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College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Peer Support Helps K. Kay Smith Overcome Adversity
To put it bluntly, the aforementioned headline needs to become a sustained rallying cry for everyone affiliated with our great university—students, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni, partners, and friends—if we ever expect the NSU moniker to effectively take hold in the community at large.

To understand the present, it's vitally important to look at the past for answers. In 1994, a milestone event occurred that had a profound effect on the South Florida educational landscape, for it was during that year when two separate entities—Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach and Nova University in Fort Lauderdale-Davie—merged to become Nova Southeastern University.

This fortuitous union between two disparate universities, which was conceived when the late Morton Terry, D.O., submitted—on a napkin—a list of criteria that would benefit both institutions when attending a Nova University event, helped create a dynamic new educational enterprise. However, once the merger commenced, it effectively rendered the “Nova” name obsolete as the new “NSU” era was ushered into existence. Unfortunately, old habits die hard, as is the case with many people's propensity to still refer to our university as “Nova.”

Why is it so imperative for us to be referred to as NSU instead of Nova? I witnessed the importance firsthand one day when, during a conversation with an individual, I mentioned that I was dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at NSU. To my surprise, the person looked at me quizzically and said, “Gee, I knew Nova had a medical school, but I didn’t know NSU had one, too.”

The above incident aptly illustrates our need to brand ourselves concisely and effectively because it consistently dilutes our familiarity if people keep using different names when referring to our university. It’s a confusing dilemma, especially since the university’s Web address and many internal emails have not been revised to include the prefix nsu.nova.edu to further identify who we are.

It may seem like an insignificant matter of semantics to some, but identifying the university as NSU is important because it speaks to what NSU is today, which is uniquely different from what Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences individually represented more than a decade ago. In terms of total depth of expertise, combined with the broad range of offerings and its innovative approach to technology, NSU has evolved into an educational powerhouse comprised of 16 top-notch colleges and centers.

The much-anticipated establishment of exciting new projects such as an on-campus research center and cutting-edge medical village will bring additional luster to NSU, as will the increased emphasis of the various colleges and centers to partner on enriching and productive interdisciplinary projects.

The NSU of today is clearly a much different entity than the Nova of yesteryear. Consequently, while the name Nova may still exist in our email and Web site addresses, we must all make a concerted effort to avoid future misunderstandings both within and beyond our campus borders. The next time you hear a student or fellow employee refer to the university as “Nova,” please take the time to gently correct them.

Nova was our proud beginning—NSU is our present and future.
The past few years have been extraordinarily prolific ones for NSU’s Health Professions Division, which is a trend that is destined to continue as we move closer to the realization of The Medical Village at NSU.

However, now that the Health Professions Division and the university as a whole have reached a stage where quality programs and academic excellence are the unqualified norm, the next step in our progression is to aspire to a position of educational preeminence. To that end, President Ray Ferrero, Jr., and the NSU Board of Trustees recently approved a five-year plan that incorporates a mission to weave research into the fabric of our academic excellence.

Thanks to its futuristic approach to medical education, most of the HPD’s six colleges are already heavily entrenched in various research-related endeavors. In fact, NSU’s increased emphasis on this area has already allowed us to strengthen our research infrastructure through the hiring of some of the most significant academic researchers in the nation.

For example, in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, we recently hired Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez, who is a preeminent researcher in the fields of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. In addition to her own wealth of expertise, Dr. Fernandez brought a full team of researchers to our institution who are funded through grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) — perhaps the highest form of recognition in research funding.

Dr. Fernandez is also infusing the institution with both knowledge and experience, which will reap tremendous dividends for the students, who will benefit from her transferred intellect through an academic venue. Dr. Fernandez will also be able to mentor our medical students in research methodology and bring their attention to the importance of applied research in the concepts of both clinical and traditional medical environments.

These enhancements are crucially important because, as the NSU campus continues to transform structurally with the advent of the forthcoming academical and medical villages, it will also serve as the home of a much-anticipated research center that will be established adjacent to the HPD parking garage sometime in the next three-to-five years.

This structure will house a range of researchers, including an 80-member scientific team of the U.S. Geological Survey unit, which is responsible for the scientific overview of the Everglades restoration. As we’re constructing the research building, 50 percent of the space will also be designated for wet lab and research space for the Health Professions Division, the Oceanographic Center, and other NSU-affiliated researchers.

NSU is clearly on the cusp of something extraordinary as it moves toward incorporating a strong research component to its already acclaimed academic and programmatic offerings. As we evolve, these enhancements will provide a more complete educational experience for our students — and a much richer work environment for our wonderful team of academic faculty, administrators, and staff.
FEATURES

10 Pediatrics Club Volunteers at Florida Diabetes Camp
On February 4-6, NSU-COM Pediatrics Club members exchanged their books and the library for a weekend of volunteering as counselors for the Florida Diabetes Camp in Lake Worth, Florida. The weekend was a unique Family Weekend Camp that allowed parents an opportunity to become better educated about diabetes while their kids enjoyed the camp activities.

13 Bioterrorism Center Promulgates Preparedness Message
Throughout the first half of 2005, the NSU-COM Center on Bioterrorism and Mass Destruction Preparedness (CB-PREP) is presenting an informative series of seminars in Gainesville, Pensacola, Sarasota, Tampa, and West Palm Beach that are designed to prepare schools throughout the state in the event of terrorist attacks.

18 Peer Support Helps K. Kay Smith Overcome Adversity
For more than 15 years, M1 student Karolyn (K. Kay) Smith endured the kind of domestic abuse that has become all-too-prevalent in today's society. From belittling comments to acts of aggression that frequently bordered on the perverse, Smith suffered the full spectrum of domestic violence in a marriage that ended up being more frightening than fairytale in nature.

22 Family Medicine Clinic Adeptly Balances Myriad Missions
For the faculty members who comprise NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, life is never dull as they skillfully juggle a challenging mix of administrative, academic, and clinical responsibilities.

26 Cutting-Edge Consortium Enhances Postdoctoral Training
Since its inception in January 1999, the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) and its 18-member network have been dedicated to providing outstanding postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.

36 Record Attendance Highlights Ninth Annual Alumni Reunion
The Ninth Annual NSU-COM Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program was a resounding success as record numbers of alumni attended the weekend event, which honored the charter class of 1985 and celebrated the contributions of Living Tribute Award recipient Dr. Edye Groseclose.

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The Pediatrics Club wrapped up 2004 by coordinating its annual toy drive for underprivileged South Florida youngsters. A Christmas “wish” tree was decorated with ornaments that contained the children’s requests. After all the gifts were received, a karaoke wrapping party was held as the club members personally wrapped presents for over 130 children. Several local businesses such as DiSalvo’s Pizza, Pizza Loft, and Red Lobster graciously donated food to provide sustenance for the hardworking student elves, who delivered the gifts to several children’s centers the week before Christmas.

In addition to her duties as director of clinical research, Rita Silverman, M.P.S., was personally chosen by HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman to serve as the new producer of NSU’s public service TV program Dateline Health. Airing on Comcast and BECON cable channels five days a week throughout Broward County, the 30-minute show is produced by the Health Professions Division and features up-to-date health care news and interviews with guests who discuss a variety of health-related issues.

On January 19, M2 student Daron Olmsted presented his research on “Minimally Invasive Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Surgery Via Stent Graft Placement and Post-Procedure Follow-Up Necessitating Endoleak Repair” at the International Symposium on Endovascular Therapy held in Miami Beach, Florida. Olmsted will also be presenting his research at the Society of Interventional Radiology symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons meeting in San Antonio, Texas, later this year.

On January 21, Khin Tu, M.D., who serves as a faculty member in the anatomy department of the College of Medical Sciences, provided an informative luncheon lecture to the NSUCOM faculty on “Changing Trends in the Teaching of Anatomy” and “The Cadaver as the Medical Student’s First Patient.”

During the 2004 holiday season, the Rural Medicine Club was able to help several migrant families in Clewiston, Florida, through its Adopt-a-Family Program, which enabled the club to provide a little holiday cheer for the appreciative recipients. Thanks to the gracious Health Professions Division students, who donated food, clothing, and toys, each family received a large box brimming with goodies.

M2 student and OPP fellow Chris Piromalli was accorded a significant honor in February when he was named 2005 Student D.O. of the Year by his classmates. Piromalli, who is involved in numerous student organizations, has also volunteered his time to valuable medical outreach efforts such as the Haiti and Peru medical missions and the AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Mission for Health/REACH Fair. "Each day brings a new glimpse into my practice as an osteopathic physician," he said. "I am filled with a sense of joy knowing that osteopathy will equip and help to harness my gifts and passions so I may serve humanity through God’s direction. I am honored to receive the Student D.O. of the Year Award and am thankful that NSUCOM continues to provide me with the challenges and opportunities to mold my skills as an osteopathic physician.”
M1 student Rita Mukherjee is currently involved in a research project titled “Role of Acetyl CoA Carboxylase and Neuropeptide Y (NPY) in Relation to Hunger in Mice.” By utilizing the ELISA technique, Mukherjee is quantifying NPY levels in mice that have been subjected to various starvation regimens. In addition, she will soon be involved in a collaborative research project with K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry in the College of Medical Sciences, and Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor of internal medicine and chair of the Division of Geriatrics. The project is titled “Role of Steroid Hormones Estrogen and Testosterone in Aging Men in Relation to Osteoporosis.”

M3 students Andrea Ali and Kyle Caswell were the inaugural recipients of the Florida Hospital East Orlando Osteopathic and Podiatric Foundation for Healthcare and Education’s Academic Scholarship. Ali and Caswell, who each received $5,000, were honored at an award’s ceremony held during the FOMA Convention in February. The scholarship is awarded to third-year core medical students from NSU-COM based on criteria such as exemplary grade point average, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and curriculum vitae.

During the 102nd Annual FOMA Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Viet Nguyen (M1) and Ann Duskin (M2) were presented with FOMA Student Awards for being politically active, possessing leadership skills, supporting the FOMA student district society initiatives, and showcasing significant interest in the osteopathic profession and osteopathic manipulative medicine. In addition to receiving commemorative plaques, Nguyen received $300 and Duskin was presented with a $500 prize.

On March 2, the Public Health Student Association hosted the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, which was stationed outside the Steele Auditorium to create awareness of March being Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month. During their visit, the foundation’s representatives fielded questions, distributed educational materials, and provided promotional giveaways.

