

COM Outlook Spring 2014

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Nova Southeastern University
Celebrates 50th Anniversary



50



*HISTORICAL HIGHPOINTS: Reflecting on
NSU-COM's Growth, Innovation, and Ascent*



Dean's Message

By Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP dist.

Every medical school develops its own culture that is a reflection of its education process and students. Having taught at many schools, I have seen various cultures within each one. I came to NSU-COM in 1998 and embraced all of the new buildings, the growth in academic excellence, GME, research, and the opportunity to further shape this college's culture.

I took a very active role in admissions, getting involved in the selection process to develop an even greater culture of compassion, caring, and giving by students who were academically excellent and qualified to meet the threshold of a quality physician. Our process seeks students with distinctive characteristics that meet the mission first established by Dr. Morton Terry of caring about the medically underserved and answering the global challenges of health care today.

The generous, familial culture that exists at NSU-COM is reflected in the many programs that support our community, such as the REACH Fair, Doctor's Bag, Medical Explorers, holiday donation drives to help the homeless, fund-raising for breast cancer awareness, and many others. Each year, approximately 150 students participate in our international selective rotations and/or medical outreach trips, enhancing patient-centered and community-oriented care in medically underserved areas of the world.

Our COM Student Ambassadors create a welcoming and informative first look for applicants. The hours they spend—taking applicants on tours of our college, demonstrating the way students work together with Facebook groups and note-taking, as well as attending labs and lectures—provide a major link in building a support system and communicate what it means to be an osteopathic physician.

I believe this guidance and leadership promote our research, many of our programs, and the creation of a successful dual degree—D.O./D.M.D. Many students also work on their M.P.H. while pursuing their medical school degrees. That interest and success make us the school that graduates the most physicians with a concurrent M.P.H. degree.

I encourage the contact and support of our applicants with our students. I truly believe if you have a choice, you will most likely want to attend a college that has students who represent all you want to be. Our students have embraced the culture of compassion and made it their own. It is theirs to perpetuate. Individuals—faculty members and administrators—will come and go, but the student body as an entity will always be here. If that culture lives from class to class, through contact with applicants, we will continue on the successful course we have created thus far.

Our students keep me in awe with their desire to improve peoples' lives. The work they do amazes me. Many schools spend a great deal of time trying to get students involved because they are so overburdened by academics. At NSU-COM, we have the same academic responsibilities, but I often advise students to stay aware, not to do too much in our communities, so they can continue to excel in their courses.

One of the most gratifying things for me is my belief that this successful culture of compassion will continue long after my tenure as dean. This dynamic network of beliefs and practices represents one of my proudest achievements, and is now on autopilot. We find ourselves continuing in a very positive direction.

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The Nova Southeastern University that exists today, which includes a 314-acre main campus and comprises nearly 27,000 students as well as more than 162,000 alumni, is something its founders never could have conceived when it was initially chartered on December 4, 1964.



NSU-COM: Celebrating 35 Years of Achievement **23**

With all the deserved excitement surrounding NSU's 50th anniversary, it would be easy to overlook an important numerical milestone related to the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

Global Classroom: International Medical Outreach **36**

Over the past 15 years, NSU-COM has built reciprocal relationships with federal governments, health care facilities, and nongovernmental agencies abroad to facilitate global learning opportunities for its students.



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NOTICE OF ACCREDITATION

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HPD Chancellor's Communiqué...Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.



As I was reading the book entitled *The Making of Nova Southeastern University* by Julian Pleasants, which was composed to commemorate

NSU's 50th anniversary, it brought back many fond memories of what occurred approximately two decades ago when Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences decided to structure a dynamic merger of the two educational institutions.

Because of my involvement in public service over the years, I had the pleasure of knowing many of the original founders of Nova University such as Hamilton Forman, William Horvitz, Tinsley Ellis, longtime president Abraham Fischler, and others who have served the South Florida community in many ways. Because of these relationships, I was well aware of the struggles the university was encountering as well as the exciting advancements that were taking place.

