Horizons Spring 2013

Nova Southeastern University

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Our alumni chapters are a great vehicle to connect with other graduates in your area.

Dear Fellow Sharks,

I am more proud than ever to be a graduate of Nova Southeastern University. As an alumnus, I realize the responsibility we have for the future of our university.

As students, we were the most important focus. Today, as alumni, we are the most important resource. In fact, alumni are the true “owners” of the university. Faculty and staff members come and go, but alumni remain the one true constant. Small classes, cutting-edge technology, experienced and attentive professors, and quality programs continue to attract the best and brightest to NSU. The qualities of our undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs continue to soar.

The NSU Alumni Association has had a productive year with new alumni chapters developed in Dallas/Fort Worth and Fort Myers. We now have 29 alumni chapters throughout the United States. These groups of loyal Sharks are connecting and giving back to our alma mater.

I encourage you to become involved with an alumni chapter, which is a great vehicle to connect with other graduates. Please take advantage of the 100-plus events hosted each year by the Alumni Association.

I ask each of you to attend an NSU event in your community, recommend prospective students to your alma mater, and make an annual fund gift. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on our great university.

Go Sharks!

Sincerely,

Paul M. Sallarulo, M.B.A.
National President, NSU Alumni Association

For a list of chapters, visit www.nova.edu/alumni/chapters/. For a list of events, visit www.nova.edu/alumni/events.
To the Friends and Family of NSU:

Visitors to Nova Southeastern University can agree on one fact: The main campus is beautiful. First-time visitors, as well as those of us who are on campus daily, know that our impressive and functional buildings are striking. The campus experience also is enhanced by the many lovely pieces of public art that have become icons of NSU. This issue of Horizons highlights some of these works of art.

But, as much as we like to brag about the beauty of our campus, we are most proud of the superior education that we offer our students. Academic excellence is a responsibility that we take very seriously, and we never forget that being student centered is a core value.

To that end, I have been crisscrossing the country, traveling to 11 metropolitan cities in Florida, New York, Illinois, Georgia, and Texas, to meet with alumni and potential students to showcase our undergraduate programs.

Part of NSU’s Vision 2020 statement is to boost the undergraduate student population, and I am taking a personal interest in growing the undergraduate program. The Horizons story about NSU’s undergraduate program shows the excellent education and college experience we can offer.

Horizons also shows how NSU graduates use their education. Meet a brother-and-sister lawyer team, Paul G. Finizio and Jamie Finizio Bascombe, who continue to give back to NSU by mentoring students and establishing scholarships. Alumna Bonita Hathcock found that her M.B.A. from NSU “was the golden ticket” that gave her entry to the executive offices of several Fortune 500 companies over a 37-year corporate career.

Horizons also introduces you to some of NSU’s outstanding professors, students, and student-athletes.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the special people who help make NSU unique. We are proud of every student, past and present, who chose NSU.

George Hanbury
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nova Southeastern University
NSU’s New Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine Establishes a Milestone for Health Care

The country’s first institute to treat patients with neuro-immune conditions that include chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) and Gulf War illness (GWI), as well as conduct basic and clinical research, is now open at NSU.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine’s new $5-million Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine also will study neuro-inflammatory and neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson’s disease and multiple sclerosis using the newest genomic techniques.

“The institute will be a place to coordinate cutting-edge thinking and research, train new practitioners, and offer the highest-quality clinical care for a hugely underserved population,” said Nancy Klimas, M.D., institute director and an internationally renowned immunologist.

Housed on NSU’s main campus, the institute has research laboratories, a patient clinic, a clinical research unit, offices for faculty members, and conference facilities. It’s designed to put together multiple core medical and scientific disciplines in one place: clinicians, educators, and researchers in the areas of genomics, virology, immunology, cellular biology, computational biology, and therapeutic modeling.

The Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine partners with the Miami VA Medical Center in the Gulf War illness research program. It will complement an existing NSU clinic that Klimas oversees near Miami, which treats patients suffering from CFS/ME, GWI, and other neuro-immune disorders. Both facilities will accommodate around 1,300 patients annually from South Florida and around the world.

To help fund the institute, the Schemel Family Foundation donated $2 million for an endowed professorship and the Maroone auto-dealer family contributed to the patient waiting area.

NSU Medical School Launches Correctional Medicine Specialty

Medical care for men and women behind bars has reached a new standard since NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine has been approved to establish the United States’ first medical specialty in correctional medicine.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine became the first medical school in the country to gain such recognition when the American Osteopathic Association approved the standards developed by NSU. NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine now has the only accredited and approved correctional medicine fellowship program in the United States.

The new correctional medicine specialty, developed in collaboration with the Florida Department of Corrections, represents a milestone in medical treatment.

The two-year, postgraduate correctional medicine fellowship offers doctors abroad interdisciplinary experience in oncology, radiation therapy, orthopedic surgery, and hospice care, which leads to both board certification and a Master of Public Health degree. The program includes inpatient/out-patient supervised clinical experience in acute and chronic settings in jails/prisons, medicolegal experiences and responsibilities, quality management, and review, as well as mortality review and control.

“Correctional health care is a complex field that takes sophisticated doctors with significant training to handle both the illnesses and the unique correctional environment,” said David Thomas, M.D., J.D., professor and chair of the Department of Surgery and Division of Correctional Medicine at NSU.

“Adding a medical specialty is very, very rare,” said Thomas. “The last new specialty I can remember was the creation of emergency medicine in 1976.”
Meet NSU’s Campus Leaders

NSU’s student leaders are a driving force on campus. In this issue, Horizons profiles two students in the Undergraduate Student Government Association.

Reshma Daniel
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**What program are you in?**
I am in the legal studies program.

**Why did you choose NSU?**
The legal studies program made me want to attend NSU. This major is only offered at one other university in Florida. The program gives a real glimpse of what law school is like. Plus, these classes mirror the classes of the law program. On the undergraduate level, students learn legal research. This helps students get ahead in the legal research class offered in law school.

**What is the best part about being a Shark?**
Everyone really cares about each other! Professors are very approachable and always help you. Because the undergraduate population is small, students get to know each other quite well.

**What is your favorite NSU tradition?**
My favorite tradition is Electric Water Works sponsored by SGA. This fun-filled water party has everything—water slides, foam pits, and laser lights. It’s a great event because students are always immersed in books, and this allows us to be kids again!

**What is your favorite class or who is your favorite professor?**
I loved Legal Research and Trial Advocacy with Timothy Dixon, J.D. This class was extremely strenuous. However, I learned so much on how to research various legal sources. I also loved advocating my side of the case by presenting opening arguments and examining witnesses. This class will surely give me a leap ahead of fellow law students.

**What is your favorite place on campus?**
I love the Gold Circle Lake on NSU’s main campus. My friends and I have little picnics near the lake and enjoy the view.

**What made you decide to become involved in the SGA?**
I believe the SGA has a direct impact on the student body. I wanted to be a part of a change—and this change is the SGA. As the SGA executive secretary, I deal with internal affairs including organizing SGA retreats, administering leadership development meetings with representatives of various departments, and leading the Freshmen Council.

**Which organization or activity are you most passionate about?**
I am most passionate about the SGA. I have served two years in this organization. It’s amazing how much impact it has around campus. For instance, SGA initiated the process that created street names and put them on signs on the campus.

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**What are your career aspirations?**
I want to become a lawyer.

**What else should we know about you?**
I am a Scandal fanatic! Shonda Rhimes, the series’ creator and writer, is fantastic. The actors, Kerry Washington and Tony Goldwyn, are outstanding as well.
Christopher Mignocchi
PRESIDENT, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

What is your favorite NSU tradition?
My two favorite traditions are the Homecoming bash and the Electric Water Works, which is a welcome-back-to-school party on the main campus that has water-based attractions and music. These are the two biggest student-led events on campus all year. These events are funded, planned, and executed by the Undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA).

What organizations and activities are you involved in?
This is my third year on student government. I also am a brother of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity and a member of the Exercise and Sports Science Organization (ESSO). I also take classes in Brazilian jujitsu at American Top Team in Davie.

Which organization or activity are you most passionate about?
I love scuba diving, and I go as often as I can.

What made you decide to become involved in the SGA?
I have always believed in selfless service and wanted to get involved. SGA was an opportunity to make a difference in the student community and to represent other undergraduate students.

What is your favorite place on campus?
My favorite place on campus is the new exercise science lab. It has all the state-of-the-art research equipment needed to conduct new and compelling research. It has become the outpost for exercise science students and has a quiet study area as well.

What are your career aspirations?
I want to attend law school, and then either enter professional athlete management or start my own business.