Laura Dalton, D.O., FACOOG, from the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ (ACOOG) Visiting Professor Program (VPROF) paid a visit to NSU-COM on February 9 to meet with medical students and provide them with information concerning the OB/GYN specialty. VPROF’s goals are to encourage student interaction with osteopathic role models from different regions and institutions, enhance career choices in obstetrics and gynecology, and allow each college of osteopathic medicine to interact with the visiting professor. During her visit, Dr. Dalton presented a $2,200 check to the college, including $1,000 that was earmarked for the Student Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (SAOG).

Lynne Cawley, M.S., associate director of alumni affairs, served as master of ceremonies at the National Girls and Women in Sport Days Luncheon held at the NSU Mailman/Hollywood Building on February 11, 2005. This commemoration calls attention to the positive influence of sports and fitness participation and advances the struggle for equality and access for women in sports.
In early February, the HPD's Office of Admissions and Student Affairs held its annual two-day Preprofessional Health Advisor's Seminar. The event, held on the HPD campus, provides an opportunity for pre-health academic advisors from universities across the country to see the facilities and meet with administration, faculty, and students from the colleges of osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, optometry, allied health and nursing, medical sciences, and dental medicine. During the two-day seminar, the advisors met with several program directors and deans, toured the campus, and learned about the HPD's interview and admissions process. In addition, Drs. Daniel Barkus, Kenneth Johnson, and Howard Hada performed a mock interview along with M2 student Asma Rashid, who serves as a COM Ambassador. In this role, Rashid conducts campus tours, shares her medical school experiences, and participates in informal question-and-answer sessions with applicants.

Communications

In February, M3 student Jesse De Luca put his clinical skills to good use by providing amateur boxing physicals for the Police Athletic League—under the supervision of Allen Fields, M.D., the 2005 Ringside Physician of the Year—at the South Florida Boxing Gym in North Miami Beach.

The Public Health Student Association recently launched its Journal Club, which was established to generate interest among all Health Professions Division students and provide an avenue to discuss the latest scientific literature in an informal venue with public health faculty. Topics discussed in the first two Journal Club meetings were "Obesity, Physical Activity, and Health Policy" and Clinical Trials, Gynecology, and Antibiotics."

M4 student Aneesa Niravel served as first author of a review article titled "Current Concepts and Future Directions in the Battle Against Obesity" that was published in the Fall/Winter 2004 issue of the peer-reviewed journal Comprehensive Therapy. The article discusses neuroendocrine control of feeding behavior and its application in future treatments for obesity.

With the combined help of the M1 and M2 students, the Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine Association (SOIMA) has raised over $800 toward the tsunami relief fund, which is being donated to UNICEF.

On January 30, M1 students Stacey Helps, John Hatfield, and Kimberly Karrat tested their athletic prowess by running in the 13.1-mile Miami Tropical Half-Marathon that crossed Biscayne Bay, continued onto Ocean Drive, and ended at Bayfront Park.
Scorching Success for SGA Antismoking Poster Contest

Providing community outreach has always been a hallmark of the NSU-COM student body, which is a practice that was evidenced again on January 24 when the Student Government Association (SGA) coordinated its inaugural Antismoking Poster Contest banquet for middle school students in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room.

The idea, which is based on a national initiative that originated from the College of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP), was conceived as a way to support the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout. "We worked closely with the college's AHEC Program because it does an annual Tobacco Cessation Program each spring," said M2 student Dana Block, who serves as SGA president. "Steve Bronsburg, the program's assistant director for programs and services, helped us get a contact at Broward County Public Schools, and we began planning the event last September."

Thirty-one students representing four area middle schools—Indian Ridge, Nova, Seminole, and Walter C. Young—participated in the poster competition. Thanks to a host of generous sponsors that included the AHEC Program and Pizza Loft, all participants received door prizes. In addition, an array of prizes were awarded to the winner—Samantha Franco from Indian Ridge Middle School—who received an MP3 player—as well as the first-, second-, and third-place runner-ups. The SGA also ran a contest to officially name the annual poster contest, with the winner receiving $50 for coming up with the catchy moniker "Be Smart, Don’t Start Antismoking Poster Contest."

"This event is important because it reinforces what the middle-school students learn when we go out and speak to them about tobacco cessation through the AHEC Program each year," Block stated. "It's a great way to prevent them from ever starting to smoke, and with the information they learn, to encourage their parents to stop. It also gives them an opportunity to do research, put their ideas on paper, and really become advocates for a great cause. It's also beneficial for NSU-COM in that it gets the name of our school out into the public consciousness. I think it's a really big step, and I'm very proud of what we accomplished."
One thing that sets NSU-COM apart from other osteopathic schools is our IGC (Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum) Program, which was incepted in 1995 as part of a grant-funded project. Initially, the program paired up COM students with community physicians to facilitate early clinical experience. A few years ago, the IGC Program expanded to include the COM2Serve Program (College of Osteopathic Medicine in Community Service), which has been an overwhelming success with the COM students and community. As a result, the IGC Program has expanded to include the Public Health Field Experience as a one-time field assignment during a student’s second-year.

To date, these experiences have been in cooperation with the Broward County Health Department, Palm Beach County Health Department, Memorial Health System, A.G. Holley State Hospital, and the Friends Together Organization. Experiences have all been public-health related and included environmental health, disaster management, and clinical experience activities such as:

- facility inspections (e.g., child care centers, nursing homes, swimming pools, migrant labor camps)
- air/water quality investigations
- emergency preparedness drills
- immunization services
- infectious disease management
- HIV camp for children and families

Overall, response has been positive and the students are embracing the application and importance of public health as a portion of their responsibilities as physicians. These experiences have been eye opening to many students because it helps them understand the need for, and lack of, simple measures to ensure the general public’s health. By enforcing requirements and policies mandated by federal agencies, these organizations—as well as the students—can have a full understanding and appreciation of the important role of the local, state, and national public health agencies.

**Hurricane Victims Benefit from LOG Fund-Raiser**

In the aftermath of last year’s devastating hurricane onslaught, which saw four storms cut a deadly swath through the Sunshine State, the college’s Lambda Omicron Gamma (LOG) student chapter staged a comical fund-raiser titled the Mr. NSU/D.O. Competition, which was held at the NSU Flight Deck.

The event, which raised over $1,250 for the Hurricane Relief Fund of Central Florida, displayed the diverse talents of 11 first- and second-year medical students who strutted down the catwalk, sang, danced, dressed up in drag, auctioned themselves off to the highest bidders, and performed other outlandish shenanigans to the delight of an appreciative crowd. Once the audience’s votes were tallied, Donnell Bowen was officially crowned Mr. NSU/D.O. of 2004-05. Frankie Don and Christopher Manetta earned first- and second-place runner-up status, respectively.

“The Mr. NSU/D.O. Competition was a true success, and everybody involved should feel great about the many hurricane victims whose lives were touched,” said LOG President Kiley Driskell, who emceed the event with fellow LOG President Roya Zolnoor. “We would like to thank Hooters of Plantation, AMC Theatres at Aventura Mall, The Melting Pot, the South Florida Boxing Gym, Jamba Juice, Buca di Beppo, and Starbucks for their generous donations. The evening would not have been such a success without them.”

Following are the goodhearted students who made the event such a riotous success: Donnell Bowen, Frankie Don, Dave Lamborn, Christopher Manetta, Karl Nadolsky, Chad Nochimson, Joe Perkins, Angel Rivera, Matt Sarb, Greg Semon, and Christian Setzer.
Happy Campers: Pediatrics Club
Volunteers at Florida Diabetes Camp

By Theresa M. Hess, M2
President, Pediatrics Club

On February 4-6, NSU-COM Pediatrics’ Club members exchanged their books and the library for a weekend of volunteering as counselors for the Florida Diabetes Camp in Lake Worth, Florida. The weekend was a unique Family Weekend Camp that allowed parents an opportunity to become better educated about diabetes while their kids enjoyed the camp activities. The children and siblings were also able to express their feelings about how their lives have been affected by diabetes in a group session with a social worker.

Prior to being initiated as camp counselors, a half-day diabetes in-service with Dr. Mary Vaccarrello-Cruz, who is a pediatric endocrinologist practicing in South Florida, Tracey Bowsman, and Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, executive director of the Florida Diabetes Camp, was held to train the medical students. This experience was an excellent opportunity to relearn the principles of diabetes and understand firsthand the impact of this diagnosis on children and their families and the reality of its management.

Many of the aspects learned in the classroom were reinforced during this hands-on training, which provided an unbelievable live-learning experience. Apart from the normal activities of camp, counselors were also responsible for monitoring the blood-sugar levels of campers multiple times throughout the day and night, balancing the campers’ diet accordingly, injecting insulin shots, counting carbohydrates, adjusting insulin pumps, and monitoring for signs of hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia.

Thanks go out to the following camp counselors for volunteering their time and sacrificing their sleep and study time to truly make a difference in many children’s lives: Bob Cambridge (M1), Jennifer Diamond (M2), Ann Duskin (OPP fellow), Theresa Hess (M2), Danny Hierholzer (M3), Melinda Sarge (M1), and Neha Patel (M2).

The Florida Diabetes Camp is also looking for volunteer camp counselors and medical students to spend an elective rotation during the summer sessions. Weeklong camps are held from June 5 through August 6 in locations throughout Florida, including Tampa, Ocala, DeLand, and Tallahassee. For more information, please visit the organization’s Web site at www.floridadiabetescamp.org or ask any of the camp counselors listed above.

NSU-COM Launches D.O./D.P.M. Program

The College of Osteopathic Medicine recently established The D.O. Program for D.P.M. (Doctors of Podiatric Medicine) Graduates. The program is specifically designed for individuals who graduated from U.S. accredited colleges of podiatric medicine and have been accepted by a Council on Podiatric Medical Education-approved podiatric medicine and surgery-24 residency. The program provides, on an accelerated basis, the opportunity for a limited number of D.P.M.s each year to complete the requirements for the D.O. degree. NSU-COM will determine on a yearly basis the number of D.P.M.s that may be accepted and enrolled. The program leads to a license to practice osteopathic medicine in states requiring one year of internship as well as eligibility for certification from the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine.
The presenters for the "Medicine" were M2 students very similar. It is not uncommon for these students from different countries around the world to say, "Wow, that's true in my culture too!" Along with the discussions at these events, we have also provided food from area restaurants so the students can feel completely submerged in the culture.

