Summer 2002

COM Outlook Summer 2002

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Every so often a landmark paper is published that has the potential to profoundly and positively impact the profession. In the February 2002 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* (JAOA), a distinguished cohort of osteopathic faculty collaborated on an insightful article that proposed updated tenets for the profession as well as principles for patient care.

The article, which succinctly encapsulates the essence of osteopathic medicine, addresses an area that we as medical educators grapple with regularly—how do we define the distinctiveness of our profession? For reasons that have been well documented in recent years, the M.D. and D.O. professions have matured in a direction where they are consistently embracing each other to a greater extent. Consequently, it has become increasingly difficult to define exactly what differentiates osteopathic medicine from its allopathic counterpart, or explain why a parallel medical branch even exists.

For those of us who work in the osteopathic profession, it's one of those things that everyone agrees they know when they see it. However, until now, no one has been able to comprehensively articulate the profession's intrinsic merits and tenets. And that's a problem for our profession, especially when you consider that most Americans can tell you exactly what a herbalist, podiatrist, acupuncturist, or chiropractor does, while surveys have shown that less than four percent of the U.S. population has even heard of the osteopathic term.

Because the February 2002 JAOA article was written by osteopathic faculty who have an extensive knowledge of the profession and have spent years delving into its intricacies and its place in society, their proposed osteopathic tenets are laden with wisdom. I feel their proposals represent a giant step forward in helping to define who we are as a profession, but more importantly, why we are.

I hope the profession as a whole takes the time to read this important article, which comes at a time when the AOA is launching a massive public relations effort to inform and educate the general public about osteopathic medicine. The principles proposed in this landmark paper are worthy of being incorporated by the AOA into its definition of the profession because they provide a concise overview of what makes osteopathic medicine distinctive.

It's equally vital that we, as academic institutions, make it our responsibility to incorporate these “tenets” into our teachings universally—and not just within a single course.

### Proposed Tenets of Osteopathic Medicine

1. A person is the product of dynamic interaction between body, mind, and spirit.
2. An inherent property of this dynamic interaction is the capacity of the individual for the maintenance of health and recovery from disease.
3. Many forces, both intrinsic and extrinsic to the person, can challenge this inherent capacity and contribute to the onset of illness.
4. The musculoskeletal system significantly influences the individual's ability to restore this inherent capacity and therefore to resist disease processes.

### Proposed Principles for Patient Care

1. The patient is the focus for health care.
2. The patient has the primary responsibility for his or her health.
3. An effective treatment program for patient care is founded on these tenets.

- Incorporate evidence-based guidelines
- Optimize the patient's natural healing capacity
- Address the primary cause of disease
- Emphasize health maintenance and disease prevention

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.
Dean
With 10,000 family members and guests in attendance, the Health Professions Division was honored to welcome Florida Education Secretary James “Jim” Horne as the commencement speaker on May 26. Secretary Horne received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree, while NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., conferred degrees on 481 graduating students, including 157 from the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

As of March 30, 2002, NSU's Health Professions Division clinics provided 128,000 patient encounters for health center services and educational experience to our residents and students. This represents a 13,000 patient visit increase over last year.

The HPD Executive Administration is pleased with the acceptance the Student Health Center is receiving. Since its opening in November 2001, the facility has experienced continual growth. This growth represents not only NSU students, but those from the neighboring campuses of Florida International University, Broward Community College, and Florida Atlantic University, making us the premier health care center for students in the community.

Our congratulations also are extended to NSU-COM’s AHEC Tobacco Prevention/Cessation Project for a successful second year. Over 15 NSU-HPD faculty were involved in the training of NSU-COM students in this critical preventive health area, which included the utilization of group instructional technology in patient-oriented problem solving modules. Over 200 NSU-COM students were then sent into 30 Broward County middle schools to provide tobacco education to nearly 12,000 children, bringing the number of children taught to date to well over 18,000.

In addition, approximately 100 predominantly rural and minority students from South and Central Florida participated in the nationally recognized AHEC Health Careers Camps this June. To date, over 1,000 students have participated in this “life altering” experience. We salute Dean Anthony Silvagni and Dr. Steve Zucker, associate dean for community affairs, for their leadership in these important initiatives.

While summer represents a few days or weeks of vacation for some, the administration is hard at work preparing for the 2002-2003 academic year, which begins in early August. We are anticipating another year of outstanding accomplishments from our faculty, students, and staff. And the Executive Administration will always support the best efforts of all those involved.
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NSU-COM Wages Educational War Against Bioterrorism - 16
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Examining the Future of Osteopathic Medicine - 18
Despite obvious strides, the osteopathic profession continues to face imposing hurdles, including an entrenched identity crisis, especially among the general public, which has little or no knowledge of what a D.O. does or that an osteopathic counterpart to allopathic specialties even exists.

Energy, Ethics Characterize Dr. Leonard Levy - 22
Throughout a four-decade career marked by substantial accomplishment, Dr. Leonard Levy has utilized his peerless work ethic and high ethical standards to serve as a skilled academic architect of various nationwide podiatric, osteopathic and allopathic medical programs.

Student Accomplishment Celebrated at Senior Awards - 25
On May 24, 2002, a mix of students, family members, and notable representatives from various sectors of the osteopathic profession and the Health Professions Division converged on the Signature Grand in Davie to participate in the NSU-COM Senior Awards Dinner Dance.

Dr. Earle Hayes Forsakes Marketing for Medicine - 32
When Dr. Earle Hayes was in the first grade—which is a time when most children are more concerned with toys than they are career choices—his mind was already firmly focused on his dream of becoming a physician.

Drs. Pamer and Scheraga Seek Musical and Medical Success - 34
If Drs. David Scheraga and Mark Pamer, who front a four-member band call State Road 7, have their way, you’ll be hearing a lot more about their rock and roll creation, which they hope will one day crank out top 40 hits as regularly as Madonna, Sting, or U2.

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M-4 student Gary Lai earned first-place honors in the 2002 American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP) Student Case Competition for his submission on "Pulmonary Embolism." Lai, who was invited to present his paper during the ACOEP Spring Seminar in Scottsdale, Arizona, will have his dissertation published in the July issue of The Pulse.

On March 18, NSU-COM's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program partnered with the Public Health Student Association to present all Health Professions Division students with an overview of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) scholarship and loan repayment programs. Speakers included:

- Felice Vargo, Community Support Liaison, NHSC
- Charles Van Anden, Acting Chief of Community Support, NHSC
- Robert Trenschel, D.O., M.P.H., CEO of the C.L. Brumback Health Center in Belle Glade and program director of NSU-COM's preventive medicine residency program.

On April 10, NSU-COM students were treated to an informative lecture from Harold Klug, D.O., a British osteopath, who discussed "An Approach to Integrative Medicine and a History of Osteopathy in the United Kingdom." Dr. Klug, who is enjoying a one-year sabbatical in the United States, played a pivotal role in gaining full government recognition for osteopathy in the United Kingdom.

In May, Hispanic Outlook Magazine released its survey results of the "Top 100 Colleges for Hispanics for 2002." NSU ranked highly in a number of categories, including No. 1 in awarded pharmacy degrees. Actual figures reflect data culled from the 1999-2000 academic year.

- No. 1 in Pharmacy Degrees
- No. 2 Master's Degrees
- No. 2 in Optometry Degrees
- No. 3 in Dentistry Degrees
- No. 15 in Doctoral Degrees
- No. 47 in Total Hispanic Enrollment
- No. 78 in Bachelor's Degrees

A number of NSU-COM faculty members attended or participated in the NSU-HPD A Glimpse of the Future of Health Care in America Conference, held April 26-27 in the university's Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. The symposium, which attracted a vast array of attendees, addressed vital topics such as:

- Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Pharmaceuticals and Access
- Senior Care and the Aging Population
- Technology and Access

On April 23, Joseph Smolley, Ph.D., executive director of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examinations, addressed faculty from NSU-COM and the College of Medical Sciences on topics such as:

- Interpretation of Board Results
- Test Question Writing
- Participation in Board Activities
- Review of Sample Examinations

On April 25, the classes of 2004 and 2005 announced their Professor of the Year selections. The M-2 students chose Edward Packer, D.O., associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, to receive their Professor of the Year accolade, while H. Murray Todd, M.D., was selected as Best Visiting Clinician for the second consecutive year. Lori Dribin, Ph.D., who is a full-time faculty member in the College of Medical Sciences, was named Professor of the Year by the M-1 class.

On March 7, M-1 student Erin Kolodziej was installed as student parliamentarian of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) during the organization's 39th Annual Convention and Exhibition. Kolodziej, who hails from Dunkirk, New York, will serve as the 2002-03 parliamentarian of the ACOFP's national student executive board.

In April, M-3 student Joanna Greenblatt and her boyfriend Bryan Drowos showcased their community spirit by participating in the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day, a 60-mile, three-day walk from Boca Raton to Miami. Over 2,000 individuals participated in the South Florida event, which raised over $2 million for breast cancer research. Thanks in part to her NSU-COM peers, who wholeheartedly supported her efforts, Greenblatt was able to raise over $5,000 for the worthy cause.

In a further sign of the college's growing prestige, Kendall Medical Center in Miami and Parkway Regional Medical Center in North Miami Beach recently signed affiliation agreements to serve as clinical training sites for third and fourth-year NSU-COM students.
Because of the increased security risks that exist in the world today, NSU has instituted a mandatory policy that requires students, faculty, and staff to display their ID badges at all times when they are on campus. We ask that all NSU-COM personnel adhere to this policy.

In May, Dr. Silvagni visited his nephew Arthur Work's kindergarten class at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish School in Coral Gables, Florida, to demonstrate the components of the DOctor's Bag Program, which was developed by the college's Sigma Sigma Phi Chapter to help alleviate children's fears of visiting a physician.

Hospital Day Activities Enlighten Students

In March, NSU-COM coordinated its annual Hospital Day, which affords first, second, and third-year students an opportunity to meet with representatives from various hospitals throughout the United States regarding future rotation, internship, and residency possibilities. Several hundred students attended Hospital Day, which attracted representatives from several dozen U.S. hospitals and organizations, including those comprising the college's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.

Charity Ball Benefits Pediatric AIDS Clinic

On Saturday, March 9, NSU-COM students showcased their community spirit by coordinating the inaugural Charity Ball at the Best Western Rolling Hills Hotel in Davie to benefit the Pediatric AIDS Clinic in Riviera Beach, Florida. First and second-year students were able to raise $1,300 for the nonprofit clinic through various fundraising activities, including a car wash, Valentine's Day cookie sale, pasta lunch fundraiser, and Charity Ball ticket sales.

Generous donations were secured from many of the student organizations as well as the faculty and student government. Local restaurants and bakeries contributed food to help raise funds, while two M-1 students benevolently provided their professional D-jay skills at the turntables. The Pediatric AIDS Clinic, which helps children or children with parents who have HIV/AIDS, provides everything from toys and counseling services to health care and housing for children whose parents have died from AIDS-related complications.

Carricoffe, Lawner Honored with Terry Scholarships

On April 1, Benjamin Lawner (M-1) and Heather Carricoffe (M-2) joined an illustrious list of previous winners when they were selected as recipients of the 2002 Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a $450 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 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. Previous scholarship recipients were Yvette Klein and Uri Goldberg in 1999, Chirag Shah and Lily Limsvanrot in 2000, and Adam Grunbaum and Andrew Clark in 2001.
Student Research Recognized with Burnell Awards

In April, Joanna Greenblatt and Meena Nahata were the deserving recipients of the Second Annual Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards, which were created in December 2000 when Dr. Burnell donated $50,000 to NSU-COM as an endowment to provide awards for student research protocols. Greenblatt and Nahata were recognized for their research efforts involving “A Comparison of Awareness, Treatment, and Control of Diabetes Mellitus in Urban Versus Rural Populations in Jamaica.”

