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College of Osteopathic Medicine

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In February 1981, just months before Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) was set to begin matriculating its first class in North Miami Beach, the late Dr. Morton Terry discussed his vision by saying, “Our primary goal is to produce well-trained primary care physicians to meet the health care needs of Florida and neighboring states, particularly in rural and other medically underserved communities.”

More than 25 years—and one merger—after Dr. Terry spoke those prophetic words about his brainchild, I am proud to say that NSU-COM has remained true to Dr. Terry’s aforementioned mission as it relates to primary care and assisting the medically underserved. While we have become a leader in modern medical education and medical practice through cutting-edge curricular enhancements in research, standardized patients, and distance learning, we steadfastly adhere to the tenets espoused by Dr. Terry and the osteopathic profession in the mission and operation of our college.

For example, we require our students to participate in three months of rural rotations in medically underserved areas. This includes our corrective medicine rotation, which has become the most requested rotation in the clinical curriculum. We are also the only osteopathic college in the nation that requires every new D.O. faculty member who is allopathically board certified to become AOA-board certified within two years to make a major commitment to graduate medical education.

In the field of primary care, we are the only osteopathic medical school in the United States to offer a preventive medicine residency. Additionally, our students are provided scholarships to pursue a master of public health (M.P.H.) degree, which is not available, to my knowledge, at any other medical school in the country. The M.P.H. scholarship is also available to every residency in our OPTI—the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.

We also have a geriatrics fellowship for osteopathic family physicians and are currently expanding it to include osteopathic internal medicine physicians. And we are establishing, thanks to a federal grant, the first corrective medicine fellowship in the world, which will provide another medically underserved population with better specialized care—the prison population.

Everyone involved with the college should feel proud of the fact that through the participation of our faculty, administration, students, and alumni, the college has positioned itself as a first-class educational entity that currently ranks as the 15th largest medical school and the 5th largest osteopathic medical school in the nation.

Although NSU-COM has programatically expanded into many other areas over the years, we continue to adhere to the primary tenets of osteopathic principles and practice, which include focusing on holistic care, which is best expressed in primary care, and providing care to all medically underserved populations within rural and urban areas at local, regional, state, national, and international levels. Through population and community-based medicine, we are able to provide our students with a more global holistic approach to patient care never before fully appreciated in a formal environment.

Proof of our adherence to Dr. Terry’s original mission can be found in the latest U.S. News & World Report survey of “America’s Best Graduate Schools 2007.” In the report, NSU-COM ranked fifth out of all U.S. allopathic and osteopathic medical schools in regard to turning out the most primary care residents—a hefty 77 percent—and, of the top five, number one numerically based on total numbers. Our emphasis on primary care can also be illustrated by the fact that the largest two departments located within the college are family medicine and internal medicine.

While we educate our students to prepare for any medical specialty, we also have a good time and celebrate the students’ educational accomplishments, to see the warmth and camaraderie that pervades each graduation ceremony. It’s a very special experience not only for the graduates but also for those of us who have witnessed them grow and mature throughout their matriculation here at NSU’s Health Professions Division.

For example, when our osteopathic medical students walked across the stage at the Bank Atlantic Center on May 28, they did so knowing of all the on-campus enhancements that are going to occur in the near future. However, when the class of 2006 was initially accepted for matriculation four years ago, there was no discussion about creating an Academic Village, nor were there plans to build a hospital by the North Broward Hospital District on the NSU campus, which will bring about many health education collaborative opportunities.

Similarly, the cutting-edge University Center, which will open later this year and serve our students by combining NCAA Division II athletics, intramural athletics, and student wellness, was only in its initial development stage when the recent graduating class began entertaining thoughts of attending the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Does the construction of a multipurpose University Center mean a lot to our medical students? Yes, it does, especially when you consider that HPD students account for nearly 60 percent of the participation in the university’s assorted intramural activities. And now we’re looking forward to the construction of a very extensive and sophisticated research building, which will be a 288,000-square-foot facility that will benefit not only our medical students and their teaching faculty but also the entire research community here at NSU.

What also come to mind during graduation are the incredible accomplishments of our faculty and students in the emerging image and reality that is now part of the NSU mission to advance biomedical research. We are now at a level of about $45 million in funded research grants, which is starting to put the university in a very unique area because once you reach the $100 million figure, you’re really playing in the big time. That’s why the university leadership has set a personal goal to get us to that magic $100 million mark within the next five years. We’re clearly at a turning point not only in the Health Professions Division but also in the university in terms of taking a very large step. There’s a lot of focus on Nova Southeastern University and its interests in the field of research, particularly biomedical and biotechnical research, and for good reason because we’re doing exceptional research.

For the students, graduation is a time for them to reflect—with a sense of relief—on their academic accomplishments and the culmination of their didactic and initial clinical training here at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. We here at the Health Professions Division also feel that same sense of accomplishment, because as our graduates move on and become successful, it helps the university become more successful as well.

I have played a part in all our graduation ceremonies, including the first one, which took place in 1985 at the civic center at North Miami Beach’s City Hall and featured a graduating class of 35. Back then, only the mother college of the HPD, which was then known as Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, was in existence. Over two decades later, The Health Professions Division has become such a multi-professional teaching facility that it’s gotten to the point where we have to hold two separate graduation ceremonies—one for the non-osteopathic students and one for the allied health professions in August.

Equally as important as the actual graduation ceremony is a wonderful series of senior awards dinners we coordinate the two nights before graduation. They are very festive and extremely well-attended events that give the students, their families, and their significant others an opportunity to have a good time and celebrate the students’ educational careers by rewarding their colleagues and friends for their academic achievements.

It gives me a really good feeling to watch our students revel in the warmth and camaraderie that pervades each graduation ceremony. It’s a very special experience not only for the graduates but also for those of us who have witnessed them grow and mature throughout their matriculation here at NSU’s Health Professions Division.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.
It proved to be a golden night for Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni at the Seventh Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards as he walked away with a gilded statuette during the April 4 ceremony.

AHEC Tobacco Cessation Project Educates Students of All Ages
Before the spring semester concluded, NSU-COM’s Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program coordinated its Sixth Annual Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project, which is part of the M1 and second-year pharmacy student curriculum.

NSU-HPD and American Red Cross Unite
NSU’s Health Professions Division has joined forces with the American Red Cross of Broward County Chapter (ARCBCC) to hold disaster relief training sessions at NSU’s Health Professions Division.

NSU-COM Establishes Research Fellowship Program
As part of the college’s continuing efforts to enrich its research infrastructure, NSU-COM has launched a research fellowship program for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Class of 2006 Rejoices During Senior Week
A sense of camaraderie was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2006 to get reaquainted while participating in a host of fun-filled activities.

Rural Health Fairs Utilize Interdisciplinary Approach
The Fifth Annual AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which encompasses the Hendry Glades Community Health Fair in Clewiston and the REACH Fair in Belle Glade, proved to be a categorical success that provided a cornucopia of health care services to about 1,600 attendees.

International Outreach: Medical Mission to Ecuador
In April, NSU Health Professions Division students and faculty traveled to Ecuador on a medical mission to provide needed care and medications to some of the country’s poorest areas.

Educational Experience Prompts Words of Praise from Alumnus
After earning his D.O. degree in May, class of 2006 alumnus Dr. Parham Eftekhar sent a heartfelt letter to HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman to express his gratitude for the well-rounded education he received at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

DEPARTMENTS

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In March 27, Mark Newberry (M1) and Nicole Lang (M2) joined an illustrious group of previous winners when they were selected as recipients of the 2006 Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a $500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.

In November, the Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment also honored Dr. Liza Hiller (M1) who, in addition to her rigorous course load, was active in numerous extracurricular activities. She was selected as Student D.O. of the Year by her NSU-COM peers in March. During her three years at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Hiller has gained a reputation for being both a popular and prolific student who is always seeking ways to assist the community and provide enhanced educational opportunities for her fellow matriculants. In 2005, she earned kudos for creating an informative residency workshop that involved recruiting fourth-year students and recent graduates to share their experiences with M1, M2, and M3 students and coordinating a workshop on the creation of a curriculum vitae and personal statements. During the 2006-07 academic year, Hiller will be serving as director of political affairs on the Student Osteopathic Medical Association’s (SOMA) national Board of Trustees.

In March, the Bob Hope Legal Division Prize was awarded to Dr. Andrea Marijuana (M1), who was the sole recipient of the award in 2005. This year, the division awarded both a graduate and an undergraduate prize, which are given to students who demonstrate a commitment to public service and the practice of medicine for the betterment of the community. The graduate recipient was Dr. Liza Hiller (M1), while the undergraduate recipient was Dr. Jennifer Blevens (M2). In addition to her academic achievements, Hiller has been actively involved in several extracurricular activities, including the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). She has also been a member of the NSU-COM Student Government Association (SGA) and has served as SGA president. In 2005, she was awarded the Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which is a $500 cash award given to medical students who exemplify scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality.

Dana Block Named Student D.O. of the Year

Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni Snares Stuey Statuette

Shara Steiner

M3 student Shara Steiner presented a poster on “Attitudes of Allergic and Osteopathic Medical Students Toward Adult Neurology” at the American Academy of Neurology Conference, which was held last April in San Diego, California. She will also be presenting abstracts this fall at the Gerontological Society of America 59th Annual Scientific Conference in Dallas, Texas, and the 11th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease in Kyoto, Japan.