One unique thing the students have been noticing is that certain elements and beliefs with these various cultures are very similar. It is not uncommon for these students from different countries around the world to say, "Wow, that's true in my culture too!" Along with the discussions at these events, we have also provided food from area restaurants so the students can feel completely submerged in the culture.

The presenters for the first session on "Hispanic Culture in Medicine" were M2 students Omar Al-Nouri and Shivani Shah. The presenters for the second presentation on "Chinese Culture in Medicine" were fellow M2 students Samantha Shelton-Hicks and Jill Scarlett.

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program was proud to announce that all its primary grants and contracts were funded for the 2004-05 project year. AHEC's cumulative funding total for the year stands at $3.7 million, which represents one of the highest yearly external funding totals in the program's 20-year history. The program received a $3,002,500 state funding contract from the Florida Department of Health and was also awarded two federal HRSA endowments: A $173,086 Federal Model AHEC Grant and a $580,072 Federal Statewide Florida Border HETC Grant.

Approximately 40 AHEC-sponsored continuing education programs for health providers took place in nine counties throughout the regional AHEC service area. These programs, which addressed topics such as hepatitis, avoiding medical errors, HIV/AIDS, periodontal disease, and domestic violence, provided training to nearly 900 participants.

The program held its annual eight-hour HIV seminar, which featured a range of experts that included faculty from the HPD disciplines of osteopathic medicine and pharmacy and NSU's Center for Psychological Studies. The seminar's highlight was a presentation by Cathy Robinson, a nationally acclaimed AIDS advocate and educator who was recently named as one of five international "Angels of AIDS" by People magazine for her work in the fight against AIDS. To date, over 1,500 NSU-COM students have received training through this multidisciplinary seminar.

The AHEC Program is actively collaborating with NSU-COM's Office of Preclinical Education on the development of a Medical Spanish Reference Guide and interactive self-study CD-ROM course for distribution to medical and other health professions students and community health providers throughout the state and nationally.

On January 7-9, AHEC hosted the NSU-COM Weekend Seminar on Vulnerable Populations as part of the National Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship Program. Several members of the NSU-COM and HPD administration and faculty served as speakers at the event along with other local, statewide, and national health experts.

The NSU HETC Program conducted an HPD-wide workshop on Cultural Competency Curriculum Development for Health Professions Training Programs. The January 2005 workshop featured two national experts in cultural competency in health care delivery, who met with administrators and faculty from an array of Health Professions Division colleges and programs.
On February 24-27, NSU-COM hosted the spring meeting of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP). COSGP actually met on campus at the Alvin Sherman Library and Information Technology Center, and all our visitors were very impressed with our facilities—and the South Florida weather. During the meeting, the following items were accomplished:

- Resolutions on topics such as the joint match, a seat for COSGP on the AOA House of Delegates floor, and punitive mandatory attendance policies
- Formulation of student opinion on having a combined match
- Support of a new national program called Doctors for Designated Driving. For more information, visit the Web site at www.dfdd.org.
- Initiation of the Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health (TOUCH) Program, which purports to recognize those students who dedicate more than 50 hours of their personal time to community service over the course of an academic year and to acknowledge faculty members and osteopathic schools with outstanding community service records
- Election of the 2005-2006 COSGP executive board

NSU-COM students have been working diligently to demonstrate student support for the proposed hospital to be included in The Medical Village at NSU. SGA leaders initiated an ambitious letter-writing campaign, resulting in dozens of students composing individual letters of support for the project. In addition, the college’s SGA leaders wrote and presented an official resolution of support for the hospital that passed unanimously at a recent HPD-SGA meeting. All our efforts will be presented to the chief of the State Bureau of Certificate of Need and Financial Analysis in Tallahassee. A Certificate of Need must be granted in order for construction of the hospital to begin.

NSU-COM clubs have recently been electing new leadership for 2005-2006, and everyone is gearing up for another really successful year!
Throughout the first half of 2005, the NSU-COM Center on Bioterrorism and Mass Destruction Preparedness (CB-PREP) is presenting an informative series of seminars in Gainesville, Pensacola, Sarasota, Tampa, and West Palm Beach that are designed to prepare schools throughout the state in the event of terrorist attacks.

The program is produced by NSU-COM in association with its Area Health Education Center and in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Education, and the National Association of School Nurses. In addition to the aforementioned cities, the college’s CB-PREP also presented a special seminar on “Terrorism Preparedness for School Officials” at the 26th Annual International Disaster Management Conference in Orlando on February 6.

These lecture programs, which are geared toward school administrators and nurses, safety officers, and others responsible for the health and safety of schoolchildren, are designed to provide information, concepts, and skills that have become an integral part of society since the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Over the past two years, the college has presented 11 such seminars on bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction (BWMD) preparedness thanks to the cooperation of faculty members such as Hilda DeGaetano, D.O., James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., Ronnie Martin, D.O., Sherri Martin, Edward Packer, D.O., and David Thomas, M.D., J.D.

In addition to NSU-COM faculty, several county health department directors and other experts who have strong backgrounds in BWMD preparedness are serving as speakers. Instruction focuses on such topics as the history of bioterrorism, an overview of various types of BWMD, psychosocial factors associated with events of bioterrorism in children, and the approach to various types of events due to BWMD.

According to Dr. Levy, who serves as director of CB-PREP, these educational programs are vitally important for people living in the stressful post 9/11 era. “Children attend grade school about 7 hours a day for 13 years, and during that time their parents entrust their children’s safety to teachers and school administrators,” he explained. “However, since 9/11, little emphasis was placed on being prepared for an event of bioterrorism or other weapon of mass destruction that could occur while they are at school. Unfortunately, in today’s world, such a situation is no longer an abstraction.

“Sadly enough, the possibility does exist that our children can become victims of a terrorist intrusion, as was the case in Russia last year when an entire school was held at bay and several children and teachers were killed,” he stated. “Through a contract from the Florida Department of Health, NSU-COM and its Center on Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Preparedness has been attempting to fill this major gap with programs throughout Florida for school nurses and others responsible for the health and safety of schoolchildren.”
Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus

**Loretta Graham, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, was a featured author in the January 2005 issue of *ASPE Quarterly*, which is the official newsletter for the Association of Standardized Patient Educators. Dr. Graham's enlightening article was entitled "Assessment Issues for SP Educators: Scoring and Standard Setting—Another View."

**Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O.**, assistant professor of family medicine and director of the NSU Student Medical Center, coauthored an article entitled "Rare Air: New Aero-Medical Technology Counters the Hypoxia Threat" that appeared in the March 2005 issue of *Professional Pilot* magazine. In June, Dr. Scott-Holman will be attending the American College Health Association annual meeting in San Diego, California, where she will present a seminar on "Rapid HIV Testing."

**Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of family medicine who previously served as assistant medical director of NSU’s North Miami Beach clinic, was named interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Calzada, who is currently enrolled in the 11th class of the National Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship Program at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, was also selected as one of three South Florida spokespersons in a campaign to increase cardiovascular disease awareness in the Hispanic/Latino population. In collaboration with the NSU Center for Psychological Studies, he is coauthoring two posters to be presented at the August 2005 American Psychological Association (APA) national meeting in Washington, D.C. In addition, Dr. Calzada served as a reviewer for the North American Primary Care Research Group annual meeting and has been recommended by AOA President George Thomas, D.O., as the osteopathic representative to the National Advisory Committee for Immunizations, which is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entity.

**On February 25**, the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine presented Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., FACOFP, with its Second Annual Osteopathic Board Recognition Award during a ceremony held during the 102nd Annual FOMA Convention in Fort Lauderdale. The award was established to recognize and commend osteopathic physicians who exemplify the high standards of the profession and a dedication to public service. Fittingly, the inaugural honor was posthumously awarded to the late Chancellor Morton Terry, D.O., who passed away in January 2004. Dr. Silvagni received his award from James Andriole, D.O., chair of the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Barbara Arcos, D.O.**, assistant professor of family medicine, participated in a medical outreach mission along with several dozen M1 and M2 student members of the Christian Medical and Dental Association on February 5 at the Winter Feast event held at the First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale. During the five-hour event, homeless and indigent residents received free food and benefited from a range of services including counseling, haircuts, foot care, and assorted medical screenings. She also presented an OMT workshop on "Osteopathy in the Cranial Field" at the 102nd Annual FOMA Convention in February.

**Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. & T.M., FACOP**, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was recently elected president of International Health Initiatives, Inc., which is a not-for-profit health advocacy and volunteer organization. During the holiday season, Dr. Blavo and his Joyful Singers—an African gospel acapella chorus—held a concert for parents of critically ill children at the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Lauderdale. In addition, as part of February’s Black History Month event at NSU called African Presence 2005: Caribbean Connection, Dr. Blavo and his performing arts organization entitled Celebrate Africa Inc. performed during the festivities.
Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean for academic affairs, chaired the AOA accreditation teams that conducted winter 2005 site visits at: Western University/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, California; West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine; Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Kentucky; and Tuoro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Henderson, Nevada. He was also busy throughout the past several months presenting lectures on various topics such as “Pain Management Basics for Compliance with Florida Laws and Regulations” at the 102nd Annual FOMA Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, “Building a Practice for Residents and Young Physicians” at the ACOFP 42nd Annual Convention and Exhibition in Phoenix, Arizona, and “The Future of Health Insurance and Effect on at-Risk Populations” at the AOA Health Policy event that was held on the NSU-HPD campus.

February was a busy month for Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, who serves as associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics. In addition to representing NSUCOM at the Fundamentals of Leadership symposium at UMDNJ’s School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford, New Jersey, Dr. Packer organized the Pediatrics Club to participate in the annual Love Jen Family Festival on the NSU campus. He also presented a lecture on “Medical Problems Associated with Childhood Obesity” at the college’s Ninth Annual Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program and helped establish a weekly videoconference for the Palms West Hospital Pediatric Residency Program.

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., associate professor of public health, hosted a national Web chat on March 31 in honor of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month. Dr. Lou, who serves on the Medical Advisory Board for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, discussed the topic “Cognitive Strategies in Progressive MS: Gain Practical Tips to Enhance Your Cognitive Function for Daily Living.”