The duo studied a population of people in two rural and urban Jamaican communities that had diabetes to determine if there were any differences in these two groups. As a result of their study, Greenblatt and Nahata were invited to participate in a poster session of the 2002 Eastern Atlantic Student Research Forum. In addition, they were invited to present their work at the American Medical Student Association in Dallas, Texas, and the South Florida Biotech 2002 Conference at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

The students received plaques and a cash award derived from the endowment established by Dr. Burnell, who worked with the students over the course of the year and provided them with advice concerning their protocol's preparation. Greenblatt and Nahata also intend to submit the results of their work to a major peer-reviewed journal.

Health Fair Benefits South Florida Community

On April 6, approximately 600 health-conscious individuals visited the NSU Second Annual Health Fair, which was hosted at the Tower Shops parking lot in Davie, Florida, and sponsored by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) and NSU’s Health Professions Division.

The eight-hour health fair proved to be a resounding success, thanks primarily to the coordination efforts of M-3 student Christopher Siano, who rallied on-site support and assistance from the other HPD colleges for the second straight year.

“We organized the health fair last year because we wanted to give something back to the community,” he explained. “The fair turned out to be such a success that we decided to make it an annual event.”

Over a dozen information booths and screening stations were set up to handle the flow of visitors. Information areas, which were manned by students and licensed/registered health professionals, included osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, occupational/physical therapy, optometry, dental, psychology, public health, pediatrics, and geriatrics.

“The feedback I received from this year’s event has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Siano, who secured participation from the Broward County Fire Department and other local entities. “People were impressed by the caliber of health-related information available, especially the preventive and therapeutic aspects which were discussed.”
Drs. Paolini, Terry Snare Stuey Statuettes

The deserving D.O. duo of Charlotte Paolini and Morton Terry took home Stuey statuettes at the Third Annual NSU Student Life Achievement Awards ceremony, which was held April 16 at NSU’s Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Terry, who serves as chancellor of the Health Professions Division, earned “Administrator of the Year” honors, while Dr. Paolini, chair of the Division of Geriatrics, was honored as the “Co-curricular Advisor of the Year” for her work with NSU-COM’s student chapter of the Christian Medical Association.

The Stueys, which were established by the university’s Office of Student Affairs, serve as a celebration of NSU’s best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and responsibility. The College of Osteopathic Medicine earned nine overall nominations in the Student Life Achievement Award balloting, including nods for:

- Alumni of the Year
  Tamer Gozleveli, D.O.
- Professor of the Year
  Elaine Wallace, D.O.
- Student of the Year
  Joanna Greenblatt
- Staff Person of the Year
  Johneta Goodwin
- Graduate Organization of the Year
  Sigma Sigma Phi
- Academic Dean of the Year
  Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.
- Corporate Partner of the Year
  North Broward Hospital District

Scholarship Honors Memory of Bradley Silverman, D.O.

Thanks to the generosity of the Aventura Health Foundation, NSU-COM students will have a chance to receive financial assistance via the Bradley I. Silverman, D.O., Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which was established in May 2002 to honor outstanding students who showcase compassion, commitment, community involvement, and other laudable traits exemplified by Dr. Silverman.

The scholarship, which was created to honor the memory of Dr. Silverman, a member of NSU-COM’s charter 1981 class, will be presented to students whose efforts are focused in the following areas:

- Utilizing their skills at the Aventura Comprehensive Cancer Center or Aventura Hospital
- Completing a clinical rotation with a physician whose primary practice is in Aventura, Florida.

The $95,000 endowment represents the largest single scholarship donation in Health Professions Division history.
Labriola, Solot Receive Pittsburgh Scholarships

Thanks to scholarships provided by the West Allegheny Physicians’ Association Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, NSU-COM students Joshua J. Solot (M-2) and Suzanne M. Labriola (M-3) will have a much easier time than many of their peers when it comes to repaying exorbitant student loans.

The scholarships, which total $32,329, were solicited by the College of Osteopathic Medicine on behalf of Labriola and Solot and are only available to osteopathic medical students who are residents of the 11 counties located in southwestern Pennsylvania. In 2000, The Pittsburgh Foundation accorded a record $23.5 million in grants to charitable organizations and is the nation’s 11th largest community foundation.

NSU-COM Graduates Record Number of D.O.s

The College of Osteopathic Medicine awarded a record 157 D.O. degrees during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony, which was held on Sunday, May 26 at the National Car Rental Center in Sunrise, Florida. During the ceremony, hundreds of proud NSU Health Professions Division graduates received their diplomas in front of an audience filled with family, friends, and faculty. The commencement address was delivered by James W. Horne, who serves as Florida’s secretary of education.

PBS Films Osteopathic Medicine Segment at NSU-COM

On April 22, WJMK Productions in Boca Raton spent the day at the Health Professions Division campus to tape a segment on osteopathic medicine that will air nationally on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and internationally on other media outlets. The segment, titled “An Alternative Approach to Health and Wellness,” will be featured on the PBS series American Medical Review and be introduced by renowned 60 Minutes co-host Morley Safer.

Thanks to the efforts of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and NSU-COM, a range of topics were showcased during the taping, including rural and preventative health, osteopathic principles and practice, and a discussion of the basic tenets of the profession.

In addition, Brian Degenhardt, D.O., associate professor in the Division of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri, presented a concise explanation concerning the basic similarities and differences between the allopathic and osteopathic professions. Other interviewees included:

- Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., vice president for health sciences and medical affairs, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Douglas Wood, D.O., president, AACOM
- Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., dean, NSU-COM
- James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair, NSU-COM Department of Rural Medicine
- Robin McFee, D.O., M.P.H., assistant professor, NSU-COM Department of Preventive Medicine
- Joanna Greenblatt, M-3 student
- Danielle Stigger, M-2 student
- Clarence Clarke, M-2 student
- Richard Toumey, a patient treated by NSU-COM faculty member Elisa Ginter, D.O.
AHEC Tobacco Cessation Project Preaches Prevention

In April, NSU-COM's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program coordinated the Second Annual Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Project, which was offered to all M-1 students. Through this initiative, students gained preventive health training by utilizing a variety of modalities, including group instructional technology in patient-oriented problem solving modules. During the project, student physicians met in small groups to discuss tobacco usage, the pharmacology of smoking, dependence/addiction, smoking prevention, and cessation techniques.

Following their training, the M-1 class visited various Broward County middle schools to provide vital tobacco prevention education. During this daylong educational excursion, NSU-COM students provided 11,888 teenagers at 30 Broward middle schools with valuable information geared to encourage them to avoid or stop using tobacco. Since its inception last year, the program has reached 18,913 middle-school students.

Response to the program was uniformly positive, a fact illustrated by the dozens of letters and posters the AHEC Program received in the weeks following the middle school visits. Tobacco education day is part of a required 13-hour course that was instituted by the college last year. The course is designed to help future physicians identify ways to prevent harmful health effects resulting from the use of tobacco products.

Cigarette smoking is widely recognized as one of the leading causes of preventable deaths in the world and contributes to approximately 430,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. In Florida alone, where an estimated 2.5 million adults and 350,000 teens use tobacco products, the public health costs attributed to tobacco are enormous.

To address this pressing issue, NSU-COM's nationally recognized AHEC Program has collaborated with the AHEC programs of three other Florida medical schools to develop and adopt tobacco cessation and prevention education as an integral part of the medical school curriculum.

CPR Day Serves Vital Community Function

Training ordinary citizens to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a practice that will never be out of vogue, which explains why NSU-COM hosts an annual CPR Day in the Health Professions Division complex. The American Heart Association and the Florida College of Emergency Physicians cosponsored this year's April 27 event, which provided training to 931 attendees.

NSU-COM's Fourth Annual CPR Day is one of six similar events held throughout the state in the cities of Naples, Sarasota, Manatee, St. Petersburg, and Tampa. Their purpose is to reduce the number of lives lost—220,000 nationwide per year—from cardiac death by educating people about the “Chain of Survival,” which involves a four-step process of providing treatment to victims of sudden cardiac death. The four steps involve calling 911, administering CPR, administering early defibrillation, and implementing early advanced care.

“Everyone should spend two hours learning CPR,” said Maureen Campbell, D.O., medical director of EMS education and training and co-chair of the college's CPR Day. “The skills are easy to learn, and they may make the difference of life and death for a person suffering from a sudden cardiac death.”

In addition to learning basic CPR techniques, participants were able to take advantage of stroke screening evaluations that were provided by NSU-COM students.
Dr. Noble Awarded Kenyon Cancer Research Grant

On May 7, Anjali Noble, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, received the Second Annual Kenyon Primary Care Cancer Research Award at a special ceremony held in the Terry Building.

The endowment, which is accorded annually, allows NSU-COM faculty to pursue vital cancer research in the primary care discipline. Dr. Noble, who joined the NSU-COM faculty in 2002, is a repeat winner of the Kenyon Cancer Reserach Grant.

The award, totaling $20,000 this year, is named as a posthumous tribute to Franklin Kenyon and Francis Kenyon Angeski. Dr. Noble’s winning proposal involves the establishment of a breast cancer intervention program for female prison inmates.

Psi Sigma Alpha Honors Academic Excellence

During Senior Week festivities, 31 students from the class of 2002 were elected to the Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society. Membership 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:

Anthony Abouhanna
Evan Altman
John Bechinski
Scott Buckel
Stephanie Carlin
Mary Currence
Misha Denham
Brooke Di Anni
David Gillis
Micayle Goldman
Lisa Gorn
Earle Hayes
Douglas Hughes
Daniel Kahn
Julie Kirchoff
David Lalli
John Layke
Mark Levenberg
Angela Mazza
Brian Newton
Christina Norris
Yagneshwari Patel
Kathleen Pelkan
Brian Porvin
Andrew Raxenberg
David Scheraga
Jason Seibly
Aisha Subhani
Mohiuddin Syed
Santh Vidito
Ian Weir

AHEC Rural Retreat Provides Education and Recreation

On June 14-16, approximately 60 physicians and their family members attended the annual AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort and Marina in Stuart, Florida. The weekend retreat serves as a way to thank 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. The event allows physicians to network with their peers in a relaxed setting, earn continuing medical education credits, and participate in seminars presented by knowledgeable NSU-COM faculty. Two major topics were discussed at this year’s retreat:

- Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

The retreat organizational team consisted of (standing from left): James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., chair, Department of Rural Medicine; Scott Colton, director of education communications; and Robert Perraud, D.O., director, Department of Rural Medicine. Seated are Johneta Goodwin, executive assistant to the dean, and Sherri Martin, coordinator of grants and special projects.
In May, Michael M. Patterson, Ph.D., professor and assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, was named the recipient of the 2001 Irvin Korr Award, which was created in 1999 by the AOA Bureau of Research to honor a Ph.D./basic scientist who possesses outstanding personal and professional characteristics. The accolade specifically reflects excellence in research as well as communication of scientific knowledge through publication, teaching, and postdoctoral training. Dr. Patterson, who recently agreed to serve as a member of the editorial board of the German medical journal called Osteopathische Medizin, will receive the Irvin Korr Award in October during the 107th AOA Convention and Scientific Seminar in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Elaine Wallace, D.O., professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, recently earned her certification in acupuncture from UCLA. To maximize patient care, Dr. Wallace will be incorporating the treatment modality into the services provided at the university’s OPP clinic.

