma stayed with ExxonMobil until 2001, then he took a job at Jack in the Box in San Diego, California, as
director of its Convenience Store and Fuel Operations. Under his leadership, the Jack in the Box gas station/convenience store brand known as Quick Stuff grew from 9 to 61 units. In 2006, Comma became regional vice president of the Southern California region. A year later, he was promoted to vice president of Operations, Division II, overseeing close to 1,200 restaurants. He became senior vice president and chief operating officer in February 2010 and was promoted to his current position in May 2012.

Comma added that his success is also because of his relationship with his employees and the unique business culture at the company. The leaders are “humble and approachable,” he said, and the atmosphere feels more like a family-run business than a typical corporation.

“I love what I do, and I love the people I work with,” he said. “We have a large brain trust of talented employees here. As a leader, I value that and treat everyone with respect. At the same time, I hold them accountable to achieve a fair amount of success.”

Comma also gives his time to community service and is a devoted family man. He joined the board of directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in 2012. Jack in the Box has been a longtime supporter of the organization and Comma had participated in his local chapter. When the national board recruited him because they thought he could assist their growing organization, he was glad to help.

A New York native, Comma married his high school sweetheart, Alison, and they have three sons: Lenny, Jr., 17; Jordon, 13; and Cameron, 10. Comma coaches his children’s sports teams on weekends and supports them in their other activities, which include surfing and an alternative rock band.

Being successful is all about balance, Comma says, and that’s what he wants today’s students entering the business world to know.

“By taking the time to enjoy my faith, to exercise, spend time with my family, and just enjoy life, I have high energy, am focused, creative, and better able to solve problems,” Comma said. “I find that the more balanced my life is, the better I am at everything. You just have to trust that.”

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**AROUND NSU**

**PLAN UNVEILED FOR RESEARCH AND MEDICAL CENTER**

Nova Southeastern University may become the site of Broward County’s first Research and Medical Center on a university campus.

HCA East Florida has filed an application for a Certificate of Need with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration for approval to build and operate a hospital of 100 beds. If approved, the facility would be built entirely with private dollars. University students would gain real-world experience in medical professions through practicums, internships, and residencies.

The proposed $120-million hospital, which will become part of NSU’s Research and Medical Center, will be privately owned by HCA East Florida. The facility will take advantage of the latest technology and NSU’s world-class research to offer full health care services to South Florida residents.

“This collaboration creates an unrivaled opportunity for Broward County and beyond to have access to the constellation of health care fields, research, and a hospital, creating a true medical home for patients’ access and choice,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU’s president and chief executive officer.

The hospital will anchor NSU’s Academical Village, expected to break ground in 2014 with the Center for Collaborative Research, which eventually will include residential areas, medical offices, retail space, and a hotel/conferencing center.

In conjunction with NSU’s Academical Village, the project would provide up to 5,000 new jobs—bringing doctors, nurses, health care practitioners, and other businesses to the area, university officials said.
Elena Marty-Nelson, J.D., LL.M., gave up a lucrative law practice to fulfill a dream she had since childhood—to teach. “I wanted to teach right out of law school, but I first went into practice at a large law firm in order to acquire experience and earn enough to pay off student loans,” said Marty-Nelson, who teaches courses in federal securities law, property, tax, wills, and trusts, among other classes, at NSU’s Shepard Broad Law Center. “I loved practicing law, but I have wanted to be a professor for as long as I can remember. I come from a family of educators.”

After practicing law for several years, Marty-Nelson began her teaching career at Georgetown University Law Center, in Washington, D.C., in its real estate clinic. Marty-Nelson was recruited to NSU in 1992, becoming a full professor in 1997. Her dedication to teaching has not gone unnoticed, either by students or colleagues.


“She’s an inspiration, the smartest professor I’ve ever met,” said Lauren Taylor Clifton, an NSU 2014 Juris Doctor candidate. “She makes class interesting and fun. She’s what I want to be in 20 years.”

Her teaching extends outside the classroom, too. She was the law school’s 2008 finalist for Adviser of the Year for the university’s Student Life Achievement Award (STUEY) for her work as faculty adviser to the Nova Law Review and the Hispanic Law Students Association.