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor of internal medicine and chair of the Division of Geriatrics, served as a moderator for the 2005 American Medical Directors’ Association (AMDA) Futures Program for geriatric fellows and physicians in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition to presenting a session on “Clinical Practice Guidelines and How to Use Them” at the AMDA meeting, Dr. Pandya moderated a clinical updates seminar on “Diabetes, Weight Loss, and Pain Management.” Her busy agenda also involved discussing “Symptom Management and Psychosocial Issues” at the Pain and Palliative Care Conference, which was held on the HPD campus, and lecturing on “Anemia in the Elderly” at the Texas Academy of Family Medicine meeting, which was held in January in Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Pandya also edited a clinical practice guideline called “Common Infections in Long-Term Care” for the AMDA.

Hilda DeGaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, clinical associate professor of pediatrics, presented a lecture on “The Effects of Bioterrorism in Children” at the 26th Annual International Disaster Management Conference in Orlando, Florida. On April 5, Dr. DeGaetano also made a similar presentation to school nurses and others responsible for the health and safety of children at the Nova Southeastern University campus in Tampa.

Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., associate professor of family medicine, had his article entitled “Attitudes for Effective Teaching” accepted for publication in New Horizons in Adult Education, which is an electronic journal focused on current research and ideas in adult education. It was created in 1987 to provide graduate students, faculty, researchers, and adult-education practitioners with a means for publishing their current thinking and research within adult education and related fields. He also serves as a regular contributor to the Medical Education Digest, which is produced internally through the Office of Education, Planning, and Research.
K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry in the College of Medical Sciences, was named program chair for the 2006 South Florida American Chemical Society Section. He also published an article on “My Favorite Molecules: Petromyzonol Sulfate and its Derivatives—The Chemo Attractants of the Sea Lamprey” in a recent issue of BioEssays.

Robert Contrucci, D.O., clinical associate professor and chair of the Division of Otolaryngology, was featured in the February 2005 issue of NEWS-LINE for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. The publication ran an article about the NSU Clinic for Speech, language, and Communication and included a photo of Dr. Contrucci demonstrating an endoscopy.

M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., who joined the NSU-COM family in March, has been heavily involved in various research projects throughout her career and been the recipient of numerous grant awards. Dr. Fernandez received her Ph.D. in psychology from Michigan State University and has been associated with the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Miami School of Medicine for several years.

Medical Research Team
In March, a number of medical researchers—led by Dr. Fernandez—joined NSU-COM to work on a number of grant projects, including several funded by the National Institutes of Health. In addition to Dr. Fernandez, the research team comprises:

- G. Stephen Boneen, M.D., M.P.H. – Professor, Preventive Medicine/Public Health
- Gladys E. Ibanez, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine/Public Health
- Leah M. Varga, M.A. – Senior Research Associate III
- Alfredo Rebbein, M.B.A. – Senior Research Associate II
- Nilda Hernández – Data System Administrator
- Cesar A. DeFuentes – Research Associate III
- Jacob Warren – Research Associate II
- David E. Marsh – Research Associate I
- Luis Alzamora – Research Assistant

Raul Cuadrado, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., clinical professor of public health and dean emeritus of the College of Allied Health and Nursing, was named a member of the Alumni Executive and Search Committee of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut.

Philip Shettle, D.O., FAOCO, clinical assistant professor of surgery and a member of the Health Professions Division Board of Governors, was recently named president-elect of the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Shettle, who is a past president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, will officially assume the AOA presidency position in July 2005.

New Faculty Enhances NSU-COM’s Scope

Robert Hasty, D.O., the newest addition to the internal medicine faculty, is a 2000 NSU-COM alumnus who is board certified in internal medicine. Dr. Hasty completed his internship and residency training at Mount Sinai Medical Center/Miami Heart Institute, serving as both chief intern and chief resident. Within a week of his arrival, Dr. Hasty was already busy presenting a program to the house staff at Palmetto General Hospital on “Anticoagulation Update.”

In February, Samuel Snyder, D.O., became chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Snyder, who earned his D.O. degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, conducted his internal medicine residency at Metropolitan Hospital in Pennsylvania. He also completed a nephrology fellowship at Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia and is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology.
Family Facts: Married to my husband Gary for 20 years. We met as teenagers in 1970 and were best friends for more than 10 years before we dated and married in 1985. I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and am the youngest of four children.

Date of Hire: October 1999

Official NSU-COM responsibilities: I procure and conduct clinical research trials, interface with the pharmaceutical industry, the HPD research committee, the IRB, and the faculty and patients. I'm responsible for filing and maintaining regulatory/fiscal documents and reports. I conduct the research according to regulatory guidelines and ensure compliance for the protection of human subjects and the integrity of the research study. I am tasked with developing recruitment strategies to screen and enroll research subjects, which involves advertising campaigns, health screenings, and training sessions with the residents. I schedule and see research subjects according to protocol guidelines and review case reports, lab results, and adverse events with the study's principal investigators. The research role is always evolving as each protocol has its own population, structure, and demands. In addition, I recently assumed the role of executive producer for Dateline Health and am enjoying working with Dr. Fred Lippman in this creative endeavor.

Reasons I enjoy working at NSU-COM: That’s easy—the people. The diversity of the faculty and staff exceeds that of the students. Everyone has different attributes and backgrounds, which makes it interesting. There are so many intelligent, caring, bright people that I am fond of here. Dr. Anthony Silvagni promotes change, and the environment at the college is exciting to be a part of because it’s so progressive.

What did you do professionally before joining NSU-COM? Before moving to South Florida, I worked for Dr. Larry Devore, a dentist in the Boston area. He was a mentor and friend who helped me develop personally and professionally. We remain friends to this day, and I visit him in West Palm Beach. In fact, he still calls me kid—and I’ve known him for 28 years. I also worked as a psychometrician for an Alzheimer’s research center and served as a coordinator, clinical manager, and site director at a local office for a national site management organization.

Greatest achievement in life: I don’t think I have had a greatest achievement yet. However, when my husband’s closet friend, Kenny, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1991, Gary and I organized a fund-raiser. Together we were able to get 107 volunteers to come to a bowl-a-thon and make pledges. We raised $33,000 for his medical bills, and I still remember the day we presented the check to Kenny. It was obvious he was losing the battle for his life, but Kenny knew people loved him enough to help him and his family.

Favorite way to unwind when not at work: Spending time with Gary. I do have two activities I find emotionally therapeutic—shopping and working out at CURVES.

My coworkers would be surprised to know this about me: As an undergraduate at Boston State College, I joined a group of protesters to take over the president’s office and demand women’s courses and other social issues of the day. I was quite rebellious in those years; today, my civic involvement involves a more mature approach to influence social issues.

The most frightening thing that ever happened to me: Gary and I were scuba diving off a charter boat in West Palm Beach on a Sunday afternoon in 1988. When we came to the surface, we noticed the current had drifted us away from the charter boat—and the captain didn’t see us. We floated in the Atlantic Ocean for what seemed like a very long time, hoping not to be decapitated from Sunday boaters. Finally, a small boat with a girl and two men aboard spotted us and came to our rescue. It was frightening because the possibility of being hit by a recreational boat while bobbing on the surface was a real concern, not to mention drifting aimlessly in the Gulf Stream.

When I retire I plan to: Stay involved in civic or organizational groups because I like being part of a group that makes contributions to the community.

Three words that best describe me: Affable, conscientious, and fun loving.
For more than 15 years, M1 student Karolyn (K. Kay) Smith endured the kind of domestic abuse that has become all-too-prevalent in today's society. From belittling comments to acts of aggression that frequently bordered on the perverse, Smith suffered the full spectrum of domestic violence in a marriage that ended up being more frightening than fairytale in nature.

"Knowing what I know now, I should have seen the signs," said Smith, who is a devoted mom to her sons Lorenz, 16, Dillon, 14, and Dustin, 12. "I've read a lot about the cycle of violence, and it doesn't get better; it always gets worse. But you know, when you're in love and you're raising a family and you're trying to make it work, you overlook a lot of things. I wanted my children to have their father around, and I wanted us to be a unit. So I basically lived in denial about many of the things that were happening."

Fortunately, thanks to her inner resolve and the soul-saving support she received from her classmates and instructors, Smith was finally able to break free from the endless cycle of "break-up-to-make-up" abuse—and emerge with an even stronger sense of self.

**Ill-Fated Marriage Has Childhood Roots**

As a child growing up in the small town of Texarkana, Arkansas, Smith experienced the bitter specter of divorce firsthand when her parents split up when she was just 12-years-old. Consequently, when her own tumultuous marriage began unraveling many years later, Smith fought with every fiber of her being to prevent her children from suffering the same fate.

"I was young and dumb," joked Smith, who was running a successful dance studio in Texarkana when she met her theoretical knight in shining armor. Following a whirlwind courtship, which included getting engaged two short weeks after their first date, the couple married six months later and settled into what should have been a period of matrimonial bliss. However, after becoming pregnant on her honeymoon, Smith was soon confronted with another surprising bit of news when her husband suddenly informed her of his intention to apply to medical school.
Although she continued to teach and study dance wherever she was, Smith wholeheartedly supported her husband's medical ambitions and expected a similar response when she voiced her interest in pursuing a similar career course. "I was glancing through his application packet one day and said, 'You know, I'd like to go to medical school because it's something I considered at one point in high school," she explained. "But he said absolutely not. He became really irate and said he wanted more than just one child—and that I needed to stay home and be the mom and wife so he could be the one who had the career."

Despite the oppressive overtones of that troubling conversation, Smith didn't give it much thought as she enthusiastically embraced the joys of impending motherhood and prepared to relocate to Missouri. "Once my husband got accepted to Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, I closed down my dance studio, left all my friends and family behind, and began a new chapter in my life."

**Abusive Behavior Malevolently Manifests**

Over the next decade, as her brood expanded to three, Smith dutifully supported her husband as his career took the family from Kansas City to Oklahoma City to conduct his residency and from Oklahoma to Gainesville, Florida, to become a practicing physician.

Although she continued to teach and study dance wherever her husband's travels transported the family, Smith never lost sight of her long-range goal of becoming a physician—despite her husband's vehement objections. "During his second year of medical school, I found out that UMKC (the University of Missouri-Kansas City) had a combined six-year undergraduate and medical school program," she recalled. "When I told him I was looking into the program, all hell broke loose. He said, 'I will divorce you if you go to medical school,' which is the first of many times I heard that mantra. I increasingly had this desire to learn, so I started reading my husband's textbooks, which fascinated me. But in his mind, I was supposed to be the little woman who stayed home, raised the kids, and took care of all the household chores."