U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Graduate Schools 2007” report, Nova Southeastern University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine ranked fifth out of 148 U.S. allopathic and osteopathic medical schools in regard to turning out the most primary care residents—a hefty 77 percent. West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine ranked first at 87.3 percent.
In April, M4 student Tyese Gaines-Reed was selected as the 2006-2007 chairperson of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Board of Directors. The position entails responsibilities such as creating and enacting a corporate agenda for the organization and overseeing day-to-day operations of the national headquarters, which includes employee contract negotiations, external relationships, and financial matters. “It is my intention as chairperson to not only benefit SNMA, but also bring publicity to osteopathic medicine and NSU-COM,” said Gaines-Reed, who is the second osteopathic medical student in history to serve as chairperson of the SNMA Board of Directors. “I have held various leadership roles in SNMA over the last six years, and it is an honor to be elected by my peers for this prestigious position of service."

In April, a number of M1 and M2 students participated in D.O. Day on Capitol Hill, which serves as the procurement opportunity for D.O.s and students to come to Washington, D.C., and educate members of Congress and their staff on osteopathic medicine and the profession’s positions on important health policy issues where legislation is crafted—Capitol Hill. NSU-COM attendees included (from left) Monica Warhaftig, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, Terry Moy-Brown (M1), Kathryn Rooth (M2), Katherine Lumpkin (M1), Aaron Farmer (M1), and Maria Terneus (M1).

In May, the Student Government Association named the Pediatrics Club as Student Organization of the Year.

The NSU Health Professions Division Electronic Library now has 17,000 journals available online. In addition, Up to Date has been added to the research databases, and MEDLINE now provides references to 48,000 English language journals.

Alfredo Rehbein, M.B.A., who previously worked as a senior research associate in the college’s Behavioral Health Promotion Program, was named director of financial and grant management.

Rita Silverman, M.P.S., director of clinical research, served on a panel with representatives from other Florida universities at the May 17 Enterprise Development Corporation BioTech 2006 Conference, which was held on the NSU campus. The conference sessions revolved around the theme “Bench to Bedside: South Florida Partnerships in Research and Medicine.”

Carol Sui, M.S., who served as assistant to the dean for a number of years, was recently promoted to the position of administrative director of the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.

In March, UAO membership and osteopathic principles and practice (OPP) fellows traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, to participate in the annual American Academy of Osteopathy convention. The gathering serves as a way for practicing osteopathic physicians from the United States to unite to discuss contemporary issues affecting the osteopathic profession and advances in manipulative medicine, as well as provide forums for students to learn from the masters of osteopathy. At this year’s meeting, OPP fellow Melchiorra Mangiaracina and M2 student Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., met world-renowned osteopathic physician Viola Fryman, D.O., FAAO. During the convocation, Mangiaracina made a case presentation entitled “From Toe-Heel to heel-Toe: Using OMT to Restore a Runner’s High,” while Caban-Martinez was appointed to serve as the UAO student representative to the 2006-07 AAO Committee on Information Technology.

The award was created in 2000 when Dr. Burnell provided a book titled Medical Writing 101: A Primer for Health Professionals. The informative tome provides a global introduction to medical writing for health professions’ students and for practicing health professionals who are just starting to do some writing. The publication includes advice on everything from writing articles and letters to composing charts and reports.

In March, a number of NSU-COM students Mangiaracina and Caban-Martinez with Dr. Viola Fryman.

In March, M4 student Kevin Ache received the Sixth Annual Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Award, which is presented to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science. Ache, who received a cash award and commemorative plaque for his efforts, performed neurology research specifically geared toward a study involving abnormalities associated with glaucoma.

In April, M4 student Tyeese Gaines-Reed, who serves as clinical professor of neurology at NSU-COM. He also attended the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in early May, where he presented a coauthored research poster entitled “Examination of Associations Between Visual Impairment and Mortality Risk Using Structural Equation Modeling: Examination of Associations Between Visual Impairment.”

In May, Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., was honored by the Soref Jewish Community Center, which presented him with its Humanitarian of the Year Award at a heartfelt ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie. In presenting President Ferrero with his award, Jer Berman, NSU’s vice president for legal affairs, stated, “He has never been just about himself. He has always recognized the importance of working for the betterment of humanity. Simply put, he is a good-hearted soul.”

Click here for a PDF version.
Kaminski Garners David Spector Memorial Award

M1 student Donna Kaminski was the inaugural recipient of the David Spector Memorial Award, which was presented in March at a special ceremony held in the HFD’s Steele Auditorium.

The cash award will be presented annually to a first- or second-year osteopathic medical student who has participated in research pertaining to the prevention or treatment of substance abuse. The award was established last summer in honor of David Spector—an undergraduate psychology student in the NSU Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences who died from an oxycodone overdose in December 2004. Thanks to the benevolence of David’s father, Howard, who decided to find a positive outlet for his grief by establishing a $10,000 endowment fund at NSU-COM, future generations of students will have an opportunity to conduct further research in this field.

Kaminski, who worked in a substance-abuse program before matriculating at NSU-COM, has maintained that interest by playing an active role in the steering committee that established the college’s Addiction Medicine Interest Group. She is currently meeting with representatives from local drug treatment centers to establish opportunities for students to volunteer and understand the vital role of these types of facilities.

Steve Bronsburg, M.S., M.H.S.A., assistant director of programs and services for NSU-COM’s Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, was recently promoted to the position of rural outreach specialist for the All-Hazards Preparedness Project. In this role, Bronsburg is responsible for supervising, coordinating, and administering the delivery of all-hazards preparedness training programming to health care providers in medically underserved sites located within the 19 South and Central Florida counties served by the AHEC Program.

He proved to be a golden night for Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni at the Seventh Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards as he walked away with a gilded statuette during the April 4 ceremony, which was held at NSU’s Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Silvagni, who has served as NSU-COM dean since 1998, was honored as Academic Dean of the Year after five consecutive nominations in this category. M4 student Danny Hierholzer also earned a Stuey for being recognized as NSU-COM’s Student of the Year although he lost in the NSU Student of the Year category.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine earned seven overall nominations in the Student Life Achievement Award balloting, including nods in the following categories:

**Administrator of the Year**
Albert Whitehead, D.M.D.

**Professor of the Year**
Robert Hasty, D.O.

**Alumnus of the Year**
Susan Lucci No More: Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni Snares Stuey Statuette

Dr. Silvagni shares his moment of triumph with Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.
Antismoking Poster Contest Serves as Integral Learning Tool for Middle School Students

Providing public health education and awareness has been a goal of many NSU-COM students over the years, and that trend continued in 2006 when the Student Government Association (SGA) coordinated its Second Annual Be Smart—Don’t Start Antismoking Poster Contest awards banquet on March 22 in the HPD’s Chancellor’s Dining Room. Over 250 students, representing 10 area middle schools, competed for an Apple iPod Nano MP3 player and $185 worth of Broward Mall gift certificates by submitting antismoking posters. The top 20 finalists were then invited to an awards banquet sponsored by Pizza Loft, NSU-COM’s AHEC Program, Olive Garden, and Contour Day Spa.

“This event is important because it reinforces what the middle school students learn when the osteopathic medical students travel to their schools and speak to them about tobacco cessation via the AHEC Program every year,” said SGA Treasurer Ryan Toney. “It is a great way to prevent them from ever starting to smoke, and with the information they learn, they can encourage their parents to stop. It also gives the students an opportunity to do research, put their ideas on paper, and become advocates for a great cause. It also was beneficial to NSU-COM because it advertised our school and educated the students, families, teachers, and Broward County Public Schools representatives about what a D.O. is, what a D.O. does, and how a D.O. is different from and similar to an M.D.”

NSU Healthy Aging Expo Provides Vital Outreach

Nova Southeastern University hosted its inaugural Healthy Aging Expo on Sunday, March 12, which featured participation from a number of NSU colleges and programs and attracted over 500 older adults to the Health Professions Division campus. The expo, which was free for all attendees, included a range of health screenings as well as lectures by NSU faculty from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Allied Health and Nursing, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Fischler School of Education and Human Services.

Non-NSU-affiliated participants and sponsors included the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Broward County, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, CVS pharmacy, the North Broward Hospital District, WPBT/Channel 2, Aramark, Parties by Ronnie O, Foot Solutions, Lifestyle Systems, League for the Hard of Hearing, Seniors Resource Guide, and Walgreens.

According to Robert Otter, D.O., who serves as chief executive officer of NSU’s Division of Clinical Operations, “The Healthy Aging Expo is NSU’s opportunity to give back to our community and showcase our vast array of expertise in aging health issues.”

The event was created through the NSU Senior Services Team, which began discussing the concept of the Healthy Aging Expo over a year ago. “NSU is building its geriatric health care services and enhancing training in aging-related issues,” said Michelle Gagnon, M3 student Ryan Chauffe does a blood pressure screening at the Healthy Aging Expo.

Sixth Annual AHEC Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Project Educates Students of All Ages

Before the spring semester concluded, NSU-COM’s Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program coordinated its Sixth Annual Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project, which is part of the M1 and second-year pharmacy student curriculum. Through this initiative, which is also offered to NSU nursing students, nearly 500 students gained preventative health training by utilizing a variety of modalities, including group instructional technology in patient-oriented, problem-solving mindset.

During the project, student physicians, second-year pharmacy students, and nursing students meet in small groups to discuss tobacco usage, the pharmacology of smoking, dependence/addiction, smoking prevention, and cessation techniques. Following their comprehensive training, the NSU-COM, College of Pharmacy, and College of Allied Health and Nursing students utilized their newly learned knowledge and skills and delivered about 750 presentations on tobacco prevention to nearly 17,000 elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the Broward County Public Schools system. In addition to educating public school students in South Florida, the Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project sent pharmacy students to Ponce, Puerto Rico, where they discussed the dangers of tobacco use with middle and high school students. Since its inception in 2001, the program has disseminated vital information to more than 90,000 elementary, middle, and high school students.

NSU-COM Students Volunteer at Camp Superstar

NSU-COM’s Pediatrics Club, as well as several other members of the M2, M3, and M4 classes, took some time from their summer vacations in early June to volunteer at Camp Superstar as “Pals.” The camp, which was created for children born with craniofacial anomalies and their families, was held on the NSU campus and was packed with everything from arts and crafts, kickball, and relay races to a trip to the Miami Dolphins’ training camp, a dance, and a cheer-and-skit competition.