What else should we know about you?
I served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division and am a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Christopher Mignocchi works with NSU senior Steven Chiarelli at the exercise science lab.

Age: 26

Hometown: Hollywood, Florida

What program are you in?
I will graduate in May 2014 with a double major in exercise and sports science and legal studies in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Why did you choose NSU?
I chose NSU because of its small classes, community atmosphere, and proximity to the Hollywood-Fort Lauderdale area.

What is the best part about being a Shark?
The entire college experience is the best part! I know I am learning a lot, and I have met some awesome people here at NSU. And I am going to class on a beautiful campus in sunny South Florida.
Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, NSU’s annual African Presence Art Exhibition has grown from a modest showing of works by local artists to a highly regarded event. Its opening reception attracts up to 400 people from the university, the South Florida community, and the Caribbean.

This year’s exhibition, Benin: A Kingdom in Bronze, featured more than 80 pieces of artwork crafted in brass, wood, and terra-cotta that spanned five centuries from the Royal Court of Benin. The collection was on loan to NSU from the Ebohon Cultural Center of Benin City, Nigeria, which is among the largest private museums in West Africa, with a collection of more than 7,000 pieces and historical documents dating back to the 18th century.

The 2013 opening reception also featured entertainment from NSU students and staff members, as well as a musician from West Africa who played the balafon (xylophone).

Oba Obanosa (1807): His ascension to the throne coincides with the abolition of slavery by the British Parliament.
The African Presence exhibitions have showcased a decade of African American culture through different mediums of art. Previous exhibitions included a focus on Caribbean and African artists, the Florida Highwaymen movement, works depicting black music genres that influenced rock-and-roll music, and a photo documentary of Martin Luther King’s historic 1963 March on Washington. The 2012 exhibition featured paintings and sculptures by international artists of African descent showing the relationship between memory, history, and art.

The African Presence Art Exhibition kicked off NSU’s annual celebration of Black History Month. For more photos from the exhibit, visit www.nova.edu/blackhistory/.
Yineth Sanchez selected Nova Southeastern University for her higher education because she “fell in love with the campus” when she first saw it. “I felt like I belonged,” said Sanchez. But, during her time at NSU, the undergraduate experience has surpassed even her highest expectations.

The 22-year-old, from Cartagena, Colombia, has highlights for each year at NSU since she began as an undergraduate in 2009. Sanchez was introduced to the Washington Center for Seminars and Academic Internships in Washington, D.C.,
through NSU's Undergraduate Honors Program. During the 2010 summer, she worked as a Capitol Hill intern for Lincoln Diaz-Balart of the U.S. House of Representatives. “The opportunity permitted me to become part of historical moments, such as the confirmation hearing of Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court,” said Sanchez, who also traveled to Eastern Europe as part of NSU's Travel Study Program.

Sanchez is part of the Dual Admission Program, which is for high-achieving students who have maintained a focus on their career goals from an early age. For those who qualify, and as long as good grades are maintained, a seat is reserved in one of NSU's graduate schools while the student earns a bachelor's degree. When Sanchez graduates, she will enroll at NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center. “The Dual Admission Program brings the best and brightest to the university, which elevates the institution's reputation,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

DEVELOPING LEADERS

The Dual Admission, Honors, and Razor's Edge programs, which stress academic excellence and leadership, are among the undergraduate calling cards that put NSU at the top of the list when undergraduates are shopping for colleges.

“The Dual Admission and Razor’s Edge programs are unique to this university,” said Brad Williams, Ed.D., vice president of student affairs. “At NSU, we tie our leadership programs to the classroom, with both a curricular and extracurricular component to them.”

High school student leaders are actively sought to be a part of the Razor's Edge scholarship program, which was founded in 2009 by Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., who was then NSU’s president and chief executive officer. Razor's Edge is for students who have demonstrated a commitment to making an impact at their schools and in their communities. The recipients follow a curriculum that focuses on leadership. They apply those lessons by taking leadership roles on campus and beyond. Razor's Edge participants receive an annual scholarship package valued at $10,000.

“Growing global leaders is one of the most important things a university can do,” said George Hanbury, NSU president and chief executive officer.

New this year is the second-year Dual Admission Program for undergraduates who may not have met the requirements as incoming freshmen. “Maybe you weren’t at the top of your class in high school, but you can apply to Dual Admission in your second year,” said Rosenblum. “Call it a second chance or self-discovery—the discovery that took place during freshman year can still get a student into an NSU graduate school.”

As a research university, undergraduates are given the chance to explore science and technology to enhance their educational experience. The Clinic Exploration Program affords several opportunities for undergraduates. “This program gives students a perspective about how medical fields are interrelated,” said Rosenblum. Undergraduate students shadow medical professionals and graduate students on the job in many of NSU’s health care clinics.

The annual Undergraduate Student Symposium is another research-based opportunity, offering students the chance to share their academic work and win awards.
“Students are enlightened when they find out that many of the disciplines work together. This experience advances their plans for professional success,” said Rosenblum.

**BIG SCHOOL, PERSONAL ATTITUDE**

Large university facilities paired with a small college atmosphere became the deciding factor for Ferrell Cooper, a sophomore from New Jersey who is majoring in legal studies and international business. “When I saw what NSU offered, my mind was made up. I don’t feel like I am just a number here.” Sports also were a draw for Cooper, who is on the men’s track and field team, one of 17 NCAA Division II intercollegiate teams at NSU.

“There are not many schools where the president knows your name,” said Lesly Viera, an Undergraduate Honors Program student. She also is one of the undergraduate members of the President’s 64, a group of student leaders who serve as ambassadors at university events and provide feedback to NSU’s president, who established the group.

Building the undergraduate population is at the top of NSU’s Vision 2020 Statement that Hanbury instituted when he became the school’s sixth president and chief executive officer in July 2011. “It’s a priority across the board,” said Hanbury. NSU is unusual in its student makeup, having begun as a graduate institution. Today, approximately 20 percent of the school’s population is undergraduate and 80 percent is graduate and professional, an inverted structure among universities that generally have large undergraduate populations. However, the undergraduate population is growing. In fall 2012, there were 5,739 students enrolled in NSU’s undergraduate degree program, quite substantial since the undergraduate program began in 1982 with only 29 students.

Small class sizes coupled with an assurance
that no class at NSU is taught by a teaching assistant, both drawbacks at large state schools, add to NSU’s edge. “At NSU, you get big school opportunities with small school attention,” said Williams.

COMMITMENT TO SCHOLARS

That attention extends to NSU’s commitment to undergraduates through the number of institutional, external, and international scholarships offered to students. More than 80 percent of NSU students rely on grants, scholarships, loans, or student employment opportunities. The university constantly introduces new scholarships to meet student needs. Scholarships come from alumni, community members, families, businesses, and foundations, as well as students and other resources. Almost all incoming undergraduate students who have more than a 3.0 grade point average and a good SAT score are eligible to receive some type of scholarship.

All donations, no matter how small or in what form, are welcomed at NSU. “The gift of a piece of equipment toward a more advanced instructional setting, laboratory, or classroom, or even a modest monetary gift helps change a student’s world,” said Rosenblum. “When we can create those kinds of opportunities, it’s an amazing transformation for that person.”

KEEPING UP WITH A CHANGING WORLD

Beginning in fall 2013, undergraduate students will have an expanded general education program or core curriculum across all majors, the first substantive change to the curriculum in 10 years. The curriculum will have 11 different outcome areas, dealing with everything from communication to multiculturalism to one’s place in a community.

“The world has changed a lot in 10 years,” said Rosenblum. “This is going to make our degree programs much more relevant and create a unique imprint on campus life,” said Hinds, a senior majoring in exercise sports science with a minor in theatre, who joined one of the 12 Greek organizations on campus and started the Pre-Occupational Therapy Club. “When you live on campus, you are more a part of the community.”

Lindsey Goldstein, a junior in the Razor’s Edge and Dual Admission programs, is an education major who also lives on campus. As a freshman, she lived on one of NSU’s themed housing floors in The Commons Residence Hall. Goldstein’s themed floor was the L.E.A.D. (Leading Empowering Aspiring Developing) floor, which is a community of student leaders. “It’s an environment where you live and you learn,” said Goldstein.

The Quiet Corridor is another themed housing floor, offered in both Goodwin Residence Hall and The Commons, for students who prefer a quiet, studious environment. There is also the Greek Village Community for members of recognized NSU sororities and fraternities.

“Undergraduates have an array of options,” said Daren Capirchio, M.F.A., associate director of residential life. These include sharing a double room at the Leo Goodwin Sr. Residence Hall, the primary residence hall for freshmen; living suite style at The Commons; or choosing apartment-style living at Cultural Living Center, Founders, Vettel, and Farquhar residence halls for undergraduate juniors and seniors. “Our on-campus residents appreciate that they may only have to share a bathroom with one or two roommates,” added Capirchio.