As a result of the conflict, the intensity and frequency of their arguments escalated over time—as did her spouse's increasingly abusive behavior. When his attempts to control Smith failed to yield the desired results, he would sometimes retaliate by punching the walls or ripping the rear-view mirror off their car. Other arguments, however, featured a decidedly sinister form of mistreatment. "Sometimes when he was fighting with me, he would clean his fingernails with a knife in a posturing sort of way," she explained. "One night, during another fight, he pulled out a .44 Magnum and simply draped the loaded gun over the bedpost without saying a word."

Still, no matter how confrontational her husband's behavior became, Smith refused to abandon her dream, which was stoked further on a tragic day in April 1995 when the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed. Smith, who was living in Oklahoma City at the time, immediately called the local hospital to volunteer her services. "That day was a huge turning point for me," said Smith, who was pursuing a bachelor's degree in liberal studies at the time. "When I called the local hospital and asked if I could come and help, the woman who answered the phone asked if I had any medical training. When I told her I didn't, she said, 'Stay away, you'll just be in the way.' After she hung up on me, I said to myself, 'Okay, it's time I get my medical training because this is going to happen again, even if it's on a small scale and it's just one person who needs my help.' I didn't want to feel helpless like I did that day ever again."

Before long, Smith was taking premed courses such as microbiology, physics, and organics at the University of Oklahoma, where she eventually graduated cum laude from its honors college in 1997. That same year, her husband completed his residency and relocated the family to Gainesville to accept a practice position.

It should have been a joyous time for Smith, who landed a fulfilling job as a clinical coordinator in the Department of Surgery at Shands HealthCare and began the long-awaited process of applying to the University of Florida's College of Medicine. Unfortunately, ominous storm clouds began forming on the personal horizon when her husband mocked her attempts to attend medical school and again threatened to divorce her—and take the children with him.

After two failed attempts to earn entry into University of Florida's medical school, Smith knew the time had come to apply to colleges in other areas of the country. Predictably, her husband remained adamantly opposed to the idea. "My husband said, 'You are not going to medical school, and I am not moving..."
even if you get accepted somewhere," stated Smith, who vented her considerable frustration by tapping into her creative side and participating in the university’s dance program. “That’s when he absolutely laid down the law and hit me where he knew I would listen by saying, ‘If you try to leave town I will divorce you and take the kids with me because no judge in the country will let you have custody and be a medical student.’

“Once he threatened to take my kids, who are my life, away from me, I stopped applying to medical schools,” she tearfully recalled. “I just kind of stepped back. I also resigned from my job at Shands because I needed time to reevaluate my life. So I read a lot of books and sat out on the back porch, wondering what I was going to do.”

In 2001, after many months of grueling self-examination, Smith experienced a stunning realization. “I recognized that it wasn’t just medicine he didn’t want me to do; it was anything that took me out of the house,” she explained. “When I reflected back on our marriage, I realized that the more involved I got in any activity, the more trouble he gave me. That’s when I decided to begin the process of reapplying to medical school, because I knew he was going to try and control me no matter what I did with my life.”

**Rancorous Relationship Takes Surprising Turn**

Once she began flexing her newfound courage, Smith’s husband angrily moved out of their Gainesville home and promptly filed for divorce. However, the day before the separation was to be finalized in May 2002, she received a phone call from her spouse that succinctly encapsulated their 15-year marriage. “He called me the night before we went in front of the judge and said, ‘If you stop this medical school nonsense, we’ll stay together.’” I then replied, ‘If you loved me, you would understand that what you just said is not love because you know I’ve always dreamed of going to medical school.’

Unfortunately, like most chronic abusers, her now ex-husband had a seductive knack of turning on the charm when it suited him. A few months after the divorce was final, he began worming his way back into her life by pledging his love for Smith and offering his unqualified support of her medical pursuits. “He made a 180-degree turn, at least in terms of the things he said,” she explained. “Suddenly, all I was hearing was, ‘Oh, I’ve made the biggest mistake of my life. I can’t imagine living my life without you because I love you and can’t stand to be apart.’”

Against her better judgment—but for the sake of her children who she gained custody of in the divorce—Smith allowed her ex to move back home. “He was trying to come back, but I was trying to resist it because I had spent a year living on my own with the children and had really healed. I went to my church and joined discussion groups on how to be a whole person again following a divorce. So as painful as that time was, I grew so much as an individual. I got to know who I was and discovered I was so much stronger and capable than I ever thought I could be.”

As Smith looked toward the future, she was unaware that she would soon be embroiled in a rollercoaster ride of emotions, ranging from the transcendent high of being accepted to NSU-COM on January 17, 2003, to the debilitating low that would forever fracture her relationship with her children’s father.

Despite her ex-husband’s pronouncement of being a changed man who would wholeheartedly support her medical school career, his behavior continued to belie his words. On the day Smith was accepted to NSU-COM, her ex immediately called the movers to remove his things from their home. “It was the happiest day of my life—at least that’s the way it should have been,” she said. “This had been the day I was looking forward to for so many years, and rather than being proud of and excited for me, he called the movers and stormed out. I was devastated.”

Although her ex-husband’s actions continued to be frighteningly bipolar in nature, Smith wanted what was best for her three boys and therefore agreed to remarry him in April 2003. Unfortunately, the ill-fated reunion was doomed from the start. “I knew pretty quickly I had made a huge mistake because I kept thinking, ‘Oh, what have I done?’” she explained. “One minute he was supporting me, a minute later he was berating me.”

After relocating to South Florida to begin medical school, Smith hoped their relationship would take a turn for the better. Instead, the fights grew more acrimonious as her husband employed every contemptible tactic possible to sabotage her education—including wiping her out financially. “When I went
to the ATM one day to get lunch money, I discovered he had withdrawn all but $20 out of our joint account," Smith stated. "In fact, I soon discovered that he had not only taken all the money but had also removed my name from all the credit cards and taken all our financial documents from the house and put them in the trunk of his car."

Unsettling Incident Results in Rebirth

On a foreboding night in October 2003, their relationship reached its chilling boiling point when the abuse took a sadistic and decidedly physical turn outside their home, resulting in numerous bruises and abrasions on Smith's body. "I kept screaming, 'Stop, you're hurting me, but he kept going,'" she explained. "At that point, my children came running out because they heard me screaming. The next morning, my son Dillon came to me and said, 'Mom, when I heard you yelling, I thought Dad had the gun and was going to shoot you.'"

Suffering the personal indignity of her husband's abuse was one thing, but having her children pulled into the sickening soap opera was quite another. "In my mind, that was it," said Smith, who had reached the end of her emotional rope. "If my 14-year-old thought this man had the capacity to shoot me, it was time to end the cycle of abuse because I could no longer put myself or my children in the position to be harmed like that. So I called the police, who came and asked my husband to leave the house for the night."

When a distraught Smith showed up at school the next morning with her three children in tow, she received overwhelming support from her classmates and an understanding faculty that compassionately reached out to her in her time of deep need. "Honestly, I can't say enough about the support I received from the college and my classmates," said Smith, who is also pursuing a dual M.P.H. degree. "The social support is just undeniable in its ability to hold me together at times. When I was so exhausted from dealing with the details and emotions of divorce and the exhaustion that comes with raising three children, my classmates would come over to study with me until 4:00 a.m. to urge me on and help me pass an exam."

It would be easy to categorize Smith as a hapless victim who endured years of enervating abuse at the hands of a willful and vengeful spouse. But Smith wisely chooses to avoid the victim tag by living in the present instead of the past. "If people take anything away with them after reading this article, I hope it will be the resilience of the human spirit," she stated. "When I told my dad I was doing this article, he said, 'You could have been embarrassed and not told anyone about what happened, but I'm really proud of you for sharing your story because other women will see that you spoke up and finally put a stop to the abuse. And maybe you'll give someone else the courage to do the same.'

"We all possess strength we don't even realize within our bodies, hearts, and minds," she added. "When something like this happens, you really have to dig deep to find your voice and your purpose. It's also important to never let anybody stop you when you have something good to offer to the world. In fact, it's a true disservice to yourself and to others if you don't follow through with what you're supposed to do with your life."

Now that Smith has found her voice, she hopes to help other women in the future by establishing a scholarship for victims of domestic abuse. For the time being, however, Smith is content to continue her internal healing as she deals with the rigors of raising her children and studying medicine and public health at NSU-COM. "I'm so happy that although my ex made me stumble at times, he did not succeed in crushing my spirit," said Smith, who failed microbiology during her tumultuous breakup and was forced to sit out a year of medical school. "I feel like I am slowly but surely climbing back out of the hole of defeat thanks to the grace of God and a lot of support from my family, friends, and school."
Family Medicine Clinic Adeptly Balances Medical Education and Patient Care Responsibilities

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications

For the faculty members who comprise NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, life is never dull as they skillfully juggle a challenging mix of administrative, academic, and clinical responsibilities.

Take, for instance, a typical week in the life of Kenneth Johnson, D.O., an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology who also serves as director of NSU's Women's Health Center. In addition to providing insightful lectures to the students, training residents, and collaborating on clinical research projects, Dr. Johnson spends a significant portion of his workweek seeing OB/GYN patients and delivering babies.

That same exemplary work ethic also applies to the faculty members who serve as the heart and soul of the Family Medicine Clinic at NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center in Davie and its sister site in North Miami Beach. "In addition to providing patient care, the family medicine clinics serve as continuity of care centers for two family medicine residency programs—Broward General Medical Center and Palmetto General Hospital, which are two of our OPTI partners," said Joseph DeGaetano, D.O., FAAFP, associate professor of family medicine and director of clinical curriculum and graduate medical education. "Consequently, in addition to taking care of patients, we train medical students and residents that shadow us as well as nursing students and undergraduate and postgraduate physician assistants."

Multitasking Provides Intrinsic Challenge

Providing comprehensive and compassionate medical care to a combined 150 patients per day at the two family medicine clinics may be a daunting enough endeavor on its own. However, when you consider that 30 residents at the Davie clinic and an additional 20 at the North Miami Beach site are also being
According to Dr. DeGaetano, because NSU-COM offers onsite clinical training opportunities, both students and faculty benefit tremendously from this marriage of clinical and curricular activities. "Many osteopathic medical schools have not had clinical facilities that were operated by the institution, whether it be a college by itself or a university," he explained. "When you look at the allopathic model, it was built around the concept that there would be a patient-care facility directly attached or owned by the medical school in which its medical students will be trained. And that would include both ambulatory and hospital facilities because not all the specialties of medicine are practiced in a hospital environment."

