Horizons Spring 2012

Nova Southeastern University

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NSU offers myriad opportunities for seniors
As a proud alumnus, I give back to NSU because I know the value of my education and the impact even a small scholarship has in the life of a student at NSU. I decided to start a Changing Lives Scholarship so I could help a deserving NSU student have the experience that I had.

As president of the SoCal Alumni Chapter, I encourage fellow alumni to join me in showing their pride by establishing a Changing Lives Scholarship. I was able to see an immediate impact because 100 percent of my gift goes directly to the Dan Carter Changing Lives Scholarship. I think the best way we can show our NSU pride is to support student scholarships at NSU.

Alumni pride begins with us!

What is a Changing Lives Scholarship?

- A scholarship is created in your name or in honor or memory of a family member or friend.
- Scholarships are created with a minimum gift of $5,000, payable over five years, to the college, school, or center of your choice.
- Your entire gift—100 percent—goes directly to an NSU student.

Contact Michael D’Eugenio at md1109@nova.edu or at (954) 262-2108 to learn more about creating a Changing Lives Scholarship.
Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

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.

On the cover: Elaine and Milton Rubin view the African Presence art exhibition at the Alvin Sherman Library.
To the Friends and Family of NSU:

At Nova Southeastern University, preparing our students for the future is paramount. This goal is reflected in the articles in this edition of Horizons.

An excellent example is our informative story about the aging of America. The number of older people, age 65 and over, is expected to double during the next 30 years. NSU is poised to work with older adults with myriad programs in place specific to geriatrics.

NSU’s commitment to this segment of the population is squarely focused on that growing demand for services, including geriatric specialty centers on campus that serve the community, cross-disciplinary training for students in our Health Professions Division, and continuing education for senior citizens.

NSU also looks toward the future with the sponsorship of a student organization close to my heart. As NSU’s sixth president, I am vitally interested in listening to our students and their ideas to make the university an even better place. Last semester, I started The President’s 64, composed of some of NSU’s brightest student leaders, scholars, and athletes. A committee selects these undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to represent NSU’s diverse campus population. These 64 students already have provided valuable feedback and suggestions on how the university can strengthen its relationship with students and the community. You’ll learn about The President’s 64 and meet four of the students. Why 64 students? That number honors NSU’s founding in 1964.

An annual event that defines NSU is the Celebration of Excellence awards presentation that honors alumni and community leaders. You’ll meet Ron and Kathy Assaf, who are two respected philanthropists and business leaders. You also will meet prominent NSU alumni who make us proud and who are this year’s alumni of distinction honorees.

This issue of Horizons features other articles that reflect NSU’s dedication to its students and the community including a look at the College of Dental Medicine’s community-based clinics and how our Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale has become a destination for area residents and tourists.

Finally, Horizons will introduce you to outstanding faculty members, student-athletes, and distinguished alumni whose accomplishments help bring NSU’s vision to reality.

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer, Nova Southeastern University
Nova Southeastern University has two new colleges: the College of Health Care Sciences and the College of Nursing. Formerly a part of NSU’s College of Allied Health and Nursing, the new colleges were created because their programs have grown dramatically over the last five years.

The College of Health Care Sciences will continue to serve 2,500 students at NSU’s main campus in Fort Lauderdale and at student educational centers in Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Tampa. It will continue to provide degree programs in occupational therapy, anesthesiologist assistant, vascular sonography, audiology, physician assistant, physical therapy, health sciences, and cardiovascular sonography.

It’s the largest provider of entry-level physician assistant (PA) education and the second-largest provider of entry-level Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) education in the United States. The college launched the first anesthesiologist assistant (AA) program in Florida and the fifth in the nation. The college is also the largest provider of entry-level AA education in the United States.

The College of Nursing will continue to serve 1,200 students at NSU’s main campus and its student educational centers in Fort Myers, Miami, Orlando, and Palm Beach.

The College of Nursing features entry-level B.S.N., R.N. to B.S.N., and R.N. to M.S.N. programs; an online M.S.N. with Nursing Education and Health Systems Leadership tracks; an M.S.N. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track; a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.); and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Nursing Education program.

The nursing program also offers its students three high-tech labs in Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, and Miami, providing interactive educational experiences using patient simulators. The Family Nurse Practitioner program also will feature patient simulators at the Palm Beach Student Educational Center in Palm Beach Gardens. These high-tech patient simulators have voices; make heart, lung, and bowel sounds; have pulses; and have programmable vital signs that immerse the student in realistic clinical situations.

“We have had astronomical success in both colleges over the last five years,” said Richard E. Davis, PA-C, Ed.D., dean of the College of Health Care Sciences. “Many of our programs draw students from across the nation. Our graduates have a highly successful job placement rate.”

NSU’s nursing program was created in 2004 with 40 students, said Marcella M. Rutherford, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S.N., interim dean of the College of Nursing.

“Our students’ scores on their licensing exams have consistently ranked much higher than the state and national average,” Rutherford said. “The College of Nursing postprofessional and graduate programs are meeting the state’s nursing needs by preparing managers, leaders, and educators.”
Serving

Joy Gallimore confers with Martavis Clarke, an NSU student pursuing a health law concentration.
Here are some statistics that may surprise you. The number of people age 65 or over will double in the next 30 years, from today’s 40 million to 80 million. By 2030, one of every five people in the United States will be age 65 or older. By the year 2032, just two decades from now, there will be more people over the age of 65 than children under 15. This will be the first time in history there will be more senior adults than children.

The implications of these astounding statistics will affect every aspect of society, agree geriatric specialists at Nova Southeastern University. Health professionals specifically trained in caring for an elderly population are already in demand as resources for older adults continue to increase.

From continuing education to geriatric specialty centers on campus that service the community, plus cross-disciplinary training for students in its Health Professions Division, NSU has several programs in place specific to geriatrics. With new programs and services, its commitment to this segment of the population is squarely focused on meeting the needs of the growing demand.

“NSU is training professionals and students in critical areas before the need becomes urgent,” said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., M.S., R.D., executive director for education, planning, and research for the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) at NSU and executive director of NSU’s Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center. The training, she emphasized, is cross-disciplinary.

At the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center Rehabilitation Clinic, an interdisciplinary, fall-prevention team works with older adults to provide free evaluations for those who are at risk due to balance problems.

“It’s a more holistic way of working with an older patient, and our students see what it’s like to be part of a multidisciplinary team,” said Michelle Gagnon-Blodgett, Psy.D., a geropsychologist with the Department of Geriatrics at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The multiple-discipline assessment for balance and fall risk factors includes experts in audiology, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, and geriatric medicine. The ultimate outcome is a no-cost, complete report that patients are encouraged to share with their primary care physician at NSU and other health care providers.

“Students learn a lot in this setting, such as how one discipline communicates with an older client,” said Gagnon-Blodgett. “A pharmacy student may see how a psychological intake is conducted, while the psychology student sees how a pharmacist interacts with a patient.”
Fully Immersed

At the College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Department of Geriatrics, students are required to be fully immersed in geriatrics. NSU students must complete a compulsory geriatric rotation. “We are one of about 18 schools in the country where our students spend a month in geriatrics,” said Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics. A geriatrician and endocrinologist, Pandya heads the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Geriatrics Clinic inside the Health Professions Division at the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center.

“This is the place where many of the theoretical aspects of collaboration and interprofessional collaboration really happen,” said Pandya. “Students are exposed to the geriatric approach, which entails assessment of all aspects of patients’ lives: physical, functional, cognitive, and social.”

During clinical experiences, students learn that elder health requires a whole-patient approach. “It’s important for students who train in geriatrics to know how to manage geriatric syndromes in older patients, not just to manage their diseases. For example, hypertension and diabetes behave differently in older people,” said Pandya.

Students from the College of Pharmacy, College of Optometry, and Center for Psychological Studies (CPS) work together at the Geriatric Clinic. Faculty members also provide patient care at the Alexander (Sandy) Nininger, Jr., State Veterans’ Nursing Home and Covenant Village Care Center in Plantation, Florida. Students in the physical therapy program at the College of Health Care Sciences join doctors on rounds at the nursing centers.

Additionally, two one-year fellowship training positions in geriatrics are being coordinated in conjunction with Broward General Medical Center. Specialty training includes interdisciplinary geriatric assessment, neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, geropsychiatry, and end-of-life and palliative care.

“The fellows there teach residents and help train nurses and medical assistants who are taking care of older people in the hospital setting,” said Pandya.

The medical school has four fellowship positions for those who want to specialize in geriatric medicine. In Florida, there are only 3.4 geriatricians for every 10,000 individuals over the age of 75, while the national average is 5.5. “We are working to change that,” said Pandya.

While much emphasis has been placed on interdisciplinary education and practice, the geriatric education center at the College of Osteopathic Medicine is moving progressively into interprofessional practice. In interdisciplinary practice, two or more professionals from within the same core discipline come together, such as a geriatrician, cardiologist, and endocrinologist, all in the field of medicine. With interprofessional practice, two or more different professions work with the patient in a fully coordinated, patient-centered manner. “Our Fall Prevention Clinic is an example of this. NSU can become a model school for interprofessional training as we continue to use the great resources that the university has in preparing students to work with Florida’s growing elder population,” said Rokusek.

Gagnon-Blodgett also oversees NSU’s Counseling Center for Older Adults, which makes outpatient psychotherapy available to area residents who are 55 or older. The Counseling Center provides an extensive training ground for doctoral psychology students, and now interns, who will have older clients in their practices when they become professionals. This year, CPS added a geriatric specialty rotation, ensuring that budding psychologists have advanced clinical training in this area. “This is so important for our students and for their future clients. This firsthand experience, while being supervised by someone who has expertise in geropsychology, gives our students an edge,” she said.