Currently, nearly 1,000 undergraduate students live on campus. Students who commute can stay connected through the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Involvement. “We make sure that commuter students are aware of campus resources for top and center: NSU’s undergraduate program is growing due to the unique opportunities it offers, such as the Dual Admission Program. below left: Bill J. Adams, D.M.A., coordinator of performing arts in the Division of Performing and Visual Arts, rehearses with theatre students at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. below right: NSU student Arti Patel enjoys the convenience of on-campus living.
for the university through general education. It doesn’t matter what you are studying, this will be a common bond for all students.”

**CAMPUS LIFE**

Gregory Hinds, a senior majoring in exercise sports science with a minor in theatre, is from Fort Lauderdale, only a 20-minute drive from NSU’s main campus. Still, he has lived in one of the university’s residence halls for all four years of his schooling.

“Living on campus connects you to everything. It gives you incentive to be involved,” said Hinds, who joined one of the 12 Greek organizations on campus and started the Pre-Occupational Therapy Club. “When you live on campus, you are more a part of the community.”

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Currently, nearly 1,000 undergraduate students live on campus. Students who commute can stay connected through the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Involvement. “We make sure that commuter students are aware of campus resources and feel like they belong,” said Daniel Sullivan, Ed.D., director of first-year and transitional programs. Sullivan also teaches a course that helps students transition from high school to college life. In addition, his office grooms orientation leaders to assist incoming freshmen with college life.

Jennifer Chia, a junior marketing major from Sunrise, Florida, has been on the orientation team for two years. “The orientation team helped me get involved, which was important since I was attending a university that wasn’t far from where I had built friendships growing up.”

**THE SEC EXPERIENCE**

Undergraduates in other areas can still have the NSU experience at one of the university’s student educational centers (SECs) in the Bahamas, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Miramar, Orlando, Palm Beach, or Tampa. The centers serve students at a distance from the main campus through microcomputer labs and videoconferencing equipment and are staffed with full-time employees.

Christian Guzman of Cutler Ridge graduated in December from the nursing program at NSU’s Miami SEC. “I wanted to start peer tutoring to help other students. The faculty members made it easy for me to get the resources I needed,” said Guzman. Ricardo Belmar, M.I.B.A., interim executive director of the student educational centers, wasn’t surprised when he heard Guzman’s sentiments. “We give students the NSU experience in an atmosphere that is just as enriching. Students tell us that the undergraduate experience at an SEC is like being part of a close-knit family.”

**FOR UNDERGRADS**

**ADMISSIONS**

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions has individual counselors to speak with prospective students and offers student-guided campus tours, Monday through Saturday. Find out more at [www.nova.edu/admissions](http://www.nova.edu/admissions).

**LEADERSHIP**

- [Razor’s Edge—](http://www.nova.edu/studentleadership/razorsedge)
- [Dual Admission—](http://www.nova.edu/admissions/academics/dualadmission)

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- [Getting—](http://www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships/index.html) The Office of Student Financial Assistance and Office of the University Registrar help students locate scholarship opportunities. For more scholarship information, visit [www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships/index.html](http://www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships/index.html) or call (954) 262-3380 or 800-541-6682, ext. 23380.
- [Giving—For information on NSU’s giving guidelines, visit [www.nova.edu/changingtheworld](http://www.nova.edu/changingtheworld).]
NSU's commitment to the nontraditional student remains evident in the undergraduate student body. The term undergraduate also refers to those who are classified as first-time-in-college students, but who may not be the typical college age. These nontraditional students number about 2,000 in the undergraduate program. Lisa Winings, Psy.D., was one of those nontraditional students when she went back to school in her early 30s. When she began her first class at NSU in 1994, she was among the older students there.

Winings credits her academic success to the inclusive environment fostered by NSU faculty and staff members. “I didn’t feel different as an older student because everything was personal. The faculty members, especially, knew that I had done other things in life and was now ready to devote myself to a career in psychology,” said Winings, who is in private practice.

Winings received her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from NSU. “What stood out for me the most was that the faculty members had real-world experience. They weren’t just teaching academics, but sharing lessons that you wouldn’t read in a book.”

For Kimberly Durham, Psy.D., dean of the Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice, attending NSU as an undergraduate set the path. Durham began her undergraduate studies at NSU in 1984. “The undergraduate program was really just starting. A lot of people in my class had been out in the world with full-time jobs and decided to go back to school.”

Durham grew up in South Florida, attended the University of Denver, and returned to attend the University of Florida. But it wasn’t the right fit. “My father actually told me about this great place, which was then called Nova University. He knew some of the school’s founders. I saw the campus and immediately signed up for classes. I knew this was the place for me. I’ve been here 30 years. I can’t imagine a university that’s grown as much as NSU in such a short amount of time.”

ON TOUR WITH THE PRESIDENT

By the end of May, George Hanbury, Nova Southeastern University president and chief executive officer, will have traveled to 11 metropolitan cities in Florida, New York, Illinois, Georgia, and Texas. It’s all part of an ongoing plan for the personable president to meet alumni and current students, but there’s also a second strategy behind the visits. “Perhaps these alumni and existing students have friends, neighbors, or even their own children, who would like to pursue a traditional undergraduate program at Nova Southeastern University,” said Hanbury.

Between October 2012 and May 2013, Hanbury, NSU deans, and teams from the NSU Alumni Association and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions will have logged thousands of miles for NSU’s first Presidential Alumni and Admissions Tour. Members of the select President’s 64 also attend many of the tour stops as ambassadors. Plans already are in the works for a fall 2013 tour.

“It was the president’s vision to conduct targeted alumni and prospective student outreach congruently. We even have alumni bringing their children, and these children are prospective undergraduates,” said Sara M. DuCuennois, senior director of alumni relations and special events. “The visits are also giving alumni a whole new way of looking at the university, since many of them attended NSU as graduate students. They are seeing NSU as a university that is growing into having a robust undergraduate population.”

The president is leveraging the school’s multitude of prestigious graduate programs as a draw for prospective first-time-in-college students who may be undecided about where to get their undergraduate degrees. Hanbury believes that when undecided students get introduced to the special programs the university offers, their minds will be made up right away.

A recognized undergraduate program also makes a degree more valuable for alumni. “The value of a degree from NSU becomes even greater in the future because of the recognition this school will receive by growing its undergraduate program. I want every student, both past and present, to be proud of NSU,” said Hanbury.
Undergraduate Sharks show their NSU spirit. At NSU, large university facilities are paired with a small college atmosphere, offering a well-rounded education and myriad social events.
Richard Finkel was a community pharmacist in North Miami Beach when friends suggested he take a postgraduate course at what was then the fledgling Southeastern University of the Health Sciences’ College of Pharmacy. It changed the course of his career, and he and his colleagues have changed the lives of more than 3,300 NSU students who are now practicing pharmacists—an estimated one-third of whom work in Florida.

“The first time I walked into that lecture, I was hooked,” said Finkel, who earned his Pharm.D. in 1992. “It made me into a different pharmacist because I could see that it wasn’t just about throwing pills in a bottle.”

The Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy has come a long way since those early days and has now celebrated its 25th anniversary. The milestones over that quarter century are long and impressive.

The Pharm.D. program has expanded, from admitting 49 students to 240 students per year, and the Pharm.D. for international pharmacists represents 39 countries. More than 20,000 pharmacists from all over the world have successfully completed the College of Pharmacy’s continuing education programs. NSU’s passing rates on pharmacy licensing exams—above 90 percent—exceed national rates.

In addition to the Pharm.D. degree, students may pursue a dual degree of a Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration (Pharm.D./M.B.A.). Three years ago, the college initiated a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program to train new teachers and researchers.
The college has become an international force, said Andrés Malavé, Ph.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy, delivering quality pharmaceutical education to colleges and universities in Latin America. And it has the highest number of Hispanic students pursuing doctoral pharmacy studies in the United States.

Using interactive video, the college offers classes in Palm Beach, Florida, and in Ponce, Puerto Rico, allowing students to pursue the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree without having to stop work or move to the main campus.

Residency programs have been created in community pharmacy, drug information, psychiatry, ambulatory care, and general pharmacy practice. NSU is the only pharmacy college in the United States that operates two pharmacies—a community pharmacy on campus and a hospital pharmacy at South Florida State Hospital, a facility in Pembroke Pines, Florida—where students gain practical knowledge.