Marty-Nelson also writes extensively. Her scholarship includes a casebook, portfolios, and numerous law review articles. Her writings have been cited in decisions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the United States District Court for Western District of Virginia, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Alaska, the Oregon Supreme Court, and in treatises.

Marty-Nelson’s scholarship has also helped guide legislators in crafting new laws, particularly in such areas as trust law, asset protection, and bankruptcy. “People should be taxed on the real value of a transaction, not what they can call it, or what form they can give it,” said Marty-Nelson. “Let’s handle it on its real economic value. That’s a running theme through my scholarship: fairness and substance.”

Marty-Nelson laughs when she is complimented on the clarity of her scholarly writing. A layman could probably follow one of her articles. “I don’t play ‘Hide the Ball,’ ” Marty-Nelson said. “Maybe that’s one of the things students like about me. I try to write things that can make a difference, and that’s not going to work if it’s only going to appeal to other academics.”

Clear language and presentation of difficult concepts are among the reasons that Lara Pietrzak is now taking her third class with Marty-Nelson. “She goes above and beyond for her students,” said Pietrzak, “making sure every one of us thoroughly understands the material being taught before moving onto the next topic.”

Changes in Teaching

At 53, Marty-Nelson has seen major transformations in teaching the law and in the way young lawyers begin their careers. When she started, digital technology did not exist, but she has found ways to work with it.
“I know they are going to have their iPhones, their iPads,” she said. “I make them go to my site for the class. They have to answer real-time questions, so they can’t be surfing ESPN or YouTube.”

Marty-Nelson is less happy about funding cuts for state attorneys’ offices, public defenders, legal aid, and other agencies where young lawyers traditionally got their start. “It’s hurting clients and lawyers, too,” she said. “As a prosecutor or public defender, young lawyers had a chance to do great work and learn to be expert lawyers before moving to private practice. It is harder to do that now.”

With her high ranking as a scholar, Marty-Nelson could probably choose to teach in any law school, and she chose NSU. Marty-Nelson is a Cuban American—she’s a descendant of José Manuel Cortina, an important lawyer and politician in prerevolutionary Cuba—who grew up in South Florida. She was pregnant when she decided to move back from Washington, D.C., to South Florida and specifically to NSU. “I was told I could have my child attend school on campus,” Marty-Nelson said. “And I did. My children all went to University School. It is a great recruiting tool for faculty. We have a community here, not just a job.”

NSU also provides a first-rate environment for Marty-Nelson’s teaching. “When I first moved here, the law school was already very strong,” she said. “Over the past years, I have seen tremendous growth of the entire university. All the centers, including the law school, now benefit from excellent interdisciplinary programs with outstanding faculty members and students. I give the leaders of NSU a lot of credit for their extraordinary vision.”

NSU HALL OF FAME ADDS FOUR

Four former student-athletes have been inducted into the Nova Southeastern University Athletics Hall of Fame.

The members in the NSU Athletics Hall of Fame class of 2013 are baseball player Bryan Cook, rower Nicole Felluca, soccer player Juan Ramos, and softball player Katie Veltri.

“The class of 2013 continues the tradition of NSU athletics and the high level of athletic achievement,” said Michael Mominey, NSU director of athletics. “They exemplified the commitment, drive, and character that are necessary to succeed on the field of play and in life.”

The Nova Southeastern University intercollegiate athletic department Hall of Fame was initiated in 2007 with its first induction class. It’s commonly referred to as the Athletics Hall of Fame, but it also encompasses those notable accomplishments of the NSU Knights from 1982–2004. After 23 years under the Knights mascot, NSU unveiled Sharks as the new mascot for the university and its athletic teams in 2005.

NEW MAJORS, MINORS AT FARQUHAR COLLEGE

The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences has added four new bachelor’s degree programs and three new undergraduate minor programs of study.

Bachelor of Science degrees are now being offered in anthropology, behavior neuroscience, human development and family studies, and public administration.

New minor programs of study are being offered in geographic information science, Latin American and Caribbean studies, and studio art.