Elisa Ginter, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, recently received tangible validation of her osteopathic skills and compassionate treatment practices when one of her patients published a poem about her in Many Mountains Moving, a literary journal of diverse contemporary voices. The poem, entitled “The Arc of Our Reach,” paid tribute to Dr. Ginter’s gifts as “a true holistic healer.”

Ronnie Martin, D.O., professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, maintained a busy extracurricular schedule throughout the spring. In addition to presenting at several nationwide conferences, he acted as a moderator and panel member at the NSU-HPD’s A Glimpse of the Future in Health Care in America symposium in April and served as program director and convention chair at the ACOFP’s 39th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Orlando, Florida.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., presented a session on “Asthma: A Chronic Inflammatory Disease” at the Clinical Updates in Correctional Health Care symposium held April 13-16 at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale.

Edward Packer, D.O., associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was a speaker at the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians spring meeting in Washington, where he discussed “Treatment Challenges in Managing Type 2 Diabetes in Children.” Dr. Packer also presented at the Diabetes and Wellness Research Foundation spring meeting in Fort Lauderdale on “The National Increase in Type 2 Diabetes in Children in the United States.”

On May 19, Fred Lippman, B.Sc., R.Ph., executive vice chancellor and provost of the Health Professions Division, received the “Humanitarian of the Year Award” from the Soref Jewish Community Center in Plantation, Florida, for “his accomplishments, warmth, constant concern, and human touch in all endeavors community-wide.”

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., who serves as associate professor of public health, was involved with a range of projects over the past several months. In addition to speaking about “Genetics and Your Practice: Challenges and Opportunities for Future Physicians” at the NSU-COM Kaleidoscope Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Dr. Lou presented a session at the 53rd American Occupational Therapy Association Conference concerning “The Life Enrichment Project: A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial for People Living with Multiple Sclerosis.” The American Occupational Therapy Association also hosted a book signing event at the Miami Convention Center for Dr. Lou’s latest book, which is entitled Genetics: Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Professionals.
To aid in NSU-COM's ongoing medical missions to Guatemala, Lauritz (Larry) A. Jensen, D.A., director of pre-clinical education and past president of DOCARE International, secured $274,626 worth of medication to help treat impoverished and medically underserved Mayan villagers. Dr. Jensen obtained the generous medicinal contribution from the Catholic Medical Mission Board in New York. In May, he received additional recognition for his efforts by becoming chair of the college's International Medicine Committee.

Robert Oller, D.O., who currently acts as CEO of the Health Professions Division clinics and centers, was recently tapped to serve as CEO of all NSU health clinics, which have been consolidated and reorganized under one umbrella. Dr. Oller will now oversee all clinics in the Health Professions Division, Center for Psychological Studies, Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services, and the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. "I'm looking forward to the additional challenges," said Dr. Oller, who has been responsible for the daily operation of five health care centers in Broward and Miami-Dade counties since joining the NSU administration in 1997. "This is a fantastic opportunity not only for me but also for Nova Southeastern University. It will allow us to consolidate all areas into one department, making service easier and better not only for the communities in which we serve, but also more efficient from a university standpoint."

Alina M. Perez, J.D., L.C.S.W., assistant professor of public health, served as a guest speaker at the Fort Lauderdale Culinary Art Institute, where she discussed "Food Regulation in the Retirement Communities." In March, Perez was appointed as a board member for the Hispanic Advisory Committee of Hospice by the Sea's special community project entitled "Cultural Diversity Initiative 2002." Her project, entitled "Evaluating Hispanics' Satisfaction with Hospice Care: A Cultural Diversity Initiative," is a collaborative effort between NSU-COM and Hospice by the Sea to address some of the end-of-life health care problems experienced by the Hispanic community in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was recently re-appointed to the Florida Department of Health Advisory Council for Genetics and Newborn Screening. He also traveled to Washington D.C., in April to participate in D.O. Day on Capitol Hill.

In May, a number of NSU-COM faculty members were presented with President's Faculty Scholarship Awards, which bestow financial assistance for the support of scholarly inquiry and research. The awards, which are presented by the NSU Board of Trustees, are accompanied by a $5,000 allocation from the President's Faculty Scholarship Fund and matched by the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Following are the NSU-COM full-time and clinical faculty who earned recognition:

- Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H.
- Barbara Greenberg, Ph.D.
- Frederick Lewis, D.O.
- Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.
- Anthony Ottaviani, D.O.
- Michael Patterson, Ph.D.
- Alina Perez, J.D., L.C.S.W.
- Eric Shamus, Ph.D.
When you think of a physician, the stereotypical image that usually springs to mind is that of a busy practitioner operating out of a bustling urban office as he or she treats an array of ailments ranging from diabetes and cancer to the flu or an infected finger. But there is a segment of the physician population that eschews the traditional office setting and embraces a more remote approach to health care called wilderness medicine, which garnered massive national attention a decade ago thanks to the popular television series Northern Exposure.

For physicians specializing in wilderness medicine, which focuses on medical problems and treatment in remote environments and overlaps with other disciplines such as sports and emergency medicine, they are more likely to deal with a decidedly adventurous array of ailments and injuries. During the 17th Annual National Conference on Wilderness Medicine, held February 20-24, 2002, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, topics discussed included:

- Wild animal attacks
- Snake envenomation
- Arthropod bites and stings
- Hazardous marine life and seafood poisoning
- Dive medicine
- Wilderness survival
- Avalanche safety and rescue
- Mountain search and rescue
- Altitude illness
- Frostbite and cold injury
- Hypothermia and hyperthermia
- Backcountry dental and ophthalmologic emergencies
- Poisonous mushrooms and plants
- Fracture and dislocation management in the backcountry
- Travelers' diarrhea

It may not sound like a glamorous way to earn a living, but wilderness medicine is indeed growing in popularity, a fact evidenced by the establishment of the NSU-COM Wilderness Medicine Student Interest Group, which is an offshoot of the college's Emergency Medicine Club. Onna Konicek, a fourth-year student who currently serves as the college's wilderness medicine student advisor, helped spearhead the group's formation, which may become a standalone club within the next year.

“My first exposure to the concept of wilderness medicine came from a physicians' journal I read during my first year in medical school, which stated that less than five percent of physicians worldwide work in the field of extreme medicine,” Konicek explained. “That really sparked my interest because of my love for sports like rock climbing and snowboarding. From there I found out about wilderness medicine and the Wilderness Medicine Society, which is a medical organization devoted to studying and advancing all aspects of wilderness medicine. I had intended to start some sort of a club at NSU-COM for people with interests similar to mine, but I wasn't sure exactly how to go about it. Then, in my second year I joined the Emergency Medicine Club and became good friends with the club's president, Sigmund Tan.”

After attending a wilderness medicine conference, Konicek's dream came true when she and Tan decided to form an offshoot entity called the Wilderness Medicine Student Interest Group and she was elected as the wilderness medicine coordinator of the Emergency Medicine Club. Since its establishment, the group has offered members insightful lectures on everything from reptile bite to illnesses that may arise from eating poisonous seafood. Group members also have the opportunity to attend wilderness medicine conferences at a reduced cost.

“It's been very exciting to see such interest,” said Konicek, who plans to pursue a career in family and sports medicine and use that as a springboard into the exciting world of wilderness medicine doing locum tenens work in various remote locations. “Because we are located in Florida, it seemed like it might be impossible to get people interested. However, there is quite a bit of desire among the students to become involved in activities related to wilderness medicine.”
NSU-COM Wages Educational War Against Bioterrorism

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications

The cataclysmic events that transpired on September 11, 2001, continue to resonate throughout the United States—a reality that is even more evident now that the threat of additional terrorist attacks has heightened the collective anxiety level of all Americans.

Following the horror of 9/11 and the subsequent anthrax outbreaks, NSU-COM immediately sprang into action by providing a two-hour introductory course on bioterrorism for the M-1 students and joining forces with local public health experts to form the Taskforce on Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction that focuses on education, training, and research.

"Even if we never see another anthrax case, it would be morally irresponsible to graduate a class of future physicians without arming them well, because they should not be like the current generation of physicians that were caught totally unprepared," said Robin McFee, D.O., M.P.H., assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine. "Things like anthrax and plagues are worldwide. Just because we live between the borders of California and the East Coast doesn't mean we shouldn't know what diseases are going on in Africa, the Middle East, or Bali."

**Principal Goal: Educating Students**

Dr. McFee, a respected medical toxicologist who joined the NSU-COM faculty a few fortuitous weeks before the 9/11 attacks, recently wrapped up a six-hour course with the M-1 students that addressed various facets of bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction, including a tabletop exercise regarding smallpox. Next up on her agenda is what she hopes will be the implementation of a four-year course that will be woven into the curriculum.

"We are one of the first medical schools in the country to incorporate the course into its curriculum. In fact, we already have M-1 students here who know more about bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction than many of the so-called 'experts' out there who are charged with doing the job because the students have received six hours of training," she explained. "And while it's only been an overview, we've emphasized how, as a clinician, you coordinate with public health, how you identify who the different players are, and when you call these players in."

"Are our students experts on the topic after six hours? Absolutely not," stressed Dr. McFee, who recently met with U.S. Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson to discuss why D.O.s are not substantively invited to participate in major national medical education and bioterrorism policymaking decisions. "That's why I recently submitted a proposal for a four-year course that will not be hugely time-intensive. As the students progress from first to fourth year, we're going to introduce them to more patient scenarios, so they really get a chance to read chest X-rays and tie it into bioterrorism and HAZMAT (hazardous materials). We want to make sure they can identify the skin lesions of a patient or the influenza-like illnesses that may result from exposure to a toxic agent. The net result is our patients are going to benefit because we're going to turn out leaders in this field."

**Mock Drill Offers Priceless Opportunity**

In March, a select group of M-1 and M-3 students had a chance to witness the repercussions of a bioterrorist attack firsthand when they participated in a mass-casualty drill called Operation Railyard, which was coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) at the Hialeah Rail Yard in Miami. Utilizing a terrorist-imposed scenario where a tanker train transporting a hazardous toxicant purposely collides with a passenger train, the students were able to interact with various responders and learn crucial lessons during the mock event.

"The students got to see the complex and dynamic interplay that occurs when you try to get organizations not accustomed to collaborating to actually become a cohesive team," explained Dr. McFee, who was contacted by the
Miami-Dade OEM to design the medical scenarios and serve as an Operation Railyard controller. “The students got to see how the responders, like law enforcement, HAZMAT, paramedics, firefighters, railroad officials, and the OEM, worked to set up zones of protection."

The fact that NSU-COM was invited to participate in the simulated drill speaks volumes about the innovative programs the college has implemented to educate its students and the community about the pervasive threat posed by bioterrorists.

“It was great that NSU was immediately thought of by the OEM,” said Dr. McFee, who was a presenter at the Health Professions Division’s “A Glimpse of the Future of Health Care in America Conference” in April. “I thought that was the best thing because, from my perspective, it’s all about the students. Especially in this era of bioterrorism, we have a responsibility to make sure our students hit the deck running and that the patient care is seamless.”

Leadership Role Benefits Humanity

In addition to its primary role of educating students, the college has been tapped to participate in a variety of local and national bioterrorism task forces, including those established by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). Dr. McFee also serves on the State of Florida’s Region 7 Domestic Security Task Force, which is headed by Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne and is charged with identifying security voids and vulnerabilities throughout South Florida.