In addition, Drug Information Centers in Fort Lauderdale and Ponce provide area health care providers with current pharmaceutical information. The Medicinal and Healing Garden on NSU’s main campus exposes students to plants that have long been used in treating illness and are sometimes the basis for drugs today.

Prepared for real-world situations, Finkel, who is now clinical assistant professor for pharmaceutical sciences at NSU, has witnessed and participated in the evolution of the College of Pharmacy. He said students who go through the college today study harder, and when they leave they are prepared for whatever may confront them.

“When they leave here and walk into a pharmacy or a hospital, they have to know as much as someone who’s been there 15 years,” said Finkel, who still works in his pharmacy on Saturdays.

Pharmacists also counsel patients on why the drug that has been prescribed is important and how it works, and sometimes, they catch things that may have life or death consequences.

“We save lives,” Finkel said. “I’ve had people coming into the store with blue lips, who have been prescribed inhalers. I show them how to correctly use the inhaler. This is a customer coming into my store, and it’s my responsibility.”

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU’s Health Professions Division and founding administrative officer of the College of Pharmacy, also was a community pharmacist in Broward County before he was asked by the late Morton Terry, who was then president of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, to help start a pharmacy school. At the same time, Terry asked Lippman to help with the merger of the two universities, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences and Nova University, to form what is now NSU.

“Morton Terry was a cousin of a boyhood friend of mine,” Lippman recalled. “He asked me to do something worthwhile, to see what we could put together.”

Lippman, who was serving in the state legislature, organized a panel to study the idea, and, in late 1985,
contacted the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, the accrediting body of pharmacy schools. The College of Pharmacy’s inception was in 1987.

“So, that was the beginning,” Lippman said. “We ended up seeking the advice and consult of people who were leaders in pharmacy. And here we are.”

Both Lippman and Malavé are proud of the Ph.D. program, already considered among the best in the nation and responsible for achieving the first two patents awarded through NSU research, both in the field of breast cancer research.

“The schools that have been around 75 or 100 years, they have developed good Ph.D. programs along with their pharmacy programs, but after only 25 years, we now have the fourth-largest Pharm.D. program in the United States,” Malavé said. “And, we’re second or third in the Ph.D. program, and our Ph.D. program has only been open three years.”

Hugh M. McLean, Pharm.D., Ph.D., associate dean for research and graduate education at the College of Pharmacy, said the Ph.D. program, which he heads, will help alleviate a projected shortage of faculty members for the pharmacy profession, as well as provide researchers for the pharmaceutical industry and university research centers.

Admission to the three-year program is highly competitive.

“The first year, we had approximately 30 applicants; the second year around 56 or 60. Last year, we had more than 90 applicants,” said McLean.

Students choose one of three courses of study: social and administrative pharmacy, molecular medicine and pharmagenomics, or drug development.

“A after the first semester, students choose their mentors. The mentor serves to shape the student’s research area and offers guidance,” McLean said. “After the first two years, students are conducting almost complete research in one of those areas.”

Omar Ibrahim, a second-year Ph.D. student, chose as his mentor Jean Latimer, B.A., Ph.D., a breast cancer researcher. “I was fortunate to be accepted,” Ibrahim said. “I came in wanting to do research, but now I’m leaning toward academia. I like working with students, and I would be able to continue to do research.”

In the lab run by Latimer and Stephen Grant, Ph.D., the work involves cancer research at the molecular level, including DNA repair. Ibrahim’s plans include working on autism, which is at the DNA level. “There are a lot of interesting things going on, a lot of different work and research, all centered around DNA repair,” Ibrahim said.

“I believe the Ph.D. program at NSU plays a significant role in transforming the university into a premier research university,” McLean said.

“The cutting-edge Ph.D. program is among the highlights of the college’s first 25 years,” said Malavé. “We are looking forward to the next 25 years. We are asking ‘Where is the practice of pharmacy going?’ It’s changing tremendously, and we’re changing as well.”

Malavé believes interactive technologies will play a role in the future of pharmacy and the future of education in pharmacy. “In the past, the way students learned was by spending the whole day at the university. Today, that’s not the reality,” Malavé said. “Students learn differently. Technology has changed. We’re transitioning so that, in the coming years, everything will be done using mobile devices.”

Malavé envisions the practice of pharmacy evolving as well. “The future is going to be exciting.”

For more information on the College of Pharmacy, visit http://pharmacy.nova.edu.
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This ceramic sculpture, Untitled, by Japanese artist Jun Kaneko, is part of a series the artist called Dango, a Japanese word meaning rounded form. The piece was donated by Debra and Bud Menin in 2004 and is located in the first-floor atrium of the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

The sculpture Amaguk, which stands for keeper of wisdom in Indian lore, was created by California artist Marie Barbera. The piece was commissioned for NSU by the late Paul (Doc) Hersey, Ph.D., founder and chair of the board of the Center for Leadership Studies, and his wife, Susie, with co-donors Ron and Dorothy Campbell. “Doc was a great friend of NSU. He loved the university and gave us his time and donations,” said Randolph A. Pohlman, Ph.D., professor of finance and dean emeritus at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. Hersey, who passed away in December 2012, taught his leadership model at NSU, where he was a distinguished professor of leadership studies. He also established the Paul Hersey Chair in Leadership and Organizational Behavior. Hersey “picked this piece because it is a ‘keeper of knowledge,’ and he felt that was what we did at NSU,” added Pohlman. The piece is located in the Dr. William S. Spears courtyard atrium of the Carl DeSantis Building.

Tracor P-1 is made of steel plate and was created by Florida sculptor Jean Ward. It is on extended loan from the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale at the request of the late Mary McCahill, who served as chair of NSU’s Board of Trustees from 1975 to 1987. The piece is located in front of the Mailman-Hollywood Building.

Since 2009, the shark at the Don Taft University Center has become one of NSU’s most recognizable icons. Representing the school’s mascot, it was commissioned by NSU’s Pan-Student Government Association and created by wildlife sculptor Kent Ullberg.

The Orange Thermos, by Haitian artist Franck Louissaint, was purchased by NSU to commemorate the Second Annual Black History Month Art Exhibition: African Presence 2005—The Caribbean Connection. It is located near the elevators in the first-floor atrium of the Alvin Sherman Library.

Woman in Red Dress, by Florida artist Therman Statom, is a long-term loan, courtesy of the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale. It is a gift of the Joan and Milton Baxt Foundation, and is located in the first-floor atrium of the Alvin Sherman Library.

Susurrus was created by sculptor Carol Peligian. The title refers to a rustling sound, which is appropriate as students and professors have often nicknamed it the curtain, said Randolph A. Pohlman, Ph.D., professor of finance and dean emeritus at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. The sculpture is surrounded by famous quotes about genocide. In 2006, Jim and Marta Batmasian and People Reaching Out to Provide Education and Leadership (PROPEL) donated the piece to NSU. During a discussion about the Batmasian’s generous contribution toward the Carl DeSantis Building, the couple mentioned to Pohlman that they were thinking of having a sculpture “representing man’s inhumanity to man.” Added Pohlman, “The sculpture’s location in front of the Carl DeSantis Building is perfect.”

The NSU Glass Garden, by Dale Chihuly, is part of a series of Chihuly works designed and created for botanical gardens. The piece, commissioned by the Circle of Friends and funded through private donations, is located on the second floor of the Alvin Sherman Library.

The Prayer Wheel was hand forged by craftsmen in India. The use of the prayer wheel as a mystical and religious practice dates back to at least CE 400 in China. In 2005, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited NSU and blessed this prayer wheel. Photographs and memorabilia of his visit also are displayed at the library. This piece was donated by Albert and Beatrice Miniaci in 2004 and is located in the first-floor atrium of the Alvin Sherman Library.

Withstanding Presence, below, was created by Beverly Pepper, a world-renowned sculptor whose work has been exhibited in New York City, France, and Italy. The piece stands 12-feet high and is made of 160-million-year-old Chauvigny stone (French limestone). It was donated, in part, by the Circle of Friends and is located in the first-floor atrium of the Alvin Sherman Library.
NSU’s annual Celebration of Excellence honored five people with the inaugural President’s Award for Excellence in Community Service. The awards were given earlier this year to those who demonstrated significant contributions to the community and exemplify one of NSU’s eight core values: community. The awards were presented to an NSU alumnus; a student; and members of the faculty, the staff, and the South Florida community.

Artist, scientist, and researcher Guy Harvey, Ph.D., received the Community Leader Award. “This award defines what it means to be an outstanding citizen and member of the NSU community,” said George Hanbury, Nova Southeastern University president and chief executive officer.

COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD
Guy Harvey, Ph.D.
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation
(see profile on page 24)

ALUMNI AWARD
T. David Long, B.S.
H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Long is the president of Miller Electric Company, one of the largest electrical contractors in the nation, based in Jacksonville, Florida. His commitment to community is evident through his dedication to various organizations, having served as president and board member of the National Leukemia Society and as vice president and executive board member of the Dreams Come True Foundation. He is also a trustee of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and an executive committee member of the Gator Bowl Association.

FACULTY AWARD
Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.
College of Osteopathic Medicine
The executive associate dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at NSU, Wallace has founded and participated in medical missions around the world. She started NSU’s medical outreach trip to Ecuador, which serves 400 to 2,000 patients each trip. Other countries where she has conducted medical missions include Peru, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Argentina. She is passionate about community service and, since joining the faculty, helped add a community service requirement to NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

STAFF AWARD
Susan Kabot, Ed.D., CCC-SLP
Mailman Segal Center for Human Development
Kabot is actively involved at the local, state, and national levels in improving the lives of individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who support them. The executive director of NSU’s Autism Institute and a nationally renowned advocate, Kabot has spent more than 25 years at the university developing and directing programs. She leads NSU’s Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism, which brings together more than 40 people from an array of disciplines at NSU, working toward creating a multidisciplinary, collaborative group with expertise in all areas of autism treatment.

STUDENT AWARD
Walter Upshaw
H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship
A student in the M.B.A. in Finance degree program, Upshaw received the Student of the Year award in April 2012. He has been the Student Government Association president and involved in the Tampa Bay community through his work with Relay for Life and the Tampa Bay Black Chamber of Commerce.
Guy Harvey is a renaissance man—he can do it all.

For more than 20 years, Harvey has grown his brand into one of the most recognizable in the industry, created countless works of art, completed important studies on game fish, started several foundations, been an ardent NSU supporter, written books, filmed documentaries, raised his family, and still found time to go fishing.

“I work hard. It’s as simple as that,” said Harvey.

Harvey’s drive is not just about selling his products or building the Guy Harvey brand. He is all about giving back to the marine resource.

Harvey grew up in Jamaica and quickly developed a love of anything related to the ocean. He studied marine biology and earned a doctoral degree in fisheries management.

His career as a wildlife artist began in 1985 when he depicted Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea* through a series of 44 original pen-and-ink drawings.

The Guy Harvey brand is now one of the largest and most recognized in the fishing world. Harvey’s art is in galleries, homes, and boats around the world. The Guy Harvey clothing line continues to be one of the most popular
among recreational anglers, and it is through this success that Harvey has been able to give back to marine resources.

Harvey’s commitment to cause marketing began decades ago and has become a vital aspect of his business model. He has established a precondition that any licensee of his artwork contribute a percentage from the sale to conservation.

At the recommendation of longtime business partner and NSU supporter, Charlie Forman, Harvey entered into a formal partnership with NSU in 1999 to create the Guy Harvey Research Institute at the Oceanographic Center. The institute’s mission is to provide the scientific information necessary to understand, conserve, and effectively manage the world’s marine fishes and their ecosystems.

“Guy Harvey knows the value of the research we are doing at the Oceanographic Center,” said Richard E. Dodge, Ph.D., dean of the Oceanographic Center. “His diligent support and generosity of NSU’s research and academics have helped the Oceanographic Center make important advances in the study of marine life.”

Under the direction of Mahmood Shivji, Ph.D., the institute is a pioneering organization in the field of shark genetic research. The results of this work have been applied in many areas, including helping to combat the illegal shark fin trade, discovering new species of billfish, and identifying fraudulently labeled seafood.

“The way to make a change is to do research,” said Harvey. “Once you have the information, you can educate people. It’s through this education that you achieve conservation.”

The relationship between Harvey and NSU extends beyond the top-tier fisheries research at the institute.

Harvey’s artwork can be seen all over NSU’s campuses, from the larger-than-life 300-foot-by-60-foot mural in the Don Taft University Center, his biggest mural to date, to the array of original paintings hanging in the institute’s new headquarters in the Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research at the Oceanographic Center.

Harvey’s interest in NSU even extends to the school adopting sharks as its mascot. And, the school’s intercollegiate golf tournament, the Guy Harvey Invitational, bears his name. The national champion NSU sharks won the tournament this year.

This year, NSU awarded Harvey the Community Leader Award as part of the President’s Award for Excellence in Community Service during the 2013 Celebration of Excellence.

“This award defines what it means to be an outstanding citizen and member of the NSU community,” said George Hanbury, NSU president and chief executive officer. “Guy Harvey tirelessly gives back to this community, and the global community, in so many ways.”

“I am truly grateful to be recognized with this award from NSU and President Hanbury,” said Harvey. “Giving back to our marine resources has always been a passion of mine, so to be awarded for this is very humbling, and I thank the entire university for its support.”

While the institute at NSU continues to conduct research domestically and abroad, Harvey formed the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation to extend outreach and educational work.

The foundation has awarded more than $3.5 million in research and education grants distributed to several universities, including research at NSU’s Oceanographic Center, state organizations, and youth groups. Much of this money has come from strategic partnerships.

“All these things add up,” Harvey said. “We’re not only responsible for raising all this money, we’re also reaching further afield.”
For Daniel Zifkin, the Albert Goldstein Memorial Scholarship created by his uncle not only helps an NSU student receive an education, it also allows Zifkin to continue a family legacy of giving. "My uncle, Albert Goldstein, would be so happy that he made a difference in someone's life," said Zifkin, president and CEO of Zephyr Media Group in Chicago. As Albert Goldstein's nephew and executor of his estate, Zifkin was closely involved with the creation of the endowed scholarship.

According to Susanne Marshall, Ph.D., senior associate dean in NSU’s Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies, the Albert Goldstein Memorial Scholarship is earmarked for a student enrolled in the clinical psychology doctoral program who is preparing to work with children suffering from mental or emotional disorders or a developmental disability.

Goldstein, who died in 2009 at the age of 85, grew up in Detroit, Michigan. In 1969, he followed his father to Hallandale Beach, Florida, where they worked as builders. "It was while he was living in Florida that he became aware of NSU and all that the university does," said Zifkin. "The driving force behind him establishing the endowment was when a family member committed suicide. He wanted to do something that would help promote greater understanding and well-being for young people."

Sarah Nelson, the scholarship's first recipient, shares Goldstein’s goal to help children. Nelson, who is pursuing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, volunteers at a camp for burn survivors during the summer. "This scholarship will aid my future endeavors as a student and researcher, and also my volunteer work," said Nelson, a third-year student.

Nelson became attracted to NSU when she started looking at doctoral programs. "Its research programs and top-notch faculty members were a major draw," said Nelson, who was honored last year by the American Psychological Association for her research poster on domestic violence shelters. She was one of 15 presenters at a special symposium for excellence in graduate student research.

"I am impressed with the person NSU chose to receive the first Albert Goldstein Memorial Scholarship," said Zifkin. "I am happy that this scholarship shows my uncle’s concern for the well-being of children and keeps his name out there. He is not forgotten. He would love what NSU is doing with his monetary gift."

For information on setting up an endowment scholarship, contact Elaine Blattner, NSU’s director of development for South Florida, at (954) 262-2409 or at elaine@nova.edu.
Like other universities, NSU embraces social media as a way to connect with its students, for students to make new friends, and for alumni to reach out to each other. NSU’s official presence, maintained by the Office of University Relations, is on Twitter, Google+, YouTube, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and Foursquare, as well as Facebook, where students can find pages for specific colleges, student groups, and graduating classes.

NSU is also the first university to have a social vending machine, which creates viral promotions with Razor’s Revenge, a crane game that activates when students send customized tweets to NSU’s Twitter account, now at 4,700 followers. Located in the Don Taft University Center, Razor’s Revenge gives students a chance to win university gear—such as shirts, toy sharks, cups, and towels—when they tweet the customized message. Students are limited to one chance a day to win items, but Razor’s Revenge has been so popular that the prizes regularly have to be replenished. Customized Facebook posts are currently being added into the Razor’s Revenge mix.

“Our goals are to expand our presence on social media by creating fun, engaging content that our fans enjoy sharing,” said Kim Cohane, M.S., online marketing and social media

coordinator at NSU. “We’re also seeking innovative ways of connecting our online communities, whether we’re sharing athletics stories, what’s happening on campus, or where to pick up some cool NSU Shark gear.”

LOTS TO LIKE

The university’s official main Facebook page—with nearly 22,000 fans—is the go-to place to remind students of holidays, post updates about traffic problems, or announce the latest wins by the university’s sports teams. Students voted via a poll and posts on Facebook to name the iguana frequently seen near Gold Circle Lake on NSU’s main campus. His name is now Iggy, which edged out the other suggestions—Godzilla, Jaws, and Spike.