With these new programs, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences offers 35 undergraduate majors, 53 undergraduate minors, 2 graduate programs, and 3 certificate programs. For more information, visit the college’s Web site at www.fcas.nova.edu/programs.
Three-time Faculty of the Year Winner Practices What He Preaches

BY ELLEN WOLFSON VALLADARES

Art Weinstein, Ph.D., professor and chair of marketing in the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, has spent years researching, writing, and teaching about customer value. He has written a book on it entitled, Superior Customer Value: Strategies for Winning and Retaining Customers, and developed a course for the M.B.A. program, Delivering Superior Customer Value, that more than 10,000 NSU students have taken.

Weinstein’s students and colleagues agree that his philosophy of putting customers first is not just a strategy he preaches for businesses, but one that he practices as a successful marketing professor and mentor. His dedication to his students and to the continued innovation of the marketing programs and courses offered at the Huizenga School earned him the school’s Faculty of the Year award for the third time in 2012. He was the first recipient of the award in 1997, and he won it again in 2004.

While Weinstein is humble about his trio of awards, his former students indicate it is well deserved. “There are three important characteristics that define great scholars, mentors, and teachers: the ability to exemplify—practice what they teach; the desire for their pupils not to just simply emulate their values, but to go beyond, even surpassing them; and the delight they take in seeing their protégés excel. These define Art Weinstein’s very nature, goodwill, and integrity,” said Donovan A. McFarlane, Ph.D., a professor at DeVry University.

Hilton Barrett, D.B.A., a business administration professor at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina, credits Weinstein with helping him move from a business career into a second career in teaching. He says Weinstein mentored him through completion of his dissertation and during his first teaching jobs. Together, they authored numerous published articles.

“I believe that I would not have accomplished even a portion of these milestones without the support of Art Weinstein,” Barrett said. “He has enabled me to have my dream of a twilight career in teaching. He has counseled me as a researcher, professor, and administrator. My life has been much more complete because of Art Weinstein.”

Weinstein didn’t plan to have an academic career. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida, he worked for A.C. Nielsen, a global marketing research firm. At the same time, he worked on an M.B.A. at Florida International University (FIU). That led to an opportunity to run a small business development center and a chance to teach at FIU.

“I got into the academic environment and really enjoyed it,” Weinstein said. Still, he viewed himself as a business person. “In my job, I was providing training and consulting for small businesses.”

As he began working on his doctorate at FIU, the marketing life gave way to an academic career, blending his passions for business, research, and teaching. He held a teaching position at Hofstra University in New York, and then headed back for a warmer climate to take his position at NSU’s Huizenga School, where he has been for 19 years.
“The time has gone by so fast,” he said. “Obviously that’s what happens when you enjoy what you’re doing.” Weinstein said his favorite part about working at NSU is that he gets to do so many different things. “I love the fact that I have the freedom to teach the areas that I find most interesting,” he said. “I do a lot of my work in customer value and marketing strategy, which happens to be the two areas that are really exciting and that impact change in organizations. I also get the chance to work with both the business community and the academic community.”

Weinstein is an internationally known expert in market segmentation and customer value and has done research and consulting for some of the largest technology firms in the world, including high-profile names such as Bayer Diagnostics, Hewlett Packard, and Motorola. He has written 7 books and more than 70 articles and papers.

“Art Weinstein is an academic visionary and a great asset to this university,” said J. Preston Jones, D.B.A., dean of the Huizenga School. “His contributions to NSU and the business school will help establish our reputation as leaders in education.”

Weinstein said he is honored to be reprising his role as chair of marketing for the Huizenga School, a position he held from 2004 to 2009. He hopes to help continue the business school’s growth and increase its prominence by “keeping it innovative and practical and filling real-world needs.”

Part of that process, he said, includes the new M.B.A. in Marketing and the move toward “niche” M.B.A.s that allow students to specialize in certain aspects of business and marketing. “Some companies are saying, ‘What do you really do? What can you show us?’ With a niche M.B.A., you can say you have expertise in services, brand management, social media, marketing strategy, etc.”, he said.

When he is not researching, writing, or teaching, Weinstein enjoys spending time with his wife, Sandee, and their son, Trevor, 14. He loves reading, watching the History Channel, and as evidenced by the posters on his office wall, is a big fan of progressive rock bands such as Asia and Yes.

And, if he doesn’t add a fourth Faculty of the Year award to his cache of prizes that will be fine with this marketing professor. He simply enjoys developing innovative programs, contributing his expertise, and creating superior customer value at NSU.