The college’s progressive AHEC Program also is partnering with Dr. McFee to provide residents in rural communities with relevant information regarding bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction. “Our AHEC was one of the first in the country to embrace these issues,” Dr. McFee stated. “So, in collaboration with Dr. Steven Zucker and his staff, we are designing a Web site, CD-ROM’s, and a series of one-page handouts on bioterrorism agents and general information that can be disseminated to the public, physicians, and first responders.

“We also plan to coordinate programs for rural clinicians and rural hospitals,” she added. “Thankfully, AHEC is giving us the opportunity to reach people who don’t normally have access to universities, tertiary health care centers, or high-tech infrastructure.”

Although Dr. McFee is an optimist when it comes to life in general, she has adopted a decidedly fatalistic view when it comes to the likelihood of future terrorist-related incidents being perpetrated in this country. “Do I think this is a fad? Absolutely not,” she replied with typical candor. “I’m very concerned that something is going to happen again. If I was a terrorist, I would be doing exactly what the terrorists are currently doing, which is sitting back, regrouping, and waiting for the right moment to attack again.

“The scary thing is that if we start treating this like it’s a fad and that everything is under control, that’s tantamount to saying teaching students about community-acquired pneumonia is just something that occurs in the winter and we shouldn’t talk about it at any other time,” she warned.

“We have to make sure we give our students the most innovative, up-to-date, enjoyable training we can that facilitates their being able to do their job but also ensures they’re protected. I don’t want our students going out into a potential bioterrorism world and not understanding what an N-95 Mask (a mask that will filter out 95 percent of the toxic particles) is. When someone says, ‘Put a mask on, there’s an infectious, contagious person in the room,’ I don’t want them doubling up their T-shirts and putting them over their faces.”
Examining the Future of Osteopathic Medicine

Despite major strides, D.O. profession faces imposing hurdles

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications

Like the women's movement of the 1970's, which was popularized by a catchy Virginia Slims cigarette advertising slogan, the osteopathic profession has come a long way, baby!

Since Dr. Andrew Taylor Still first articulated its holistic tenets in 1874, osteopathic medicine has become an integral part of the health care landscape and earned hard-fought respect from all components of the medical community. Additionally, although D.O.s only comprise approximately seven percent of the total U.S. physician work force, they are becoming an increasing national presence and represent one of the fastest growing segments of health care providers.

In 1982, there were an estimated 20,000 osteopathic physicians sprinkled throughout the country. In 2002, that number has mushroomed to 47,000, and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) estimates that by the year 2010, the profession will boast more than 70,000 D.O.s as additional colleges of osteopathic medicine spring up across the nation.

Still, despite these obvious strides, the osteopathic profession continues to suffer an entrenched identity crisis, especially among the general public, which has little or no knowledge of what a D.O. does or that an osteopathic counterpart to allopathic specialties even exists. Equally exasperating is the fact that many individuals who are aware of the profession harbor the misguided notion that osteopathic physicians are nothing more than glorified spine doctors who are solely skilled at massaging a sore back or achy sacroiliac.

Broad-based Bias Still Exists

While osteopathic medicine continues to gain both acceptance and respect on a daily basis, it's also abundantly evident that bias against the profession still exists today, says Fred Lippman, B.Sc., R.Ph., who serves as executive vice chancellor and provost of NSU's Health Professions Division. "I was down in the rehab unit of our clinic recently, and I overheard a conversation between one of our occupational therapists and a physician—a former chief of staff of a major hospital here in Broward County—who was receiving physical therapy.

"When the occupational therapist mentioned to him that would it be a good idea if he consulted with one of our osteopathic physicians relative to getting some OMT (osteopathic manipulative treatment), his response typified the attitude that many still have about the profession," Mr. Lippman explained. "He said he didn't believe in osteopathic medicine because it was not like his type of medicine because all they teach is the science of the spine. The only reason I bring this up is because it illustrates how much non-knowledge is still out there."

So how can the profession as a whole adequately address the surfeit of misinformation and "non-knowledge" that hinders osteopathic physicians from becoming as universally known and understood as other health care entities such as chiropractors, acupuncturists, and naturalists? To quote a cliche, "knowledge is power," and in that regard, many D.O.s feel the profession's governing body has dropped the ball when it comes to educating the general public about osteopathic medicine and its overall distinctiveness as a vital medical entity.

Pump Up the Publicity

"I do feel that our national organization, the American Osteopathic Association, has been remiss over the years in getting the word out," said Joseph DeGaetano, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine and director of clinical curriculum and graduate medical education. "The AOA has taken a much more active role recently, but I've been in this profession for 10 years and it has always interested me as to why they are so hush-hush about it. I think the national organization should take a leadership role in getting the word out about our profession. And to do that you need to have a focal point—what it is you're going to offer the public that is unique and different."

A. Alvin Greber, D.O., who serves as professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, agrees with Dr. DeGaetano's assessment, adding that, "The average person, unless he's already being treated by a D.O., doesn't really know what osteopathic medicine is. We have D.O. Day on the Hill, and we've had some basic literature distributed, but what we really need is a concerted public relations effort. We have a day dedicated to the profession, and every once in a while you'll see an ad in USA Today. But it is not a consistent and concerted effort of identifying what osteopathic medicine really does and identifying notable D.O.s.

"There need to be regular advertisements about osteopathic medicine, and we ought to identify, very distinctly, our osteopathic stars," he added. "For instance, we have had two or three consultants to major TV shows, including ER.
I don't think many people know about that. There ought to be ways to publicize these associations. The public needs to know that although D.O.s are distinctive, they are also legislatively equal to their M.D. counterparts. But we don't have a national public relations effort to push these facts out there. Right now we are leaving it up to each locality to do what they do, and some are doing nothing so people have no awareness.”

To accomplish this challenging task, the key may lie in distilling the overall essence of osteopathic medicine into a catchy sound bite or slogan that plays up the humanistic approach D.O.s utilize when treating patients. “Traditionally, osteopathic medical schools have taken students that had other career choices in the past, individuals that have been lawyers, nurses, pharmacists, etc.,” Dr. DeGaetano explained. “As a result, these students have a lot of life experience. I think an individual that decides to go into osteopathic medicine tends to be a more mature person because it takes a leap of faith to enter into a profession that is a minority and has a stigma or bias attached to it. You have to possess a lot of intestinal fortitude to do that.”

**D.O. Distinctiveness Rates Recognition**

When it comes to the actual scientific practice of medicine, it would be virtually impossible for anyone to discern the slightest difference between a D.O. and a M.D., mainly because the overall methods of diagnosis and treatment are the same. The true distinction, stressed Dr. DeGaetano, is the empathetic nature of most osteopathic physicians.

“I’m not saying there aren’t good, kind-hearted M.D.s out there, because there are,” he stated. “What I am saying is that, as a group, most osteopathic physicians are extremely amiable and like to talk with and bond with their patients regardless of the specialty. When treating patients, they give of themselves on a personal nature when they interact as opposed to being more technical and spouting medical jargon.

“I have always said that this is an area where we are definitely different than M.D.s, and we should market that. Tell the public to ‘Come see a doctor who really cares about you, who will talk to you like a person, and listen to your concerns.’ That would be a slogan I would put out there if I were the AOA. They like to harp on the manipulation, and they like to harp on the holism. Well, the bottom line is that most of us don’t do manipulation, and the truth is most M.D.s are holistic. So you’ve got to stop playing those elements up.

“I don’t do manipulation in my practice,” Dr. DeGaetano admitted. “I am holistic, but when I was in residency I had nine other guys that trained with me who were very holistic, and they were all M.D.s. Of course, this is not true across the board. Nothing in life is absolute except death and taxes. But as a group, osteopathic physicians just tend to be a much more approachable group of people, regardless of specialty. And that’s the message we need to get out to the masses.”

**OMT: A Touchy Subject?**

The use of manipulation, which has been frequently touted as the cornerstone of osteopathic medicine over the decades, also has become a heated topic, especially since increasingly fewer numbers of D.O.s actually incorporate manipulative techniques into their practices. “The fact that less D.O.s today practice osteopathic manipulation is a disappointment in the sense that there is a loss of a modality that is becoming more evident as effective,” said Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., who has served as the college’s dean since 1998. “But I do not think that it in any way means that osteopathic physicians are adhering any less to the tenets and principles by which they are educated in osteopathic medicine.

“I personally used a lot of manipulation when I practiced, but that’s because I believed in it and because I went to a school that taught me how to use it, so I had a comfort level,” he added. “I happened to train at some hospitals where a lot of the doctors used manipulation, so it was reinforced. I think the problem is that in many schools it’s a superficial course that’s way too broad, so the students haven’t learned any part of it well enough to begin using it. And then they embark on their rotations, only to find that most physicians rarely utilize the skills, which means they are unable to focus on and improve those skills. The other part is that the practice of medicine is very controlled by the payment entities like the HMOs, the insurance companies, etc. And, as with many other modalities that are useful and effective but are arbitrarily selected not to be reimbursed, it has become less possible for physicians to do everything a patient needs.”

Because of this trend, Dr. Silvagni felt having an osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) designation for the department did not accurately depict the fundamental knowledge that was being disseminated via the overall college curriculum. “Many of the osteopathic colleges have named their departments OMM, OMT, or manual medicine. At NSU-COM, we decided to retain the original name of osteopathic principles and practice (OPP). The reason is we strongly believe that osteopathic medicine in the clinical environment is not represented by the ability to do manipulation. Essentially, manipulation is a therapeutic modality that exemplifies what we stand for, and that is the care of the whole person, which encompasses mind, body, and spirit.

“An osteopathic physician is distinguished by his/her ability to look at a patient as a whole unit, an interrelated structure,
a total form, and understand those interrelationships that go on in the process of either achieving wellness or succumbing to disease,” he stated. “That ability also assists the osteopathic physician to better communicate with the patient and other health care providers. It ensures an enhanced safety net for the patient so the mental and personal burdens of illness can be dealt with more effectively, minimizing the impact and/or allowing earlier detection of many of the effects such as depression, separation from family, and even in the extreme, suicide.”

An M.D./D.O. Merger in the Making?
Elaine Wallace, D.O., who serves as professor and chair of the college’s OPP department, feels the continued diminishment of manipulative skill utilization in osteopathic medical practices will further blur the lines that exist between allopathic and osteopathic practitioners—and make it increasingly difficult to market a D.O.’s distinctiveness. “Even in the best case scenario, and I wouldn’t be here if I didn’t think this was one of the best case scenarios in the profession, our first-year students are taught primarily by basic scientists who know very little about the osteopathic concept or profession.

“In the second year, the students are deluged with osteopathic physicians who try to teach them these things,” she continued. “But even in the best of situations, they now go out and train during their third and fourth years in allopathic hospitals with allopathic physicians, and over 50 percent of them then take allopathic residencies. So I ask you, what is the difference between a D.O. and a M.D.? I personally don’t think there is much difference between them anymore. With the advent of HMOs and PPOs, the climate of health care does not allow for some of the things that are the basis of osteopathic medicine. We say that the OPP philosophy and manipulative medicine and primary care distinguish us. But that’s not as reality-based anymore.”