Above: NSU offers seniors creative outlets as well as experts in audiology and optometry trained to work with geriatrics.
Gerontology Degrees

For students who want to focus their studies entirely on gerontology, NSU’s newly named Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice introduced its first Master of Arts in Gerontology class in winter 2012. The program’s developer Jacquelyn Browne, Ph.D., LCSW, believes that it is critical to prepare upper-level leaders who have the knowledge, training, and skills to serve this rapidly expanding demographic.

“Our new M.A. degree is designed to train leaders in the field. Because there is not one area that the longevity revolution will not touch, our program is interdisciplinary,” said Browne.

The first group of students in the 36-credit, online program are mostly midcareer professionals already in the health care industry, according to Browne.

Jacques Jourdan is one of the first students to pursue the M.A. degree in Gerontology. He previously worked in the banking industry helping small-business owners manage their accounts. “It’s a great time to be in the field of gerontology,” he said.

The 46-year-old Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, resident plans to open an assisted living facility after he receives his degree. “With this area of study and my management background, I hope to play a positive role in making life better for seniors in their final stages of life,” said Jourdan.

Students in the M.A. in Gerontology program will be able to choose from a specialty track of 12 credits after they complete 18 credits of gerontology core courses. Specialty tracks include gerontology and the family, gerontology and public health, and emergency preparedness and response for elder populations.

“I’m expecting that we will develop other tracks like lifelong learning, long-term care, and technology, which will be useful for students in many emerging fields,” said Browne. The program culminates with a capstone seminar and an applied research capstone project.

For undergraduates, a new minor in gerontology at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences introduces students to this growing field and involves components that help to break down stereotypes about older adults.

Classes such as Ageism and Stereotyping, Adulthood and Aging, Gerontology and the Law, Foundations of Therapeutic Interviewing, and other introductory gerontology courses are what Thomas Fagan, Ph.D., director of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the college, calls “practical courses that not only teach a set of skills that can help students in their careers, but will expose them to issues—both positive and negative—that concern the elderly.”

The minor is intended for students who are contemplating careers in social work, physical therapy, psychology, occupational therapy, human service, health care, and mental health care.

“We’re always trying to identify needs in the field and give our students opportunities in what we see as potential career paths,” said Fagan.

Coursework in the minor also includes an experiential component. “Our goal is to get students into places where services to the elderly are offered in different settings. It is important for students to interact one-on-one with older people to get that first-hand experience,” he said.

At the Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice, the Bachelor of Science in Human Services Administration program already includes a gerontology track. Students also can take additional courses in the gerontology minor program offered by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

“This is just one more opportunity for students to get more exposure to the field of gerontology. It is also another way for us to encourage students to pursue this evolving career path,” said Angela Yehl, Psy.D., director of clinical operations and assistant professor at the institute.

Personal Experiences

NSU law student Lydia Charles of Fort Lauderdale used a chapter from her own life to help others dealing with older family members. A law and medicine seminar at the Shepard Broad Law Center prompted Charles to research advance
By the year 2032...there will be more people over the age of 65 than children under 15.

he often discusses the importance of a living will with participants at the annual Boomers and Beyond: A Day for Health and Wellness fair held each spring at the Health Professions Division.

“While we can’t give legal advice at the health fair, we can talk to people and tell them the importance of planning and show them that there are documents available. I was able to get people to think about what they would do if they or a loved one were in this situation,” he said.

The annual Boomers and Beyond health fair is free to attend and open to anyone aged 40 or older. In addition to students from the Law Center, several schools and colleges, including faculty members and students from NSU’s Health Professions Division and clinical operations, provide services for the day. These include health screenings; wellness information; insurance information; health education on diabetes, eye health, nutrition, and medication management; and prevention and disease management.

NSU’s annual Senior Prom brings senior adults and undergraduate students together for an evening of “pure fun, where seniors feel young,” said Marjorie Diaz, president of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and a junior biology major at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Now in its 11th year, the Senior Prom was organized by Alpha Phi Omega and the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. At the 2011 event, residents from the retirement community The Court at Palm-Aire in Pompano Beach, Florida, were invited for a night of dining, entertainment, dancing, and conversation with volunteer students.

“We had cooperation from so many organizations,” said Diaz. Members of the Haitian Student Association presented a dance and NSU radio station Radio X provided the music.

“We had one man who said he hadn’t danced in 15 years, but he was out of his wheelchair on the dance floor. It’s a way to give back to people who are the foundation of who we are today,” said Diaz, who added that she already has student volunteers committed to the event for next year.

Educational Outreach

NSU’s Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center was established in 2007 as an educational outreach center, and is part of a national network of 46 geriatric education centers that are federally funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). In 2010, NSU’s geriatric education center received a grant to provide interprofessional training, with the long-term goal of increasing the number of professionals working in geriatrics. To ensure that it connects with the community, it has five consortium partners: Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County; the West Palm Beach Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center; Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, City of Pembroke Pines; Jessie Trice Community Health Center; and Lee Memorial Geriatric Services.

“These community partners really allow our students to see the positive side of a career in geriatrics. They observe what goes on at good, long-term facilities and see the efforts by caregivers helping to extend an older adult’s quality of life,” said Rokusek.

It is well documented that the older adult population’s quality of life is significantly higher for those who are intellectually and socially active. For 35 years, older adults in Broward County have found a place to share ideas, participate in classes and lectures, and meet other like-minded individuals as members of NSU’s Lifelong Learning Institute, another component of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“The traditional retirement of our grandparents is really no longer in existence. For many of our members, coming here is of paramount importance, because it represents a phase of exploration in their lives after retirement,” said Linda Maurice, director of the Lifelong Learning Institute. “Many of our members are retired professionals such as lawyers, doctors, business people, and teachers.”

Whether it is educational opportunities for seniors or educating experts to work with the growing geriatric population, there is no question that the needs of older adults are imminent.
Pharmacy students and pharmacists discuss medications with senior citizens.

The Geriatric Medicine Clinic provides diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions.
Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center
3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328-2018
(954) 262-4100 or (954) NSU-CARE

The Fall Prevention Clinic provides a one-time evaluation for South Florida residents experiencing balance problems or who are at risk for falls.
Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center
3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328-2018
(954) 262-5611

The Counseling Center for Older Adults provides psychological assessment and therapy in individual, couples, family, and group formats.
Maltz Psychology Building
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
(954) 262-5843 or (954) 262-5730

The Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center at NSU offers opportunities to learn about health care for older adults and their families.
University Park Plaza
3446 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328-2000
(954) 262-1078

The Master of Arts in Gerontology degree, offered through the Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice, prepares future leaders in the field of aging.
Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, and Justice
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
800-541-6682, ext. 27563, or (954) 262-7563

Lifelong Learning Institute provides lectures, classes, and field trips for mature adults.
University Park Plaza
3424 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328-2022
(954) 262-8471

Senior Services and More

For a complete listing of all senior services offered at Nova Southeastern University, visit our Web site at www.nova.edu/healthcare/senior_services.
Sixty-four of NSU’s students have a mission—to make the university an even better place. These students are members of The President’s 64, a group of Sharks formed by NSU President and Chief Executive Officer George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D. These 64 hand-selected undergraduate, graduate, and professional students represent NSU’s diverse student population. They provide valuable feedback and suggestions on ways that the university can strengthen its relationship with students and the community.

This elite group was named in honor of NSU’s founding in 1964. Selection is based on nominations, which are reviewed quarterly by a committee, before finalists are appointed to the group by the university’s president.

“Members possess strong leadership and communication skills, and demonstrate tremendous Shark pride, as evidenced by their involvement at NSU,” Hanbury said.

The President’s 64 members have feedback lunches with the president and participate in select strategic planning meetings and focus groups. They also represent NSU at community events and take business etiquette and networking workshops.

For more information about The President’s 64, visit www.nova.edu/president/the64.

Now, meet some of these extraordinary NSU Sharks.
Kamryn Blackwood

Undergraduate Studying Criminal Justice
Age: 19
Hometown: Farmington, New Mexico

Why did you choose NSU?
I was recruited for tennis and chosen for the Razor’s Edge Leadership Program.

What is the best part about being a Shark?
Coming from a small town, I never thought I would be at such an amazing school pursuing my dreams and having so much support.

What is your favorite NSU tradition?
Homecoming activities, like the Anything That Floats Raft Race is fun. I attempted that this year, and it was much harder than I or my team anticipated.

What NSU organizations and activities are you involved in?
I am on NSU’s tennis team and involved in the Razor’s Edge Leadership Program, The President’s 64, and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. I am also the future president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Which are you most passionate about?
I want to graduate and attend the FBI academy, stay close with my family and help them with their goals, keep the love I have for tennis, be a great leader and role model, and just be the best person I can, persevering no matter the circumstances.

What is your favorite class or who is your favorite professor?
Intro to Criminal Justice with Lindsey Vargas, because she really got me excited about this field, which made me choose it as my major.

What is your favorite place on campus?
My room, because I start my day around 5:45 a.m. with workouts, then class, practice, meetings, organizations, homework, and whatever else comes up. I spend time in my room to relax, rest, and free my mind, which refreshes me to get back out and give my all.

What are your career aspirations?
I want to attend the FBI academy and become an agent, and am also keeping an open mind with other career opportunities.

What is a fun fact we should know about you?
I love to dance, whether it is hip-hop or line dancing. I am the middle child, and I have a younger sister and older brother who I love and miss a lot, along with my puppy.

Criminal justice major Kamryn Blackwood confers with Jeff Yaeger, a Davie police officer, who received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in criminal justice from NSU.
Optometry student George Hanna, who chose NSU because of its Health Professions Division, examines Michelle Merida, a sophomore accounting major at NSU.