From its infancy, Nova University was consistently challenging the construct of traditional education systems. It was exactly this type of progressive attitude that brought Dr. Morton Terry, the founder of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences and NSU's Health Professions Division, to view Nova University as a potential partner that shared his vision—a foresight for not following the staid and feudal standards of some of our nation's academic infrastructure. As a result, Dr. Terry made contact with key members of the Nova University Board of Trustees in 1993. Instinctively, he felt that Southeastern University of the Health Sciences and Nova University had similar chutzpah.

Although the Nova/Southeastern merger proved to be a powerhouse partnership, Dr. Terry had also engaged in preliminary talks with the University of Miami about being a potential merge partner. Interestingly, as wonderful as the University of Miami was and is—particularly its outstanding school of medicine—Dr. Terry didn't feel comfortable in that environment. Once he met with the leaders from Nova University, however, Dr. Terry was certain he'd found the perfect fit.

Ultimately, the innovative education atmosphere that was inherent within the Nova University system proved to be symbiotic with what Dr. Terry felt the presentation of health education would be in the future. He saw in Nova University that rare spark that would enable all of us to work together. I remember listening to former NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., many years ago when he stated that the merger was not a $1 + 1 = 2$ merger; it was more like $1 + 1 = 10$.

As I reflect upon that period in our history, the truly amazing feature of Dr. Terry's leadership was that he had a remarkably instinctive quality in terms of what he felt the future would look like. As a non-educator who was a very significant and qualified medical professional, he felt he needed dedicated and talented people to get us where he thought we needed to be. To that end, he and the action leaders of what became Nova Southeastern University worked together hand in glove.

I had the privilege of joining forces with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in 1986, and I watched all that we are today occur before my eyes. In all honesty, I was amazed by the way Dr. Terry always strived to make prudent decisions, especially from a financial perspective, but was also willing to take risks in the academic realm at any cost. A true forward-thinker, Dr. Terry, who passed away in 2004, always believed that invest-

ing in new programs would bring not only academic success, but financial reward.

When we officially came to the Davie campus as a merged entity in 1996, one of the construction elements of the Health Professions Division centered on the creation of the lab/library building, with nearly 20 percent of the edifice being dedicated to research. At that time, the university's primary focus was on simply providing quality education—not conducting research.

Once the NSU Health Professions Division was founded, we made a concerted effort to establish a research infrastructure by forming a research committee and an institutional review board. I also worked closely with Dr. Terry during this time to budget sums of money that were made available to faculty members for what we call seed research, which created an environment for them to seek grants and pursue various funding opportunities from either private foundations or government agencies.

The success of these efforts is evidenced by the following statistic: When we initially came to NSU's main campus, the former Southeastern University of the Health Sciences had less than \$100,000 in research funding; as of February 2014, we had an active total of about \$25.3 million in external funding. I truly feel that, along with NSU's Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research, the interprofessional components and synergistic relationships we have here at the Health Professions Division helped lead to the conceptualization of the Center for Collaborative Research (CCR), which officially broke ground on February 13.

By 2016, which is when the CCR is slated to open, NSU will be home to two major research centers that will play a major role in helping the university reach its goal of having \$300 million in externally funded research by the year 2020.

Construction Begins on NSU's Multidisciplinary Research Center

Broward County will soon have a focal point for research and discoveries that will one day impact all of humanity.

On February 13, Nova Southeastern University broke ground on its revolutionary **Center for Collaborative Research (CCR)** that will house an IBM supercomputer, one of Florida's largest wet labs, the NSU Technology Incubator, and some of the world's most accomplished researchers.

Located on NSU's main campus in Davie, the 215,000 square-foot facility will cost approximately \$80 million to construct and equip and is expected to be completed in 2016. The university is funding the CCR using a combination

of its own reserves and tax-exempt financing. The CCR will provide wet labs for many of NSU's innovative researchers, as well as a General Clinical Research Center, which is an outpatient facility with a centralized clinical research infrastructure for investigators in multiple disciplines.