Michael Patterson, Ph.D., professor and assistant chair of osteopathic principles and practice, claims that, “The true defining characteristic to me is the way the osteopathic physician is taught to think about the relationship between health and illness and between the doctor and the patient and how the physician thinks about what he or she is doing for the patient. It leads directly to the idea that health and illness are not two distinct things—they are a continuum. And that the job of the physician is to move the patient up on the continuum toward health. But the physician doesn’t cure—the physician removes roadblocks to the patient’s ability to adapt to the stresses of the environment, which include viruses, bacteria, toxins, and all kinds of other things.

“If a physician even partially think that way, he sees his job differently than a physician who thinks he is treating or curing a disease,” he explained. “Osteopathic physicians are educated to realize that the symptoms a patient is currently having are episodic, unless the patient is terminal, in which case you do other things. But once those symptoms are taken care of, the physician’s job is really only starting.”

Obstacles Serve as Opportunities
While it’s unlikely the osteopathic and allopathic professions will ever morph into one mammoth entity, Dr. Silvagni believes the 19 existing osteopathic colleges must take swift action to ensure that the distinctive components, such as hands-on manipulation, remain an integral part of the profession. “As you know, malpractice is skyrocketing nationally and reimbursement has gone down. The average physician, particularly in primary care, is earning 25 to 45 percent less than they did two years ago, yet their costs have increased over that same time frame.

“Obviously, there are many factors that explain why OMM is not being used that go beyond the proper preparation of our students in learning the modality,” he stressed. “If we know the majority of practitioners have come through a generation where they were not taught to use OMM, do we not need to take the responsibility as a teaching institution to give our students exceptional skills so they can go out and be the individuals who help bring it back? By this I mean bringing OMM back into the office, back into the payment schedules, back into appropriate use to contribute to a better quality of life, a more rapid healing, and a higher comfort level for our patients. Is it not our responsibility to look at that since much of what is currently happening was caused by us for not properly teaching or reinforcing it?”

While it’s clear there are challenges ahead for the osteopathic profession, it’s also apparent that an exciting future looms, especially when you analyze the outstanding group of individuals who are graduating from the nation’s osteopathic institutions. “The fact that NSU-COM and the other osteopathic colleges are turning out the kind of physicians that they have gone a long way toward proving our status as a profession of continued innovation and excellence,” stated Morton Terry D.O., who serves as chancellor of NSU’s Health Professions Division.

“The truth is if you go out and preach your position intelligently and carry out the mission of holistic medicine and do the things you do best, I can’t believe osteopathic medicine would ever disappear off the face of our health care map,” Mr. Lippman concluded. “The future of osteopathic medicine is very bright. But it’s only as bright as the willingness of the individuals in osteopathic medical education to allow for comment about their profession.”
Important Dates in Osteopathic History

1874 - Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, a licensed frontier physician, first articulated basic osteopathic principles.

1892 - The first college of osteopathic medicine is established—the American School of Osteopathy (ASO) — founded in Kirksville, Missouri.

1893 - First class graduated from ASO, including 17 men and 5 women.

1896 - Vermont became first state to license D.O.s.

1897 - Founding of the American Association for the Advancement of Osteopathy (later known as the American Osteopathic Association).

1898 - First recorded osteopathic research, at ASO on humans and dogs, to test and record on sphygomograms and cardiograms the effects of stimulation and inhibition and the effects of lesions and their attempted correction.

1905 - Requirement of three-year course for AOA-approved osteopathic colleges.


1915 - Requirement for four-year course for AOA-approved osteopathic colleges.

1917 - Osteopathic founder Dr. Still dies; more than 5,000 D.O.s in practice.

1936 - First inspection and approval of osteopathic hospitals for the training of interns.

1938 - Adoption of a plan for the standardization of osteopathic specialties.

1947 - First approval of osteopathic hospitals for residency training.

1950 - Court decision in Audrain County, Missouri, established the right of D.O.s to practice as complete physicians and surgeons in a county hospital. The court defined the practice of osteopathy to include prescribing and administering drugs as well as performing surgery with instruments.

1961 - DOCARE formed.

1962 - A California public referendum prohibited the granting of new licenses to D.O.s in the state. The College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, was converted to an allopathic medical college. This institution, upon receipt of $65 per applicant, granted some 2,500 unearned M.D. degrees to D.O.s in that state, with the concurrence of the California Medical Association and the California Osteopathic Association. A new group, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, was chartered by the AOA for D.O.s who chose to retain their osteopathic degrees and identities. A long court fight was initiated, which was resolved in 1974 when the California State Supreme Court ruled that licensing of D.O.s in that state must be resumed.

1963 - D.O.s accepted by Civil Service as medical officers.

1966 - AOA was designated by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services) as the official accrediting body for osteopathic hospitals under Medicare. This allowed the osteopathic profession an equal but distinct recognition under the federal healthcare program.

1973 - Full practice rights in all 50 states and the District of Columbia accomplished when Mississippi passed law granting full practice rights to D.O.s.

1974 - Ban on licensing new D.O.s since 1962 voided by California State Supreme Court. 100th year anniversary of osteopathic medical profession celebrated.

1979 - Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine established by Morton Terry, D.O., the 15th osteopathic college in the nation.

1982 - More than 20,000 D.O.s in practice.

1994 - Southeastern University of the Health Sciences merges with Nova University to form Nova Southeastern University.

1995 - First D.O. named to serve on federal Physician Payment Review Commission (PPRC). The Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution (OPTI) accreditation system for graduate osteopathic medical education is approved.

2002 - Over 47,000 D.O.s in practice.

(Source: American Osteopathic Association)
Energy, Ethics Characterize Academic Architect
Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications

Throughout a four-decade career marked by substantial accomplishment, Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., has utilized his peerless work ethic and high ethical standards to serve as a skilled academic architect of various nationwide podiatric, osteopathic and allopathic medical programs.

In his current incarnation as associate dean of NSU-COM's Office of Education, Planning, and Research and professor of family medicine and public health, Dr. Levy has helped enhance the college's cachet by adding a well-planned research component to the academic mix. But that is only the latest in a string of achievements that includes serving as founding dean of podiatric schools in Iowa and New York as well as a high-profile stint as president of the California College of Podiatric Medicine.

Childhood Dream Forecasts Future Success

"I always knew I wanted to be involved in the health professions arena," said Dr. Levy, who as a child used to feign the role of physician by giving his diabetic grandmother mock insulin injections with the eraser side of a pencil. But unlike many children, who dreamt of becoming practicing physicians, Dr. Levy never harbored a desire to go into general medicine.

"Even though I playacted with my grandmother, I never wanted to go into general medicine," he added. "I knew I wanted to pursue an academic career as opposed to private practice."

Given his middle-class, blue-collar roots, no one—including himself—could have predicted the academic heights Dr. Levy would eventually reach when he was just a precocious child growing up in Brooklyn, New York. "We were a family of less-than-modest means," said Dr. Levy of his parents, who never finished high school. "My father was a New York City-commissioned taxi driver, and my mom was a homemaker who provided a very nurturing environment for me and my younger sister."

Although he established a personal landmark by becoming the first member of his family to attend professional school, Dr. Levy readily admits he wasn't sure of what career path to pursue when he began matriculating at New York University in 1952. "It was strictly by chance, when I was attending New York University, that I began to think about entering podiatric medicine," recalled Dr. Levy, who graduated from high school at the tender age of 16. "One of my organic chemistry partners went to a podiatric medical school, and after talking with him about the program, I decided to go that particular route."

After earning his bachelor of arts in biology, with a minor in both chemistry and speech, Dr. Levy was accepted into New York College of Podiatric Medicine. However, because money—or more specifically the lack thereof—was still an issue for the physician-in-training, Dr. Levy spent his summers working as a waiter in the Catskills a la the movie Dirty Dancing. Fortuitously, in between doling out bagels and blintzes to the hungry patrons, love unexpectedly bloomed for Dr. Levy when he met a vivacious camp counselor named Eleanor, whom he married in 1960.

A Passion for Podiatry

After earning his doctor of podiatric medicine degree in 1961, Dr. Levy set out to land an academic post in the profession—a search that proved to be both frustrating and futile. "After completing some postdoctoral podiatric surgical residency training, I found there were no opportunities in the academic arena," he explained. "So I decided to go into a private practice situation in Woodmere, New York, with a colleague and close friend, Dr. Myron Boxer."

Over the next five years, Dr. Levy established a reputation as a first-rate podiatric practitioner, which earned him an appointment as chairman of podiatric medical education at the Gouverneur Ambulatory Care Unit of Beth Israel Medicine Center. During his affiliation with the facility, which served one of the poorest neighborhoods in New York, Dr. Levy was urged by the center's director to maximize his abilities and pursue a master of public degree at the School of Public Health of Columbia University's Faculty of Medicine.

Taking the director's advice to heart, Dr. Levy was accepted into Columbia University's M.P.H. program. And when he graduated in 1967, he established a personal and professional milestone by becoming the first podiatric physician in the United States—and possibly the world—to earn an M.P.H. degree.
With his professional stock on the rise, Dr. Levy, who has authored over 90 published articles in podiatric, allopathic, and osteopathic journals as well as one major text and two monologues, was quickly recruited by the California College of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco to serve as its academic dean. Additional appointments soon followed as he was named founding chair of the college’s Department of Public Health and Community Podiatry and then designated as dean and vice president of podiatric medical and curricular affairs. During this time, Dr. Levy also was invited by the chairman of the Department of Dermatology to pursue his interest in dermatological disorders of the lower limb by serving as a clinical associate professor in that department at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto.

The Road to NSU-COM

In 1974, opportunity came knocking again in the form of an offer to open a new podiatric medical school at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in New York. However, because the State of New York was on the verge of fiscal collapse in 1975, the proposed college, which had yet to officially open its doors, became a victim of rampant budget cuts and never became an official entity. “It was a strange experience because I had to close a school that never opened, even though I had already brought faculty on board,” said Dr. Levy, who was immediately recruited to perform a feasibility study concerning the establishment of a podiatric medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Amazingly, lightning struck twice when the University of Texas also opted not to create a podiatric school after bringing Dr. Levy on board. But this time he remained with the university for five years, serving as a full-time consultant to the institution’s president and becoming the founding coordinator of the Program on Aging. “Although the plans for a podiatric school fell through, I stayed there because they asked me to head up and start a new program on aging,” he explained. “In fact, I obtained the initial funding for the program by writing a successful grant application for the nation’s first dental geriatric award.”

In 1981, the third time proved to be the charm when he was recruited by the University of Osteopathic and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa, to establish the College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery and serve as its founding dean. “I’ve always enjoyed being an architect of programs,” said Dr. Levy, who remained at the university for almost 14 years—his longest academic stint to date.

In 1993, he took on additional responsibilities by assuming the university post of vice president for planning and research, which allowed him to indulge one of his major passions: grant writing. “I wrote the first grant for the medical school to perform problem-based learning and established a program called FAME (Family Medical Education), which recruited high-school students from rural Iowa to enter medicine by participating in a seven-year program combining premedical education and medical school,” he stated. “In fact, even while they were in high school, the program provided students with an opportunity to spend some time in rural practices.”

Dr. Levy’s itinerant academic existence continued in 1994 when a former employer—the California College of Podiatric Medicine—resurfaced with an offer for him to return to the San Francisco Bay area and assume the role of president of the institution. Not long after he accepted the position, Touro University in New York also approached him with an intriguing idea, which involved the possible creation of an osteopathic college in the San Francisco area.