"NSU-COM is fairly rich with clinical opportunity when compared with a number of our sister schools that don't own a clinical operation," he added. "We have a fairly robust primary care ambulatory clinical environment in our university. However, it's certainly not big enough to train all our students in all the different specialties that exist."

The existence of NSU-owned-and-operated teaching clinics is also an unqualified benefit for faculty members, who must remain abreast of the latest medical knowledge. However, it also provides them with a paradoxical mix of demands that oftentimes proves overwhelming. "In order to retain expertise, the faculty that teaches in medical school needs to see patients," stressed Dr. DeGaetano. "It's very hard to lecture about hypertension if you don't really see hypertension in the clinical environment because things change. What pushes you to remain on the cutting edge is taking care of patients."

"The need for a medical school to have clinical operations directly affiliated with it serves multiple roles," he continued. "One is the training of medical students and residents, but the other is to keep the faculty cutting edge. It is very unique that our faculty has such a broad diversity of responsibility between teaching first- and second-year courses, training third- and fourth-year students, and also training residents. Generally speaking, residency programs have their own standalone faculty that only trains residents. We're not formulated that way, so we're constantly pulled in a range of directions because of the triumvirate of responsibility we have."

**Patient Care Versus Clinical Training**

Despite the inherent challenges that come from trying to be all things to all people, the family medicine clinics have come a long way in a relatively short period of time. "I must say, we do a pretty good job," stated Peter Cohen, D.O., who serves as medical director of the Davie and North Miami Beach clinics and oversees clinical operations at several other NSU-affiliated sites. "We graduate extremely well-trained residents while also providing top-notch medical care to our patient population. We've had our share of growing pains, but we've come a long way since I started working in our Davie clinic in July 1996."

"If you interview one of our patients, he or she will tell you that their interaction with one of our doctors was the best experience they've ever had," added Dr. Cohen, who also oversees clinical activities related to student health, internal medicine, OB/GYN, dermatology, pediatrics, and geriatrics. "We tell every new patient what type of environment we have here, and then it's up to each individual to choose if he or she wants to come here. In fact, I actually tell certain patients that I honestly don't think this is the right practice for them—and then I suggest others doctor for them to visit."

As is the case with many medical facilities, balancing staffing shortages and patient needs is a constant struggle, especially at the Family Medicine Clinic in Davie. "Our staff doesn't quite meet the amount we need to deal with all the patients we have," admitted Dr. Cohen. "We currently have three attending physicians and anywhere from six to eight residents on duty per shift, with a half day representing a shift. At North Miami Beach, we have two attending physicians and five residents onsite at all times. We also have two licensed physician assistant graduates that come and spend and extra year working in family medicine. In fact, we're the only program in the country that..."
currently offers a postgraduate program for physician assistants in family medicine."

The Family Medicine Clinic in North Miami Beach shares many similarities with its Davie counterpart, but the southern-based clinic also has its own set of unique challenges. "We see an average of 40 to 50 patients a day and adopt a slightly different approach to the care that we do in Davie because of the community orientation," said Dr. Calzada, who also serves as assistant medical director of the North Miami Beach clinic. "The Davie clinic is situated in a middle-class community, while the one in North Miami Beach is located in a relatively poor, economically depressed neighborhood primarily comprised of immigrants from nearby island nations. As a result, we are involved in relevant clinical research projects and work hard to enhance and implement programs that really reach out to people who are disadvantaged from a health care perspective.

"For example, we are starting to integrate psychological counseling in our residency training programs by facilitating mental health care provided by a Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in postgraduate internship training," he added. "Our project will assess the impact this integrative approach has on health care outcomes, mental health, and quality of life of our patient population. In primary care, a large percentage of the physical illness complaints have some psychological or psychosomatic component, so it's an area that deserves investigation. In addition, depression and anxiety are well known co-morbid conditions to many of the chronic diseases we manage in our daily practice. We're also a highly visible presence in the community through our participation in events like the annual health fair at Aventura Mall and collaboration with radio station Y100.7 for the Take Your Relative to the Doctor Screening Day."

"Whether it's the Davie or North Miami Beach clinic, we're definitely focused on issues relating to patient care and community service," stated Dr. Cohen, who also oversees two ancillary NSU geriatric clinic sites in Pembroke Pines—the Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, Jr., State Veterans' Nursing Home and the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center. "We also adopt a multidisciplinary approach to medical care by working with the other Health Professions Division disciplines like pharmacy, which has its own diabetes, coumadin, and smoking cessation clinics. In addition, we have a morning report every day that all the HPD disciplines participate in for educational purposes."

Tweaking the System

Due to the collaborative efforts of numerous individuals, the clinic structure has been enhanced over the years to meet its myriad missions. Still, Dr. Cohen acknowledges that he and his cohorts are constantly striving to provide patients with the most efficient and expeditious health care experience possible. "We are working very hard to improve continuity of care, and we have already taken steps to modify the clinic structure by enhancing doctor/patient continuity," he stated. "We currently have doctor groupings, and the thought behind this concept is to have two attending physicians along with a certain number of residents that work together in a specific doctor group. Because each doctor group is an independent group within the larger overall clinic group, the hope is that these smaller groups will work together as a team to see their patients. As a result, if you do see a different doctor, at least you'll see a different doctor from the same team. The theory here is that we would then all know each other's patients much more thoroughly."

"To reiterate what Dr. Calzada said earlier, we are not like a private physician's practice," Dr. DeGaetano stated. "This is a practice where we train residents. The strengths of coming to us are that you always have multiple minds thinking about your medical problem, which we feel delivers a higher level of care. Also, we're not a doc-in-the-box, get-them-in-and-get-them-out kind of operation. We spend a lot of time with our patients. Conversely, there is the issue of identifying with one physician and seeing that same physician. I personally do not have a practice here. My job is to try to build the practice for the residents I train."

Thanks to the advent of managed care and the increased regulatory oversight that comes with practicing medicine today, health care centers throughout the nation are clearly contending with an array of weighty issues. "The governing bodies that support our training tell us how to do business," Dr. Calzada explained. "For instance, attending physicians are not supposed to see patients by themselves when they are in the role of supervisors. As a result, when an attending physician is supervising two or three residents, he or she is just overseeing the residents. Any other interaction with the patient would be a Medicare violation. We definitely face huge challenges every day, but we deal with them elegantly."

![Davie Family Medicine Clinic](image)

**Davie Family Medicine Clinic**

(Patient Encounters)

- 2002 - 13,700
- 2003 - 13,800
- 2004 - 14,800

**North Miami Beach Family Medicine Clinic**

(Patient Encounters)

- 2002 - 5,400
- 2003 - 6,200
- 2004 - 8,300
Though the hands-on practice of osteopathic medicine is the most widely known component of the profession, there is also a less-publicized—but equally as important—element that relates to the behind-the-scenes political process.

That's why the undergraduate chapter of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA), which is the student division of the state osteopathic association, plays such a key role in terms of introducing and getting osteopathic students involved in medical and political issues unique to the Sunshine State.

The student chapter of FOMA, which is free and open to all osteopathic medical students, offers members a range of benefits, including invitations to a variety of conferences and educational programs. It also provides financial support and scholarships to attend events such as the annual D.O. Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee each spring.

"The undergraduate chapter introduces students to exactly what FOMA is and what it does for us," said M2 student Ryan Chauffe, who serves as co-president of the organization. "It really educates students about issues that aren't readily apparent as far as the political aspects go."

The student district of FOMA has a three-pronged mission that centers on:

- increasing public awareness regarding osteopathic physicians
- educating medical students about governmental issues in health care
- dedication to community service specifically aimed at teaching preventative medicine to the public

"During the first semester of each academic year, we coordinate an introductory dinner where Steve Winn, the executive director of FOMA, comes down to talk about the organization and what it is doing politically to promote the profession," Chauffe explained. "We also bring in various speakers to discuss issues such as personal liability insurance (PLI) because they can explain the different aspects of the issue and where the situation currently stands. We also try to incorporate student issues into our general meetings, which we accomplished by having residents come in to give us their take on what to expect coming into our third- and fourth-year clinical rotations."

Thanks to the able assistance of Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., who serves as HPD vice chancellor for professional affairs and acts as faculty adviser to the student chapter of FOMA, Chauffe and his fellow members know they have a keen advocate in their corner. "Dr. Morris, who also acts as legal counselor for FOMA, helps us line up speakers for our PLI lecture because he knows everything and everybody," Chauffe said. "Anytime we have a question about something, we ask Dr. Morris."

According to fellow M2 student and FOMA co-president Rishi Kumar, "Our goal is to work with the doctors in the area to promote osteopathic medicine in the state of Florida and bring together the students and physicians in the area," he stated. "Going to Tallahassee and seeing the political lobbying that FOMA does for osteopathic medicine in the state of Florida made me realize how important the organization is at our school. After all, FOMA is the organization that gives us our rights to practice and do what D.O.s do."

While politics play a large role in their overall mission, FOMA members also showcase their humanistic side by coordinating an annual health fair located at the Tower Shops in Davie, Florida, and coordinating a 5K run/walk in conjunction with the Student National Medical Association to raise funds for the annual medical mission to Jamaica.

"This organization is important to be involved in because we represent the state organization for osteopathic medicine," Kumar stressed. "Florida has one of the largest osteopathic physician populations in the country, so it makes sense to be a part of an organization that is lobbying for your practicing benefit. It's not just a student organization; it's a professional organization you will hopefully be a part of for your entire career."
Since its inception in January 1999, the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) and its 18-member network have been dedicated to providing outstanding postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States. Graduates can select postdoctoral training from a range of traditional and specialty-track internships as well as a spectrum of residencies and fellowships in areas such as:

- anesthesiology
- cardiology
- dermatology
- family medicine
- emergency medicine
- general surgery
- geriatrics
- internal medicine
- orthopedic surgery
- osteopathic principles and practice
- pediatrics
- preventive medicine
- sports medicine

**CEME Genesis Has AOA Roots**

Although CEME was officially established in 1999, its roots can be traced back to 1995, when the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) established the Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution (OPTI). "The osteopathic profession recognized early on that we—unfortunately and fortunately—had smaller institutions that could only provide training for maybe one or two years," said Anthony Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H., FACOI, who serves as CEME president and regional dean of NSU-COM's West Coast Academic Center at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida. "As a result, we did not have the ability to provide in-depth educational and clinical training for graduate physicians. The AOA decided to rectify the situation by proposing the OPTI concept, where you bring community hospitals together with a university. By doing this, you create an organization, like CEME, which possesses multiple educational resources that are available to all its members."