About 30 families from South Florida attended the camp, which also included an educational session for the campers to allow for discussion on how the public perceived their anomalies and how to handle buttoles. The participating parents even had a session with health care providers from NSU’s Health Professions Division, Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital, Miami Children’s Hospital, and Children’s Medical Services that provided them with an open forum to speak with medical professionals involved in craniofacial care.

The inspiration for the camp came from its directors, Arthur and Shelly Green, who have a son who was born with a cleft palate. When he was growing up, it was very difficult for his parents to find support groups or other children with cleft palates. Today, their son is 26 years old and assists them to run the camp, which is in its eighth successful year.

Thanks go out to the following students for volunteering their time and truly making a difference in these children’s lives: Justin Arnold (M2), Joshua Cohen (M2), Jill Collins (M2), Chloe Evans (M2), Alexandra Grace (M2), Theresia Hess (M4), Lindsay Kahn (M3), Amber Nash (M2), Travis Osterman (M2), and Ezella Washington (M2).
More than a dozen local organizations participated, including the Davie fire and police departments, Memorial Healthcare System, FAOAO, HPD vice chancellor for professional affairs; and Morton Morris D.O., J.D., graduate and current pediatric emergency medicine fellow at Miami Children’s Hospital; William McCoy; Christopher Stano, D.O.; J.D., FACAO; HPD vice chairman for professional affairs; and M3 student Luis Riccardo.

Inaugural F.L.O.W.E.R.S. Seminar a Success

By Dana Block, M3 Student

On May 18, 2006, the Atrium Conference Room at Broward General Medical Center was tastefully decorated in cheerful colors, awaiting the arrival of participants in the first-ever Fully Loving Ourselves: Women’s Enrichment and Resource Society (F.L.O.W.E.R.S.) workshop.

Approximately one dozen women from Broward County attended the inaugural event, which included a presentation on hygiene and physical health by Jennifer Goldman, D.O., and a session on hygiene and mental health by Laciehla Hall, M.D. In addition, a cosmetic consultant from Mary Kay offered instructions on how to appropriately apply makeup. Bags of sample-sized hygiene products, including shampoos, conditioners, soaps, lotions, toothbrushes, toothpastes, and hairbrushes, were also distributed and door prizes were raffled.

Seminar feedback was 100 percent positive. Surveyed participants, who included representatives from Women In Distress and Planned Parenthood, were impressed with the organization and practicality of the workshop, and all were eager to participate in future F.L.O.W.E.R.S. events. One attendee even offered to take an active role in the planning of upcoming workshops. Topics to be addressed in future F.L.O.W.E.R.S. seminars include sexual health, domestic violence, financial responsibility, learning your strengths, putting your strengths to use, résumé writing, finding a good job, pregnancy, infant care, and others as requested/desired by program participants.

The inaugural F.L.O.W.E.R.S. workshop was made possible through generous donations from the AHEC Program, NSU-COM SGA, and the national AMSA Local Projects Grant Program. F.L.O.W.E.R.S is a community outreach program designed and implemented by Dana Block (M3), Jill Scarlett (M3), Jackie Weisbein (M3), Nicole Lang (M2), and Kristina Martin (M2). The program’s mission is to empower women of Broward County by providing them with the self-worth, knowledge, health, and sense of belonging essential to survive and excel in their personal lives.

AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat Combines Education and Enjoyment

In June 2-4, a large contingent of physicians and their family members made the annual excursion to the college’s AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat, which was held at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort in Stuart, Florida. The retreat, which helps extend academic resources to rural safety net sites within AHEC’s 19-county service area, brings NSU-COM faculty together with primary care physicians from community health centers to provide continuing education on vital public health issues.

The retreat provides attendees with a relaxed, informal setting in which to earn continuing medical education credits and explore ways of addressing primary care workforce needs in medically needy communities throughout South and Central Florida. It also serves as a fitting way to express gratitude to the numerous statewide preceptors who take time out of their busy schedules to work with NSU-COM students during their mandatory three-month clinical rotations in rural medicine.

A number of relevant issues were discussed at this year’s retreat, including:

- All-Hazards Preparations – James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.
- Update on IVP – Jose Quero, M.D.
- Antithrombotic Update 2006 – Robert Hasty, D.O.
- Medical School Graduate Competencies – Dr. Joseph Stazio, D.O., and Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.

Dr. Edward Packer Receives Child Advocate Accolade

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was the deserving recipient of the Third Annual NSU-COM Pediatrics Club Arnold Melnick Child Advocate Award, which was presented to Dr. Packer at a special ceremony held May 11 in the HPD Chancellor’s Dining Room. The award is named in honor of Arnold Melnick, D.O., the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, for his lifelong commitment to child advocacy.

“Dr. Packer continues to be a guiding light for the Pediatrics Club and has impacted so many patients’ and students’ lives,” said M2 student Stacey Helps, who serves as president of the NSU-COM Pediatrics Club. “We are lucky to have an adviser who remains both involved and supportive of our efforts. Dr. Packer’s energy about pediatrics is contagious, and he continues to make future pediatricians excited to enter the profession.

“In an age in medicine where many physicians are growing tired and frustrated, Dr. Packer continues to maintain his passion for pediatrics and motivate future pediatricians,” she added. “He is a vibrant teacher, and his interesting stories and clinical pearls of wisdom capture the students’ attention for an entire lecture, which can be difficult once we have been sitting in class for six hours or more. I cannot tell you how many students I have talked to this year who are now considering becoming a pediatrician purely because of the impact Dr. Packer had on them as a professor.”

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“Dr. Packer continues to be a guiding light for the Pediatrics Club and has impacted so many patients’ and students’ lives,” said M2 student Stacey Helps, who serves as president of the NSU-COM Pediatrics Club. “We are lucky to have an adviser who remains both involved and supportive of our efforts. Dr. Packer’s energy about pediatrics is contagious, and he continues to make future pediatricians excited to enter the profession.

“In an age in medicine where many physicians are growing tired and frustrated, Dr. Packer continues to maintain his passion for pediatrics and motivate future pediatricians,” she added. “He is a vibrant teacher, and his interesting stories and clinical pearls of wisdom capture the students’ attention for an entire lecture, which can be difficult once we have been sitting in class for six hours or more. I cannot tell you how many students I have talked to this year who are now considering becoming a pediatrician purely because of the impact Dr. Packer had on them as a professor.”
After months of planning and consideration, the Student Professional Ethics Committee (SPEC) held its first meeting on May 10, 2006. With representatives from the M1, M2, and M3 classes present, SPEC began the arduous process inherent in any new administrative body such as ironing out rules and regulations, electing an officer to oversee meetings, and establishing procedures to ensure meetings run smoothly.

SPEC was established with the intent of promoting professional and ethical behavior among the future physicians at NSU-COM. As physicians, we will be faced with ethical dilemmas unlike any other profession. Ethics committees have been created throughout the medical profession to ensure physicians are accountable to both their patients and their peers. By establishing an ethics committee as students, we can become familiar with this environment and build the foundation for ethical behavior that will be essential for our upcoming careers.

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With the help of NSU-COM faculty members Dr. Camille Bentley and Debbi Steinhold, we have begun the modification process of already formed ARBCCC programs to be geared toward health professionals. Once participants are trained in the basic disaster response courses and become certified, the NSU-HPD, in conjunction with the ARBCCC, will designate physicians, faculty, students, and other members to response teams. Trained team volunteers will serve as a reserve taskforce, that can be called upon when a local disaster response occurs.

NSU-COM has invited the American Red Cross of Broward County Chapter (ARC/BCC) to hold disaster relief training sessions at NSU’s Health Professions Division, and we encourage your involvement in all the upcoming events.

Disasters often come with little or no warning and in all shapes and sizes. The purpose of this new program is for NSU-HPD students and faculty to gain American Red Cross certification and clinical experience while preparing for—and responding to—disaster conditions such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, blizzards, explosions, or other situations that cause human suffering or create needs that victims cannot alleviate without assistance. Our own community truly needs this help, especially since hurricanes are forecast to continually increase in both intensity and magnitude.

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The training courses required for the Disaster Health Services Team are as follows:

- Introduction to Disaster Services
- Disaster Health Services Overview
- Mass Care Overview
- Emergency Assistance to Families
- First Aid and CPR
- Disaster Health Services Simulation

Other team courses will eventually be offered at NSU at a specified date; however, all courses are available and offered at the ARBCCC site located at 6710 West Sunrise Blvd, Suite 111, in Plantation, Florida. For more information, or to register for these courses at ARBCCC’s Plantation office, please call (954) 797-3847, (954) 797-3800, or (954) 797-1861.

This new program is offered and available to all NSU-HPD students, faculty, and family members. Certain certifications are only available to already licensed health professionals; however, everyone is encouraged to be active and participate in other areas. We hope to gain more volunteers who will become American Red Cross members and be certified in time to be prepared for the current hurricane season.

(Article contributed by M3 student Shannon Hillier.)
As part of the college’s continuing efforts to enrich its research infrastructure, NSU-COM has launched a research fellowship program for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Patterned after its successful and highly competitive fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice (OPP), this newly created fellowship program will provide one year of structured training and experience in conceptualizing, conducting, and disseminating research for selected NSU-COM medical students between their M2 and M3 years. The inaugural fellows accepted into this nascent program are class of 2009 students Mete Akin and Katherine Quinones.

In addition to their fellowship year, program participants will receive tuition remission for their M3 and M4 years. “This exciting new fellowship program will greatly advance research efforts at NSU-COM. In today’s competitive environment, it will enhance students’ career opportunities by providing them with additional options,” said Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., who serves as director of the Research Fellowship Program. “What was astounding to me was how quickly Dr. Silvagni, our college’s dean, was able to transform an exciting idea into reality. This is a mark of true institutional commitment.”