“In my view, it’s not about winning awards,” Weinstein said. “It’s about doing the best you can do every day.”

NSU RECEIVES ITS LARGEST TITLE V GRANT AWARD

NSU has been awarded a Cooperative Development Grant by the U.S. Department of Education totaling approximately $3.9 million. The grant, from the department’s Hispanic-Serving Institutions Division, is the single largest Title V award received by the university.

NSU is one of only four institutions in the nation to receive the Cooperative Development Grant and the only college or university in Florida to receive this award for 2013. The Title V funding will be used to develop programs and services to better meet the needs of students pursuing high-demand science, technology, engineering, and math related programs and careers, and especially, students focused on academically challenging careers in computer science and computer information systems.

Cooperative Development Grants are awarded to eligible Hispanic–Serving Institutions that are collaborating with one or more colleges or universities of higher education. NSU will serve as the lead institution, in collaboration with Broward College, with which NSU has previously had strong collaborations.

NSU has been nationally ranked in the top 25 institutions for awarding degrees to Hispanic students, according to the May 2013 edition of Hispanic Outlook. In addition, the May 2012 edition of Hispanic Outlook ranked NSU among the top five colleges or universities nationally for awarding master’s and doctoral degrees, and first nationally in awarding first-professional degrees to Hispanic students.
lawyers
For scuba divers, a journey to the bottom of the sea combines relaxing with witnessing nature’s beauty. But a group of divers—many of them graduates of NSU’s Shepard Broad Law Center—uses the time underwater to assist academic researchers from the Oceanographic Center (OC).

DiveBar’s 102 members found the ideal outlet to invest time and money for philanthropic activities by partnering with NSU’s OC. This year, DiveBar members participated in two dives to assist the center in offshore nursery maintenance. They also sponsored a coral nursery tank for researchers to study and grow coral at NSU’s state-of-the-art Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research.

“How could DiveBar not get involved with NSU’s research in saving coral reefs?” said Jennifer Rosinski, (J.D., 2012), vice president of communications for DiveBar, a two-year-old nonprofit association for South Florida legal professionals. “The loss of coral reefs is devastating not only to the sport of diving, but to the entire marine environment. NSU’s program gives me the chance to do something about it.”

DiveBar teamed up with the OC in early 2013 to assist with the Staghorn Coral Nursery Project, headed by David S. Gilliam, Ph.D., professor, and Liz Larson, a Ph.D. candidate. Under the supervision of researchers, the volunteers help maintain underwater coral nurseries offshore near Broward County. During the dives, the volunteers assist researchers in cleaning away algae and organisms near the coral, record coral conditions, and take clippings from selected coral to grow new coral offshore.

Before the first dive, more than 50 volunteers spent an evening in intensive training learning about coral and what their underwater duties would be. The session was led by Larson at the OC’s campus near Port Everglades in Hollywood, Florida.

Anita Paoli, (J.D., 1990), who serves on NSU’s Ambassadors Board and is a member of DiveBar, called the training session inspiring. “The training was so advanced it was like a master class in coral. We are lawyers, not scientists, and it was enlightening to learn about the coral,” said Paoli, whose law firm is based in Hollywood, Florida.

“We have a new appreciation about the coral reef environment and the dangers to it and what can be done to remediate it. That we could then participate in doing something to improve this environment is amazing. The Oceanographic Center is spectacular, and the entire program and [the OC’s] plan to generate live coral are so impressive,” said Paoli.

The researchers routinely take monthly dive trips to check on the coral. The two dives that DiveBar participated in were each devoted to a different aspect of the program—coral maintenance and outplanting. The dives included up to 25 volunteers, 3 to 4 NSU students, and at least 1 professor. As part of its commitment, DiveBar agreed to finance the entire boat charter, even if not enough
DiveBar sponsors a coral nursery tank at the Oceanographic Center. In the front row, from left, are Dick Dodge, dean of the OC; Liz Larson, OC Ph.D. candidate; and Bob Kelley, DiveBar founding member. Back row, from left, are Dave Gilliam, OC professor; David Black, DiveBar president; and Abby Renegar, OC Ph.D. candidate.

members signed up to fill the boat. So far, that has not been a problem. Each dive has had a waiting list of DiveBar members wanting to attend.