"This new multidisciplinary center will provide our world-class team of researchers with the tools they need to continue to make discoveries that will impact the way we all live," said NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., of the research center that will be located near the Health Professions Division. "From developing new cancer

treatments to finding new methods for environmental sustainability, the possibilities are endless."

The new IBM supercomputer, nicknamed Megalodon, allows NSU to join an elite group of universities with this type of research-computing power. The name Megalodon was chosen as it is the biggest prehistoric shark that ever lived and the largest predatory marine creature in the history of the planet. The multimillion dollar supercomputer was donated by Centaurus Energy in Houston, Texas.

For more information about the Center for Collaborative Research, please visit www.nova.edu/research/ccr.



Pictured (from left) at the groundbreaking are Gary Margules, Sc.D., NSU vice president for research and technology transfer; Arti Patel, NSU sophomore; Al Gill, The ANF Group; Nelson Fernandez, The ANF Group; Al Fernandez, The ANF Group; Ron Assaf, NSU Board of Trustees chair; George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president; Jacqueline Trivisano, M.B.A., C.P.A., NSU executive vice president and chief operating officer; Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division; Adolfo Cotilla, ACAI Associates; Ralph Rogers, Ph.D., NSU provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; George Weaver, Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust; and Peter J. Witschen, M.P.A., NSU vice president for facilities management and public safety.

NSU-COM Virtual-World Technology Garneres Local and National Media Coverage



Dr. Echols with WPLG reporter and co-anchor Kristi Krueger.

On December 16, the Department of Medical Education was prominently featured in a news story filmed at NSU's Health Professions Division and broadcast on WPLG Local 10 regarding the college's use of **Second Life (SL) virtual-world technology**—a Web-enabled, computer-based, and simulated multimedia tool that provides students and professors an innovative way to interact, collaborate, and engage as avatars.

Because the segment proved to be extremely popular due to the intriguing subject matter, a number of national broadcast affiliates aired the segment as well. WPLG medical reporter and co-anchor Kristi Krueger willingly became part of the story when her avatar, created by the NSU-COM team, teleported on-screen during the broadcast.

Marti Echols, Ph.D., assistant dean of medical education, Elizabeth Oviawe, M.Sc., M.M.I.S., M.S.B.I., NCP, assistant director of data analysis, development, and simulation in medical education, and OMS-II Trevine Albert were showcased in the story, which allowed them to describe and demonstrate the Second Life technology utilized at the NSU-COM Virtual Clinic. A faculty member from the Department of Occupational Therapy at NSU's College of Health Care Sciences was also featured on a related topic.

The educational project, which incorporates human-controlled avatars, offers interaction in virtual-land regions where the avatars act the same as their human counterparts in other social networks. In Second Life, medical residents are free to do whatever

they want; however, when used for educational purposes, interaction must be structured with well-defined goals and objectives.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine's Virtual Clinic reinforces the clinical-skills experience of medical students during the Patient-Centered Medicine course. Clinical scenarios assess the ability of second-year medical students to ask correct, open-ended questions during a virtual encounter with patients in the SL virtual world. Student doctors create their avatars and then fly in-world for a virtual patient encounter.

The virtual Art Observation Center, the second educational component in virtual world, involves art from the NSU Museum of Art / Fort Lauderdale that is used for a Web module called "Art, Medicine, and Observation." The goal of the virtual art gallery is to provide third- and fourth-year medical students with conditions the students can diagnose by relating those conditions to what they have learned from the art observation session. The virtual art center platform allows students to practice their clinical skills immediately by teleporting to the virtual clinic for patient encounters at any time, and from anyplace.