Although the fellowship program is flexible and tailored to the specific needs and skills of individual students, all fellows will participate in three core activities:

- completing academic coursework
- serving as a research associate on an existing research study
- communicating scientific knowledge through publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at scientific meetings

One of the fellowship’s most innovative features is the Individualized Fellowship Training Plan (IFTP), which will outline the activities for the fellowship year. The percentage of time each fellow will dedicate to each of the core activities will be outlined in this plan.

At the beginning of the fellowship year, Dr. Fernandez will meet with the fellows to outline their career objectives, assess their research skills, and discuss ways to incorporate the core fellowship activities to advance each fellow’s career plans. An important part of these discussions will be to outline performance and evaluation standards and delineate timelines for completing the selected activities. To meet the academic course requirements, fellows will choose from a wide range of academic courses spanning myriad disciplines. These courses will not only enhance their methodological and analytical skills but will also provide subject matter expertise in selected areas.

Fellows will also gain direct experience in the conduct of research by serving as research associates in ongoing federally funded studies. In this capacity, fellows will participate in day-to-day research activities that include, but are not limited to, recruitment, obtaining informed consent, data collection, data analyses, and participant tracking.

In addition, the fellows will participate in regularly scheduled research team meetings, monitoring visits, and other research activities. Building competencies in the oral and written communication of scientific knowledge to diverse audiences will be the third focus of the fellowship year. Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in the writing and submission of at least one scholarly manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal and at least one abstract submission for presentation at a scientific meeting.

Effective with this issue, Dr. Arnold Melnick, the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, will be providing a quarterly column that will revolve around his recollections of the early days of SECOM (the precursor to NSU-COM). His columns will serve as a humorous and insightful bridge to the past— and remind us of how far our college has come in a relatively short period of time.

Graduation. What a fine word. What a scintillating occasion. All emotions flow: pride, accomplishment, happiness, and celebration. Families joyous, graduates sometimes fearful, and hundreds in supporting roles—faculty, administrators, and fellow students.

Looking back at the 18 or so COM graduations I’ve attended fills me with warm memories, but occasionally a lesser memory pops up.

I recall clearly the first graduation in 1985. The class numbered 40, and our faculty was much smaller than it is now, so we didn’t expect too big a crowd—maybe 200 people. So we decided to keep it local and chose North Miami Beach City Hall Auditorium, marked with basketball bleachers along the two sidewalls. But we made every effort to create (from ground zero, as we had no experience) an appropriate and dignified commencement ceremony. As dean, I became the presiding officer.

In my honor, my son and daughter-in-law flew down from Philadelphia to surprise me, even bringing their three-month-old daughter, Rachel. As I approached the podium, I looked down at the first row—and saw Nona breastfeeding Rachel. Was I surprised? Perplexed? Embarrassed? Confused? Daunted? Flabbergasted? Yes, all of them. After a few speechless seconds—it seemed to me like a week—I started to talk, and the ceremonies went on to a successful conclusion as a wonderful charter class of graduates received their degrees. We had completed our first cycle.

The following year brought a different opening—and it affected everyone, not just me. On the Miami City Hall property, the “dressing rooms” were located about 50 yards from the auditorium but not connected to it. That meant dressed in our academic regalia—we had to walk outside to reach the auditorium. Then came the rain— heavy rain. I was lucky; I had gone to the auditorium to check some last-minute details, but the entire academic procession—graduates and faculty and administrators—had to walk in the heavy downpour. All reached the auditorium, soaking wet. In spite of this “auspicious” start, everything else went okay, and we graduated our second class.

Then there was the time our vice provost, Stan Cohen, passed out—the only illness interruption I think we ever had. Stan had been the appointed roll-caller for several graduations, and as the graduates marched to the stage, Stan called each name aloud. This time, there were several hundred graduates. About halfway through, Stan simply collapsed on the floor, interrupting the calling of names for less than a minute. We got him to the hospital, where it turned out he had suffered from syncope (benign fainting spell). It was nothing serious, but it gave a jolt to the commencement exercises.

Then, too, there was the time a prominent local clergyman was asked to give a brief invocation. But it turned out to be a 20-minute address. The people on stage asked each other if this were the commencement address. No, just the loquaciousness of one individual. And probably none of the audience realized what was happening—except for boredom.

However, there were some far smarter clergymen. Several years later, we asked the graduating seniors if they had any preferences for the invocation. One student volunteered that her father was a clergyman and would be glad to do it. As we did every year, we alerted the clergyman that it had to be nonsectarian and nondenominational. A fine gentleman, he arrived at the Sunday afternoon ceremonies, and when introduced, gave a forceful and interesting message to the class. He concluded with, “I’m supposed to be nondenominational, but I just want you to know that if I were in my church this Sunday afternoon, I would have concluded with ‘I ask this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen.’”

What a spectacular closing. He hewed to the letter of the law but also got his message across in a friendly, nonthreatening way. Brilliant maneuver, and I don’t think anyone was upset because of the way he did it. That was an inspiration.

Smiles, laughs, and problems aside, graduations are great—at least ours always seemed so—all 21 of them. With them, we turned out…ahem…graduated hundreds of fine osteopathic physicians. For that, SECOM is justly proud.
Faculty Focus

Camille Bentley, D.O., FACP, associate professor of family medicine and medical coordinator for the college’s AHEC Program, received her fellowship award designation in March during the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFOP) Annual Convocation of Fellows Award Banquet at the ACOFOP 45th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Grapevine, Texas. The honorary designation of fellow is bestowed upon those candidates who have contributed outstanding national and local service through teaching, authorship, research, or professional leadership. They have also contributed outstanding service in their professional careers and family practice duties in their community and civic activities. In the accompanying photo, Dr. Bentley receives the award from any of Florida’s medical schools to be recognized as a perfect way to promote the inaugural NSU Healthy Aging Expo, which was held Sunday, March 12 and attracted over 500 older adults.

Robert Perraud, D.O., who served as associate professor and director of the Department of Rural Medicine for many years, was appointed as a member of the Florida AHEC Network’s prestigious Golden Legacy Award Banquet at the ACOFOP 43rd Annual Convention and Exhibition in Grapevine, Texas. Dr. Venkatsachalam collaborates on the research with his lab assistant Domingo Llanos and NSU-COM students/recent graduates Kristophie J. Karami (M4), John Coppola, D.O. (F1), Karthik Krishnamurthy, D.O. (F1), and Rita Mukherjee (M2). In addition, Dr. Venk was named chair of the American Chemical Society-North Florida Section.

Robert Perraud, D.O., Geriatric Fellowship

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, maintained a busy lecture agenda over the past few months that included discussing “Aging Successfully” at NSU’s Healthy Aging Expo. She also provided an “Update in Diabetes Management: Old and New Drugs” lecture to the American Medical Directors Association 29th Annual Symposium in Dallas, Texas, and discussed “Amenia and Chronic Renal Disease in the Diabetic Hypertensive Patient” at the American College of Osteopathic Physicians 45th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Grapevine, Texas. Her May 2006 schedule included providing an NSU-COM internal medicine grand rounds seminar on “Care of Diabetes in the Elderly,” discussing diabetes and osteoporosis at NSU’s Institute of Learning in Retirement, and teaching a workshop on “Train the Trainer: Implementation of AMDA’s Clinical Practice Guidelines” in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the American Medical Director Association.

Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., who serves as AHEC Program director and associate dean for community affairs, recently received the Florida AHEC Network’s prestigious Golden Legacy Award for his 20-plus years of leadership and service to the AHEC programs and centers throughout the state. Dr. Zucker, who served as the founding president of the Florida AHEC Network, is the first recipient from any of Florida’s medical schools to be recognized with this special award. Dr. Zucker was also selected by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Professions/Bureau of Primary Care Workforce Development Collaborative Joint Planning Group, which assesses best practices in the training, recruitment, and retention of health providers for underserved communities.

Byrl Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. & T.M., FACP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was appointed to the Broward Medical Center EMS Board of Directors in April 2006. He was also reappointed to the Florida Department of Health’s Genetics and Newborn Screening Advisory Council.

Loretta Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, was appointed as a member of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners’ Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee. Dr. Graham assumed her position in recognition of her wealth of experience and expertise in the field of clinical skills testing.

K.V. Venkatsachalam, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, had his research article titled “Effect of Food Deprivation and Hormones of Glucose Homeostasis on the Acetyl CoA Carboxylase Activity in Mouse Brain: A Potential Role of ACC in the Regulation of Energy Balance” published in the February 16 issue of Nutrition & Metabolism. Dr. Venk collaborated on the research with his lab assistant Domingo Llanos and NSU-COM students/recent graduates Kristophie J. Karami (M4), John Coppola, D.O. (F1), Karthik Krishnamurthy, D.O. (F1), and Rita Mukherjee (M2). In addition, Dr. Venk was named chair of the American Chemical Society-North Florida Section.

L. Avisen Greber, D.O., FACOI, professor and HPD associate chair for professional and extramural affairs, was presented with a recognition award in March 2006 from the Center for Research in Medical Education at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The award inscription reads, “In recognition of your outstanding contribution to curriculum development and in appreciation for your excellent skills as a teacher. The example you have set is the standard for those privileged to be your colleagues and students.”

Joan Barice, M.D., clinical assistant professor of preventive medicine, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree in May as part of Northwood University’s Florida Campus commencement ceremony. Dr. Barice was honored for her career of service and accomplishments, her contributions to the field of preventive medicine, and the benefits she has provided to the countless patients and populations she has served.