George Hanna

Graduate Student Studying Optometry
Age: 25
Hometown: Cairo, Egypt

Why did you choose NSU?
Being part of the Health Professions Division at NSU is a stepping stone toward my future of working with other health care professionals. It is also a beautiful campus, and this school’s reputation is growing throughout the country.

What is the best part about being a Shark?
The pride that you see around campus is great. People are happy to be here, and their pride shows all the time.

What is your favorite NSU tradition?
Fins up!

What organizations and activities are you involved in?
I am president of the Student Government Association (SGA) for the College of Optometry, a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa Optometry Honor’s Society and The President’s 64, and a former resident assistant.

Which are you most passionate about?
Being a member of Beta Sigma Kappa is an honor. I have worked hard to excel in my program. I am thankful to have this God-given opportunity to do well in my program and to truly love it.

What is your favorite class or who is your favorite professor?
Ocular Disease with Kim Reed was my favorite class. She is not only extremely intelligent, but also passionate about her job and does everything in her power to ensure the best learning environment for her students. I really look up to her.

What is your favorite place on campus?
The RecPlex is the perfect place to go play basketball, work out, and find some good food to eat.

What are your career aspirations?
I want to be the best optometrist that I can be. I have worked hard to be as knowledgeable as I can be in order to help people keep their eyes healthy. The eyes are the window to the body, and keeping your eyes healthy is an important aspect of healthy living.

What is a fun fact we should know about you?
I can say the alphabet backwards, and because I am Canadian, I say “zed” instead of “zee.”
Sakthi Murugan

Undergraduate Studying Biology (premedical)
Age: 22
Hometown: Hollywood, Florida

Why did you choose NSU?
NSU has a great biology program, a high medical-school ranking, small classes, a beautiful campus, and is minutes from home.

What is the best part about being a Shark?
Everything! I am getting a complete college experience.

What is your favorite NSU tradition?
Sharkapalooza and the Anything That Floats Raft Race. It is fun building the raft, racing, and even sinking!

What NSU organizations and activities are you involved in?
In addition to The President’s 64, I am the founder and past president of Rotaract. I also was involved in the Shark Squad, SEA Board, Pre-Med Society, and NSU Conservatives. I am also studying progenitor stem cells with a faculty member from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and a gene, DAXX, and its expression in prostate cancer cells at NSU’s Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research.

Which are you most passionate about?
I founded the service club Rotaract my freshmen year, and we raised $10,000 to send members to Uganda to build a school. We will also build a library in Paraguay and are closer to the goal of raising $30,000. I hope, in another two decades, that Rotaract will still have its STUEY-winning Gold Fin Organization status! Studying DAXX has taught me perseverance, and working alongside grad students and Ph.D. postdoctoral students is simply cool. It is cutting-edge research in the real world.

What is your favorite class or who is your favorite professor?
My anatomy professor, James Munoz, made his lectures fun and medically related. Brad Williams’ guidance has shaped me into a good leader. My NSU experience would not have been the same if it weren’t for these professors.

What is your favorite place on campus?
I like the bench next to the Sonken Building, which overlooks a mini-lake. It is so peaceful during a busy day.

What are your career aspirations?
I have always wanted to become a doctor. I love caring for people, and the natural sciences stimulate my curiosity. I hope to continue my Shark journey at NSU’s medical school this fall.

What is a fun fact we should know about you?
I hold a First Dan Black Belt in Wado Ryu Karate. Go Sharks!

Studying the gene DAXX has taught Sakthi Murugan perseverance.
Lesly Viera

Undergraduate Studying Biology (predental)
Age: 19
Hometown: Miami, Florida

Why did you choose NSU?
I love NSU’s small classes and how supportive and helpful the faculty members are.

What is the best part about being a Shark?
Choosing from so many different organizations that allow me to grow as a person and give me the opportunity to serve in the community.

What is your favorite NSU tradition?
The annual Anything That Floats Raft Race!

What NSU organizations and activities are you involved in?
I am the president and founder of Locks for a Cause and a member of The President’s 64 and Rotaract.

Which are you most passionate about?
Locks for a Cause is an organization I started my freshman year. This organization hosts annual events during which hair stylists come to NSU and provide free haircuts. All the ponytails collected are donated to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that makes wigs for children suffering from hair loss. This organization is personal to me after my own battle with cancer and losing all my hair. I am determined to help girls raise their self-esteem while dealing with such a difficult time.

What is your favorite class or who is your favorite professor?
Biology is my favorite class, and Joshua Loomis has been my favorite professor thus far. He makes biology really understandable, with actual life experiences, and is always available to help.

What is your favorite place on campus?
There is a small area right next to Gold Circle Lake that has several benches and is shaded by trees. I go there to study or relax. It’s perfect on a nice sunny or breezy day.

What are your career aspirations?
My dream is to attend NSU’s College of Dental Medicine and become a successful dentist. A smile is important, and I want to help everyone have a confident smile.

What is a fun fact we should know about you?
As a hobby, I am a belly dance teacher. I love dancing, and belly dancing is a great way for me to relieve some stress and get my weekly workouts done.

Lesly Viera started the organization Locks for a Cause, which collects ponytails to make wigs for children who have lost their hair.
Claudette lived for years in fear for her life. After getting married in rural Jamaica, she suffered constant abuse from her husband, emotional at first, but then the beatings started—and the rapes. She felt damaged and helpless, but she tried to hide the outward signs, including her broken teeth.
“Even when people said I was pretty, I didn’t feel pretty. If you saw me on the road, I just walked with my head down,” she said. “But now if you see me, I am the first one to smile.”

That smile was restored by student dentists and their instructors from Nova Southeastern University’s College of Dental Medicine.

Claudette, 50, found the strength to get herself free from her husband with the help of her sister and the counselors at Women in Distress of Broward County, Inc. She made a plan of escape and is now divorced and working two jobs to support herself.

“He doesn’t know where I am. I’m safe now,” she said.

The counselors helped to repair her psyche and spirit, but she credits NSU’s student dentists and the dental professors with repairing her damaged mouth and helping to build her self-confidence.

The college had a dental suite at the shelter and treated the clients there under a federal grant.

“There are people who are less likely to come to the college for care, so we are intent on bringing our services to them,” said Stephen Abel, D.D.S., associate dean of extramural and public health programs at the dental college. “It increases access to care for the patients, and for the students, it’s exposing them to populations they know very little about.”

Under the program, dental students also treat patients with HIV-AIDS at a clinic in Oakland Park, children with craniofacial issues at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood, and children with autism spectrum disorders at the Baudhuin Preschool at the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development on NSU’s main campus.

Much of the College of Dental Medicine’s work with special-needs populations has been made possible by grants from the federal government, Broward County, Patriot National Insurance Group, and Procter & Gamble, as well as from foundations such as DentaQuest Foundation, the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation, and the Health Foundation of South Florida.

The dental students also have treated prison inmates and women in a drug rehabilitation facility and completed rotations in rural Central Florida.

Abel believes treating special-needs patients benefits the students as much as it does the patients. “We hope it enhances their learning,” Abel said, “but also their decision making in who they may serve and their volunteerism after they are out in practice.”

Working at Women in Distress gave students invaluable experience in treating patients who have been victimized, he said.

“More than 90 percent of these patients have facial damage. Women who walk into a dentist’s office are likely to say they fell, and it’s not something the doctor would likely bring up, but if students spend time taking care of these patients, they will be able to assess the situation, validate to the patient that it’s not their fault, and refer them to someplace they may feel safe,” Abel said. “Very few schools do this.”

Mary Riedel, president and CEO of Women in Distress, a 100-bed,
The majority of the College of Dental Medicine’s work with special-needs populations has been made possible by myriad grants.

...treating special-needs patients benefits the students as much as it does the patients.
nationally accredited shelter and state-certified, full-service center to prevent domestic violence in Fort Lauderdale, said being able to provide dental care at the shelter plays a key part in helping women rebuild their lives—and in restoring their self-esteem.

“A lot of our women have not had access to dental care for many years,” Riedel said. “Some have been prevented [by their abuser] from seeking care. Over the last year, significant care—care that cannot be measured in dollars—was provided from NSU to the clients. On the human level, it’s transformational. And I think it has had an impact on the dental students as well.”

Riedel said Claudette agreed to give a presentation to the students about what her life was like before she got help, about how her husband injured her mouth, breaking her teeth with his fists. She said she had been unable to get treatment because he controlled all the money.

“Several of the students were actually brought to tears,” Riedel said. “Many came up to her and thanked her for sharing her story.”

Claudette feels just as appreciative.

“The NSU program reconstructed my mouth completely and has given me confidence. I thank God for that program,” she said. “It has really, really made a difference in my life.”

Patients at the HIV-AIDS clinic are another population that has had trouble receiving necessary dental care, Abel said, dating back to the days when people weren’t sure how the virus that can lead to AIDS was spread.

“Our Oakland Park HIV dental clinic is probably the largest in the Southeast. We want our students to be comfortable treating HIV/AIDS patients, and if they have any stereotypes in their minds before they go in there, they are soon dispelled,” he said.

Lisa Layman, NSU’s program coordinator at the dental clinic, said the service opened in 2008 with 6 dental chairs, but that has since doubled to 12.

The services are paid for through a grant to Broward County from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Ryan White
Funding, named for a child born with hemophilia, who contracted HIV from the treatment he was given to help his blood coagulate. White became a symbol of the discrimination against people with the virus when he was expelled from his Indiana middle school. He died in 1990, before the advent of the drug cocktails that keep patients alive today.

“When we first opened the clinic, I think some of the students faced this rotation with trepidation. Now, it is a sought-after rotation,” Layman said.