Fortunately for NSU-COM and CEME, the development and implementation process was a fairly seamless one due to the college's preexisting relationships with a host of community-based hospitals. "When I came to NSU-COM in December 1996, I began participating with other individuals to assist with the development of our OPTI, which eventually came to be known as the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education," said Executive Director Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D. "Ultimately, the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and all of the existing hospital-based independent graduate medical education programs that were already training the college's medical students united to form our consortium. Since that time, new institutions have joined and additional training internships and residencies have been established.

Although the diverse CEME network currently provides nearly 450 residency slots through its 18-member organization, it also serves as a progressive think-tank that is constantly striving to push the boundaries of postgraduate medical education.
excellence. "Essentially, the idea was to begin to be more creative in the way we use our resources and take advantage of the knowledge and experience our members possess in terms of dealing with the policies, standards, and quality of education," Dr. Wilkinson explained.

"Over the past few years, the college has substantially contributed to CEME's success by making sure it runs effectively both in terms of provision of staff and distance education equipment so we can coordinate video teleconferencing programs that link many of our various member sites," she added. "For example, Dr. A. Alvin Greber was instrumental in helping us put together a cardiology lecture series for the residents. What's happened is that the college, with the university's assistance, has placed video teleconferencing equipment in a number of the CEME-affiliated hospitals that wanted to participate. We're also working to further enhance our distance-learning capabilities so we can have representatives at our sites provide training to other CEME programs.

"An example of this is the affiliation we have with Florida East Orlando," she continued. "The site has a very strong family medicine integrative neuromuscular medicine residency, which means that when a physician goes into that particular training tract, he or she spends an extra year in that program to become a specialist in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM). This expertise in OMM is an important component in the training of all osteopathic physicians and our CEME members have reaped some of the benefits of this program. Dr. Joseph Allgeier, the director of medical education, and Dr. Laura Rampil, program director for the family medicine integrative neuromuscular medicine residency, have willingly shared their lecture series and programs with other CEME institutions. It is impossible to list all of the ways in which each and every individual member contributes to the excellence of the consortium."

The CEME concept also serves as an essential educational umbrella that provides continuity for participating residents in the event of a particular program's demise. "One of the things that happened last year was that we had a member hospital lose its program," Dr. Ottaviani explained. "Thankfully, our consortium was able to make sure the physicians in training had continuity with their educational program through other members of our OPTI. It definitely would have been more problematic if you didn't have this system in place."

**CEME Targets Core Competencies**

With its vision fixed firmly on the future, the organization is constantly striving to address all aspects of an ever-evolving postgraduate medical education environment. Currently, the consortium's focus is on a collaborative effort to develop, implement, and evaluate expanded educational programming in accord with seven critical core competencies. The purpose of this approach is to assure and enhance quality training with quality health care. The seven core competencies comprise:

- osteopathic philosophy and osteopathic manipulative medicine
- medical knowledge
- patient care
- interpersonal and communication skills
- professionalism
- practice-based learning and improvement
- system-based practice

"In addition to the clinical training component, we want to make sure the residents receive education in regard to matters such as the business, economics, and law of medicine," Dr. Wilkinson explained. "The idea is to build a postgraduate program that will provide residents with a comprehensive clinical foundation while also preparing them to deal with the other aspects of medicine. By the time they graduate from a residency, they should be able to ask appropriate questions about how to set up a practice. This would include finding out what kind of CPA they might need, what kind of legal questions need to be asked, and what kind of resources they need to look at if they're going to go into practice. This is the new focus for CEME, which now blends with the competency-based education that is currently the focus of all medical education, whether it be allopathic or osteopathic."
By instituting a gamut of educationally rich competencies, CEME is doing its part to arm physicians with the knowledge they will need to succeed in all areas of medicine. "We are looking at the kind of things that would be less likely delivered onsite in the training program," Dr. Wilkinson stated. "Collectively, we can generate new or enhanced programs that will help all CEME members."

**CEME Eyes Future Frontiers**

While implementing the core competencies comprises CEME's current focus, there are other educational horizons the organization hopes to explore in the coming year. "One of our missions is to hold our annual meeting with all the health officers from across the state in conjunction with the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association's midyear and annual conventions," said Dr. Ottaviani, who serves on the Health Professions Division Board of Governors.

"We have been meeting with the health officers annually, but it's largely been just our OPTI members," he added. "We have looked for an opportunity to bring all our health officers to the OPTI meetings and produce some kind of educational format that would be important for them. But we also want to bring them together to hear what their ideas are and determine how we can help them in achieving their goals of being cutting-edge physicians and educators."

As CEME continues to fine-tune its already impressive postgraduate educational network, Drs. Ottaviani and Wilkinson are quick to praise the cohesive and cooperative efforts of its progressive institutional membership. "Coming together like we do is important because of the sharing of our educational resources," Dr. Ottaviani stressed. "One of the things we've noticed is that since we have so many different institutions at the table that have diverse educational models, we are able to share what they did successfully and implement those in other CEME-affiliated programs. When you work alone, it's like working in a vacuum. However, when you come to an OPTI meeting, we share everything from educational formats and computer information to how they approach financing and how they are generating assessment of their interns and residents."

"Over time, more and more responsibility is moving to the OPTIs in terms of program oversight," Dr. Wilkinson stated. "I think the strength with our particular OPTI is that it is a consortium, and we have been blessed with some very active members who come together, share ideas, and work to make things happen. You could not ask for more cooperation among the members. All our members are extremely busy, yet they still make every effort to attend our meetings and willingly share their expertise. It's a true partnership in every sense of the word."
(Effective with this issue, COM Outlook will feature an informative quarterly spotlight on the various organizations that comprise the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education. The accomplishments and contributions of this interactive 18-member network are indeed merit worthy because each participating member provides exceptional postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.)

Sun Coast Hospital Overview
Sun Coast Hospital (SCH) was founded in 1957 by Alan J. Snider, D.O., and progressively grew over the years within the Pinellas County/Tampa Bay community as a teaching hospital offering the highest quality patient care services. The hospital began its AOA-accredited postdoctoral teaching program with two interns in 1964. Today, the program has grown to nearly 60 interns, residents, and fellows representing a large internship program, five residency programs, and two subspecialty fellowship programs.

The hospital offers a broad range of comprehensive patient care services that includes screening, diagnostic care, treatment, therapy, rehabilitation, and home care. SCH, which is a 300-bed licensed inpatient facility with more than 375 physicians on its medical staff, offers over 44 specialties and subspecialties to the community. The hospital and its teaching faculty have also established the largest osteopathic teaching program in the southeastern United States, which offers the aforementioned training programs to students, interns, and residents from across the nation.

SCH provides general acute medical and surgical services, 24-hour emergency care, cutting-edge imaging, wound care and sleep disorder centers, a well-established Center for Behavioral Medicine, and comprehensive outpatient services that include teaching clinics in family medicine, pediatrics, dermatology, surgery, and gynecology. The hospital has also broken ground on a new, expanded emergency medicine facility that is slated to open sometime in 2005.

In August 2001, SCH teamed up with University Community Hospital and University Community Hospital-Carrollwood in Tampa and Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital in Tarpon Springs to form University Community Health. This alliance enhances SCH's ability to offer revolutionary technology and the best health care services available as well as provide opportunities to expand and strengthen its pre/postdoctoral medical education.
program. An example of this advancement in health care services is the onsite Pepin Heart Institute/Sun Coast Hospital Cardiac Cath Lab, which serves as a tremendous asset to the hospital’s Cardiology Fellowship Program.

The Sun Coast/NSU-COM Partnership
Sun Coast Hospital recruits an average of 15 to 18 graduates from NSU-COM who join SCH’s internship, residency, and fellowship programs. SCH’s first affiliation with the medical school became official in August 1992 when the hospital received formal designation as the West Coast Clinical Campus of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Southeastern University of the Health Sciences (SEUHS), which was the precursor to NSU-COM. Having now evolved as the West Coast Academic Center of NSU-COM, SCH is one of the founding member teaching hospitals of the Consortium for Excellence in Medicine Education (CEME), participating actively in the application/OPTI accreditation process and site inspection in March 1999. CEME received official notice of AOA accreditation by December 1999.

Sun Coast Facts and Figures
Sun Coast Hospital is recognized as one of the preeminent osteopathic teaching hospitals in the United States, offering a teaching faculty now approaching 130 physicians who represent over 35 specialties and subspecialties. In 2003, SCH—in concert with the Internal Medicine Residency Program and in partnership with the Bay Pines VA Medical Center and University Community Hospital—developed and implemented one of the few osteopathic cardiology fellowship programs in the country. By July 2005, the program will have three cardiology fellows training at SCH.

In 2004, Sun Coast Hospital developed a second subspecialty-training program and received ACOI approval for its Rheumatology Fellowship Program, which will begin in July 2005. Because both the cardiology and rheumatology fellowship programs require completion of an internal medicine residency, as a prerequisite, it is the objective of both programs to maintain continuity within the program and recruit their fellows directly from the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Sun Coast Hospital.

Internship Programs
- Traditional
- Family Practice Track
- Internal Medicine Track

Residency Programs
- Anesthesia
- Dermatology
- Family Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Surgery

Fellowship Programs
- Cardiology
- Rheumatology

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Sun Coast Hospital’s Competitive Advantage
Both AOA- and ACGME-sponsored postdoctoral training programs actively recruit graduates of Sun Coast Hospital’s internship and residency training programs, including specialty and subspecialty fellowships. SCH faculty and graduates have attended and completed their training at some of the most prestigious postresidency fellowship programs available in the country.

SCH’s teaching faculty is composed of graduates from many nationally renowned educational institutions, including

- University of Arizona
- Cleveland Clinic
- Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine
- University of Cincinnati/Barrett Cancer Center
- University of South Florida
- Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Loyola University
- Mayo Clinic
- University of Miami
- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan
- Ohio State University
- University of Texas/M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Texas Heart and Lung
- Vanderbilt University

On November 10, 2004, Valerie Johnson, D.O. and Kristen Witfill, D.O.—both second-year residents in the Sun Coast Hospital Dermatology Residency Program—received the prestigious Koprince Award at the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) annual meeting in San Francisco. The award, which recognizes the most outstanding lecture presentations, was presented to three recipients, including Drs. Johnson and Witfill. Dr. Johnson’s lecture discussed “Multiple Keratoacanthomas Arising in Hypertrophic Lichen Planus,” while Dr. Witfill addressed the topic “Dermoscopy: An Essential Tool in Dermatology.” Thirty presenters participated in the AOCD meeting, representing osteopathic dermatology residency programs throughout the country.
Matthew Boren, D.O., (’02) who is performing his residency in emergency medicine at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, was appointed chief resident for 2005-2006.