George Hanbury, president and chief executive officer of NSU, uses his own Facebook page to communicate with students and alumni. Students often ask him questions on the page and he responds directly to them. Photographs of Hanbury with the NSU community frequently are posted.

From the Alumni Association to the Undergraduate Honors Program to class pages, NSU has more than 40 official pages on Facebook. The Shark Tales student blog, with tips and advice for making the most of your time at NSU, is accessible directly from the university’s main Facebook page via an RSS feed.

“Some of the most common questions we receive from students are related to admissions, where to find things on campus, and questions about the types of degrees and programs NSU offers,” Cohane said.

And students have found those answers to be user friendly in navigating NSU.

“NSU’s Facebook page has helped me exchange books with other students, learn about events on and off campus, carpool, and contact students from orientation in a less formal way,” said Catalina Vanegas, a sophomore who has a double major in theatre and accounting in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

The NSU community also stays connected with the iShark mobile app, developed last year by NSU’s Office of Innovation and Information Technologies. Available for the iPhone and iPad and for Android devices, iShark offers convenient access to the latest campus news, maps, course catalogs, and events, among others. There have been more than 12,000 downloads of the iShark app. Ideas for additional apps are welcome and can be emailed to mobilehelp@nova.edu.

THEY’RE BUILDING APPS FOR THAT

Social media is about more than just being social—it is part of the NSU academic experience. Students at NSU’s Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences are learning to build social media tools.

Frank J. Mitropoulos, Ph.D., an associate professor at the school, began offering classes during the winter 2013 semester for students interested in programming smartphone and tablet apps for Android and Apple devices. Mitropoulos, who earned his doctoral degree at NSU, builds the basic structure of these apps, and then students take the programming to the next level during the class. The app that students currently are building is expected to be available in the near future and will serve as a gateway to class schedules, social media links, and other information for the school’s students.

“Students will be able to access our news and events across the social media sites all in one place,” said Melissa Ruidiaz, director of marketing and communications at NSU’s Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.
DOWN TO BUSINESS

At the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, the graduate-level course, Internet Marketing and Social Networking, acquaints students with the complexity and power of Internet marketing and social networking, including search engine marketing, online advertising, blogging, e-commerce initiatives, and increasing brand awareness and sales.

“We have new areas of marketing on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn,” said James Barry, D.B.A., an associate professor of marketing at the Huizenga Business School. “Relationship marketing is the way to go, and social media allows you to do that.”

Companies of myriad sizes are adding social media coordinators to their staff. Social media allows companies to build relationships with their clients and customers. “It takes us from cold calling to warm calling,” said Barry, who earned his Ph.D. from NSU in 2004. “The consumer has the power today over whom they want to invite into the conversation.”

STARTING YOUNG

Students at University School of NSU also are making plenty of noise on social media with several Facebook pages and a presence on LinkedIn that is used mostly by USchool alumni.

While high standards are maintained on all official NSU social media pages, dealing with minors means University School must be especially diligent.

“We have a professional system in place to monitor posts and maintain the privacy of University School students,” said Stacey Gonzalez, M.S., associate director of marketing and communications at University School. Posts and pages are monitored continually, tagging is not allowed, and students are rarely identified in photographs. While many students have their own personal pages, University School officials ask parents to actively monitor those pages as well.

Still, University School teachers and staff members encourage their students to post to the school’s Facebook pages. “Whether it’s to announce a blood drive or a fund-raiser, we are encouraging our students to become leaders and take an active role in their education,” Gonzalez said. In addition to its official school page with more than 1,160 “likes,” University School has Facebook pages for alumni and its arts and athletics programs.

“Many teachers also use social media to enhance lessons within their classrooms. They are using social media to its full potential, whether it is with Wiki sites, blogs, or Instagram,” Gonzalez said.

“Personal interaction, especially eye contact, still is important, especially for students learning how to network and for whom interpersonal skills will prove essential in job hunting and career development. But, social media can bring the campus and its community together.

“Social media provides opportunities for students to communicate with other students and alumni and to develop engagement online,” said Ruidiaz. “It has bridged the gap for communicating, and it has done so in an efficient manner. Social media is real time, it’s immediate.”

To access NSU’s social media, visit www.nova.edu or www.nova.edu/social. To learn more about the iShark mobile app, visit www.nova.edu/iShark. A video about Razor’s Revenge can be viewed at www.nova.edu/razorsrevenge.
Bai-Chuan Jiang, Ph.D., FAAO, has distinguished himself as a visionary. The scientific community knows him as a dedicated research scientist in the field of optometry, a sought-after speaker, and the author of more than 70 influential treatises. At NSU’s College of Optometry, Jiang is known as an innovative professor of optics who has been ranked by his students as the most popular in 6 of his 12 years here.

His latest honor at NSU is being named the first recipient of the President’s Distinguished Professor Award. The honor is presented annually to a full-time faculty member who has served at least 10 years; earned a distinguished reputation for instruction, research, and scholarship; and achieved national and international recognition. An NSU peer committee reviewed Jiang’s contributions, and Frank DePiano, Ph.D., executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, selected him as the award recipient.

Jiang’s journey from China to NSU began with a key turn in his native country’s history: the end of the notorious Cultural Revolution in 1976. That also ended 12 years of forced labor in a camera factory for Jiang, a promising physics student with an interest in optics.

Jiang attended a meeting where two noted professors of optics were speaking. Later, one of them showed him Hermann von Helmholtz’s book, Physiological Optics. At that time, no one in China studied vision science with a background in optics. It was then that Jiang knew what he wanted to do.

China was changing and universities began accepting graduate students. “I took a test,” Jiang remembered, “and was admitted to the Shanghai Institute of Physiology, part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.” He earned his Ph.D. there in 1986, and continued his study and training at the University of Toronto, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Houston.

Before his career in the United States, Jiang was pioneering the development of physiological optics study in China. He still travels there about once a year, acting as a visiting or consulting professor for four medical universities. Generally, Jiang stays a month in China, lecturing and conducting seminars, a benefit for his home country that also raises NSU’s high profile in optometry science and often attracts students who come to study at NSU.

Jiang is grateful for the latitude he enjoys at NSU, not only for travel to China, but also the time he spends in research for NSU. He has been awarded nine grants for vision research from NSU. He repays the university with his art of teaching and through his dedication to the publications he writes.

Students are not shy about praising Jiang. Optometry student Bryan J. Mirone called him “a wonderful professor,” one who always made himself available when help was needed.
Ryan Beck, president of the optometry class of 2015, is also Nova Southeastern University’s representative for the American Optometric Student Association. He wrote to the President’s Distinguished Professor board, quoting poet Khalil Gibran: “The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind.” No other professor I have studied under has emulated this more than Jiang,” said Beck.

Beck also lauded Jiang’s passion and his ability to cover incredibly difficult topics in a manner that was easy for his students to comprehend.

“I feel I’m lucky because students like me,” Jiang said modestly. When he started teaching, he asked himself which teachers he had learned from the most. The answer was easy, he realized—the ones he liked. “If you want students to study better, the teacher should be liked by students,” said Jiang. With this approach, he hopes they learn more—just as he did.

Jiang came to NSU to continue a decade-long relationship with NSU’s optometry dean, David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., who collaborated with him at the University of Houston, and has since supported his works at NSU. Jiang praises his time in NSU’s optometry program, which has upward of 400 students from around the world, and an impressive list of nearly 50 instructors. “These years at NSU have been wonderful,” Jiang said.

Jiang’s association with Loshin has helped NSU in other ways. While at Houston, Jiang won a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, which provided substantial lab resources. When he came to NSU, he brought that equipment along to set up a new lab.

A plethora of published papers and abstracts consume nearly six pages on Jiang’s resume. Among the most significant is his work researching myopia (nearsightedness). The purpose of his study is to find a mechanism or method to delay the development of myopia.

When not at the NSU lectern or in conferences abroad, the professor also has a home in Irvine, California, with his wife, who was his university classmate during the 1960s and who later became a senior engineer in China. Their son is principal computer engineer for a private firm.

Upon receiving the President’s Distinguished Professor Award, Jiang wrote to his longtime supporter—Loshin. In the letter, he thanked DePiano, along with George Hanbury, NSU president and chief executive officer, and Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., chancellor. Jiang concluded, “Because of our joint efforts, I believe that the optics course in the NSU College of Optometry is the best in the United States.”
When Maryann Tatum Tobin, Ph.D., professor at Nova Southeastern University’s Abraham S. Fischler School of Education, helps one student solve a problem, other students benefit. That’s because Tobin teaches teachers.