“Running a coral nursery takes real resources—time and money; it’s never cheap to take a boat offshore,” said Gilliam. “One of our biggest expenses and, in a way, somewhat of a limitation for us, is being able to afford the cost of taking a vessel offshore for research. DiveBar’s offer to pay the cost of a boat day allows the OC to put more people in the water and do more research. And that boat charter also helped the volunteers to be more aware of how valuable this project is.”

For the volunteers, the NSU dives combine their love of the sport with DiveBar’s mission of promoting awareness and education, which dovetails with one of NSU’s core values of community involvement.

“When I dive with the NSU group, I make a tangible difference,” said Rosinski. “It isn’t like donating money to the cause; I am down there using my hands to help save coral reefs.”

David Black, a Fort Lauderdale attorney, echoed that sentiment. As president of DiveBar, he was eager for the group to pair with the OC. “We know how important the work is that the Oceanographic Center is doing. And it’s special to be a part of this—to give back to the ocean instead of just enjoying it. DiveBar members share that passion of coupling their hobbies with philanthropy,” said Black.

The dives also tie in with academics. Larson has been with the offshore coral nursery since its inception in 2006, using data collected during the early days of the offshore nursery for her master’s degree. She now manages the offshore nursery as part of the work on her Ph.D., which also will contribute to her dissertation.

“Real science is going on here, learning about this particular threatened species of coral and ways to help recover its population status,” said Gilliam, who pointed out that research assistant and Ph.D. candidate Abby Renegar manages the land-based coral tanks on campus. “There also is a community benefit in working with a volunteer group. It is good to have the help and to increase their awareness.”

That education extends beyond NSU. “It goes back to educating the community,” said Larson. “Getting the volunteers involved in a project helps the environment and the reef. We are hoping that this project will result in the threatened coral sustaining itself. By providing this information to local divers, the volunteers will then spread the word to other divers to be more conscious about how they can help the health of the reef.”

DiveBar members “hope to grow with NSU next year,” said Black, becoming even more involved with the project. During 2014, the group will plan more diving excursions, continue to support the onshore tank, and sponsor a specific section of a natural reef off Fort Lauderdale beach where DiveBar volunteers would primarily work. “We would be able to point to a reef where all the work in maintaining it was done by DiveBar members and with DiveBar money,” said Black.

“NSU’s Oceanographic Center is world class and it’s in our backyard. What better way to spend our philanthropic money and donate our time?” said Black.

For more information on DiveBar, contact www.thedivebar.org; for more information on NSU’s Oceanographic Center, visit www.nova.edu/ocean.
Nova Southeastern alumni score in sports careers

For many NSU graduates, a love of sports can score a career that utilizes their business, law, or sports management degrees.

Pete D’Alessandro (J.D., 1994) saw his law degree as an entry to a career in sports after a chance meeting with a sports agent who also was a lawyer. D’Alessandro’s plan paid off—he was named general manager of the Sacramento Kings this past summer.

While he was working as a video coordinator at St. John’s University, a visiting sports agent told D’Alessandro that a J.D. was instrumental to understanding the complexities of trades, contract negotiations, and business decisions.

The native New Yorker chose NSU because “NSU seemed like a forward-thinking law school,” he said. D’Alessandro has fond memories of the Shepard Broad Law Center. “While at NSU, my mind opened to new ideas and concepts, allowing me to understand both sides of an issue before drawing an opinion. I became a willing listener,” he said.
After receiving his NSU degree, D’Alessandro worked for a Washington, D.C.-based sports agency. He then spent five seasons with the Golden State Warriors—three years as the director of basketball operations and then two years as assistant general manager. D’Alessandro then moved to the Denver Nuggets where he spent three seasons assisting in the development of all basketball operations’ strategies and the management of day-to-day basketball activities. He was promoted to the Nuggets’ vice president of basketball operations prior to the 2012–13 season.

“My NSU education also caused me to become a more analytical thinker and to take the time necessary to understand and digest an issue before acting,” said D’Alessandro.

He still remembers advice from one of his professors, Ronald B. Brown (LL.M., J.D., B.S.M.E.). “He told us to not simply read a sentence, but after we read it to re-read it, and then to read it once more. In following that process, he explained, we are just beginning to comprehend its meaning. Like every chapter of my career, I use the lessons of hard work, careful analysis, and open-mindedness instilled in me by my professors at the law school many years ago,” D’Alessandro said.