“The president of Touro University met with me and asked if I would be willing, as president of the California College of Podiatric Medicine, to arrange for Touro to share not just space but also the basic science curriculum of the podiatric medical school, which is the same as the curriculum of an osteopathic medical school,” Dr. Levy explained. Sensing the proposal’s inherent merits, Dr. Levy green-lighted the project and became heavily involved in its evolution, drawing upon his vast medical education experiences in Iowa and Texas to assist in this effort. The evolving osteopathic medical school recognized Dr. Levy’s contributions by subsequently recognizing him as a “founding father” on August 18, 1997.

The Silvagni Connection

In 1999, Dr. Levy embarked on the most current leg of his academic odyssey after a former colleague from Iowa, who had relocated to South Florida to accept the dean’s position at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, discussed an imperative issue with him while attending a meeting in San Francisco. Strategically exploiting Dr. Levy’s admitted
fondness for dim sum, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni wined and dined him to the hilt before offering him a position at NSU-COM as associate dean along with the opportunity to create the Office of Education, Planning, and Research.

"Dr. Silvagni thought it would be nice to reconstitute the Iowa team (which also included Lawrence Jacobson, D.O., associate dean for medical education, and Johnetta Goodwin, executive assistant to the dean), so he came to San Francisco, found my weakness for dim sum, and made me an offer I couldn’t refuse," he recalled. "The timing was right for me to make a move, and since Dr. Silvagni asked me to write my job description, I made sure I only included things I liked."

Under Dr. Levy’s leadership, the Office of Education, Planning and Research has developed into a multi-layered entity that has added intrinsic strength to the college while complementing its clinical and primary care focus. "Before I came here, Dr. Silvagni and I discussed some of the areas he felt needed to be addressed," he stated. "Dr. Silvagni felt the college had developed to the point where its next step had to include some focus on the research needs of the institution. It was not any focus that wanted to change the college’s thrust from being clinically and primary care oriented. But even with that orientation, Dr. Silvagni felt there still needed to be a research infrastructure developed."

Once he arrived on campus, Dr. Levy began to assess the college’s prior efforts in the areas of research, faculty development, and communications. What he discovered was that although some attempts had been made in regard to faculty development, the areas of research and communication had been underdeveloped. "There were minimal research or communications components in place, and the college had not yet developed a successful track record of acquiring the grant dollars that were required to nurture such a program," explained Dr. Levy, who has helped the college secure over $1.7 million in external funding since 1999. "Most university academic health centers cannot afford to use hard dollars solely for research. They need to acquire dollars extramurally in the form of grants and contracts."

Having ascertained the deficiencies that existed, Dr. Levy began the task of targeting two areas that required immediate attention: faculty development and research. "Initially, my goal was to strengthen the already ongoing faculty development programs to prepare teaching staff for the emerging new approaches to contemporary medical education," he explained. "Another major objective was to identify, apply for, and facilitate with others the acquisition of funds to nurture a broad base of research and educational innovation that Dr. Silvagni felt was necessary to bring the college to the next stage in its evolutionary process."

**Structured Growth Leads to Prospective Greatness**

Under his stewardship, three new departmental offshoots have been established over the past three years: clinical research, education communications, and primary care research. One existing department—data coordination, study and analysis—was incorporated into the Office of Education, Planning and Research because it already served as the repository for the various types of information needed to conduct all NSU-COM programs, including those of an educational or research nature.

"The university in general, and the Health Professions Division more specifically, and the College of Osteopathic Medicine most specifically, all have an opportunity and the capability of becoming one great university, one excellent academic health center, and one outstanding medical school," he said. "In order to get to that level requires the development of a real and solid research infrastructure. So because of us—or in spite of us—I think that will come. Research will become a more prominent part of this institution, but it will not threaten our primary care-oriented mission or our mission of being one that puts tremendous value on education and training. Instead, it will complement these areas because the students will have an additional dimension of education and training to take advantage of."

After four decades of crafting academic programs of excellence, Dr. Levy shows no signs of slowing down. In fact, he may just be gearing up for his greatest achievement yet. "I find that as I get older, my energy logarithmically increases rather than decreases," he admitted. "I often wonder when I'm going to run out of gas, but I guess I just have a very unusual span of energy. I'm extraordinarily lucky because my professional activity is also my avocation."

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**Levy Family Fact File**

**Wife:** Eleanore currently serves as director of major gift planning at Nova Southeastern University.

**Son:** Andrew Lincoln lives in San Francisco Bay area and works as a writer for a credit card company.

**Daughter:** Sara works as a recruiter for an employment agency in Des Moines, Iowa.
Student Accomplishment Celebrated at Senior Awards

On May 24, a merry mix of students, family members, and notable representatives from various sectors of the osteopathic profession and the Health Professions Division converged on the Signature Grand in Davie to participate in the NSU-COM Senior Awards Dinner Dance. During the evening’s festivities, the following awards were presented:

Matthew A. Terry, D.O. Memorial Award
Presented to the student chosen by his or her peers as the exemplary osteopathic medical student.
Recipient: Anthony Abouhanna, D.O.
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.

Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award
Presented to the student for the highest achievement in the study of internal medicine, both academic and clinical.
Recipient: Ian Weir, D.O.
Presenter: Morton Terry, 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: Brian Feinstein, D.O.
Presenter: Michael Patterson, Ph.D.

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award
Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine as selected by the faculty of NSU-COM.
Recipient: Gary Lai, D.O.
Presenter: Lawrence Jacobson, 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 to the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special recognition.
Recipient: Earle Hayes, D.O.
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.

Chancellor's Award
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: Jean Charles, D.O.
Presenter: Morton Terry, D.O.

Samuel J. Salman, D.O. Award in Family Medicine
Presented by the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician, as exemplified by the late Samuel J. Salman, D.O.
Recipient: Kathleen Pelkan, D.O.
Presenter: Ronnie Martin, D.O.

Donna Jones Moritsugu Award
This award, sponsored by the American Osteopathic Foundation, honors the spouses of graduating students who best exemplify 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.
Recipient: Katarina Lindley
Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.
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 of his/her osteopathic medical education.
Recipient: Michael Pritchett, D.O.
Presenter: Howard Neer, D.O.

Dean's Organizational Award
Presented to the senior who demonstrates organizational skills and leadership and receives recognition from his/her peers during a productive academic career.
Recipient: Michael Pritchett, D.O.
Presenter: Larry A. Jensen, D.A.

Albert L. Weiner, D.O. Memorial Psychiatry Award
Presented in memory of Dr. Weiner to the student achieving the greatest proficiency in psychiatry.
Recipient: Mark E. Levenberg, D.O.
Presenter: Joseph Stasio, D.O.

Dean's Award
Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement.
Recipient
Andrew Raxenberg, D.O.
Presenter
Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.
Osteopathic Principles and Practice
Fellowship Certificate
Presented to a student who has completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 1999 to May 2002.
Recipient: Jennifer Vasinda, D.O.
Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

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

Outstanding Student in 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: Stephanie Carlin, D.O.
Presenter: Edward Packer, 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's-related projects at NSU-COM.
Recipient: Taralyn Cronin, D.O.
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.
Golden Apple Awards
Presented by the class of 2002 to basic science faculty members deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

Recipients
Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
Kathleen M. Khin, M.B.B.S.
Maung M. Khin-Aung, M.B.B.S.

American Medical Women's Association, Inc.
Janet M. Glasgow Memorial Achievement Award
This award recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding women at the thresholds of their medical careers. The memorial is in honor of Janet Glasgow, who was an AMWA member and a pioneer in preventive and public health as well as a crusader for the advancement of women in medicine.

Recipients
Stephanie Carlin, D.O.
Kathleen Pelkan, D.O.
Brooke Di Anni, D.O.
(Mary Currence, D.O., and Aisha Subhani, D.O., were not present to collect their honors.)

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
Earle Hayes, D.O.

Presenters
Mary Smith Allegro and A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

Outstanding Senior Awards
Recipients have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, earning them recognition as graduates with highest honors (top three percent of their class) and graduates with honors (top seven percent of their class).

Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates:
Mary Currence, D.O.; Brooke Di Anni, D.O.; Daniel Kahn, D.O.; Mark Levenberg, D.O.; and Andrew Raxenberg, D.O.

Recipients of Honors Certificates

Rose Community Service Award recipient Hung Dang, D.O., was not in attendance to receive his accolade, which is presented to a student who demonstrates sincere interest in community service or community projects.
NSU-COM Class of 2002 Graduates

*Anthony Alan Abouhanna of Dunedin, Florida
Lauren Jean Akers of Boynton Beach, Florida
Kristen Marie Aloupis of Boca Raton, Florida
Evan Matthew Altman of Coral Springs, Florida
Jason James Baggett of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Hsiao Ping Bechinski, New Port Richey
*John Allen Bechinski of LaPorte, Indiana
*Stephanie Anne Belanger-Carlin of Fort Lauderdale
Matthew Joseph Boren of Cataula, Georgia
Babak Boroujerdi of Plano, Texas
Daniel Joseph Brandenstein of West Islip, New York
Katina Yolanda Brown of Lauderdale, Florida
*Scott L. Buckel of Carmel, Indiana
Timothy Michael Burke of North Miami Beach, Florida
J. Christian Capener of Salt Lake City, Utah
Lynne Marie Chadfield-White of Plantation, Florida
Jean G. Charles of Miami, Florida
Charles Hyong-Chun Cho of Windermere, Florida
Kin-Kee Henry Chung of Rego Park, New York
Jeffrey James Copeland of Orlando, Florida
Adriena Venette Cothren of Fort Worth, Texas
Taralyn Cronin of Trumbull, Connecticut
Hung Dang of Lauderdale, Florida
Dominique Constanza Davenport of Plant City, Florida
Johan Christiaan Alma Marie de Beer of Buffalo, New York
Misha Denham of Miami, Florida
Anthony Michael De Simone of Coral Springs, Florida
**Brooke Erin Di Anni of Orlando, Florida
Shiang Ling Do of Van Nuys, California
Laurent Rene Dreyfuss of Hollywood, Florida
John Stephen Dunn of Plantation, Florida
Kelly Lane Dyess of Plantation, Florida
Darren Michael Farber of New City, New York
Brian Jeffrey Feinstein of Hallandale Beach, Florida
Lianne Dina Fernandes-Cunningham of Aventura, Florida
Illya Fonorov of Pembroke Pines, Florida
Victoria E. Garcia of Miami, Florida
Christine Nabil Gerges of Longwood, Florida
Corinne Denise Gerhart of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
*David Michael Gillis of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Micheyle L. Goldman of Miami, Florida
Jana Amanda Gordon of Weston, Florida
Lisa Gorn of Miami, Florida
Mona Raj Gupta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Christina Hansel of Pembroke Pines, Florida
Earle W. Hayes of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Kevin Michael Hayes of Lake Worth, Florida
Michael Patrick Heim of Tampa, Florida
Adam Barrett Henner of East Rockaway, New York
Jason Paul Hillman of Fredericksburg, Virginia
Rita La Verne Horn of Miami, Florida
Douglas Stephen Hughes of Bonita Springs, Florida
Leslie Ann Hurwitz of Delray Beach, Florida
Anthony Vu Huynh of Hollywood, Florida
Amee A. Joshi of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
**Daniel Reuven Kahn of Baltimore, Maryland
Joni Noel Kaighobadi of Plantation, Florida
Christopher John Kane of Osprey, Florida
Avi Katz of Hollywood, Florida
Daanish Ahmedali Kazi of Miami, Florida
Christopher D. Keller of Pompano Beach, Florida
Cecylia Turlinski Kelley of Haddonfield, New Jersey
Julie J. Kirkhoff of Davie, Florida
Edward Allen Kitch of Pilesgrove, New Jersey
Yvette Klein of Hollywood, Florida
Mark Jonathan Kranis of Aventura, Florida
Jennifer Lynn Kudak of Seminole, Florida
Ashu Kumar of Plano, Texas
Kim Elizabeth Kurak of Cincinnati, Ohio
Ryan H. Kwon of Boca Raton, Florida
Gary Lai of Boca Raton, Florida
David Adam Lalli of North Miami Beach, Florida
Andrew Thomas Larkin of Lynn Haven, Florida
John Christian Layke of Sleepy Hollow, Illinois
Robert Walter Ledbetter of Alpharetta, Georgia
Noah J. Lee of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Susan Anne Lee of Fairfax, Virginia
Walter Daniel Lehnhoff of Delray Beach, Florida
**Mark Edward Levenberg of Clearwater, Florida
Robert Seth Levine of Maple Shade, New Jersey
NSU-COM Class of 2002 Graduates