“It’s exciting, because the students are getting an important public health experience before they go out into their own practices,” she said. “Most of these young people have never known anybody with HIV or seen a friend die from it.”

She said the patients are pleased with the comprehensive care they get at the clinic from the students and their faculty supervisors, along with dental specialists.

Another rotation for the dental students involves treating patients who require a unique set of skills. Children with craniofacial abnormalities are treated at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital, part of Memorial Regional Hospital, in a close collaboration with the pediatricians there.

Eric Cameron, medical director for the craniofacial program at the hospital, said there are only four teams of medical professionals in the state who treat these children, “so the NSU dental students are fortunate to be getting hands-on experience in learning to care for them.”

The most common craniofacial problem is cleft palate and lip, which affects 1 child in about 700 births. NSU dentists begin treating some children within the first two weeks of their birth, Cameron said.

Pediatric dentists create a custom fit retainer, called a nasoalveolar molding appliance, and that, along with taping on the baby’s face, helps to align the gum pads inside the baby’s mouth during the first weeks of life. The appliance helps to reduce the cleft lip deformity, making the initial surgery easier and yielding better cosmetic and functional results for the child, Cameron said.

The NSU students may also see children with a condition called craniosynostosis, a premature fusing of the bones in the skull, which occurs in 1 in 2,000 to 2,500 births. Without surgery to correct the anomaly, the brain doesn’t have room to properly develop.

The newest rotation for students considering pediatric dentistry involves treating children with autism spectrum disorders who attend the Baudhuin Preschool on the NSU main campus.

Oscar Padilla, D.D.S., a special-needs pediatric dentist at NSU, guides the students in how to provide oral health care to children two to five years old, some of whom are verbal, and some who are not. The work is funded by a $2.5-million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant is for five years and, beginning in the third year, the program will branch out to provide dental care to underserved children at Found Care Community Health in Palm Beach County.

“We’re doing something different [at Baudhuin] from what’s done at any other dental site at the college,” Padilla said. “We are using the same applied behavior analysis they use in the classroom to assess where these kids are and how they relate to people, whether they are verbal or not.”

“The collaboration between the dental college and the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development’s Baudhuin Preschool highlights the innovative work with children and families that our university is committed to,” said Roni Cohen Leiderman, Ph.D., dean of the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development.

Each child’s care will be individualized, Padilla said, and parents will be involved in the process, helping to reinforce the importance of good oral health.

“Even if they can’t speak, we will have them try to understand visually, using pictures to explain what we will be doing,” Padilla said.

Padilla, who has been a pediatric dentist for almost 15 years, has treated children with autism and other special-needs kids since he became a dental fellow for United Cerebral Palsy early in his career.

“We use the approach of tell, show, do, plus positive reinforcement,” he said. “We always show and try to explain according to their capabilities. There will be more pictures, and we’ll use techniques such as social stories. We will take a bit more time with each child.”

Another technique involves distracting the child’s attention away from a step in the treatment they may not like, he said. Visiting the dentist no longer has to be a dreaded, scary adventure.

“We don’t want to upset them,” Padilla said. “One of our goals is to make it an enjoyable, positive experience, part of their life.”

—Lisa Layman
Exhibitions showcase the depth of art at Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University. Audio devices enhance some patrons’ experiences.
There's more than art that attracts residents and tourists—of all ages—to the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University. A major draw remains the breathtaking exhibitions, such as the recent Offering of the Angels: Old Master Paintings and Tapestries from the Uffizi Gallery and Shark!, a multimedia art exhibition scheduled for May 12 through November 4, 2012.
NSU’s Museum of Art, located in downtown Fort Lauderdale, also has become a destination on its own, joining the national trend of museums across the country.

Just as many people visit the museum to hear NSU professors discuss art and travel; enjoy wine tastings, which are part of the Art of Wine and Food Series; listen to concerts; and attend book signings by bestselling authors such as Dave Barry and Sue Monk at its in-house store Books & Books. The Museum Café serves as a popular downtown spot for lunch and coffee breaks. Across the street at the AutoNation Center, adults, young adults, and children take classes and workshops in painting, sculpture, and photography, among others, from the Museum of Art Academy.

Museum of Art memberships begin at $50 for an individual; $75 for a family. For more information on the museum, visit www.moafl.org.

Top to bottom: Students of all ages tap into their inner artist at the Museum of Art Academy; Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel’s discussion of their comic thriller Lunatics brought more than 400 people to the museum; patrons enjoy lunch while shopping for a wide variety of items at the in-house store Books & Books; the Art of Wine and Food Series sponsors wine tastings.
Nancy Klimas, M.D., one of the world’s leading researchers and clinicians in chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME), has joined NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

An expert in immune disorders, Klimas is establishing the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, to be located on NSU’s main campus. The new institute will conduct cutting-edge research and treat patients suffering from CFS/ME, a debilitating immune disorder that affects more than 1 million Americans, and Gulf War Illness (GWI), a medical condition that affects veterans and civilians who were exposed to a number of triggers, including chemical weapons during the 1991 Gulf War.

The Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine will integrate research, training, and clinical care to advance the needs of patients suffering from CFS/ME and GWI. The facility will act as both a think tank and a working institute for research, as well as training new clinicians and providing diagnostic and therapeutic clinical care.

“The Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, strategically placed at NSU, will bring together great minds in the field of neuro-immune disorders under one umbrella,” Klimas said.

Klimas is the director of the Chronic Fatigue Center in Miami, one of the few centers of its kind in the nation. It will become a part of the NSU clinical health care system under the auspices of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine.

Klimas also is the director of research for the Clinical AIDS/HIV research program and Gulf War Illness research program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She is a leading national researcher on Gulf War Illness, whose symptoms include musculoskeletal pain, fatigue, skin rashes, and cognitive problems.

“Nancy Klimas will help elevate NSU’s medical research to a new level and create opportunities for internal and external collaboration on a global basis to find cures for CFS/ME and other complex diseases,” said Gary Margules, Sc.D., NSU’s vice president for research and technology transfer.

Klimas currently serves as a senior member of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee, a role in which she provides advice and recommendations to the U.S. secretary of health and human services, currently Kathleen Sebelius. Klimas also has served two terms as president of the International Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and sits on numerous boards and advisory groups.

Klimas, who is joining NSU from the University of Miami, was the principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health’s Center for Multidisciplinary Studies of CFS Pathophysiology at the University of Miami and is currently funded to use genomics to better understand the cause of persistent illness in both CFS/ME and GWI. She plans to expand this work through the new NSU Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine.
As soon as Shanti Bruce, Ph.D., begins talking about the joys of conducting qualitative research, it’s clear one is in the company of a serious scholar.

Bruce, the recipient of the 2011 Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Full-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, serves as associate professor, chair of the Master of Arts in Writing degree program, and coordinator of the Undergraduate Writing Program at NSU.

Hard work and wearing multiple hats are all in a day’s work for Bruce. In addition to her teaching and administrative duties, she focuses on scholarship. Her book, What Every Multilingual Student Should Know About Writing for College, was published in February, and she has a contract to write another book for culturally and linguistically diverse writers. Her dedication to scholarship and commitment to her students does not go unnoticed.

“Shanti Bruce is a caring and focused teacher, scholar, mentor, and leader,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. “She is extremely engaged with her students, empowering them to strengthen their writing and communication skills. Equally, she supports the efforts of faculty members in all disciplines as they develop creative and effective strategies to build student writing skills. For her, the commitment is not about writing, it is about personal success and the ability to express one’s ideas clearly and effectively.”

It’s easy to understand why Rosenblum thinks so highly of her. Accolades aside, Bruce’s credentials speak for themselves. She received her doctoral degree in English, with a focus on composition and teaching English to speakers of other languages, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She has published two books on writing centers, Creative Approaches to Writing Center Work and ESL Writers: A Guide for Writing Center Tutors. Both books were honored by the International Writing Centers Association with their Outstanding Scholarship Award for Best Book, making her one of only two people to ever win the award twice.

She has been a featured speaker at the European Writing Centers Association Conference in Germany, a keynote speaker at a Pacific Northwest Writing Centers Association Conference in Washington, and a plenary speaker for the Midwest Writing Centers Association Conference in St. Louis. She is an executive board member of the Southeastern Writing Centers Association (SWCA) and co-chaired the 2010 SWCA Florida Conference at NSU. Additionally, Bruce is on the Steering Committee of the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing and co-chaired its 2011 conference.

Yet, she still finds time to serve as mentor to newer faculty members such as Star Medzerian, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Humanities, who calls her “an active and influential scholar.”

“Shanti Bruce is committed to enhancing the learning environment at NSU,” said Medzerian. “As a colleague, she encourages fellow writing faculty members to be innovative and productive in our teaching, research, and service. As my mentor, she has maintained a personal interest in my success and improvement as a teacher and in my students’ growth as writers.”
At NSU since 2006, when the master’s degree in writing program began, Bruce has worked tirelessly to help the program and its students succeed, but she is quick to share credit for the program’s success. She worked with faculty members to revise the curriculum, and she has organized numerous workshops for students, faculty members, and the community. Sessions with working writers help the students learn what options are available to them.

“It is unique to offer students a great variety of writing courses,” she said of NSU’s program. “Students have the opportunity to learn about creative and professional writing without getting pigeonholed into one specialty too soon. They also gain a strong, academic foundation in rhetoric, grammar, history of the English language, and research methods. "

“I enjoy encouraging students to take a variety of courses, so they can find those areas in which they excel and those that challenge them to learn and grow in ways they did not expect. I would like to see more of our graduate students becoming professionally active by presenting at conferences, working as writing tutors, and getting their work published.”