The sports field always was the plan for Wesley Friedman (J.D., 2012). He is now a staff attorney with the Arena Football League (based in Chicago) handling contracts, copyrights and trademarks, lawsuits, and labor law. Friedman says he always knew how he wanted to use his law degree. “I was a bit different,” said the former track athlete. “I wanted to get into sports; I didn’t want to practice traditional law.”

With his goal in mind, Friedman started as a summer volunteer for the Tampa Bay Storm, the arena football team. “It was a great training ground,” Friedman said. That stint led to meeting another lawyer, AFL Commissioner Jerry Kurz. “When the next summer came around, he gave me a shot at working at the league office in Tulsa, Oklahoma,” Friedman said. Then, in August, instead of returning to South Florida, Friedman took advantage of another NSU opportunity and worked for Kurz during the next semester.

“I’m grateful to NSU for its clinic program, which allows you, in lieu of being in the classroom one semester, to work for a lawyer for credits,” said Friedman. “The clinic opens a lot of doors. It’s a great way to branch yourself out during times when it’s hard to get a job.”

When the AFL moved league operations to Chicago, NSU allowed Friedman to finish his degree as a visiting student at John Marshall Law School in the Windy City.

For Friedman, NSU’s personal touch was paramount. “The professors are willing to help 100 percent,” he said. “If you tell them you have a passion, they help you to develop it.”

Friedman lists Phyllis Coleman, J.D., who teaches contract law at NSU and is an avid sports fan, as a professor who discussed goals and advised him on classes.

NSU professors also helped shape the college experience of former student-athlete Emily Sisson Kelley (B.S. in finance, 2004), who played on the golf team. The Iowa native worked her way up from a part-time job at the Tournament Players Club of Heron Bay while attending college to the corporate office of the PGA TOUR less than 10 years later, aided by her financial and marketing background.

When she was selecting a major, two professors at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship encouraged her to consider a degree that had been off her radar. “Professors Charles Harrington [M.A.] and Rebecca Abraham [D.B.A.] asked if I’d be interested in becoming a finance major. I don’t know if I would have become a finance major if they hadn’t encouraged me,” she said.

Kelley’s current job, as director of business development for the PGA TOUR Golf Course Properties in Ponte Vedra, Florida, has a sales and marketing
focus. “I apply much of what I learned about business at NSU,” she said.

NSU professors are keenly aware of what it takes to make it in the professional sports world.

Nancy Olson, M.Ed., M.S., an adjunct professor in sports management who worked for the Florida (now Miami) Marlins for nearly 14 years, says NSU focuses on getting students real-life training. “It’s really important to get some experience. For internships, I discuss with students what they want to do. Many times, I’ll know somebody in the field,” said Olson.

The opportunities are myriad. Students have landed professional sports internships with organizations like the Miami Dolphins, Florida Panthers, and St. Louis Cardinals, as well as in community parks and recreation programs, area high schools, and other colleges.

Olson also sends out a weekly jobs newsletter to potential employers and students. She says there is a variety of potential jobs after graduation, including coaching, sales, marketing, social media, community affairs, and fund-raising.

The nonprofit aspect has become so important that many of the available jobs in sports now center on the skill of fund-raising. In response to real-world needs, NSU developed the M.B.A. concentration in Sport Revenue Generation.

“We looked at the job postings through a wide variety of areas and found a lot of the jobs focused on the ability to generate revenue streams,” said Peter Finley, Ph.D., associate professor of sports and recreation management at Huizenga Business School.

The undergraduate degree in sports management focuses on creating a solid foundation in areas such as facilities management, coaching, sports law, sports ethics, and community sports; while the master’s degree concentration delves into sponsorships, special events, and fund-raising.

Finley also stressed the importance of experience as crucial to a successful career in sports management. By graduation, “students should have logged hundreds of hours of volunteer work and completed internships,” he said.

The right internship at the right time led Rob Brzezinski (B.S. in education, 1992; J.D., 1995) to a high-profile career in the National Football League—currently as vice president of football operations for the Minnesota Vikings.