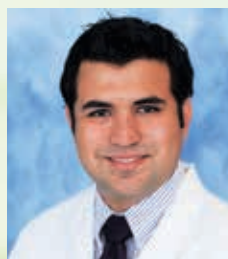
New...Noteworthy



On February 8, the college's **Student Advocate Association** hosted a special project at NSU's

annual CommunityFest, offering a unique idea that highlighted the careers of the Health Professions Division (HPD). Each profession created a booth with a game or activity that allowed HPD students and other CommunityFest participants to engage in an

interactive learning experience that focused on the variety of choices available to the patient health care team. Not surprisingly, the participating students enjoyed the opportunity to work together and promote interprofessional awareness.



OMS-IV Steven Nuanes appeared on a weekly medical talk show called *Radio Rounds* in November, where he discussed examples from his own training to illustrate the unique

advantages and challenges associated with osteopathic medical training and explained how osteopathic physicians go back to the basics in order to provide the best possible care for their patients.



In January, the **Florida Bariatric Centers at Largo Medical Center**

performed the first minimally invasive robotic adjustable gastric band weight-loss surgery in Florida. The surgery follows

Students Flex Legislative Skills During D.O. Day on Capitol Hill



On March 6, the American Osteopathic Association held its annual **D.O. Day on Capitol Hill**, where students from the various U.S. osteopathic medical schools met with their representatives and senators to discuss important issues facing students, physicians, and patients today. This year, 15 NSU-COM students attended and represented the college along with Dr. Silvagni and faculty member Oneka B. Marriott, D.O., M.P.H., FAAP, FACOP.

Following D.O. Day on Capitol Hill, several students remained in D.C. to attend the Spring Student Osteopathic Medical Association Convention. During the event, the NSU-COM SOMA chapter received the Region II Award for “Excellence in Promoting Osteopathic Medicine.” In related convention news, OMS-II Meshva Patel was selected to serve on the SOMA National Board as its public relations director.

Pictured (from left) at D.O. Day on Capitol Hill are Jorge D. Luna, D.O., FACOFP (FOMA president), OMS-II Vivek Rajasekhar, OMS-II Jasmine Nebbrajani, OMS-II Ricky Patel, OMS-II Kevin Schoen, OMS-II Zophia Martinez, OMS-II Garima Kalra, OMS-II Justin Nippert, OMS-I Catalina Rodriguez, OMS-III Carisa Champion-Lippmann,

a performance in late 2013 of the area’s first robotic sleeve procedure at Largo—a member of NSU-COM’s Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.



OMS-III Carisa Champion-Lippmann received a significant honor when she was named a Guardian of the Profession by the American Osteopathic Association—an accolade normally reserved for physicians, not students. The honor recognizes an osteopathic physician who

advances the culture of osteopathic medicine by having served in a local, state, or national osteopathic leadership role. A guardian also demonstrates a strong sense of pride in the osteopathic medical profession and works actively to advance osteopathic medicine with colleagues and the general public.

On February 19, **Norman E. Vinn, D.O., M.B.A., FACOFP**, the 117th president of the American Osteopathic Association, visited NSU-COM to interact with students and faculty members. Dr. Vinn’s discussion focused on the development of a culture that creates a positive and memorable D.O. identity that will enhance the image of the profession.



Pictured (from left) are Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP dist., NSU-COM dean, Marsha Vinn, B.A., Dr. Norman Vinn, Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs and HPD executive associate dean for professional affairs, and Delfina Wilson, Ph.D., director of student services.

Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, OMS-II Trevine Albert, Dr. Oneka B. Marriott, OMS-II Jonathan Chapekis, OMS-IV Ashley Gutrie, OMS-I Natalie Voorn, and OMS-II Meshva Patel. (Not pictured: OMS-IV Mark Liwanag)

Student Group Focuses on Emergency Response Training

On February 8, NSU-COM students who recently established a **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** participated in NSU’s 11th Annual CommunityFest, educating the public about basic disaster response. A CERT offers critical support to first responders by assisting in emergency situations, providing immediate assistance to victims, conducting field triage at a disaster site, and collecting important information for rescue personnel.

The teams offer a great way to get involved in the community, acquire basic lifesaving skills, and learn how



to respond to emergencies and disasters. CERT training is open to all NSU students as well as faculty and staff members.