C. Alvey Cohen, Ed.D., professor and vice provost of the Health Professions Division, was a featured speaker at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (ACCOM) 2006 Annual Meeting held June 21-24 in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Cohen was invited by ACCOM to present material from his book titled “I’m a Tree, I Can Bend: Adapting Your Communication Style to Better Suit Your Students’ Needs” during the organization’s “Teaching and Learning Styles” seminar.

Monica Warhaftig, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, along with several Florida Health Professions and Division faculty members, appeared on NBC 6’s South Florida Today show in March to discuss “Fall Prevention for Seniors.” The appearance served as a perfect way to promote the inaugural NSU Healthy Aging Expo, which was held Sunday, March 12 and attracted over 500 older adults.

James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, served as a speaker at the Palm Beach Medical Society Heroes in Medicine Awards Luncheon on April 28 and the North Broward Medical Center EMS Breakfast on May 17. He also participated in the NSU College of Pharmacy’s 17th Annual Contemporary Pharmacy Issues symposium on May 7, where he made a “Biotechnology Presentation for Pharmacists” and served as a panelist during the “Can Pharmacists Provide First Responder Services?” discussion.

Elena Ginter, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, lent her talents to the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners’ Clinical Skills Case Development Committee in Philadelphia in late April. The committee’s charge is to develop and improve this new portion of the COMLEX-USA Level 2 exam. AHEC Network, is the first College of Pharmacy in May.

M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., professor of preventive medicine/public health and director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, was elected vice chair of the Adolescent Trials Network. She also accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Behavioral and Social Consequences of HIV/AIDS Studies section within the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institute of General Science and Research in Medical Education, planning, and research, was appointed to the Graduate and First Professional Degree Committee, which is a component of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation process. In March, she presented a grand rounds lecture to NSU-HPD faculty on the topic “Pathophysiologic Approach to the Understanding of Gouty Arthritis.”

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Eric Shamus, Ph.D., assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice and director of the NSU-COM Sports Medicine Program, was a featured speaker at the Interdisciplinary Summit on Nutrition and Physical Fitness, which was held May 1 in NSU’s Carl DeSantis Building. During his seminar, Dr. Shamus discussed “An Integrated Cognitive-Behavioral Psychosocial, Exercise, and Smart-Eating Intervention.”

Jennie Lou, M.D., M.Sc., professor of public health, was recently appointed as director of medical informatics. In this role, Dr. Lou will direct and manage the development and implementation of medical informatics instructional programs for physicians, residents, medical students, and others as well as address informational needs of the clinical system. In March, she made a presentation titled “Tackle the Cognitive Deficits and Improve Your Daily Performance” during the National Teleconference on MS and Cognition, which was hosted by the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

Hilda DeGaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOCP, associate professor of pediatrics and director of systems curriculum, presented lectures on the “Psychological Effects in Children of Bioterrorism and All Hazards” to school nurses in Tampa on March 9, at NSU’s Fort Lauderdale-Davie campus on April 21, and at NSU’s Palm Beach campus on June 5. Dr. DeGaetano’s lectures were part of the college’s Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness program that is funded through the Florida Department of Health to conduct bioterrorism and mass destruction training seminars for the state’s public and private schools.

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of NSU’s Women’s Health Center, received the NSU Partner of the Year Award at the inaugural NSU-FOMA Health Fair. He also served as a presenter at NSU-COM’s Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness training program for teachers and school nurses at various sites around Florida, lectured on “The Pediatric OSCE” at the annual American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians’ spring meeting, and helped coordinate the annual NSU-FOMA Health Fair.

Gary Hill, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was accepted as a STAR (Steps Toward Academic Research) fellow in the inaugural class of the Texas EXPORT Center Program for the 2006-07 academic year. During the one-year fellowship, Dr. Hill will be required to make seven trips to the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. The program’s goal is to stimulate research in health disparities by enhancing a scholar’s ability to formulate and propose research projects for funding by federal agencies.

Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was elected as a fellow in the American College of Physicians—the nation’s largest medical specialty society. Its mission is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism.

Andrew Kusienski, D.O., assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, has been named assistant residency director of the Sports Medicine Subspecialty Residency.

Robert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was commissioned by the Florida Department of Health to record a Web cast titled “Cholesterol Control Using the ATP III Guidelines.” The Web cast will be available to health care practitioners for continuing medical education purposes throughout the next year. Dr. Hasty was also nominated for the Student Osteopathic Medical Association’s George W. Northrup, D.O. Outstanding Educator of the Year Award by the NSU-COM student body.

In April, the dedicated duo of Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOCP, and his wife Sherri were honored at a farewell party to celebrate their innumerable contributions to NSU-COM over the past five years. During their time at NSU, the Martins helped the college establish new levels of academic, fiscal, and clinical excellence in their respective roles as associate dean for academic affairs and director of financial and grant management. Dr. Martin has accepted a challenging position as the founding dean of the new Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Denver, Colorado.

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOCP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, recently received the 2006 America’s Top Pediatricians’ Award from the Consumer Research Council of America. He also served as a presenter at NSU-COM’s Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness training program for teachers and school nurses at various sites around Florida, lectured on “The Pediatric OSCE” at the annual American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians’ spring meeting, and helped coordinate the annual NSU-FOMA Health Fair.

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

Florida Hospital East Orlando, which was established in 1990 when Florida Hospital acquired Orlando General Hospital, is a 144-bed, full-service community hospital that treats over 10,000 inpatients, 65,000 outpatients, and 68,000 emergency patients annually. Available services include cardiology, digestive health, general medical/surgical units, outpatient/radiology, pain management, and women’s medicine.

The hospital, which began its affiliation with the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education in 1999, currently has 24 NSU-COM medical students (15 core) and 16 interns/residents rotating through its pre- and postgraduate programs, which include:
- an internship with a family medicine track
- a family medicine residency
- a family medicine/neuromusculoskeletal integrated residency
- a gynecologic oncology fellowship
- a podiatric medicine and surgery residency

Florida Hospital East Orlando, which provides inpatient OMT services and outpatient OMT clinics, also houses an on-campus nursing home, cancer center, and women’s health pavilion. In addition, the hospital is currently undergoing construction of a new tower, which will add 80 new beds initially and an additional 80 beds in the future. Construction on the new tower is slated for completion by January 2007.

The hospital has also been the recipient of several prestigious accolades. These include a mention in U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Hospitals” study, as well as the 2002 American Osteopathic Foundation Women’s Health Initiative Award and the 2002 American Osteopathic Foundation- Best Practice Diabetes Award.

Joseph D. Allgier, D.O., currently serves as the facility’s director of medical education for osteopathic programs.

**Medical Village Hospital Update**

On April 19, the North Broward Hospital District (NBHD) signed a new Certificate of Need application for the Medical Village Hospital. The Medical Village Hospital will be located on the campus of Nova Southeastern University and be built, owned, and operated by the NBHD.

The NBHD’s solid financial position provides the opportunity to build and own the facility without impacting the current strong bond rating. In addition, no tax funds will be used in the design and construction of the hospital.
Graduation 2006 Overview

Class of 2006 Rejoices During Senior Week

A sense of camaraderie was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2006 to get reacquainted while participating in a host of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, an evening cruise on the Jungle Queen, and a lavish awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 28 when 161 D.O. and 28 M.P.H. degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise. During the ceremony, hundreds of other proud HPD graduates received their long-awaited diplomas from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Florida Senator Mel Martinez delivered the commencement address.

Chancellor’s Award – Osteopathic Medicine
Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine osteopathic physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.
Recipient: Olga Martinez, D.O.
Presenter: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

Dean’s Award – Osteopathic Medicine
Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program.
Recipient: Richard Walters, D.O.
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.

Morton & Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award
Presented to the student for the highest achievement in the study of internal medicine, both academic and clinical.
Recipient: Michelle W. Foley, D.O.
Presenter: Samuel Snyder, D.O.

Matthew A. Terry, D.O., Memorial Award
Presented to the student chosen by his or her peers as the exemplary osteopathic medical student.
Recipient: Victoria E. Hutto, D.O.
Presenter: Albert Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.
Graduation 2006: Senior Awards Banquet

Chancellor’s Award – M.P.H. Program
Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine public health professional—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.
Recipient: Lior Shamai, D.O., M.P.H.
Presenter: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

A. Alvin Greber, D.O., Cardiology Award
Presented to the graduate who excelled in the cardiovascular system and received a grade of 85 percent or more on his/her internal medicine clinical rotation written examination.
Recipient: Elizabeth Arena, D.O.
Presenter: Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.

Alumni Association Award
Presented to the student who, by his/her leadership, has done the most to maintain the cohesiveness, unity, and esprit de corps within his/her class for all four years.
Recipient: Eric S. Papierniak, D.O.
Presenter: Steven Cimerberg, D.O.

Dean’s Community Award
Awarded to that member of the graduating class who, by personal and professional conduct, and by contributions to the student affairs and the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special recognition.
Recipient: Danielle A. DeGennaro, D.O.
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.

Donna Jones Moritsugu Award
Presented to the spouse of a graduating student who best exemplifies the role of a professional’s partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the profession.
Recipients: Elizabeth G. Biggers, D.O., and Joel Biggers, D.O. (not present)

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award
Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine.
Recipient: Joseph F. Llach, D.O.
Presenter: Maureen Campbell, D.O.

Clinical Service Award
Presented to the student judged to be outstanding in clinical service.
Recipient: Natascha M. Minidis, D.O.
Presenter: Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.

Dean’s Organizational Award
Presented to the senior who demonstrated organizational skills and leadership and received recognition from his/her peers during a productive academic career.
Recipient: Eric S. Papierniak, D.O.
Presenter: Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.

Dean’s Organizational Award
Presented to the student who, by his/her leadership, has done the most to maintain the cohesiveness, unity, and esprit de corps within his/her class for all four years.
Recipient: Eric S. Papierniak, D.O.
Presenter: Steven Cimerberg, D.O.