As part of the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education Graduate Teacher Education Program, Tobin specializes in reading education—guiding professionals who are tackling real-world classroom issues, whether it’s changing technology or helping children learn.

The strengths Tobin brings to the classroom led Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International to select Tobin as an Emerging Leader for 2012–2013. She’s one of 22 honorees younger than 40 who were recognized as top educators by the global association of education professionals.

“Maryann Tobin exemplifies the qualities we look for in our PDK Emerging Leaders,” said Bill Bushaw, executive director of Phi Delta Kappa. “She is a passionate, visionary leader committed to improving education for all children.”

The prestigious award shines a spotlight on an outstanding educator who works in the critical area of reading, said H. Wells Singleton, Ph.D., dean of NSU’s Fischler School.

“What’s most impressive is that she spends a lot of time putting together material for her classroom,” Singleton said. “She really understands students and teachers.”

Surrounded by family photos in her North Miami Beach office, Tobin said she cherishes those ties with students and teachers.

“I was excited to get hired at Nova Southeastern University because the university really focuses on the teacher practitioner,” said the Miami native, who joined NSU’s faculty in 2009 after completing a Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning from the University of Miami.

“I get to do classroom visits,” added Tobin who also holds a Master of Fine Arts in Motion Pictures Screenwriting from the University of Miami. “I go to watch my students teach. It’s really great to still have that connection, not only with the teachers, but also with local schools.”

And in turn, teachers let her know what works.

“They put the research into practice in the classroom the next day,” Tobin said. “There’s instant feedback.”

Former student Kim Parra, who now teaches gifted third- and fifth-graders at Zora Neale Hurston Elementary School in Miami, said Tobin is “super energetic, keeping up with trends in education and new strategies and is able to deliver that to us. She’s up-to-date and down-to-earth—a great educator who really cares about her students.”

According to Parra, Tobin goes the extra mile to accommodate her students’ busy schedules.

Tobin estimates about 75 percent of her classes are taught online to busy professionals juggling family and career.

“The classes are small enough that I can say, ‘Look, is 8:00 p.m. on Thursday good for everybody?’ Every once in a while, I’ll get a group of students who would prefer to meet on a Saturday,” Tobin said.

Whether she teaches online or in class, Tobin’s chief focus is on digital literacy and addressing the technology gap between teachers and students.

“Right now, we have young children whose first exposure to text is digital, it’s on a screen,” Tobin said. “And that’s changing the way that children interact with text. It’s not just about the printed book anymore. We’ve seen that change as adults, but children won’t see that progression. To them, a book is a Kindle or an iPad. It’s changing the way we think of literacy, as not just reading and writing anymore. It’s all about navigating this world of symbols.”

“We’re still dealing with a group of teachers, who are approximately 35 years old or older and who are digital immigrants,” said

Maryann Tatum Tobin, professor at NSU’s Abraham S. Fischler School of Education, was named an Emerging Leader for 2012–2013.
Tobin, referring to terms coined by author-educator Marc Prensky: “They’ve learned to use the computer, they can be fairly proficient at it, but they learned to use it. It’s one thing to say I grew up using a computer; it’s quite another to say I grew up with an iPhone in my hand.”

Tobin spent much of her youth focused on creative pursuits: singing and playing hand bells in church and around the state, riding show jumping horses (she founded the equestrian team at the University of Miami), performing with a comedy improv troupe, working intermittently as a youth activities coordinator on Princess Cruises, and studying abroad.

“I fancied myself being an entertainer,” Tobin said. “I did some drama and some comedy, and I worked on a cruise ship. But, that was another life.”

Instead, Tobin went into teaching, working first as an English, speech, and mass media teacher at Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School and Coral Gables Senior High for three years, and then as an adjunct professor of education at the University of Miami for four years before coming to NSU.

Tobin jokes that she went into teaching “because I watched Dead Poets Society one too many times, and I wanted to change the world.”

Meeting other emerging leaders honored in Washington, D.C., last November, Tobin said she felt energized by educators who are working to improve education, not only the atmosphere for students but also to advocate for teachers. “There’s hope for the future,” Tobin said.
As a young girl, Bonita (Bonnie) Hathcock would sit on the fire escape of her apartment building in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, and gaze out at Shippensburg State College in the distance.

“I used to think there is no way I could go to college,” she recalled. “And yet I knew education changes everything.” And it did.

Hathcock eventually graduated from what was then known as Shippensburg State College, now Shippensburg State University, and in 1989, earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Nova Southeastern University.

The former senior vice president of Humana, Inc., said the M.B.A. from NSU “was the golden ticket” that gave her entry to the executive offices of several Fortune 500 companies over a 37-year corporate career.

In 2007, she was named Human Resources Executive of the Year and, in 2010, was inducted into the Human Resources Academy, the top honor in the field.

Raised by an uncle and aunt after her father abandoned the family, Hathcock began working when she was 11 and never stopped. She worked as a babysitter, trimmed trees in a local peach orchard, and clerked at a dime store through high school. When she graduated, she took a job as a secretary.

But she longed for something better, and she knew the first step toward her goals was higher education. She first took classes at a local junior college and then at Shippensburg, planning to teach business courses. She worked for a business school in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but grew restless after a few years.

A friend suggested Hathcock apply to Xerox Corp. “She made it sound so glamorous. I thought this might be a pathway for me,” Hathcock said. “I was looking for opportunities for upward mobility.” She began at Xerox’s Harrisburg office as a secretary in 1975 and quickly found the opportunity she was seeking. Within six months, she was promoted to the marketing department. In a few years, she was promoted again to Xerox’s international training center.

Her career at Xerox lasted almost 10 years, until she was recruited to become director of training at Datapoint Corp. in San Antonio, Texas. From there, she was recruited to become training director at Siemens-Rolm’s telecommunications division.

She spent nearly 10 years at Siemens, working her way up to vice president of human resources for one of the company’s largest divisions in the United States. While at the company’s office in Boca Raton, Florida, her husband encouraged her to pursue an M.B.A.

Hathcock says she considered two schools and wanted more information about their programs. At the first school she called, the person who answered the phone was terse and unprofessional.

She then called Nova Southeastern University.
“It was a totally different experience, professional top to bottom,” Hathcock said. “And that was my experience at NSU. I got an excellent education and it was professional. The professors went out of their way to help the working person to facilitate getting an M.B.A. while holding down a career. NSU is a very high-quality institution.”

Hathcock attended classes at nights and on the weekends, while continuing to work full time at Siemens. She recalled with particular fondness an advertising class, and she is proud that she met the challenge of a statistics course she took in her final semester. “I was scared to death of that class,” she remembered. Her classmates were computer science and math majors, but with her characteristic determination, she made up her mind to do well.

“For that entire course, the only thing I focused on was statistics. I would come home from my work at Siemens and sit down at the table and do problem after problem,” she said.

“At the end of the day, I got an A in the class.”

The lesson she learned went beyond that of statistics: Work hard and you’ll be rewarded. With her M.B.A. in hand, more doors opened. She was recruited to join US Airways as vice president of human resources, and then was recruited to Humana, where she worked for 13 years.

The M.B.A. degree not only opened doors to new opportunities, she said, but also boosted her confidence in being able to do the job once hired.

As head of human resources, she faced difficult days of corporate downsizing at several companies. At other times, she needed to find ways to help employees who had lost their homes or loved ones, as well as those facing military deployments.

“We made decisions with our hearts as well as our heads,” she said.

In December 2012, she retired from Humana to spend more time with her husband. The view from her retirement home is far different from the sights she saw as a child on the fire escape in her old apartment house. She is writing a memoir from an antiques-filled home office that looks out on a lot filled with magnolias and crape myrtles in the Tennessee Valley. She also is exploring ways to help disadvantaged young men and women.

“I am in a new chapter,” she said. “I don’t know exactly what I will do, but I know the direction and it will be giving back.”
Two years ago, Paul G. Finizio, J.D., 1983, and Jamie Finizio Bascombe, J.D., 1993, were admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. The brother and sister lawyers were two of 41 Shepard Broad Law Center alumni sworn in to the bar of the nation’s highest court during ceremonies held in Washington, D.C., in a program organized by the NSU Law Center.

“We stood before the nine justices of the Supreme Court. It was truly an honor, and it was another thing that made me proud to be a Nova Southeastern University alumna,” said Bascombe.

The two Broward County lawyers, founders and principals of the Law Offices of Finizio & Finizio, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, believe that their experiences at NSU, both while they were students and now as alumni, have shaped the way they practice law. NSU has also been a part of their lives, and that of their family’s, for as long as they can remember. A friendship between their father, Americo (Rick) Finizio, who served as head of court deputies for the Broward County Sheriff’s Office, and Abraham S. Fischler, Ed.D., NSU’s second president, instilled in them an early commitment to NSU.