Brzezinski’s discussions about sports careers and opportunities with Joe Lakovitch, J.D., who was an NSU professor, but is now retired, led to introductions to Miami Dolphins personnel, which in turn led to an internship in his second year of law school. Another mentor and trusted adviser was Brad Williams, Ed.D., now vice president of student affairs and dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies. “The professors were very accessible and truly cared about the students, and that was huge for me,” said Brzezinski.

The Dolphins hired him following his graduation—shortly after the ratification of the new collective bargaining agreement in the NFL, which included a salary cap. “This required a new area of expertise in the NFL and I feel fortunate to have exposure and experience since inception,” said Brzezinski.

Ohio native Andy Platt (B.S., sports management, ’01) is associate athletic director at Rice University in Houston, and serves as the chief financial officer for the athletics department’s $30-million operating budget. The former NSU student-athlete, a four-year letterman in men’s basketball, also has high praise for NSU’s sports management curriculum.

“Noa Southeastern was one of the pioneer sport management programs in the country. Our program was different than others in that it had a focus on internships and gaining practical experience, versus traditional theory education,” said Platt, who pointed out that his father, Alan Platt, Ph.D., had started the NSU program. “He [Alan Platt] could relate to students and understood the importance of practical on-the-job training,” said Platt.
Taylor Collins was sworn to secrecy, and she obeyed the command. Not even her parents knew that Collins, 24, won the Golf Channel's competition-based reality show, The Big Break, until it was televised in late July.

"By that time, my parents were out of the country on vacation. I ended up watching the finale by myself," said Collins, who, as an NSU golfer, had won three team national championships and one individual national title before graduating in 2011 with a degree in sports and recreation management.

Collins, who plays in the developmental Symetra Tour, won $50,000 in cash plus another $50,000 in prizes. “For once, I’m not broke,” Collins said. “I don’t have to ask my mom for money for the movies.”

Collins still has close ties to her alma mater. She lives with her parents on the Executive Course at NSU’s Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie, and she still drops in to talk to the Sharks’ current group of golfers as often as possible.

Kevin Marsh, who was Collins’ head coach at NSU, said her training while at NSU helped her win the challenges on The Big Break. “During our practices, she would take a shag bag (of balls) and hit from under a tree or hit over a tree,” Marsh said. “She would see how much she could curve the ball and shape shots at different trajectories. Those skills came into play during The Big Break.”

Collins said the cash she won on the show was nice, but the biggest prize she earned was an exemption to the November 14–17 Lorena Ochoa Invitational in Mexico, which will be her first LPGA event.

Collins earned that right by beating Tampa’s Matthew Galloway in the show’s finale. This was the 19th season of the show, and it was the first time a woman had beaten a man in an 18-hole finale. “It was more fun to beat a guy,” said Collins of the competition, which started with eight men and eight women and eliminated one contestant each week based on different golf challenges. “It’s cool to know that I’m the first woman to do it.”

Collins received roughly 100 text messages on the night the finale aired. One of the messages was from Lorena Ochoa, the former top-ranked women’s player in the world and the namesake of the tournament Collins will compete in this fall.

“I appreciate everyone who supported me,” Collins said. High on that list are her mother and father, Mimi and Keyron, who called from Mexico when they found out she had won.

Keyron Collins, a golf pro who teaches at NSU’s Grande Oaks Golf Club, said his daughter got her start in the game by following him around the course.

Wanting to improve his knowledge of the game, Keyron Collins met with different instructors until he met Boca Raton resident Bob Toski, a former pro golfer who was the leading money-winner on the PGA Tour in 1954, and who played on the Seniors Tour in the 1980s. When she was old enough, Taylor started taking lessons from Toski, who is still her teacher.
Rowing Team Takes First National Title

BY WALTER VILLA

NSU freshman rower Amanda Hudon is only five-feet tall, but there is nothing small about her towering voice.

“Pain is nothing—victory is everything,” she shouted at her NSU teammates in a motivational tone that could give anyone goose pimples. “You don’t want to be remembered as the group who almost won the national title.” Thanks in part to Hudon, who served as the coxswain of NSU’s varsity-8, that’s not going to happen.

The NSU Sharks won the 2013 NCAA Division II National Championship in women’s rowing, taking the title this past June at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis, Indiana.

It was the sixth national title in NSU sports history—and the first in rowing.