Donna Jones Moritsugu Award
Presented to the spouse of a graduating student who best exemplifies the role of a professional’s partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the profession.
Recipients: Elizabeth G. Biggers, D.O., and Joel Biggers, D.O. (not present)
Graduation 2006: Senior Awards Banquet

**Geriatrics Award**
This award, which is presented by the Department of Geriatrics and sponsored by the Florida Geriatrics Society, honors a student who has excelled in his/her geriatrics rotation.

Recipient: Kristophe J. Karami, D.O.
Presenter: Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD

**Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics**
Presented to the outstanding student in the study of pediatrics who is in the upper quarter of his or her class in rank and honors grades in pediatric ambulatory and hospital rotations as well as at least one elective in a pediatric area with an honor grade.

Recipient: Kyle A. Caswell, D.O.
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.

**Florida Chapter, American Academy of Osteopathy Award in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine**
Presented to the student who, in the opinion of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, has achieved the highest proficiency in osteopathic therapeutics.

Recipient: Patrick J. Moran, D.O.
Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

**Public Health Student Service Award**
Presented to the student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

Recipient: Danielle A. DeGennaro, D.O., M.P.H.
Presenter: Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H.

**Research Award – Public Health**
Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty.

Recipient: Jaleh Mirza, M.D., M.P.H. (not present)
Presenter: Gabriel Suciu, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

**Government and Public Policy Award**
Presented to that member of the graduating class who has shown a unique interest in developing an understanding of governmental and public health care policies and procedures.

Recipient: Victoria E. Hutto, D.O.
Presenter: James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.

**Public Health Leadership Award**
Presented to the student who demonstrated leadership in public health.

Recipient: Maria Crespo, M.P.H.
Presenter: Jay Fleisher, Ph.D.

**Albert L. Weiner, D.O., Memorial Psychiatry Award**
Presented in memory of Dr. Weiner to the student achieving the greatest proficiency in psychiatry.

Recipient: Ashley H. Chandler, D.O.
Presenter: Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.
Graduation 2006: Senior Awards Banquet

Golden Apple Award (Osteopathic Medicine)
Presented by the class of 2006 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.
Recipient: Lori Dribin, Ph.D. (not present)
Presenter: Robyn M. Valdes, D.O.

Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service
Awarded to a student in the upper third of class in rank who actively organized and participated in at least three children’s projects during his or her time at NSU-COM and considered by students and faculty to have motivated children-related projects at NSU-COM.
Presenter: Hilda DeGaetano, D.O.

Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award
Presented to the student exhibiting the highest quality of service and leadership, combined with scholarship, integrity, and personal worth.
Recipient: Lior Shamai, D.O., M.P.H.
Presenters: Mary Allegro and Albert Whitehead, D.M.D.

Research Award (Osteopathic Medicine)
Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty.
Recipients: Kevin A. Ache, D.O.
Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.

Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service
Awarded to a student in the upper third of class in rank who actively organized and participated in at least three children’s projects during his or her time at NSU-COM and considered by students and faculty to have motivated children-related projects at NSU-COM.
Presenter: Hilda DeGaetano, D.O.

Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award
Presented to the student exhibiting the highest quality of service and leadership, combined with scholarship, integrity, and personal worth.
Recipient: Lior Shamai, D.O., M.P.H.
Presenters: Mary Allegro and Albert Whitehead, D.M.D.

Research Award (Osteopathic Medicine)
Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty.
Recipients: Kevin A. Ache, D.O.
Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.

Golden Apple Award (Public Health)
Presented by the class of 2006 to an M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.
Recipient: Alina Perez, J.D.
Presenter: Brenda E. Mallett, M.P.H.

Rose Community Service Award
Presented to the student who demonstrated sincere interest in community service or community projects.
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

National Health Service Corps Certificates
Presented to class of 2006 students who will be working with the NHSC to provide primary care to underserved areas.
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

Samuel J. Salman, D.O., Award in Family Medicine
Presented by the FSACOF to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician.
Recipient: Bonnie Watson-Lloyd, D.O.
Presenter: Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.
**Graduation 2006: Senior Awards Banquet**

**Sigma Sigma Phi Membership**
Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity that was established in 1921 in Kirksville, Missouri, by seven students from the American School of Osteopathic Medicine. The fraternity’s main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. To earn membership consideration, Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Following are the individuals who earned membership in NSU-COM’s Sigma Sigma Phi chapter:


**Endocrine Society Medical Student Achievement Award**
Presented to the graduating student who has shown an interest in endocrinology by participating in an elective rotation or a research project.

Recipient
Hadi Berry, D.O. (not present)

Presenter
Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD

**Psigma Alpha Inductees**
Membership in the Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. Following are the individuals who earned entry into the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society:

Elizabeth A. Arena, D.O.
David S. Coykendall, D.O.
Anne N. Douglas, D.O.
Michelle W. Foley, D.O.
William J. Kellett, D.O.
Carol A. Kitay, D.O.
Natalie E. Kot, D.O.
Ragazri Kumar, D.O.
Vanessa A. McDonald, D.O.
Natasha M. Minidis, D.O.
Cynthia W. Sennare, D.O.
Brooke Nichole Sliger, D.O.
Druane M. Tippets, D.O.
Alexander M. Waite, D.O.
Richard Walters, D.O.
Bonnie Watson-Lloyd, D.O.

**Dean’s Award**
(Private Health)
Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Master of Public Health Program.

Recipient
Tanvir Syed, M.D., M.P.H. (not present)

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

**Commissioning Ceremony**
The Commissioning Ceremony was established in 2005 to honor and showcase support for graduates who will be doing medical tours of duty in the armed services. Following are the 13 graduates who were recognized at the ceremony:

**United States Army**
Captain Ashley Chandler-Chattigny, D.O.
Captain Paul Hendrix, D.O.
Captain Dennis Jinho Park, D.O.
Captain Christopher John Rosemeyer, D.O.
Captain Jason Sim, D.O.
Captain Mark Welch, D.O.

**United States Navy**
Lieutenant Bryan Carrie, D.O.
Lieutenant Michael LaRochelle, D.O.
Lieutenant Martin Lanceford, D.O.
Lieutenant Lynta Mullins, D.O.
Lieutenant Michael Pruitt, D.O.

**United States Air Force**
Captain Allison Casey Frakes, D.O.
Captain Natasha Minidis, D.O.

**Outstanding Senior Awards**
Recipients demonstrated outstanding academic performance that has qualified them for recognition as graduates with highest honors (top three percent of their class) and graduates with honors (top seven percent of their class).

**Osteopathic Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates**

**Osteopathic Recipients of Honors Certificates**

**Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates**
Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2003 to May 2006.

**Public Health Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates**
Tanvir Syed, M.D., M.P.H.

**Public Health Recipients of Honors Certificates**
Lior Shamai, D.O., M.P.H.
Muhammad Zahid, M.D., M.P.H.
The Fifth Annual AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which encompasses the Hendry Glades Community Health Fair in Clewiston and the REACH (Rural Education Awareness Community Health) Fair in Belle Glade, proved to be a categorical success that provided a cornucopia of health care services to the 1,600 or so combined attendees.

The two-day fair, which was held February 18 at Belle Glade Elementary School and February 19 at Clewiston Middle School, was the most comprehensive health care initiative in the event’s five-year history thanks to the coordination efforts of the college’s AHEC Program and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). In a major show of interprofessional support, over 200 students and faculty members from 11 NSU Health Professions Division programs participated in the outreach effort. These included:

- Audiology
- Dental medicine
- Medical sciences
- Nursing
- Occupational therapy
- Optometry
- Osteopathic medicine
- Pharmacy
- Physical therapy
- Physician assistant
- Public health

Masterminding such a successful health care outreach effort each year takes the collective efforts of hundreds of dedicated individuals, who selflessly work together to provide education and health care to underserved rural populations.

"The AHEC Program, which provides funding and grassroots involvement in the planning and operations for the Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, plays such a pivotal role," said Steinkohl. "Dr. Steven Zucker and his AHEC staff were so supportive, as was the college’s dean, Dr. Anthony J. Silvaglia, and veteran family medicine faculty member Dr. Camille Bentley, who has led the health care teams since the fair’s inception. In addition, we have a wonderfully supportive and cohesive HPD faculty that’s willing to participate in an important community outreach activity that allows us to come together and tend our unique strengths for one common cause."

The Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which is also sponsored by Glades PATCH, the Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, and Henry Regional Hospital, has a twofold objective:

- To conduct two health fairs targeting Florida’s medically underserved populations from the Belle Glade and Clewiston communities that provide much-needed education and medical services to the local populations.
- To provide a multidisciplinary educational experience for both medical and dental students as well as faculty and health care providers from all colleges and programs at the Health Professions Division campus.

Attendees were able to benefit from an array of comprehensive physical exams and traditional health screenings such as blood pressure, glucose, vision, dental, skin cancer, and cholesterol, as well as self-breast screening exam areas that were set up through the nursing and osteopathic medicine programs. If a problem was detected during the self-breast exams, we referred the women to a community organization called Comprehensive Health Services that was doing thermal breast imaging, which is actually an alternative form of a mammography that catches early breast cancer," said Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., who serves as the college’s ROC COM Serve Program administrative director.

The NSU-HPD health care cadre also had a surplus of support because more than 160 community organizations were on hand to provide pivotal outreach to the multitude of children and adults who comprise the large farm worker population in Bel Glade and surrounding communities. The Belle Glade attendees were mostly of Haitian heritage, while the Clewiston fair primarily consisted of Hispanic participants.

The Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health leadership in attendance included (from left): Sandra Williams (2004-05 AMSA president); Danielle DeCarronaro (2003-04 AMSA president); Camille Bentley, D.O.; Leslie Bridges (2005-06 AMSA president); and Debbi Cohn Steinkohl.
International Outreach Continues with Enriching Medical Mission to Ecuador

By Caye Serling, Medical Mission Participant

In April, NSU Health Professions Division students and faculty traveled to Ecuador on a medical mission to provide needed care and medications to some of the country’s poorest areas. The group was organized by NSU-COM’s DOCARE chapter.