Lily Limsuivanrot of Floral Park, New York
David Arnold Lindley of Davie, Florida
Jeremy Eugene Lindley of Birmingham, Alabama
Kenneth Robert Luna of Clearwater Beach, Florida
**Mary Elizabeth Lunde of Rochester, Minnesota
Ann Therese MacIntyre of Miami, Florida
Katharyn Halina Madiwale of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Todd Paul Mangione of Coral Springs, Florida
Cheri Colagross Mansuerta of Cullman, Alabama
Mark Francis Marino of Ormond Beach, Florida
Jasilin Mathew of Coral Springs, Florida
Angela Danielle Mazza of Wilmington, Delaware
Robert William Mosca of Sanford, Florida
Ralph Josef Nelson of Norman, Oklahoma
*Brian Andrew Newton of Williamstown, New Jersey
Mohammed Danish Neyaz of Portage, Michigan
Huy Quang Nguyen of Altamonte Springs, Florida
Jason S. Okuhara of Riverview, Florida
Matthew Bryce Owen of Orlando, Florida
Mark J. Pamer of Plantation, Florida
Edward Jonathan Parker of Davie, Florida
Nilesh Parbhubhai Patel of Sarasota, Florida
Udit Vijay Patel of Wheaton, Illinois
*Yagneshvari Shantilal Patel of St. Petersburg, Florida
*Kathleen Pelkan of Seattle, Washington
Nadia Ivanov Pellett of Davie, Florida
Jason John Pirozzolo of Pine City, New York
David V. Pizzimenti of Davie, Florida
Brian David Purvin of Farmington Hills, Michigan
Heidi Dawn Pratt of Tooele, Utah
Michael A. Pritchett of Plantation, Florida
Harsha Rajashekar of Miami, Florida
James William Ranilo of Davie, Florida
**Andrew S. Rasenberg of Davie, Florida
Kenneth Scott Reiss of Aventura, Florida
Jeffrey Thomas Richard, II of Exeter, New Hampshire
Peter John Riga of Buffalo, New York
James Patrick Roach of Weston, Florida
Benjamin L. Rojas, Jr. of El Paso, Texas
Danielle Estee Rosenbaum of Plantation, Florida
Michael D. Saccente of Tampa, Florida
Lon Michael Sadowsky of Boca Raton, Florida
Luis Armando Saenz of Hollywood, Florida
Anil P. Saini of Montgomery, Alabama
Alarmelu Sambandam of Port Charlotte, Florida
Jennifer May Sanchez of Bloomfield, New Jersey
Michael Jacob Sasoni of Pembroke Pines, Florida
David Adam Scheraga of Lake Worth, Florida
*Jason Michael Sciby of Lansing, Michigan
Deepa S. Shah of Palm City, Florida
Shalin Ramesh Shah of Tampa, Florida
Aleksandr Shapiro of Chicago, Illinois
Munjal Girish Shroff of Smyrna, Georgia
Suleman Siddiqui of Ypsilanti, Michigan
Nazia Yasmin Sidiq of Bowling Green, Ohio
*Aisha R. Subhani of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Mohiuddin Ahmed Syed of Marietta, Georgia
Arlene Loretta Taylor of Weston, Florida
Kokila Thirumurthi of Jacksonville, Florida
Shawn Wayne Thomas of Hollywood, Florida
Don L. Toler of Clearwater, Florida
Duc Hong Tran of San Jose, California
Garrett Trance of Tamarac, Florida
Kimberly Trever of Fort Myers, Florida
Alice Ming-Yu Tsai of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Eugene Harwood Usoy of Boca Raton, Florida
Jennifer P. Vasinda of Hazleton, Pennsylvania
Sarah Irene Vidrio of Pembroke Pines, Florida
Claudine Tjihio Ward of Shalimar, Florida
*Ian D. Weir of Palm City, Florida
John James Wierzbicki of Oakland Park, Florida
William Rex Wiseman of Melbourne Beach, Florida
Jeffrey Paul Yuskaitis of Weston, Florida
Glenn E. Zeidman of Weston, Florida
Marat Zeltsman of Pembroke Pines, Florida
Jesse Zisholtz of Davie, Florida
Halli Greer Zung of Dix Hills, New York
*Graduated with honors
**Graduated with highest honors
Class of 2002 Spotlight

Earle Hayes, D.O., Forsakes Marketing for Medicine

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications

When Earle Hayes, D.O., was in the first grade—which is a time when most children are more concerned with toys than they are career choices—his mind was already firmly focused on his dream of becoming a physician.

“I always knew I wanted to be a doctor because I remember going into the school library when I was around the age of six and asking the librarian if she could find me a book on cells since I planned to be a doctor when I grew up,” he recalled. “I even wrote a three-line paper called “Cells Are” that I turned into my teacher without any provocation.”

Dr. Hayes, who grew up in Tampa, Florida, continued to exhibit a passion for the medical profession as he reached his teen years. In addition to joining his high school’s premed club, Dr. Hayes volunteered at Tampa’s St. Joseph’s Hospital, served on the American Red Cross Board of Directors as a student representative—and earned “Volunteer of the Year” honors as well as a write-up in a major hometown newspaper.

Financial Woes Force Medical Detour

After gaining acceptance to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Hayes was forced to drop out and return home to Tampa due to a combination of financial and family circumstances. Disheartened but not defeated, he put his plans for a medical career on the back burner, secured a job in the reservations department at Eastern Airlines, and earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of South Florida in Tampa in 1986.

Over the next six years, Dr. Hayes carved out a successful career as an airline executive, utilizing his marketing abilities to secure lucrative supervisory positions at American Airlines’ hubs in Dallas, New York, Miami, and Washington, D.C. However, as he approached his 30th birthday in 1992, a sense of restlessness and dissatisfaction began to surface even as his career at American Airlines career continued to soar.

“I was working at Miami International Airport as coordinator of the airline’s Latin American routes, but something inside was gnawing away at me,” he explained. “I knew I wasn’t going to be truly happy until I pursued this yearning I always had to be in the health professions, so I went from management back down to flight attendant status so I could work on the weekends and return to school to pursue my medical career.”

For the next four years, Dr. Hayes was a man of perpetual motion, attending Barry University Monday through Thursday and flying the friendly skies Friday through Sunday. In 1996, he reaped his academic reward by earning a master’s degree in clinical psychology. “Since my primary interest was to be a doctor, I tailored my practicum toward health psychology and did psychotherapy for AIDS patients at Miami’s Jackson Memorial Hospital,” he explained. “Doing that just made me want to be a doctor more than ever, so I went to my advisor at Barry and said, ‘You know what? I really will not be happy until I pursue my goal that I’ve had since I was a child, which is to be a medical doctor.’”

An Osteopathic Awakening

Because Dr. Hayes possessed the mind, body, soul philosophy that is the hallmark of the osteopathic profession, his advisor suggested he check into the medical program offered at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. “I had never heard of an osteopathic program before that,” he admitted, “But I liked what I heard, met with the appropriate people, and was placed on a waiting list to start in the summer of 1998.”

Unlike most first-year medical students, who are consumed with anxiety when they arrive on campus for their opening classes, Dr. Hayes was initially cool as a cucumber. “To be honest, when I first got here, I didn’t think it was going to be a big adjustment because I had always dabbled in college here and there and had just completed a comprehensive master’s program,” he stated. “But it was a huge adjustment for me because it was really like going back to school in the sense that I wasn’t just taking a class here and there. It was seeing the same students every day, most of who were much younger than I was. So it was a huge adjustment, just trying to get comfortable being back in that environment again.”
As he embarked on his first-year of study at NSU-COM, Dr. Hayes soon feared his medical career would end before it began as he struggled to understand some of the mystifying material being presented in class. "Biochemistry totally baffled me at first," admitted Dr. Hayes, who continued to intermittently work as a flight attendant throughout his four-year matriculation at NSU-COM.

"Because of my educational background, I hadn't had any science courses other than what I took to get into NSU-COM, which were the basic skeleton classes," he added. "I was petrified I was going to flunk out of school because it was so overwhelming to me. So I went to Dr. Edye Groseclose (a faculty member in the College of Medical Sciences), who was my advisor, and she said, 'Don't worry, just get through the material and understand it as best you can. It will all fall into place later.' I ended up with a 93 in the class. She's been a tremendous support for me. In fact, most of the faculty here have been approachable and supportive and shown a willingness to take the time to sit down and explain anything you needed."

In addition to achieving academic success, Dr. Hayes' empathetic nature led him to get involved in the college's student chapter of DOCARE International, a volunteer-driven medical outreach organization that brings needed health care to primitive and isolated people in remote areas of Western Hemisphere countries. "My interest originally stemmed from seeing what was happening with the Kosovo refugees in Yugoslavia," Dr. Hayes explained. "The situation really touched me, and as I was watching it on TV I knew I wanted to do something to help people like them."

When Dr. Hayes revealed his interest to Dr. Groseclose, she recommended he speak to Camille Bentley, D.O., an assistant professor of family medicine who was coordinating a medical mission to Guatemala and assisting with the formation of NSU-COM's student DOCARE chapter.

"I went to the first DOCARE chapter meeting, and they asked who wanted to be president of the organization, so I raised my hand and was elected. I basically helped Dr. Bentley get the program started and helped organize the first mission to Guatemala in January 2000. That's something that's become very special to me, especially now that the program has become so big."

**Apprehension Leads to Academic Excellence**

After initially fearing he would fail to achieve his dream once he began his coursework, Dr. Hayes leaves NSU-COM as one of the class of 2002's most decorated members. During Senior Week festivities, Dr. Hayes was inducted into the Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society, where membership is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. He also earned two honors at the Senior Awards Dinner Dance:

- **The 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.

- **The 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 to the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special citation as a recipient of the Dean's Community Award.

"Part of the reason I felt so comfortable here is because osteopathic medicine embraces the whole person," said Dr. Hayes, who was the only D.O. nationwide accepted to Yale University's primary care internal medicine residency program. "NSU-COM looks at applicants from that perspective as well, which is what makes this school unique and what has made my experience here unique."

As for the future, Dr. Hayes hopes to follow in the footsteps of other great osteopathic physicians who have helped define the profession through their competence and compassion. "I would eventually like to work with the United Way, a homeless shelter, or some big inner-city type of program," admitted Dr. Hayes, who has taken a lot of ribbing from his friends for not pursuing a more profitable specialty.