Dedicated to Undergraduates

Bruce also is dedicated to the undergraduate writing program, working with the writing faculty members to revise the composition curriculum and create a meaningful assessment process. She has brought in outstanding scholars to conduct development workshops for faculty members. She is most proud of working with the administration to secure and redesign multiple computer classrooms for writing courses. “These classrooms directly affect the level of instruction that can be provided to students on campus each day,” she said.

“Making sure faculty members and students have the resources they need is of the utmost importance. I am pleased with the way the college supports writing. My colleagues are wonderful. They are dedicated to student learning and are active scholars,” Bruce added.

Marlisa Santos, Ph.D., director/associate professor in the Division of Humanities, believes Bruce’s infectious passion and genuine concern for student success makes her an ideal role model.

“Shanti Bruce’s breadth of positive influence extends from our incoming first-year students in composition courses to our graduate students in the master’s degree in writing program. She has boundless energy and dedication to her teaching and serves the Division of Humanities and the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences in innumerable ways,” she said.

Students agree. Graduate student Andra Liwag was enrolled in Bruce’s graduate research methods class and quickly discovered that her initial apprehension about research was unwarranted.

“Dr. Bruce taught it in a way that was interactive, enjoyable, and incredibly informative. I never knew how fascinating the qualitative side of research could be until this class, and I especially enjoyed how she helped each of us tailor a project specific to our interests. I ended up learning skills that will last a lifetime and research techniques that will easily cross over into any future project, ranging from crafting fictional novels to my work in public relations,” said Liwag, who also serves as an associate director in NSU’s Office of Public Affairs.

While she enjoys mentoring graduate students and working with her colleagues, Bruce has a special place in her heart for students taking freshman composition. “I really love to work with freshmen writers. Composition is my area and my passion. At the beginning of every semester, I encounter students who say, ‘I don’t like to write,’ and ‘I can’t write.’ If I can help them to understand that writing is a process—that writing is rewriting—and if I can help them gain the skills and confidence they need to be able to say, ‘I can do this,’ and ‘I like this,’ then I have succeeded. For me, that’s what it’s all about.”
Mark Sobell, Ph.D., had been a senior scientist at the Addiction Research Foundation and a professor at the University of Toronto for 16 years when he and his colleague and partner, Linda Sobell, Ph.D., ABPP, received a call in 1994 from Frank DePiano, Ph.D., then dean of NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies. DePiano told him about the advantages of working at NSU.

“The vision he presented was that this was a developing place where we could do teaching, research, and service all in one location,” Mark Sobell said.

That, along with the promise of some warmer weather, was convincing for the Sobells, who have worked together for 42 years. Mark Sobell came to NSU in 1995, and Linda Sobell followed the next year, after their oldest daughter graduated high school.

Since then, Mark and Linda Sobell have been recognized for ground-breaking research and significant contributions to the field of clinical psychology, particularly in the area of addictions. In 2011, Frank DePiano, who is now provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at NSU, presented Mark Sobell with the first-ever Provost’s Research and Scholarship Award.

“It’s very fitting that it’s the Provost’s Award, since it was his vision that really brought us here,” Sobell said. “It’s nice to be the first one to receive this award, and it has kind of brought us full circle.”

Four Decades of Work

In presenting the award, DePiano said that he was “proud to honor a faculty member whose extraordinary accomplishments stand out in a community of bright, thoughtful, and engaged people. I commend Mark Sobell for his commitment to excellence and his significant contributions over four decades to the field of clinical psychology. His contributions as a mentor and role model to students and young faculty members have made a significant difference in the careers of aspiring researchers in the substance abuse field.”

Mark and Linda Sobell are nationally and internationally distinguished clinical scientists, professors and researchers at NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies, and co-directors of the Healthy Lifestyles Guided Self-Change Clinic at NSU. Mark Sobell said that the university has been all that DePiano’s vision promised. “NSU gave us the opportunity to work directly with students, and we have especially enjoyed that,” said Mark Sobell. Every year, the Sobells train 10 to 12 doctoral clinical psychology students who are learning on the job at NSU’s on-campus clinic.

“Being able to work in the clinic with students is definitely something we didn’t have before we came here. It allows for a kind of passing of the torch,” he said.

In fact, the torch is being passed all over the country as students who graduate bring their expertise to noteworthy establishments across the world. One of the Sobells’ former students, Ben Toll, Ph.D., is now an assistant professor at Yale and received an NSU distinguished alumni award. (See story on page 29.)

Mark Sobell was just a 24-year-old graduate student at the University of California—Riverside when he was presented with an opportunity that would determine the direction of the couple’s life work. Just two weeks after he had begun a job working with psychiatric patients at a state hospital, he was asked to take the lead on alcohol addiction research that would be conducted under a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Beginnings of Research

It was a huge undertaking for a young student and the beginning of auspicious careers in alcohol and addictive behaviors research, which they are still enjoying today.

From the start, the Sobells were dedicated to bringing good science to a field where there was little research. Mark Sobell said that when they started, they were naïve as to just how much impact they might have and how much controversy their studies might cause. When they conducted a controlled trial on the feasibility of moderate drinking for some individuals with alcohol problems back in the 1970s, it ruffled some feathers in the world of traditional alcohol treatment.

“All we were trying to do is good science and things that made sense. But it challenged the very tenet of alcohol treatments—abstinence,” Mark Sobell said.

Publicity raged around the study and, in the early 1980s, the Sobells found themselves defending their studies in four investigations. Thanks to Linda Sobell’s meticulous record keeping and saving of every item associated with the study, Mark Sobell said, they were vindicated on all counts. In addition, others began to replicate the Sobells’ studies and support their original findings.
In fact, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) now has literature that promotes low-risk drinking as a goal for some individuals with alcohol problems.

Their research had many important by-products that innovated alcohol-problem studies, such as the Timeline Followback method, which the Sobells developed. Today, that method is used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the European Medicine Agency, and in many scientific trials done in the field for assessing alcohol and drug use.

Self-Change Recoveries

Through the years, the Sobells continued their research in Canada and at NSU, focusing on individuals with addictions that are not severe. The Healthy Lifestyles Guided Self-Change Clinic on NSU’s main campus is one-of-a-kind in the state, offering an out-patient alternative for those who may not need or want intensive treatment.

The Sobells’ studies also focus on natural or self-change recoveries, in which people with addictions successfully resolve the problem on their own. Numerous studies, including the Sobells’ own research, have shown that the majority of people recover from alcohol problems on their own, without ever having entered treatment. With research grant support from the NIAAA, the Sobells recently conducted further research exploring how to facilitate more self-change recoveries and create a healthier society.

The Sobells’ current research also includes studies under grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preventing alcohol-exposed pregnancies in high-risk women. That research earned the Sobells and the other researchers the CDC’s coveted Charles C. Shepard Science Award in 2008. More recently, with support from a CDC research grant, the Sobells and their co-investigator, NSU professor Ken Johnson, D.O., have evaluated a mail intervention program to reduce the risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancies. They recently completed a smoking cessation project, which was implemented at Lackland Air Force Base (Wilford Hall Medical Center) in Texas, and which was funded by a research grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program.

Ultimately, the Sobells hope their decades of research will lead to more effective and less costly ways to reach larger numbers of people with addictions. The Sobells also write books (their latest release is Group Therapy for Substance Disorders, published by Guilford Press in 2011), teach their students to conduct group therapy sessions, are motivational coaches in NSU’s Biggest Loser weight loss program, and provide all of NSU’s group and individual smoking cessation services.

In their spare time, the couple enjoys gourmet cooking, exercising, and traveling. They say their greatest accomplishments are their two daughters, ages 30 and 33.

Mark Sobell, who is currently president elect for the Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12) of the American Psychological Association, said he is proud of what they have been able to achieve together in their careers and for the students they have inspired.

“To have played a role in advancing science in the addiction field is important,” he said. “But to be able to mentor students and then see what they have gone on to do, that is the biggest reward.”

For more information on the Healthy Lifestyles Guided Self-Change Clinic, visit www.nova.edu/gsc.

Linda and Mark Sobell still enjoy their work in alcohol and addictive behaviors research.
A Healthy Return on His M.B.A.

BY JOANNE FERCHLAND-PARELIA

Raphael (Ralph) Perez, M.B.A., class of 1993, has never been one to be pigeonholed. Through careful thought and planning, he has evolved his career to become the president and co-founder of Medica HealthCare Plans, Inc., one of the largest health care plans in Florida. Since creating the company with his brother in 2003, the company has grown to more than 36,000 Medicare members with more than $500 million in revenue.

Perez began his career as a pharmacist with a pharmacy degree from the University of Florida. He worked in retail stores and quickly tired of the long hours and limited family time. In 1986, he jumped to the emerging industry of health management organizations (HMOs), joining Humana, which offered new challenges and a Monday-to-Friday job, just right for a new father. However, he quickly realized that, in this business environment, he was put in a box as a pharmacist and was not involved in key business operations. So, he again took matters into his own hands and enrolled in the M.B.A. program at the Nova Southeastern University School of Business, now the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

According to Perez, “The M.B.A. broadened my business background and gave me the skills to relate to people in accounting and finance and to speak their language. I understood how to read income statements and balance sheets. Ultimately, it gave me more opportunities.” He soon received promotions and more responsibilities. He moved on to CAC Ramsay as executive director/senior vice president of operations. In 1994, his company was sold to United Healthcare and he served as vice president of operations for South Florida. Still, he wanted to do more.

“My brother and I always wanted to own a company,” he said. “People thought I was crazy to leave a large company with all the benefits, but we were determined. In 2003, we started Medica with 30 physicians. By April 2005, we were licensed by the state of Florida and CSM Medicare. In nearly seven years, we’ve reached more than $500 million in revenue. We also started Medica Health Plans of Florida for Medicaid patients.” In the next five years, the brothers hope to expand the company into other Florida counties in the state.