Head coach Stephen Frazier-Wong praised his entire team, including assistant coaches Rachel Sanders and Samantha Sarff. “Winning the national title was our goal from the beginning,” Frazier-Wong said.

Athletic director Michael Mominey said the victory was a “culmination of all the hard work put in since the program started in 2003.”

NSU won both the varsity-8 and varsity-4 grand finals, beating second-place Barry University in each event.

Aside from Amanda Hudon, the varsity-8 included Lauren Boudreau, Amanda Craig, Camille Evans, Stephanie Hauck, Sarah Patterson, Kelly Scott, Tori Torrisi, and Taylor Van Horn. The four boat, with junior Courtney Berger as the coxswain, included Emily Harrington, Caitlin Mooney, Amber Morrell, and Megan O’Donnell.

Of those 14 student-athletes, only Boudreau, Patterson, and Morrell were seniors, meaning that 11 of them can return this season to try and repeat as national champions.
NSU’s student leaders are a driving force on campus.

**NAME:** Daniel Brookins, president, Undergraduate Student Government Association  
**AGE:** 21  
**HOME TOWN:** Coral Springs, Florida

**WHAT PROGRAM ARE YOU IN?**  
I’m in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences with a double major in legal studies and philosophy, graduating May 2014.

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NSU?**  
NSU offered numerous opportunities that other schools did not; the Razor’s Edge Leadership Development Program is an excellent example.

**WHAT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?**  
I’m involved in the Undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA), Razor’s Edge, Residential Life and Housing (as an RA), Ablaze Christian Ministries, and the Undergraduate Honors Program.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NSU TRADITION?**  
Definitely the annual “Anything that Floats Raft Race.” This event is so much fun every year. Groups, each consisting of six students, get together and build a raft. The winners of the race are given $1,000 for their organization. Everyone comes out to watch their friends attempt to race their rafts (most of which don’t float very well!).

**WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SHARK?**  
NSU is an amazing place to grow personally and intellectually. The best part about being a Shark is having so many opportunities to excel.

**WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SGA?**  
I wanted to have a positive impact on campus and getting involved in the SGA was a golden opportunity to do so. I applied as a freshman for an open residential senator position. As a senior, this is now my fourth year on the SGA. I am now the president.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS OR WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR?**  
This is a hard one! I’ve had many outstanding classes with great professors. But, my favorite class would have to be Epistemology with Professor [David] McNaron. I love philosophy as it is, and Epistemology was no exception. Professor McNaron was great at breaking down complex philosophical problems in ways we could understand.

**WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LIVE ON CAMPUS?**  
I was accepted into the Razor’s Edge Leadership Development program, an immersive four-year leadership program/scholarship. One of the requirements was to live on campus.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO A STUDENT WHO LIVES ON CAMPUS?**  
Living on campus gives you an incredible amount of opportunities. I think it’s unlikely I would have been able to participate in nearly the amount of campus activities had I not lived on campus.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS?**  
I’m a devoted coffee drinker, so this is an easy call. Starbucks!

**WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?**  
I want to pursue a career in law as an attorney.

**WHAT IS A FUN FACT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU?**  
I’m the oldest of six siblings!

“Living on campus gives you an incredible amount of opportunities.”  
— Daniel Brookins
For 50 years students have been coming to Nova Southeastern University with big dreams. Alumni, faculty and staff members, and friends have been helping to make those dreams a reality. Please make your gift today at www.nova.edu/giving or return the enclosed envelope.
Spirit of Cobra is organized by the NSU Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale and the Cobra Museum of Modern Art (Amstelveen, Netherlands). Spirit of Cobra is generously supported through a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of its Knight Arts Challenge, with additional funding provided by Linda J. Marks and Stephen R. Marks, Daniel and Jan Lewis, and the David and Francie Horvitz Family Foundation. Funding for the NSU Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale is provided, in part, by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs; and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

November 8, 2013—May 18, 2014

The NSU Museum of Art is pleased to present Spirit of Cobra, a major exhibition tracing the roots and influences of the avant-garde Cobra movement of European poets, painters, and sculptors that also highlights key works from the museum’s preeminent Cobra collection.

FREE admission for NSU students and faculty and staff members with a SHARK ID. Ride the SHARK SHUTTLE to the Museum. For route information visit www.nova.edu/locations/shuttle.html.

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