"Many of my flight attendant friends joke that I should go into plastic surgery so I can make tons of money," he added. "But that just wouldn't fulfill me. The one thing I love more than anything is the interaction with a patient, to be able to sit with a person and engage that individual in his or her healing and make it like a partnership. I've always admired physicians who are really engaging in their practice of medicine. Those are the role models I hope to emulate."
although he had no desire to make veterinary medicine his vocation, Dr. Scheraga clearly knew he possessed an affinity for the healing arts, a connection that eventually led him to NSU-COM—and a symbiotic partnership with Dr. Pamer.

"After I met Dave during our freshman year, he constantly pestered me to play music with him, but I never did and kept blowing him off," said Dr. Pamer, who was born and raised in South Florida. "But then I actually saw him play and heard him sing, and I knew I had to get on board because I had never worked with anybody who was as strong a songwriter or singer as Dave."

When they were forced to separate during their third-year clinical rotations, Dr. Scheraga met several other musicians while performing some of his original songs at a West Palm Beach folk club. That’s when he hit upon the idea to form the band that eventually came to be known as State Road 7. "There’s no secret as to how I chose that name," smiled Dr. Scheraga as he recounted his epiphany. "I was doing a rotation in West Palm Beach at the time and would pass State Road 7 every day. I saw it all the time, so I decided that would be the band’s name."

Initially, the choice didn’t sit well with Dr. Pamer, who was clearly underwhelmed with his friend’s selection. "It was the one name I truly couldn’t stand," he admitted. "But like a lot of things I’m initially against, as I thought about it over time, I ended up liking it. In fact, I now think it ended up being the right choice because it sounds industrial and people don’t forget the name."

Since its inception in May 2001, State Road 7 has been featured live on several South Florida radio stations and performed its eclectic blend of original and cover material at various local clubs. But while the prospect of attaining international acclaim is admittedly alluring, neither doctor is planning to forsake the medical profession anytime soon.

After completing a one-year traditional internship at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, Florida, Dr. Pamer plans to pursue an internal medicine residency at Cleveland Clinic in Weston, Florida, followed by a pulmonary critical care fellowship. Over the next year, Dr. Scheraga will cross paths daily with Dr. Pamer at Palmetto General before pursuing an emergency medicine residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami.

So what will the future hold for these two osteopathic rock stars in the making? Will gold records and riches beyond their wildest dreams be lurking around the corner? Or will it be a life replete with EKG’s and X-rays? "I’m not doing this because I hope to be a star someday," Dr. Scheraga stated pragmatically. "I do it because it’s fun and because it’s my sideline. For me, if I didn’t get to do music for a living, the only other thing I would like to do is emergency medicine, so I have no problem with that because it’s basically a win-win situation either way."
## Alumni Association Executive Committee

**2002-2003 Officers**
- Dr. Jeffrey Grove, President (1990)
- Dr. Glenn Moran, President Elect (1988)
- Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Vice President (1991)
- Dr. Steven Cimerberg, Secretary (1987)
- Dr. Ronald Renuart, Treasurer (1990)

**Committee Chairmen**
- Dr. Glenn Moran – Program Chair
- Dr. Daniel McBath – Fundraising Chair
- Dr. Tamer Gozleveli – Webmaster
- Dr. Michael Gervasi – Editor

## Past Presidents
- Dr. John Geake (1993)
- Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)
- Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)
- Dr. Orlando Garcia (1994)
- Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)
- Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)

## Upcoming Events
The 2003 College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association Reunion will be held on February 7-9, at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty Six Hotel and the NSU Health Professions Division campus. Following that event will be a one week CME Cruise to the Eastern Caribbean on the fabulous Costa Atlantica. More information will be forthcoming.

## Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll
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. If you would like to learn more about the Alumni Association Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029.

### 2002 Donors

**Heritage Circle** – represents donors who have made a significant deferred gift to the college via life-insurance policies, inheritances, or trusts.

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*Dr. Leslie Kram Greco (1987)
*Dr. Ravi Randhawa (1992)
*Dr. Stuart Sandler (1986)
*Dr. Patrick Sayavong (1992)
*Dr. Theodore A. Spevack (1985)
*Dr. Donald Teplitz (1985)

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*Dr. Melissa Broadman (1998)
*Dr. Randy Gould (1995)
*Dr. Youssef Khodor (1995)
*Dr. Tracie Leonhardt (1992)
*Dr. Bruce Rankin (1985)
*Dr. Kathleen Soe (1999)
*Dr. Linda Tripodis-Murray (1988)

*Contribution made in honor of 2002 Living Tribute Award winner Mary Smith Allegro.
Cumulative List of Donors (1999-2001)

Dean's Council ($1,000-$4,999)

$2,000 Contributors
Dr. John Geake, Jr. (1993)
Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)

$1,000 Contributors
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)
Dr. Gregory James (1988)
Dr. Joel Rush (1985)

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Dr. Donald Teplitz (1985)
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Dr. Stuart Shalit (1990)
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Dr. Richard Thacker (1992)
Dr. Linda Tripodis-Murray (1988)
Dr. Todd Trites
Alumni Spotlight
Jeffrey S. Grove, D.O. – Class of 1990
President, Alumni Association Executive Committee

While it may not have been entirely preordained that Jeffrey Grove, D.O., would become an osteopathic physician, the odds certainly favored just such a career course based on his patriarchal lineage. Following in the well-tread footsteps of his father and grandfather, who enjoyed long and productive osteopathic medical careers, the 1990 NSU-COM alumnus has proudly perpetuated the family tradition.

Because his love of osteopathic medicine was fostered at an early age, he has become one of the profession’s most ardent advocates—a fact illustrated by the numerous positions he currently holds, including:

• President of the Florida Society of American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP).
• President of the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society.
• President of the NSU-COM Alumni Association.
• Chairman of the national ACOFP Young Physicians Committee.
• Member of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Board of Governors.
• Member of the Sun Coast Hospital Board of Trustees.
• Clinical associate professor in family medicine at NSU-COM.
• Clinical instructor in family medicine at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.
• Member of the Tampa Bay Blue Cross Blue Shield Regional Quality Management Committee.

Dr. Grove, who is affiliated with a thriving practice called Suncoast Family Medical Associates in Largo, Florida, earned his B.S. degree in biology from Florida Southern College in 1986 before matriculating at NSU-COM. After earning his D.O. degree, Dr. Grove, who recently became an ACOFP fellow, remained in the Sunshine State to complete a rotating internship and residency at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo.

In the ensuing years, he has become board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Practice and the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians. His accomplishments also include earning a certificate of added qualification in geriatrics and a subspecialty certification in case management, managed care, and risk management.

While professional pursuits have occupied the bulk of his time and energy, Dr. Grove is a devoted family man who can frequently be found in the company of his wife Karen and their children Garrett Jeffrey (age 6) and Victoria May (age 1). He also maintains a close affiliation with his osteopathic alma mater, which is evidenced by his active participation on both the Dean’s Alumni Advisory Council and the Alumni Association Executive Committee. In fact, it was due to Dr. Grove’s efforts that the Alumni Association established the NSU-COM Living Tribute Award, which was presented to student services staff member Mary Smith Allegro earlier this year.

In addition to devoting his time to NSU-COM causes, Dr. Grove also believes in giving back financially to the college. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Grove, who recently named the Student Scholarship Endowment Fund as beneficiary of a $500,000 life insurance policy, future generations of NSU-COM students will be able to pursue their dream of becoming compassionate and dedicated D.O.s.

“As a person and a leader, Dr. Grove has the respect and admiration of all those who know him,” said Howard Neer, D.O., professor and associate dean of alumni affairs. “He embodies all the noble characteristics that have distinguished the osteopathic profession since its inception more than a century ago.”

Enjoying a day at the beach are Karen, Victoria May, Jeffrey, and Garrett Jeffrey Grove.
Family facts:
I am proud to say that I have two beautiful daughters and a beautiful 18-month-old grandson.

Date of hire:
July 1986

Official NSU-COM responsibilities:
In January 2002, I was relieved of my duties as clinical coordinator in the Department of Rural Medicine, where I was responsible for scheduling and monitoring all rotations for the medical students. I now work under the supervision of Dr. Larry Jensen as an academic coordinator in the Department of Pre-clinical Education.

My responsibilities are to coordinate courses for first and second-year medical students. I also work training patients for our new simulated patient program and OSCE curriculum.

Reasons I enjoy working at NSU-COM:
I find it to be challenging and creative. Also, as a result of all my years working at the university, I know most of the professors, students, and coworkers.

What did you do professionally before joining the NSU-COM staff?
I worked with a very prominent cardiologist at a medical school in Ponce, Puerto Rico, where I grew up. I also worked at City Hospital in Miami, Florida, where I was in charge of the outpatient clinic before the hospital closed.

What is the biggest change you've seen in the years since you first started working for the college?
The college has grown impressively. We knew basically everyone when it was Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. Now we need to use the directory to be able to find anyone's phone number. In my opinion, Dr. Morton Terry is a mentor and he must be very proud of the product of his dreams. I am grateful to be a part of that dream.

Greatest achievement in life:
I am proud to say that my kids have grown to be good and honest people. I feel that nowadays that is harder to accomplish because people's principles have changed tremendously.

My coworkers would be surprised to know this about me:
I am very meticulous when it comes to having my house tidy and clean. My mother always taught my sisters and me to have the house neat and clean from the time you leave home in the morning. She always said that you never know if anyone is going to show up unexpectedly.

Second, I love watching a good movie. However, even though it sounds silly, I cannot enjoy the movie if I do not see the very beginning where they show the actors and title of the movie. I like to identify the actors and to know a little bit about them to keep in my memory collection.

Finally, I just changed my last name from Morales to Sierra. No, I did not re-married; I got divorced after 18 years of marriage. I am happy to say that I finally got my maiden name back. For the past 4 years my family responsibilities have changed. After watching my girls grow up and becoming a grandmother, I have new additions to the family. My partner and I have
three sons (6, 13, and 14) and are very happy with our busy life.

Our 14-year-old is a muscular dystrophy patient, and it is of the essence for us to take care of him the best we can. Increasing our revenues to cover his and the family’s needs is a priority; therefore, we both have a second job and perform side work during our spare time.

As you can imagine, weekends are very important to us. We like to accomplish house projects, have family meetings, and go to church in order to furnish the kids with the basic spiritual knowledge they will need for their future.

Favorite way to unwind when not at work:
I enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of my new home, sitting by the pool, looking at my garden, or playing pool in my game room. Of course, that is once I am certain that my house is clean, and the kids are okay playing video games in their room.

If I won the lottery, I would:
Travel to safe countries and start a decorating or home-remodeling business.

The most frightening thing that ever happened to me:
Years ago, I had an impulse and made a drastic decision to leave my country of Puerto Rico for the first time ever to come to Miami. I was only a teenager, and I did not have any friends or relatives here. Angry with my mother, I made the decision to move out and live on my own.

My parents always advised us to be strong, so I did not want to give the impression that I was afraid. But I knew it was going to be difficult because the comprehension of the Basic English we used back home was not the same as the one we need to communicate effectively in the United States. I also feared the responsibility of taking care of two of my younger sisters.

After learning that I wanted to leave home, they insisted on traveling with me. One day, they showed up at my job and surprised me with three one-way, non-refundable airline tickets to Miami. I now realize that it took a lot of courage, and I must say, “that is when the adventure began.”

What makes you happiest in life?
I am happy when I experience the feeling of accomplishment, a feeling of having done a kind act for the day, and when I see that there is still some fairness in the world.

When I retire, I plan to:
Enjoy myself with my family, regardless of my financial situation or status, thanking God for everything and every day.

Five words that best describe me:
“I am sincere, trustworthy, hardworking, organized, and creative.”