The training course is taught by local firefight-

ers and paramedics and is administered by the Davie Fire Department. In March, NSU’s first group of CERT members completed the training program. Participants described the training as fun, useful, and practical.

OMS-I Omeed Sizar, founder and president of the NSU CERT club, has been working closely with the Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness and hopes to make the organization a campus-wide group that will collaborate with the university’s Office of Public Safety.

AHEC Program Hosts Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship Seminar



The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, in concert with the Office of the Dean, organized and hosted the **2014 Weekend Seminar on Vulnerable Populations**. The seminar, which was held in late January, is part of the Health Policy Fellowship Program—a collaboration between New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Eleven fellows from throughout the country who are part of this year's fellowship program benefited from the seminar, which included a series of presentations focusing on immigrants, refugees, and migrant farmworkers as well as special-needs populations such as the elderly, the homeless, and the mentally ill.

Individuals who actively contributed to the success of the weekend program included Dr. Steven Zucker, Dr. Rosebud Foster, Gustavo Saldias, Dr. James T. Howell, Dr. Elliot M. Sklar, Dr. Deborah A. Mulligan, and Dr. Dennis Penzell.

Content experts who also participated in the seminar included faculty members from the NSU Center for Psychological Studies and the schools of medicine at the University of Miami, Florida International University, and the University of Nebraska. According to Nancy Cooper, fellowship coordinator, "We enjoy having the opportunity to visit Florida to meet so many creative people and to hear about many innovative programs. I hope that future fellows will have the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of NSU faculty and staff members and to enjoy the hospitality of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine."

Pictured (back row) are Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, Dr. Robin Richardson, Dr. David C. Levine, Dr. Brian Marshall, Dr. Cynthia Kelley, Dr. Jeanne Rupert, Dr. Monte Mitchell, Dr. Steven Zucker, Nancy Cooper, and Gustavo Saldias. Pictured (front row) are Dr. Lauren Donatelli-Seyler, Dr. Oneka B. Marriott, Dr. Donna M. Emanuele, Dr. Maria Maratta Plummer, and Dr. Pamela Grimaldi.

Biomedical Informatics' Students, Alumni Among First to Attain National Board Certification



Three NSU-COM Biomedical Informatics Program students and alumni are among the first group of physicians in the nation to become board certified in clinical informatics. The inaugural clinical informatics subspecialty board exams administered by the American Board of Preventive Medicine were held in October 2013.

Jacques Orces, D.O. ('96, *top left*), who passed the clinical informatics board exam in December, is currently a student in the Biomedical Informatics Program and serves as the chief medical informatics officer and a pediatrician at Miami Children's Hospital. **Danielle Oryn, D.O., M.P.H.** ('02, *middle photo*), chief medical informatics officer at Petaluma Health Center in California, received a graduate certificate in medical informatics. **James Seltzer, D.O., M.S.B.I.**, clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology (*bottom photo*), is a 2011 M.S.B.I. graduate.



Of the 432 physicians who passed the board exam, only 12 were osteopathic physicians. The newly established subspecialty in medicine has been in the works since 2005, when the American Medical Informatics Association recognized the growing demand for physicians with formal training in this rapidly advancing field.



Physicians who practice clinical informatics use their knowledge of patient care combined with their understanding of informatics concepts, methods, and tools in order to analyze, design, implement, and evaluate information and communication systems that promote safer, more efficient, increasingly effective, patient-centered, and equitable care.



Article written by
OMS-II Chirag Patel

REACH Fair Provides Personal and Professional Enrichment

For the past 14 years, the winter semester at NSU has marked the annual American Medical School Association/ Area Health Education Centers Program (AMSA/AHEC) Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health and the Annual Glades REACH Fair.

The REACH Fair, which takes place in the rural and medically underserved cities of Clewiston and Belle Glade, is an interdisciplinary endeavor that provides multiple medical services and gives students the opportunity to practice skills they have learned under the guidance of licensed health care providers. Each year, NSU faculty members and student volunteers from various NSU Health Professions Division colleges participate in the REACH fair, providing distinctive sets of valuable services.