Major John Hammock, D.O., (’97) served as director of emergency medicine for the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, from January through October 2004. As a result of his stellar military medical service relative to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dr. Hammock was awarded a bronze star.

On January 27, Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP, (’88) was presented with the NSU-COM Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award during NSU’s Seventh Annual Celebration of Excellence ceremony, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the university’s 16 academic centers, colleges, and schools. The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is the highest accolade an individual can receive from NSU’s Alumni Association.

Albert Lopez, D.O., (’92) who has been in private practice for three years, is the physician for the Federal Reserve Branch in Jacksonville, Florida. He also serves as a board member of the Wellness Council of Florida and is a preceptor for the University of North Florida ARNP Program. He also serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students at the University of Florida and for podiatry residents at St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

Mitchell Maulfair, D.O., (’94) recently received a Florida Hospital Values Award. Dr. Maulfair is an emergency medicine physician in Orlando who is extremely involved in disaster medicine through his work with the DMAT FL-6 / FEMA.

Steven H. Rivera D.O., FACEP, (’89) received his M.B.A. degree in December 2004 from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In addition, he was elected as managing partner of IEP, a privately held emergency medicine company that provides services to eight hospitals in Southeast Michigan.

J bro L. Rush, D.O., (’85) was recently installed as president of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

Debra A. Smith D.O., M.I.H.M., M.B.A., FACPM, FAOCOPM, (’93) received a federal appointment by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to serve on the Physician Panels. This group was established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act and is administered by the Department of Energy (DOE) to review radiation exposure claims of DOE contractors, employees, and survivors for state worker compensation benefits.

Richard Thacker, D.O., (’93) will serve as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medicine Association in 2006-07.

In February, the following alumni served as lecturers at the FOMA Convention in Fort Lauderdale:
- Dr. Barbara Ares (’95) – “OMT Workshop”
- Dr. Kenneth Johnson (’91) – “Post Menopausal: Female Sexual Dysfunction”
- Dr. Frederick Lewis (’96) – “Domestic Violence and Mental Illness”
- Dr. Albert Lopez (’92) – “Diabetic Dyslipidemia or Lipids, Lipids Everywhere”
- Dr. Lisa Whims-Squires – (’93) “Fatigue, Insomnia, and Lifestyles”

Submission of Alumni News Items

Have you published a paper, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position? If so, COM Outlook wants to know. If you have alumni news of note to report or know of an illustrious fellow graduate who deserves to be featured in a future Alumni Spotlight, please contact Scott Colton at (954) 262-5147 or submit the information via email to scottc@nsu.nova.edu.
In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter.

### 2005 Donors

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<td><strong>Friends (up to $99)</strong></td>
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### Cumulative List (1999-2005)

#### Heritage Circle

Represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.

- Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
  (Gift: $500,000 life insurance policy)
- Dr. Albert Whitehead
  (Gift: $250,000 life insurance policy)
- Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
  (Gift: $500,000 life insurance policy)

#### Chancellor's Council ($5,000+)

- Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)
- Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)
- Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
- Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

#### Dean's Council ($2,500 - $4,999)

- Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)
- Dr. John N. Harker ('89)
- Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)
- Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)
- Dr. Gregory James ('88)
- Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson
- Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

#### Dean's Council ($1,000 - $2,499)

- Dr. Robert Boyington ('94)
- Dr. Charles Chase ('89)
- Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)
- Dr. Richard Cotrell ('90)
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- Dr. Bruce David ('88)
- Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)
- Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)
- Dr. Brad Glick ('89)
- Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)

### 250 Club ($250 - $499)

- Dr. Eric Alboicrek ('92)
- Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
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- Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo
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- Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
- Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)
Cumulative Alumni Association Fund

Century Club ($100 - $249)

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Dr. Michael Landman ('88)
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Dr. Alan Morrison
Dr. Linda Murray ('98)
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The Ninth Annual NSU-COM Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program, held February 11-13, 2005, at the Hyatt Pier 66 Resort in Fort Lauderdale, was a resounding success as record numbers of alumni attended the weekend event, which honored the charter class of 1985 and celebrated the contributions of Living Tribute Award recipient Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.

“There were 35 graduates in 1985, and we were extremely pleased that 13—or 40 percent of the class—came back to celebrate with us,” said Lynne Cawley, M.S., associate director of alumni affairs. “The excitement generated was just terrific. The group had not seen each other in 20 years and shared stories and pictures of their children while getting caught up on old times. They are already planning their 25th reunion in 2010 and are looking for 100 percent participation from their class.”

In addition to the traditional CME lectures, which were attended by approximately 75 physicians, a bus tour was given in the afternoon, allowing those who had never been on the NSU campus an opportunity to see what has been accomplished and what future additions are in the making.

Cawley, who coordinated all facets of the alumni weekend, was thrilled with the event’s overwhelming success. “Saturday evening’s banquet was spectacular, with approximately 180 attendees who came from as far as Arizona and California,” she stated. “In addition to honoring the class of 1985, we also acknowledged the classes of 1995 and 2000.”

According to Cawley, the alumni reunion reached new heights thanks to the efforts of various Alumni Association members who wrote letters and called their friends to get them involved in the event. “The association is already looking forward to next year’s reunion when they’ll honor the classes of 1986, 1991, 1996, and 2001,” she said. “When the members start planning for next year’s reunion already, you know they’re excited about the association, giving back to their school, and getting together with their former classmates.”

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the 10th Annual CME Alumni Reunion, which will be held February 10-12, 2006.
Edye E. Groseclose, Ph.D., was born rich in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia. Not that her parents had a lot of money—indeed they were of modest fiscal means. What they were generously endowed with, however, was a capacity for making their first-born child feel happy and self-assured.

Following graduation with a high school class of 70 students—and after spending 18 years in a town with one traffic light—Dr. Groseclose traveled to Miami to begin studying journalism and broadcasting in a freshman class of 1,200 at the University of Miami. Because she had been successively discouraged in her tender years from pursuing cow herding—or whatever it is that cowgirls do—as well as nursing, nuclear physics, astronomy, and English, she set out to adjust to life as an aspiring writer and performer. However, four-and-a-half years and three majors later, she graduated with a major in botany and minors in French and mathematics.

Dr. Groseclose’s first “real” job after graduating from college involved the isolation and culture of pathogenic fungi in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Miami’s (UM) School of Medicine. Thereafter, experience in various research laboratories dominated her worklife for many years. Her research endeavors included working on projects aimed at elucidating the mechanisms of DNA repair after radiation damage and dealing with the biological control of mosquitoes by parasitic fungi.

Such fun was fated to end when Dr. Groseclose, who had relocated to Gainesville by this time, responded to an ad that brought her back to South Florida to work at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). It proved to be a fortuitous decision for it was there where she worked for Douglas Ribbons, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry and HHMI investigator, who became her mentor and nourished her aspiration to attend graduate school.

Upon completion of her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the UM School of Medicine, she opted to shift her focus from microbial biochemistry to learn more about the biochemistry of humans by signing on for a three-year stint as a postdoctoral fellow in the UM Division of Pulmonary Medicine. During those years, while studying pulmonary oxygen toxicity, Dr. Groseclose found that the excitement and challenge of the research environment began to yield, ever so subtly, to a desire for greater stability in the form of a steady job and a predictable (if modest) income.

Having always enjoyed teaching those eager to learn, Dr. Groseclose applied for an opening in the Department of Biochemistry at what was then known as Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in. It proved to be a hand-in-glove fit, and today, 21 years later, she continues to marvel at the good fortune of having spent a lifetime getting paid to do what she loves: research and teaching.

According to Dr. Groseclose, “Anyone who has enjoyed teaching appreciates that its obligatory other side is learning, and that sometimes the distinction disappears altogether. I have been the recipient of miraculous teachings from hundreds of former students, some of whom have become dear friends.” She also cites the company of bright and conscientious faculty colleagues as a blessing and benefit of her work at NSU.

In addition to her affection for research and teaching, Dr. Groseclose has always possessed a profound love of libraries. Beginning in the third grade when she repaired and shelved books for the school librarian, through her undergraduate years at UM working in the Acquisitions Department at Richter Library, Dr. Groseclose has spent a substantial proportion of her waking hours in or about libraries.

In fact, she briefly became the first-ever weekend librarian at UM's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, where she was hired primarily to keep the books from disappearing on weekends. Not surprisingly, that is one stint that doesn’t appear on her résumé.
Talent, Altruism on Display at Tsunami Benefit

By Joyce Varghese, MI

The flier stated, “Take a journey through the Divinity of India and let one of the most beautiful, graceful, sophisticated, and oldest dance forms—Bharata Natayam—captivate your evening,” which is exactly what the audience experienced. MI students Meena Makhijani, Gayatri Menon, and Joyce Varghese did not just captivate the audience; they carried it away in a whirlwind of ancient colors, stories, and beauty with their tsunami benefit performance at NSU’s Mailman Auditorium on February 26.

The three dancers have been studying this classical dance form since childhood and are now professional performers. The night began with MI student Amee Patel, the master of ceremonies, giving a brief description of the ancient art form. With lights off and music cued, Makhijani, Menon, and Varghese gracefully entered the stage. They began the show by performing a “Namaskaram,” which is an ancient prayer thanking the Goddess of the Stage for the art of dance and its beauty.

The night was filled with charismatic cameos as the HPD’s very own Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam sang “Mayithreem Bhajatha,” which is a Carnatic (South Indian classical) song on world unity. Anatomy professor Dr. Khin Tu’s heartwarming presentation on the tsunami caused a few tears to be shed. The girls each performed two individual solos, each different in style and narrative. Dances about Krishna—teasing gopis, battles between the gods, and a poet’s devotion to her Lord—wowed the attendees. The three dancers ended the evening the same way it began—by creating an auspicious balance illustrating life’s cyclic existence. The performance was also a huge financial success, raising over $1,300 for UNICEF’s tsunami relief effort.