A team of 67 doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical students, PA students, and community volunteers ventured into the jungle and mountains and overcame challenging conditions to provide free medical care to more than 2,500 people in five days. Community centers and schoolhouses, some with no electricity or running water and only benches to serve as exam tables, became temporary clinics.

For many students, it was their first medical mission trip. “I thought it would be an awesome learning and growing opportunity, both professionally and personally,” said M1 student Libby Rhee. “I knew I’d get a lot of hands-on experience that is usually rare for first-year medical students.” For Maria Termeus, the incoming NSU-COM DOCARE president, this mission was special. “Part of my medical school application said I wanted to return to Ecuador, since that’s where I’m from. It’s an incredible opportunity that I could do it in my first year of medical school.”

Ecuador is a country about the size of Colorado, located along the equator on the northwestern part of South America. About 16 million people live there, with 17 indigenous ethnic groups represented. More than 65 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line, living on less than $1 per day. Most of these people live in rural or mountain areas with limited access to health services.

The group visited four such communities to offer free medical care, including

- San Jose Obreño - located in the mountains just outside the country’s capital of Quito
- Baæa – located in the Quijos River Valley
- San Jacinto – located outside Tena, the state capital of Napo
- Quichua village of Chonta Punta - in the heart of the Amazon jungle

Getting from place to place wasn’t easy as road travel throughout Ecuador can be dangerous because heavy fog is common in mountainous areas and rains and mudslides often close or wash out roads. The DOCARE group traveled for hours to reach each destination, on narrow mountainous dirt roads next to sharp 1,000-meter precipices, passing by mudslides and one partially washed-out bridge en route.

For their part, local residents waited in line for hours, sometimes standing in the rain or midday heat to receive free medical services that might not have been possible if not for the DOCARE volunteers. The team of doctors and students provided prenatal care, pediatric and general medical consultations, gynecological exams, anti-parasitic and antifungal treatments, eye screenings, and medications. Most commonly, patients were treated for parasites, scabies, and fungal infections. Volunteers also observed tropical diseases not seen in the United States, such as leishmaniasis and even leprosy.

Not surprisingly, many patients hadn’t seen a doctor in over a year. Dr. Pablo Trujillo is the only doctor in Baæa, and he says the mission is a “big deal” for the people. “We can write prescriptions, but people can’t afford them, so the medications are a big help. The patients come for medical help and for moral support. All of us as physicians have not just a medical obligation but a moral obligation. If we as physicians don’t fulfill that part, we miss out.”

“Health care in this country is desperate at best,” Matt Terry, executive director of the Ecuadorian Rivers Institute, told the group. “It’s poorly funded, and the funds are poorly distributed. Even one visit gives these people esteem and makes them feel important. Education from a brief visit can empower these people.”

This mission was several years in the making. Elaine Wallace, D.O., professor and chair of NSU-COM’s Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, traveled to Ecuador on two previous smaller planning missions. “We met with the minister of health and the first lady to identify regions that would be best served by our mission,” she explained. “The areas we chose were classified as ‘severe poverty,’ and we’ve agreed to return to these same locations over the next five years and work with their physicians to develop a program.”

Dr. Wallace says there’s a psychological difference when patients see the same team return. M2 student Cynthia Benson thinks so too. “Sixty-seven people from America came to take care of people who have no other help; that has an impact. I hope that sends a message to the people we treated that they are important and that they matter.”

But health care in Ecuador still lags behind the United States, and the process of seeing patients is far from routine. “There were no diagnostic tests to run, there was no elaborate pharmacy from which to choose all the new drugs on the market. It was just your hands, a few pieces of equipment, and a creative mind,” said M2 student Andrew Schlussel. “It was unique, which made it a lot of fun.”

It also required resourcefulness. “One of the biggest challenges we faced was not having enough time or medications for the vast number of patients,” said M2 student Michael Colonna. “When medications ran out, osteopathic clinicians and students utilized osteopathic manipulative medicine, which had substantial effects on the mind, body, and spirits of our patients.”

The ability to adapt is important, said M2 student Ashley Chapman, outgoing president of NSU-COM’s DOCARE student chapter. “Our motto is ‘be flexible.’ You have to go to the Amazon, and things can change at a moment’s notice. Every day it was new, every day was different, every day would change,” said Chapman, who was responsible for much of the mission’s administrative planning.

And the patients are grateful for the care. Rachel Weisgerber, a Peace Corps volunteer and New Jersey native stationed in Tena, told the group what their visit meant to the locals. “The people appreciate that what they know to be ‘rich Americans’ would take time off from work to do this.”

“Health care in this country is desperate at best,” Matt Terry, executive director of the Ecuadorian Rivers Institute, told the group. “It’s poorly funded, and the funds are poorly distributed. Even one visit gives these people esteem and makes them feel important. Education from a brief visit can empower these people.”

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Dr. Wallace agrees. “I thought the students did a fantastic job. They were always willing to pitch in. Everyone worked hard and long hours and rendered excellent patient care, and everyone felt they had excellent learning opportunities with the faculty.”

Chapman says she would recommend a medical mission for everyone, including students and professionals. “For students, it’s a life experience that cannot be substituted with anything else. I think there are students who learned more about medicine in five days in the Amazon than they would in a semester of school,” she explained. “The coolest part of the mission for me was seeing all 67 people—physicians, family, and friends—come together and do everything they could as a group. I don’t know how much they enjoyed their experiences and the help they could give the people in Ecuador. It made it so worth it.”

This was also the first year the mission was open to relatives and friends of physicians and students. Nonmedical volunteers painted, gardened, assisted in the pharmacy, and managed patient flow.

Despite the long and precarious bus rides, difficult working conditions, lack of bathroom facilities, and other challenges, the volunteers would do it all again. “I would do it all over again,” said Schussel. “I could never have imagined how much I learned in 10 days, not only about medicine but also about myself and life in a different culture.”

“I think it’s everyone’s experience they should take part in.”

“I think that it is important to continue to challenge yourself in different ways, and trips like Ecuador give you new ways to accomplish that,” said Benson.

Additionally, this mission was part of a larger picture to gain practice rights for American-trained osteopathic physicians and to teach principles of osteopathy to Ecuadorian physicians. “We have several students from Ecuador at NSU-COM, so it’s in their best interests to take these doctors back into their country and give them practice rights,” said Dr. Wallace. “This is the first South American country that we’re making major inroads into. These were the highest-level negotiations and plans that we’ve made. We’re trying to develop a working relationship between allopathic and osteopathic physicians in Ecuador.”

In its role as a medical outreach organization, NSU-COM’s DOCare chapter’s primary objective is to provide medical and surgical health care to underserved communities in South Florida, Latin America, and Guatemala. The chapter is a volunteer humanitarian organization consisting of physicians, students, dentists, optometrists, pharmacists, and other health care professionals.

To obtain additional information on the NSU-COM DOCare program, to volunteer for future missions, or to donate medical supplies or money, please contact Maria Terneus at (954) 258-7224/terneusm@nova.edu, or visit NSU-COM’s DOCare Web site at www.nova.edu/dochcare.

Elizabeth Hancock, D.O., FACOEP (*86) is a founder of the newly formed American Board of Disaster Medicine and the American Academy of Disaster Medicine. Dr. Hancock is the chair of the American Board of Disaster Medicine, which is under the auspices of the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS), will be offering the first board certification examination for disaster medicine sometime in November or December 2006. Board certification in disaster medicine is open to family physicians and physicians of other specialties who are interested in being recognized for—and work that becomes involved in—expertise related to mass casualty triage and treatment as well as decontamination procedures for nuclear, biological, and chemical terrorist attacks.

Michael Herman, D.O., LCDR (*99) recently completed his military obligation with the navy and has just started a hepatology and liver transplant fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, which will be followed by a gastrointestinal fellowship.

Matt Hesh, D.O. (*01) completed his radiology residency at Temple University Hospital and is starting a fellowship in radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in July 2006. He is the only D.O. to have ever matched into this position. His wife, Suanna Chyu, D.O. (*01), finished her fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at Jefferson Medical College this past June. She was a recipient of the prestigious American Psychiatric Association’s Minority Affairs Fellowship. Drs. Hesh and Chyu can be reached at mattradc00@hotmail.com.

Captain James Hill, D.O. (*01), who completed his emergency medicine residency at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, was recently featured in a searing HBO documentary called Bagdad ER that captures the day-to-day lives of doctors, nurses, medics, soldiers, and chaplains working at the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq.

Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H. (*78) was appointed by AOA President Philip Shette, D.O., to represent the AOA at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit in Atlanta, Georgia.

Joseph Perez, D.O. (*01) received the Physician of the Year Award at Hollywood Medical Center in Hollywood, Florida.

David Pizzimenti, D.O. (*02) is currently serving as medical director at a hospital located in a very underserved area near Memphis, Tennessee.

Michael Pritchett, D.O., M.P.H. (*02) is in the process of completing a fellowship in psychiatric and critical care at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Eric Zahn, D.O., FACOEP (*96) was named medical director of Emergency Physicians at Columbia Hospital in South Palm Beach, Florida. Since the completion of her emergency medicine residency at St. John Oakland Hospital in Michigan in 2000, she has distinguished herself working for TeamHealth in Palm Beach County. A fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians, Dr. Zahn serves as an NSU-COM clinical associate professor and as a clinical instructor at Palm Beach State College of Medicine.

Elizabeth Hancock, D.O., FACOEP (*86) is a founder of the newly formed American Board of Disaster Medicine and the American Academy of Disaster Medicine.
In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors: however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter.