“I got into managed care by accident because I was seeking a work-life balance. Through the flexibility of the NSU M.B.A. program, I was able to gain additional knowledge and grow my career. I’ve been able to achieve my dream of being an entrepreneur with my brother. We’ve created a company where people love to come to work. We have staff members who we’ve worked with for 15 to 20 years. That’s an important way to measure success of an organization, because it’s not always about money.”

Perez was selected as a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2009, chosen from a field of nearly 100 nominations.

His advice to NSU students who want to build a business: “Follow your dreams and don’t be afraid to take risks. As an entrepreneur, it may take two or three times before you succeed with your venture. Accept failure as part of the process of growing and learning. My family and I came to the United States from Cuba in 1970. There was lots of hard work along the way, but I stayed motivated. If you find your motivation, your passion, you can do it, too.”

Raphael Perez created his company in 2003.
Each year, NSU defines excellence through the alumni and community leaders honored during the university’s Celebration of Excellence and alumni of distinction awards presentation.

Philanthropists and business leaders Ron and Kathy Assaf received the university’s highest honor, the President’s Community Award, during NSU’s annual Celebration of Excellence banquet held in January at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards also were presented to graduates of the university’s schools, colleges, and centers during the ceremony.

Since 1997, the annual awards banquet has brought together students, alumni, community leaders, and industry pioneers who have made significant contributions to their studies, professions, and the community.

Here is a look at the alumni honorees. Ron and Kathy Assaf are profiled on page 33.

Cathy Areu Jones, M.S., class of 1995
Abraham S. Fischler School of Education
Jones is a publisher, author, speaker, journalist, television pundit, and founder of CATALINA magazine. Jones was named a magazine maven by NPR and one of the “most influential women in New York City” by the Oxygen Network.

Clay Beauregard, M.S., class of 1997
Oceanographic Center
Beauregard is a principal scientist at Alcon Laboratories in Fort Worth, Texas, where he manages preclinical pharmacology research in ocular allergic and inflammatory diseases and serves as research team leader on global cross-functional pharmaceutical project teams.
Few people—especially children—look forward to going to the dentist. That’s why Michael Roseff, D.M.D., 2004, prides himself on having a cheerful pediatric dentistry practice, from the toothpaste to the door prizes. “We have fun with our patients, really get to know them, and treat them the way we want to be treated,” he said.

Roseff attributes his ability to make his patients feel comfortable to his experiences at NSU’s College of Dental Medicine.

“Most of the faculty members treated our small class as a family,” said Roseff, who has his own pediatric dental practice in Boynton Beach, Florida. “School was tough, but the faculty members always made it more enjoyable.”

A Philadelphia native, Roseff received undergraduate degrees in biology and food science from the University of Delaware. At NSU’s College of Dental Medicine, he established himself as a leader. Having served as class president for two years and student body president for one year, Roseff was awarded the Leadership in Student Governments Dean’s Award and College of Dental Medicine Service Award.

While at NSU, and with the help of mentors such as Anton Gotlieb, D.D.S.; Richard Mascola, D.D.S.; Denise Vedrenne, D.D.S.; and Abby Brodie, D.M.D., Roseff was awarded grants to present his research in craniofacial orthodontics in Gothenburg, Sweden; Oahu, Hawaii; and San Francisco, California. After graduation, Roseff received postgraduate training at Indiana University and became board certified in 2006. He has been honored with the Delta Dental Leadership Award, the American College of Dentists Award for Professionalism and Ethics, and the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Charles Fain Award.

Roseff currently serves as the 2011–2012 president of South Palm Beach County District Dental Association and is a member of the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and the Florida Dental Society of Anesthesiology.

He credits much of his success to NSU’s College of Dental Medicine faculty members.

“I think school, practice, and work are what you make of it,” said Roseff, who lives in Wellington, Florida, with his wife Misty, daughters Charli and Samantha, and his clumber spaniel Lucy.

“We just try and make the best of every day, every situation, and every opportunity. That’s the way I treated dental school and my time at NSU.”
Teresa Murphy-Price, B.S., 1999, and her family had just returned to their home in Haiti following a vacation when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck. Life as they knew it in the Caribbean nation would never be the same.

“We landed in Port-au-Prince, went grocery shopping at a Caribbean supermarket, drove home, and were standing in our driveway when it hit,” said Murphy-Price of the earthquake that struck on January 12, 2010.

The quake left thousands dead, more than a million homeless, and leveled tens of thousands of buildings. Murphy-Price, a missionary and NSU-trained physician assistant to Haiti Health Ministries Clinic in Gressier, Haiti, saw it happen firsthand. Her clinic—5 miles from the quake’s epicenter and 20 miles from Port-au-Prince—was destroyed.

“When I first moved to Haiti, I worked by myself. The only supervising physicians were by phone,” Murphy-Price said. “I was very remote—more than five hours from the nearest major hospital.”

She credits NSU with giving her the necessary medical skills to tackle this work. She wasn’t daunted when she saw her first cases of acute tetanus, dengue fever, malaria, and other diseases.

“I was able to accurately diagnose the patients based on physical findings and knowledge that I’d gained in my infectious disease classes at NSU, even though I’d never seen these diseases during my stateside practice,” she said.

Raised in Milwaukee, Murphy-Price attended the University of Wisconsin—Madison for her prerequisite courses before choosing NSU’s College of Allied Health and Nursing, now the College of Health Care Sciences.

“NSU gave me the chance to be a PA and prepared me for what I’m doing,” Murphy-Price said. “My professors were always willing to answer questions and knew what they were talking about. I felt prepared when I got my first job.”

In 2007, Murphy-Price met her husband Ryan Price, an optometrist also doing missionary work in Haiti. They have two children together.

Today, Murphy-Price works out of UNICEF tents with another American doctor, two Haitian doctors, and one nurse. The team sees to the health care of more than 40,000 patients in the area.

“Some days are good, and other days you feel an invisible weight on your shoulders,” Murphy-Price said. “I feel like God put me on this Earth to help others.”
Ronald Renuart, D.O., class of 1990, wears many hats. He is an NSU-educated internist, a Florida House Representative for District 18, and a retired full colonel with the Florida Army National Guard—serving 20 years with three combat tours overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A native of Florida, Renuart joined NSU’s fifth class of medical students in 1986 at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. “It was always something I wanted to do. I don’t remember a time in my life when I didn’t want to be a doctor,” he said. “The ability to have someone who is ill and be able to provide a service that makes them whole, or at least relieves some of their suffering, that’s a tremendous feeling.”

Renuart took full advantage of his NSU education. During his senior year, Renuart was student director for a collaborative project with the Florida Area Health Education Center in which students identified the top 102 rural areas in the state for doctors to set up practice. The experience earned Renuart NSU’s first-ever Rose Community Service Award.

Originally planning to go into family practice, Renuart ultimately chose internal medicine. “Some of my professors at NSU showed us that, with internal medicine, you get a little deeper into some of the serious chronic illnesses,” he said. “Those are some of the tougher ones to treat, because you’re not going to cure them. You’re going to modify them to lower risk factors to keep the illness from worsening.”

Renuart completed his internal medicine residency with the University of Florida Health Science Center Jacksonville (now Shands Jacksonville Medical Center). He is the immediate past president of the Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association, a former chief of staff for Baptist Medical Center, and a former chief medical officer for the Florida Army National Guard.

As an internist at Baptist Primary Care in Ponte Vedra Beach, and with a flourishing political career, Renuart attributes a portion of his success to NSU. “The school has built up a tremendous reputation and is now widely known,” Renuart said. “In Tallahassee, other health care professionals say to me that they know what NSU stands for. And that’s a quality education that prepares people to be professionals and serve the public.”

Ronald Renuart is a proud part of NSU’s reputation for quality.
Ron and Kathy Assaf, South Florida community leaders and well-regarded philanthropists for more than three decades, have a bevy of recognitions, both together and as individuals. But, the President's Community Award, Nova Southeastern University’s highest honor bestowed at its annual Celebration of Excellence, wasn't just another award to add to them; the designation carried with it a chance for them to spread a message. And the timing, they say, couldn't be better.

“Nova Southeastern University is entering a new chapter,” said Ron Assaf. “It’s a good time to reach out to the community to get people interested in the university and to encourage others, especially alumni, to get involved, too.”

Leaders in various philanthropic and civic causes in South Florida, the Assafs’ passion is education. Sitting on a couch in their living room at their Boca Raton, Florida, home, Ron and Kathy Assaf tell how they both have firsthand knowledge of what it means to be given opportunity for education through scholarship.

Kathy Assaf was one of the few women to be a senior auditor at Arthur Young and Co., one of the world’s largest accounting firms, and one of the first women to serve as chair of a bank in the South. She received a scholarship from the Hollywood, Florida, Women’s Club to help her with her studies when she attended Rollins College in Winter Park. She graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree.

Ron Assaf has a similar story. “I wouldn’t have been able to go to college without scholarship help.” He had scholarship assistance when he attended the University of Akron in his hometown of Akron, Ohio. After graduation, he created a theft protection company, Sensormatic, that produced a product that has become indispensable today in the retail world and helped Ron Assaf become the successful businessman he is.

“We both worked during college and had scholarships and loans. Now, we want to make it feasible for students because it wasn’t easy for us, but the scholarships made it possible, and we were able to go to school,” said Kathy Assaf.

Since his retirement from Sensormatic, one of Ron Assaf’s primary volunteer roles has been his dedication to the NSU Board of Trustees. “I was introduced to NSU in the 1970s, and then became reacquainted with the school in 1993.” Soon after, he was elected to the NSU Board of Trustees in July 1994 and became chairman of the board in May 2005.