“When I was very young, my father would take us to NSU. He was one of their biggest cheerleaders because he felt that the university was a good and necessary addition to the quality of life in Broward County. He was an avid supporter of education and a huge believer in higher education,” said Bascombe.

Both Finizio and Bascombe serve on the President’s Advisory Council.

“The bond we have with NSU can be credited to our father,” said Finizio. “He always taught us that one of the most important things you can do as an adult is to give back to the place that gave you the opportunities you have today.”

Through scholarships, internships, and by serving on the NSU Law Center’s Board of Governors, Finizio and Bascombe are firm believers in making a difference in the lives of NSU law students.

“I had supervising attorneys when I was at NSU who taught me so much,” said Bascombe. “The strength of the NSU Law Center’s program is that future lawyers learn through hands-on experience with great mentors and in facilities that prepare law students for the real world. These were the resources that were given to me, and that I want to share in some way with others now.” Bascombe added that, even before she graduated, she was trying cases for the Florida Attorney General’s Office as part of NSU’s Certified Legal Interns (CLI) program.

For the past 20 years, the Law Offices of Finizio & Finizio has hosted interns from NSU. “Our interns work...
side by side with us in the field,” said Finizio. “Some of them have ended up being asked to join our practice. We’re a small firm, but we’ve probably hired about 10 lawyers over the years from NSU.”

In 2010, the law firm established the Finizio & Finizio Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance to Shepard Broad Law Center students. While the scholarship does take into consideration financial need, Finizio and Bascombe also select award recipients based on their commitment to South Florida. “We want to build upon what we’ve created here, and we want to pass that torch on to others,” said Finizio.

Bascombe added, “We made an investment in the community, and we want that investment to grow in this community. We want our children’s grandchildren to say, ‘this is where it started, generations ago.’”

Bascombe also serves as president of NSU’s Law Alumni Association and is past president of the Broward County Women Lawyers Association (BCWLA), a chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. She established a Rising Star Scholarship 11 years ago when she was president of the BCWLA. With the support of the Law Center’s former dean, Joseph D. Harbaugh, NSU partnered with the BCWLA to help fund the scholarship. “The university has really helped to foster the scholarship, and it has grown into a $10,000 award for a second- or third-year law student at the Law Center,” said Bascombe.

Eventually, two more Shepard Broad Law Center alumni will join the Fort Lauderdale firm. Cousins Mark Finizio, Jr., and Santino Finizio are both second-year students at the Law Center. “Mark and Santino chose NSU over many other law schools in the country to be part of the bigger picture we’re establishing here in South Florida and to practice alongside respected family members and NSU alumni,” said Mark J. Finizio, Sr., director of operations at the Law Offices of Finizio & Finizio, P.A. He is the cousin of Paul and Jamie and Mark and Santino’s father.

For Paul G. Finizio and Jamie Finizio Bascombe, their dedication to NSU isn’t just a commitment to their alma mater, but a contribution to a bigger picture.

“If we can help in some way create more well-rounded lawyers for a better legal society, and if we can be assured at the end of the day that we’ve contributed in some small way, then we’ve accomplished a mission that is very important to us,” said Finizio.
A dozen strong, the Nova Southeastern University women’s basketball team members enjoy going out together to watch scary movies. On the court, though, it’s the reverse.

The NSU women are the predators, defeating opponents with a relentless lack of mercy and a persistent desire to win.

In 2012, the Sharks finished 17-11 in their first year under the direction of Coach LeAnn Freeland. This year’s Sharks—led by starters Meixandra Porter, Danielle Robinson, Jessica Russi, Tailor Jones, and Amanda Burakoski—finished the greatest season in program history with a 23-9 record, advancing all the way to the Elite Eight of the national finals in San Antonio.

Porter said the key to the Sharks is how well the student-athletes have bonded.

“We’re a pretty close team, even though we’re very diverse,” she said. “When we go out together, we get a lot of stares. I guess we’re pretty interesting to look at.”

They’re more than just interesting. They’re smart, too. The team grade point average is an impressive 3.25, and it seems like every player is planning for a dynamic future. Burakoski, a 6’0” junior from Brooklyn, New York, is going for her master’s degree in developmental disabilities, inspired by a cousin who has cerebral palsy. Porter, a 5’6” senior from Chantilly, Virginia, is majoring in business. A car enthusiast, her dream is to be an entrepreneur. Jones, a 6’0” senior from Altamonte Springs, Florida, is working toward her master’s degree in sports administration and has an internship this summer with FOX Sports. Robinson, a 5’8” sophomore from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, wants to be a coach. And Russi, a 5’11” junior from Lake Mary, Florida, is majoring in criminal justice.

The team’s architect is Freeland, who took over at NSU during the fall of 2011. She has spent her basketball career playing or coaching at the Division II level, and she loves it.

“Basketball is important, of course, but there is a healthy balance. We love the total person that we are able to recruit at NSU.”

In a way, the future of NSU basketball started in the Midwest, with a netless rim on the side of a farm shed in Sims, Illinois, population 300. That’s where Freeland grew up, often escaping many of the chores assigned to her older brother and sister because their father saw her talent.

The 6’0” Freeland attended the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, where basketball is very nearly its own religion, with thousands of devoted followers. At the university, Freeland became a three-time All-American and led the Screaming Eagles to the 1997 national championship game.

Freeland launched her coaching career as an assistant at her alma mater and, ultimately, as the head coach at the University of Indianapolis, where she led the Greyhounds to three straight NCAA tournament berths, including a Sweet 16 appearance.

She left Indianapolis for NSU, where her first two recruits were Robinson and Porter, who quickly became the foundation of the program. Three players transferred in from Division I programs, and all have found success—Porter (Colorado State University), Jones (Northwestern University), and Burakoski (St. John’s University).

Part of the credit goes to Freeland’s top assistant coach, Brooklyn Kohlheim, a history buff from Fort Myers who works tirelessly to find players. “She sorts through thousands of emails and articles online to find a handful of players,” Freeland said. “She loves the game, and she knows what type of players we need. She is the equivalent of three assistant coaches.”

“Coach Kohlheim is always excited about everything,” Robinson said. “She’s got that extra energy, that extra burst. She’s like a firecracker.” Robinson said the coaches complement each other well. “Both coaches are all in. And as players, we don’t want to do anything other than give our all for them.”
Micsandra Porter, a business major, has been named the first-ever national first-team All-American, as announced at the NCAA Elite Eight Banquet of Champions. Porter was recognized as one of the top 10 players in all of Division II and was voted onto the 2013 State Farm Coaches’ All-America Team.
The Psychology of Flying

BY KARA POUND

When Kelley Pennington and Regis M. Burdier wanted to pursue a career in aviation, they enrolled in a new NSU course: Introduction to Human Factors in Aviation.

The two former soldiers wanted to learn how to fly an airplane and to know and understand the psychological factors that would affect a pilot. Both students have found the course invaluable. Among other studies, the course focuses on critical thinking, problem solving, communication, safety, and effective cockpit management. The course is part of the Bachelor of Science in Human Services Administration degree with a concentration in Human Factors in Aviation.

“The course taught me about aeronautical decision making,” said Burdier, a 33-year-old United States Air Force veteran from Pompano Beach, Florida.

NSU’s Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice launched the interactive, online bachelor’s degree during the fall 2012 semester. The degree offers two additional concentration options—Basics in Aviation, for students pursuing a private pilot’s license and instrument rating certificate, and Professional Development in Aviation, for students pursuing a commercial pilot’s license and flight instructor certification.

For hands-on training, NSU has partnered with American Flyers, an accredited flight school that offers a full range of training with eight locations throughout the United States, including Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta, and Dallas.

Like many of NSU’s online programs, this degree is supported by threaded discussion boards, white boards, chatrooms, email, and multimedia presentations—all specifically designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of psychological factors associated with flight before they get on a plane.

“This program looks at the human side of flying,” said Kimberly Durham, Psy.D., executive dean of NSU’s Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice and community liaison for clinics at the Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies. “It is increasingly imperative new pilots understand human factors associated with flight to mitigate risk, and this program takes an innovative approach to ensure students are equipped with these skills.”

Pennington, a 25-year-old United States Marine Corps veteran and NSU freshman, said she has learned much in the Introduction to Human Factors in Aviation course. “For me, at first, flying was stressful,” she said. “But once I learned to relax and ask the questions I needed to ask, the bird’s-eye view became the most beautiful thing.”
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