### 2006 Donors

#### 500 Club ($500 - $999)
- Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

#### 250 Club ($250 - $499)
- Dr. Bridget Bellinger ('86)
- Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)
- Dr. Steven Cimerger ('87)
- Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)
- Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)
- Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)
- Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

#### Century Club ($100 - $249)
- Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)
- Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
- Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)
- Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)
- Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
- Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)
- Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)
- Dr. Leslie Arroyo ('86)
- Dr. Diana Johnstone Graves ('86)
- Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
- Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('92)
- Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
- Dr. Michael Ross ('88)
- Dr. A. Delbridge ('85)
- Dr. & Mrs. Ruben Kesner ('89)

#### Friends (up to $99)
- Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)
- Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
- Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)
- Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

### Cumulative List (1999-2006)

#### Heritage Circle
Represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.
- Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

#### Nsu-COM Society ($10,000 - $24,999)
- Dr. George Linsey

#### Chancellor’s Council ($5,000+)
- Dr. John Geake, J.E. ('93)

#### Dean’s Council ($2,500 - $4,999)
- Dr. Tamer Gaslevi ('87)
- Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
- Dr. Stanley Zimmerman ('91)

#### Clock Tower Society ($1,000 - $2,499)
- Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)
- Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)
- Dr. Tyler Gymer ('88)
- Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)
- Dr. John N. Harker ('89)
- Dr. Robert Hasty ('80)
- Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)
- Dr. Gregory James ('88)
- Dr. Sharon Johnston ('90)
- Dr. Robert Klein ('91)
- Dr. John Harker ('89)
- Dr. Julia O’Brien ('89)
- Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)
- Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)
- Dr. Ronald Remiari ('90)
- Dr. Michael Roes ('88)
- Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
- Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)
- Ms. Lorraine Snyder
- Dr. Theodore Spevak ('83)
- Dr. Robyn Zelnick ('89)
- Dr. Sonia Talarico ('87)
- Dr. Ron Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)
- Dr. James ('88) and Sherry Turner
- Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)

### 500 Club ($500 - $999)
- Dr. James Beretta ('88)
- Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)
- Dr. Charles Chace ('89)
- Dr. Steven Cimerger ('87)
- Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)
- Dr. Bruce David ('88)
- Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)
- Dr. Michael Gervais ('87)
- Dr. Brad Glick ('87)
- Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)
- Dr. John Gordon ('92)
- Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)
- Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)
- Dr. James T. Howell
- Dr. Sharon Johnston ('90)
- Dr. Robert Klein ('91)
- Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
- Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)
- Dr. Julia O’Brien ('89)
- Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)
- Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)
- Dr. Ronald Remiari ('90)
- Dr. Michael Roes ('88)
- Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
- Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)
- Ms. Lorraine Snyder
- Dr. Theodore Spevak ('83)
- Dr. Robyn Zelnick ('89)
- Dr. Sonia Talarico ('87)
- Dr. Ron Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)
- Dr. James ('88) and Sherry Turner
- Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)

### Alumni Dinner in Tampa

- May 8, NSU-COM coordinated an alumni dinner that was held at Fleming’s Steakhouse in Tampa, Florida, for graduates living in the area and attended by the college’s dean Dr. Anthony J. Sitvaghi and Office of Alumni Affairs representatives Dr. Howard Neer and Lynne Cawley. During the dinner gathering, Dr. Sitvaghi updated the alumni on the enhancements taking place within the college and throughout NSU’s Campus.
- The Renaissance has agreed to reserve rooms at a rate of $209 per night; all social events will be held at the Renaissance, while the various parts of the country. Be on the lookout for a dinner reservation in your area in the near future.
- In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors: however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter.
### 250 Club ($250 - $499)

- Dr. Eric Alboucreek ('92)
- Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
- Dr. Bridget Bellinger ('86)
- Dr. Edgar Bolton
- Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)
- Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo
- Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
- Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)
- Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)
- Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
- Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)
- Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
- Dr. Bridget Bellingar ('86)
- Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)
- Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
- Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)
- Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
- Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
- Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)
- Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)
- Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)
- Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)
- Dr. Alvin Greber
- Dr. Thomas Green ('98)
- Dr. Andrew Gross ('93)
- Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
- Dr. Diane Haisent ('93)
- Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)
- Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
- Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)
- Dr. Henry Maczak ('90)
- Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)
- NSU-COM Class of 1994
- Dr. Nelson Onoro ('92)
- Dr. Edward Packer
- Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
- Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)
- Mr. John Potomski
- Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)
- Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)
- Dr. Hector Rodrigues ('90)
- Dr. Steven Sager ('90)
- Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)
- Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)
- Ms. Louise Todaro
- Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
- Dr. Ira Weiner
- Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

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

- Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)
- Dr. Barnet Alpert
- Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)
- Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)
- Dr. Barbara Arcon ('94)
- Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi
- Dr. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)
- Dr. Joseph F. Barahke ('97)
- Dr. Daniel Barkus
- Dr. Douglas Basku ('86)
- Dr. Paul Bates ('86)
- Dr. Shaghn Bennett ('86)
- Camille Z. Bentley ('92)
- Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)
- Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)
- Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)
- Dr. Kenneth Briskey ('92)
- Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)
- Dr. Juanita Brown ('91)
- Dr. Douglas Bushell ('98)
- Dr. George Campbell ('99)
- Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)
- Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
- Dr. James Caschette
- Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)
- Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)
- Dr. David Cilo ('88)
- Dr. Jules Cohen
- Dr. Robert Darrell Collier ('93)
- Dr. Anthony Darland ('90)
- Dr. Alan Davis ('92)
- Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)
- Ms. Hariatte Deissler ('87)
- Dr. George Elias ('99)
- Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)
- Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)
- Dr. Gary Gary
- Dr. Diana Johnstone Graves ('86)
- Ms. Marcia Groverman
- Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hattieck ('86)
- Dr. Heedi Handman ('90)
- Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)
- Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)
- Dr. Edward Hartwig
- Dr. William Hayes ('89)
- Dr. Eric Hegyehi ('95)
- Dr. David C. Hellman ('88)
- Dr. Richard Herman ('89)
- Dr. Marc Herzelman ('91)
- Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87)
- Dr. Myron Howell
- Dr. Lawrence Jacobson
- Dr. Thelma Jamison
- Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)
- Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and Yoyen Lai ('93)
- Donna Kaplan
- Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)
- Dr. Julie Kitz-Gerrish ('93)
- Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)
- Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kenner ('89)
- Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)
- Dr. Yousef Khodar ('95)
- Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)
- Dr. Mi Kim ('90)
- Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)
- Dr. Stephen Krathen
- Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)
- Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)
- Dr. Michael Landman ('88)
- Dr. Kim Lark ('94)
- Dr. Soling Li ('00)
- Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)
- Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)
- Dr. Lily Limusavon ('92)
- Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)
- Dr. Albert Lopez ('92)
- Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)
- Drs. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)
- Dr. Cindy Marika ('87)
- Dr. Clyde Meckstroth ('85)
- Dr. Arnold Melnick
- Dr. Sonal Majmundar ('94)
- Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)
- Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97)
- Dr. Brian C. Morales ('92)
- Dr. Laila Mozabad ('92)
- Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)
- Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)
- Dr. Merieth Norris
- Dr. Nelson Olagube ('87)
- Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)
- Dr. Aseyal Oren ('99)
- Mr. Alexander Packman
- Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)
- Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)
- Dr. Ramsey Frymer ('03)
- Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)
- Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)
- Dr. David Ratcliffe ('82)
- Dr. Marcos Rejman ('94)
- Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('82)
- Dr. Saul Rigan ('89)
- Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)
- Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)
- Dr. Allan Rubin
- Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)
- Dr. David Saltman
- Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)
- Dr. Melvin Sarnow
- Dr. Sandra Schwemmer
- Dr. Robert Sculthorpe
- Dr. Stuart Shults ('90)
- Dr. John Yozon Shih ('91)
- Dr. John Shofer
- Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni
- Mr. Stanley Silverman
- Dr. Rita Svils ('92)
- Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94)
- Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder
- Dr. Margaret Starr
- Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)
- Dr. Mark Stich ('87)
- Dr. Colene Stout

### Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

#### Submission of Alumni News

In my role as editor-in-chief and graphic designer of COM Outlook, I am always seeking ways to enhance the publication’s content and make it as informative as possible for our readership. One of the ways I hope to accomplish this is by expanding coverage of the myriad individuals who comprise NSU-COM’s distinguished alumni base. If you have published a book, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position, please contact me at scottc@nsu.nova.edu.

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- Abbott Laboratories
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**Scott Colton**

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**Alumni Association**

**Fund**

**Honor Roll**

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**Dr. Eric Alboucreek** ('92)
**Dr. Michael Baron** ('88)
**Dr. Bridget Bellinger** ('86)
**Dr. Edgar Bolton**
**Dr. Janet Bradshaw** ('92)
**Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo**
**Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo** ('98)
**Dr. Daniel C. Carney** ('95)
**Dr. Kenneth Chan** ('92)
**Dr. John DeCosmo** ('87)
**Dr. Stephen Dyke** ('91)
**Dr. Lee L. Gibson** ('85)
**Dr. Alvin Greber**
**Dr. Thomas Green** ('98)
**Dr. Andrew Gross** ('93)
**Dr. Christopher Guzik** ('97)
**Dr. Diane Haisent** ('93)
**Dr. Jason D. Hatcher** ('99)
**Dr. Michael Krutchik** ('88)
**Dr. Stephen MacDonald** ('90)
**Dr. Henry Maczak** ('90)
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**Dr. Isidro Pujol** ('94)
**Dr. Steven Reeves** ('95)
**Dr. Hector Rodrigues** ('90)
**Dr. Steven Sager** ('90)
**Dr. Lawrence Schwartz** ('90)
**Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman** ('93)
**Ms. Louise Todaro**
**Dr. Mary Jo Villar** ('94)
**Dr. Ira Weiner**
**Dr. Richard Wolonick** ('91)

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**250 Club ($250 - $499)**

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**Century Club ($100 - $249)**

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**COM Outlook**

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**Summer 2006**