“Nova Southeastern University is a relatively young school, and the board consistently looks for ways to get our message out,” he said.

Ambassadors Board Mission

The newly formed Ambassadors Board is just one of those ways, he said. “Alan Levan brought this idea to our board. He and his wife, Susie, have put together a program to enlist people throughout the community who can help the university. The Ambassadors Board’s mission is to enlist widespread and active support for the university’s development efforts, to promote NSU programs, and to be the university’s ambassadors to our communities and constituencies. At other schools, these types of organizations have created a great source for scholarships and endowments.”

Ron and Kathy Assaf have long been ambassadors for education with endowments at NSU, Lynn University, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Akron. They founded the Ronald and Kathleen Assaf Center for Nursing Excellence at Boca Raton Community Hospital to help recruit, train, and retain nurses.

“When you support education, you are helping society as a whole in so many ways,” said Kathy Assaf.

The couple said they are certainly honored to have been selected for the President’s Community Award. Yet, in the same breath, Ron Assaf shares the couple’s philosophy on philanthropic dedication.

“You don’t give to get trophies. You give because it’s the right thing to do.”
A little iPad can go a long way.

At Nova Southeastern University, the flat screen touch pad is being used by researchers in the Occupational Therapy Department of NSU’s College of Health Care Sciences to improve the quality of life of patients who suffer from spinal cord injuries and other disabilities.

At NSU’s Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, iPads were used in an initiative called 18 iPads in 18 Days to help facilitate the learning process for children with autism spectrum disorders at the Mailman Segal Center’s Baudhuin Preschool.

The Occupational Therapy Department used a $13,000 grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to purchase iPads to assist patients. According to its Web site, the foundation, created by actor Christopher Reeve, is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis.

Depending on their injuries, patients with a damaged spinal cord experience symptoms that vary from pain to paralysis. Because of this, they have limited physical mobility. Using a desktop computer or laptop can be difficult, since those functions require a certain level of dexterity.

NSU’s occupational therapy researchers believe that Apple's iPad, with its lightweight portability and touch screen, can help patients have greater access to the Internet, applications, social media outlets, games, and other functions. The iPad makes it much easier for them to read books and newspapers, which they would not have to pick up anymore, researchers said. So far, 20 iPads have been distributed to patients with spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, and amputation-related injuries, as well as patients suffering from cerebral palsy.

“The iPad program has been successful so far,” said Adrienne Lauer, Ed.D., OTR/L, the program director and an assistant professor of occupational therapy at NSU. “It has really made a positive impact on this population with disabilities, allowing them to more easily access mainstream technology.”

Lauer said she hopes to receive more funding in the future to distribute more iPads to the people who need them the most.

Using iPads helped revolutionize the manner in which teachers meet the needs of children with autism spectrum disorders at the Baudhuin Preschool as well. The Apple device was used with children who have communication challenges. The iPads provided an alternative means of communication between children with autism, who have difficulty communicating, and the teacher. Each iPad is equipped with applications such as Proloquo2Go, which is designed specifically for children and individuals with special needs. The touch pad is user friendly, features colorful symbols, natural sounding text-to-speech voices, and an extensive vocabulary.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, the Mailman Segal Center was able to place an iPad in each of the Baudhuin Preschool’s 18 classrooms.

“Autism is a lifelong disability that affects the way children communicate and relate to others and the world around them,” said Roni Leiderman, Ph.D., dean of the Mailman Segal Center. “We are grateful for the incredible generosity and support of our donors, who are responsible for the success of this initiative.”

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Now NSU Sharks can say “there’s an app for that”—the iShark mobile application. Staying connected with NSU just got easier for students, alumni, and friends of the university who own smartphones, tablets, and other mobile devices.

The iShark app has just been developed and offers convenient access to the latest campus news, maps, course catalogs, events, and much more. The iShark mobile app is available for the iPhone, iPad, and Android devices. The mobile app is only the beginning of the technological transformation focused on fulfilling Nova Southeastern University’s Vision 2020.

“iShark is the first of many innovations that we have under way,” said Hugo Alvarez, executive director in the Office of Innovation and Information Technologies. “We look forward to introducing many student-inspired apps in the months ahead.”

With the iShark mobile app, NSU now offers a cutting-edge product that gives real-time access to online information and features including:

- **Athletics** (view Sharks’ sports scores and schedules)
- **Events** (manage your calendar in a snap)
- **Maps** (use an interactive, main campus map designed specifically for mobile devices)
- **Videos** (stream video content from recent events, lectures, and more)
- **News** (check out up-to-date listings of NSU news stories)
- **Images** (see digital images of the university)
- **Courses** (browse the course catalog, view class times and locations, and more)
- **University School** (navigate NSU’s college preparatory school)
- **Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale** (visit South Florida’s cool destination for art, cultural events, and more)
- **Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions** (complete an application or request information)
- **Blackboard Learn** (have online classes at your fingertips)
- **Emergency** (obtain quick access to NSU’s Office of Public Safety and emergency contact information)

Students are encouraged to send suggestions for future apps that they would like to see to mobilehelp@nova.edu.

To learn more about the iShark mobile app, visit [www.nova.edu/iShark](http://www.nova.edu/iShark).
NSU’s Oceanographic Center has created a Bachelor of Science in Marine Professional Studies and a Master of Art in Marine and Coastal Studies. The bachelor’s degree is designed to provide students with an orientation toward the marine-related fields with an in-depth, scholarly perspective on marine and coastal issues. These issues range from the depths of the deep sea to the heights of atmospheric climate change, to the details of port security, environmental impacts, marine transportation, and international policy.

The master’s degree will provide a broadened perspective on marine and coastal processes and related societal impacts, applicable to students with or without an academic natural science background. Perspectives from emerging fields of study such as environmental history, environmental communication, and environmental psychology will be incorporated through individual course offerings. The degree will be relevant to those pursuing careers in a broad range of sectors including administration, teaching, government and policy, urban planning, communication and media, tourism, and business.

The Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies has changed its name to the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development (MSC) to reflect the center’s expanded mission. Since 2010, the scope of the center’s offerings has broadened to address social challenges such as autism across the life span, family issues, and parenting challenges. Three new institutes also have been established: the Early Childhood Institute, the Family Studies Institute, and the Autism Institute.

Mailman Segal Center will pursue a more pronounced focus on research activities and dissemination and external funding. It also will develop a range of academic programs that offer training at the undergraduate and graduate levels. MSC is a part of the Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies at NSU.

The genesis of the Mailman Segal Center traces back to 1972, when Marilyn Mailman Segal, Ph.D., founder and former dean, was awarded a four-year, $500,000 grant from the Federal Office of Human Development to produce a nine-part public television series, To Reach a Child, that focused on the first year of life. As part of the series, Segal established a school for parents that developed into the Mailman Segal Center’s Early Learning Programs.

The Family Center, as it was initially called, was formed in 1975. Wendy Masi, Ph.D., a former dean, founded the Parent/Child program in 1979. In 1980, the Family Center Preschool was founded, and a year later, the Mailman Family Center building opened its doors to the public. The Baudhuin Preschool, formerly known as the Fort Lauderdale Oral School, was acquired by NSU in 1983 and moved to NSU’s main campus.

The Family Center became known for its groundbreaking work refining and bringing programs and ideas to the local, state, and national communities.

In 2002, the Family Center was renamed the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies to illustrate its programs in early childhood education, including clinical services for children with developmental challenges with a special focus on the early diagnosis and treatment of autism; community outreach and advocacy; and of course, to honor its founder.

In 2003, the Jim & Jan Moran Family Center Village opened, the only demonstration and training facility of its kind in the nation.
Business Leaders Offer a Pathway to Success

BY BRANDON HENSLER

Students’ dreams of becoming business leaders and entrepreneurs may become closer to reality thanks to the generosity of South Florida business leaders and innovative thinking at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Major gifts from AutoNation and Marti and Wayne Huizenga have helped launch a scholarship program to help disadvantaged students attend Nova Southeastern University.

The new Pathway Scholars program will be funded by a portion of more than $1 million in donations. AutoNation made a $60,000 gift to sponsor one student through four years at NSU. The Huizenga gift and other corporate sponsorships will be used to assist approximately 15 to 20 students each year. It is expected that other South Florida businesses will do the same.

“This is the kind of educational program that AutoNation looks to support, and the fact that it’s going to be installed at the Huizenga Business School has success written all over it,” said Mike Jackson, chairman and CEO of AutoNation.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen by the Huizenga Business School, working with Take Stock in Children of Broward County, which helps prepare low-income middle and high school students to achieve academic success. To be considered for a scholarship, students will have to demonstrate leadership and show academic promise with a high school grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The Huizenga Business School’s Board of Governors Selection Committee will make the final selection.

The first Pathway Scholars are expected to begin their NSU education during the summer of 2012. The students will live in a residence hall with tutors and mentors to introduce them to college life and will work with the same corporate sponsors for four years.

In addition to financial and academic support, the scholarship provides internship and mentorship opportunities with business leaders, a community network of peers, and other resources to ensure the students’ academic and social success while pursuing their degrees at NSU.

“This is a fresh way to look at supporting the educational goals of some of South Florida’s most disadvantaged high school students. We are taking a more holistic approach here,” said J. Preston Jones, D.B.A., interim dean of the Huizenga Business School.

“Everyone is served well by this program, from the students, to the school, and all the way to the businesses that will eventually hire these bright, young students and the community as a whole.”

For more information on the Pathway Scholars program, visit www.huizenga.nova.edu/pathway-scholars.

Six New M.B.A. Options at the Huizenga Business School

The H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship added six new M.B.A. concentrations and graduate certificates to its already robust portfolio, all of which began enrollment in January 2012. With the addition of these six programs, the Huizenga Business School now offers 16 graduate certificate programs, 14 of which are also concentrations in its M.B.A. program.

The new concentrations include business intelligence/analytics, conflict resolution (taught in conjunction with the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences), information security management (taught in conjunction with the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences and certified by the U.S. National Security Agency), logistics, process improvement (including Lean Six Sigma Green and Black Belt tracks), and supply chain management.

With rapidly changing workplaces, the Huizenga Business School is keeping up with employer demand by creating new programs to meet current needs. These new programs were developed based on feedback given from top companies, businesses, and industry leaders.

A comprehensive list of M.B.A. and certificate programs can be viewed online at www.huizenga.nova.edu/about.

HORIZONS 37
Track and field is a sport of results. There are no blooper singles or lucky bounces. No team members to hide behind if things don’t go right.

It’s a sport defined by the preciseness of time, the mercilessness of distance, and a simple truth: If you want team success, you better come up with some personal bests and top-three podium finishes. And, of course, they better happen at just the right moment.

That’s what happened to Nova Southeastern University’s track team last season. Seven Sharks responded to the competition at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II championships by turning in All-American performances. Carlyle Thompson, the only NSU man to reach the finals, took fourth place, and NSU women placed third, fifth, and seventh to lead the Sharks to a number 17 national finish.

“Last year was a huge step, because the program here is fairly new. It set the bar,” said sprinter Roberta Fisher, a senior legal studies major.

“We started out at the bottom of the map,” said junior sprinter Tiffany Richardson, a sports and recreation management major. “Now, we’re moving up."

Last year, Fisher; Richardson; and hurdler Jessica Osteen, a business administration major, all were named All-Americans.

So far this season, the Sharks track and field contingent has met the expectations.

On March 23 and 24, 2012, the NSU athletes posted 11 top-20 finishes in the Florida State University relays, which drew 2,000 competitors from 19 Division I and II schools.

Sophomore Derrick Wood finished third in the triple jump with a leap of 13.15 meters for the men’s team. And the men’s 4 X 400 relay—made up of three freshmen (Kiel Knight, Talyn Washington, Cameron Hemenez) and a senior (Robert Moise)—finished eighth.

On the women’s side, Peri Bowman finished second in the steeplechase with the tenth-best Division II time (11:03.82) in the country this year. And Osteen just kept on clearing hurdles, finishing fifth in the 400-meter hurdles. She also led the 4 X 100 relay team of Thelmarcia Williams, newcomer Kyley Jorgensen, and junior Johniqua Stafford to eighth place.

In the field, Vanessa Munley, Janell Azaret, and Brittany Todaro captured top-20 finishes in the triple jump, claiming 18th with a jump of 10.02 meters, 19th with a 9.67-meter leap, and 20th at 9.40 meters, respectively.

The week before, Osteen won the 400-meter hurdles at the Miami Invitational. At that same meet, freshman pole vaulter Ryan Jerothe also tied for the best vault, and junior Omar Hernandez won the men’s steeplechase.

Miami and FSU were followed by the Florida Relays on April 7, 2012, in Gainesville, where Bowman bested her tenth best-in-nation time by running an 11:03 in the women’s steeplechase. It was a personal best and school record for the sophomore from Virginia Beach, Virginia. Bowman was also part of the Sharks’ 4,000-meter distance medley team (along with sophomore Brittaney Smash, Richardson, and senior Courtney McAuliffe) who placed ninth with a 12:55.06. In addition, the women’s and men’s 4 X 100 and 4 X 400 relays posted personal bests at the meet.

Bryan Hagopian, head coach, loves to hear his athletes talk about winning. He teaches it, and he looks for it in recruits.
“I like athletes who want it,” he said.

Last year, Hagopian took the team to the national stage by finding a core group of five or six talented sprinters and sprinkling them liberally into the sprints and hurdles.

That recipe took the Sharks to prominence, a status that was enhanced this year with the return of Richardson, Osteen, Williams, and Fisher, as well as Yanique Booth, the new assistant coach.

“Coach Booth is amazing,” said Williams. “Her technique. Her dedication. The respect she has for us. Even if you don’t want to, she pushes you to work a little harder, to make you better.”

A 2008 graduate of Florida Atlantic University, Booth was a four-year regional qualifier for the Owls and holds the SunBelt Conference record in the 55-meter hurdles.

The addition of a coach who’s a sprinter/hurdler wasn’t an accident. Knowledge of the hurdles also translates to the long jump and triple jump. That diversity is critical for a growing Division II program.

The pieces, once again, are in place this season.

Hagopian sees the attitude, the skills, and the athletes in place to make a run that will go past 2012 and beyond. He sees a commitment by a university that has plans to build an on-campus track complex for year-round training.

And, he sees recruiting pipelines to the sprint-rich Caribbean. One of last year’s standouts, Rashida Allen, is from Montego Bay, Jamaica.

“We’re being aggressive now. We’re going to be super aggressive in the future,” Hagopian said.

Rower Anchored by Sportsmanship

BY OLIVE H. COGILL

Athletes know how sweet that moment of winning can be—that heady thrill when victory is yours and the pride of knowing that you and your teammates are champions. But sportsmanship trumps everything.

NSU’s freshman eight rowing team had just placed first in the semifinals in the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association regatta, but Courtney Berger, 19, didn’t have time to savor the win. The NSU sophomore coxswain noticed that a rower from rival Rollins College was hunched over, having trouble breathing. Berger asked her freshman eight boat to row next to the Rollins boat so she could jump into it.

While in the Rollins boat, Berger held the rower upright until she regained her breathing and medical personnel had arrived.

For her efforts, Berger received the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s 2011 Female Student-Athlete Sportsmanship Award. This is the first time an NSU athlete has received this award and the first time a Sunshine State Conference school athlete has received the honor. Berger was featured as one of the “Faces in the Crowd” in the September 12, 2011, issue of Sports Illustrated.

For Berger, helping a fellow rower, even from a rival school, is the right thing to do. “It’s just the rower’s way,” said Berger, whose team placed second in the regatta finals the next day. “Rowing is team oriented. It’s a really respectful sport. My crew handled themselves quite well that day.”

The rower recovered and the two spoke briefly after the incident. But, neither rower knows the other’s name.

“When we tell stories about this, she’ll always be the bow seat from Rollins, and I’ll be the coxswain from NSU, and that’s all we’ll ever know about each other,” said Berger.

“A coxswain’s first responsibility is to safely drive her crew and boat. Courtney’s awareness and reflex to attend to another boat and opposing team member are testaments to the remarkable individual she is: alert, conscientious, and caring,” said Mary Lenington, NSU’s rowing coach.

Rowing and academics are a good mix at NSU for the student-athlete. Berger said that NSU’s classes and professors have helped her choose her major in criminal justice with a minor in forensics. “I am receiving a good education here. And, I am rowing with a great team.”
During the spring of 2009, Nova Southeastern University adopted a smoking restriction policy to promote healthy lifestyles and ensure clean air around campus buildings, while greatly reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. The Healthy Sharks initiative, which was established to support the policy, prohibited smoking everywhere on campus except at designated smoking sites located at least 50 feet from buildings.

Three years later, NSU President and Chief Executive Officer George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., announced that, on July 1, 2012, NSU will join nearly 400 U.S. colleges and universities to become a tobacco-free campus. “A healthy campus environment is of paramount importance to our university. We believe the adoption of this policy is the right decision and demonstrates our commitment to the well-being of the NSU community,” Hanbury stated in his announcement.

NSU is justified in its concern. Statistics about the health of tobacco users as reported by the American Cancer Society (ACS) are alarming. The ACS indicates that, in the United States, smoking is responsible for nearly one in three cancer deaths and one in five deaths from all causes. Another 8.6 million people live with serious illnesses caused by smoking and the use of tobacco products.

The university’s decision to become a tobacco-free campus was finalized after a detailed survey process and exhaustive due diligence. Students and faculty and staff members were extremely vocal during past Town Hall meetings about smokers who did not comply with the designated smoking areas. Further surveys and research confirmed that the restricted smoking policy was ineffective, as there were multiple smoking violations reported daily, which negatively affected morale and productivity.

In early 2010, NSU conducted another survey that asked additional questions about the 2009 policy revision and smoking zones. The survey indicated that, recognizing the harm from secondhand smoke, 65.75 percent of the respondents were in favor of prohibiting smoking on campus. Of note, only 9 percent of the NSU community indicated they were smokers.

So what happens to this 9 percent on July 1 when they can no longer smoke or use tobacco products on campus—even in parked cars? Those who want to quit the nicotine habit may take advantage of the free tobacco cessation programs and resources, including nonprescription nicotine replacement therapy (e.g., patch, gum, lozenges) that NSU offers. These programs and counseling sessions are offered in a variety of formats, such as individual and group sessions on an ongoing basis. For more information, visit www.nova.edu/tobacco-free/tobacco-cessation-resources.html, call (954) 262-5860, or email quitsmokingnow@nova.edu. To read more about NSU’s new policy, visit www.nova.edu/tobacco-free.

Source: American Cancer Society
EVE RY Y EAR, generous individuals like you change the lives of thousands of students. Become an agent of change, partner with us and leave your legacy for NSU students. And together, we will change the world.

For a complimentary brochure about legacy planning and the rewards of philanthropic giving, please contact Andrea Darlow, M.B.A., at (954) 262-2106 or at adarlow@nova.edu.
400 species. More than 70 artists. One exhibition to devour. Dive into man’s never-ending fascination with these fabled creatures of the sea.

Opening May 12