A team of dedicated volunteers from the local offices of the Florida Department of Health raises money to market

the fair throughout the community to ensure that everyone in need of health care is aware of the free opportunity. The REACH Fair, which provides health care as well as education on healthy living and lifestyle choices, also is a great opportunity for students to get firsthand experience practicing rural medicine. The experience is an eye opener for many medical students who go on rotations in their third and fourth years.

Interdisciplinary teams of students, under the supervision of HPD faculty members, offer services that include glucose and cholesterol checks, physical therapy, occupational therapy, bone-density scans, brown-bag education, vision and hearing screenings, and teen health education. The fair's most important focus is getting

the community to participate and connect the attendees with a physician they can trust and schedule follow-up appointments. Many attendees have never been to a physician for a regular checkup, while others only come once a year during the REACH Fair. Attending the fair is important, especially if a potentially life-threatening pathology is discovered when a person seeks care.

As the student coordinator who has volunteered at this event for the last two years, I know the REACH Fair impacts hundreds of lives each year. Most students in the health care profession talk about doing medical outreach trips to countries with underserved populations. The REACH Fair provides the opportunity to do exactly that in our own backyard and make an impact right here in South Florida. Months of hard work by members of my student committee, by NSU-COM faculty members Debra Steinkohl and Dr. James Howell, the Department of Health, and many others helped to organize the REACH Fair. Just one genuine smile of satisfaction from a REACH Fair attendee makes me want to do it all over again.

Employee Longevity Recognized at Celebration Luncheon

On December 19, the college coordinated an employee recognition luncheon to honor those individuals who celebrated significant employee milestones in 2013.

25 Years: Dr. Cyril Blavo

20 Years: Reimar Rodriguez and Dr. Mark Sandhouse

15 Years: Dr. Barbara Arcos, Annette Clarke, Dr. Jennie Q. Lou, Kevin Nugent, Johneta Goodwin, and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni

10 Years: Donna Chase, Mirlyn Hurry, Dr. Naushira Pandya, and Dr. David Thomas

5 Years: Andrea Adelusi, Dr. Anjali Bhasin, Ewart Blake, Marie Darbouze, Willfel Escarment, Yasmin Frank, Sona Hromulak, Dr. Robin Jacobs, Maxcine McCalla, Christine Nelson, Stephanie Perez, Denise Raof, Erica Richardson, Tanisa Roberson, Nancy Roussel, Irina Rozenfeld, Ambreen Soomro, and Dr. Paula Waziry



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:

GME Accreditation Standardization Agreement Achieved

In late February, an agreement was hammered out by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) to establish a single accreditation system for U.S. graduate medical education programs.

The unified accreditation system will allow graduates of allopathic and osteopathic medical schools to complete their residency and/or fellowship education in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common milestones and competencies. Currently, the ACGME and AOA maintain separate accreditation systems for allopathic and osteopathic educational programs.

Starting in July 2015, AOA-accredited programs will undergo transition to ACGME accreditation. By July 2020, all programs must be ACGME accredited. Significantly, the ACGME will recognize and codify within its system a structure that recognizes osteopathic principles and practices, including neuromusculoskeletal training, which is at the core of the osteopathic profession. The unique characteristics of osteopathic medicine will be preserved, and both the AOA and AACOM will have full board representation with the ACGME.

Under the single accreditation system, the protocol will be as follows:

The AOA and AACOM will become ACGME member organizations and will nominate members to the ACGME Board of Directors.

TWO NEW osteopathic review committees will be created to evaluate and set standards for the osteopathic aspects of training programs seeking osteopathic recognition.

The timeframe stretching from **JULY 1, 2015, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020**, is an extended transition period for AOA-accredited training programs to apply and receive ACGME recognition and accreditation.



OPPORTUNITY is created for M.D. and D.O. graduates who have met the prerequisite competencies to access any training program or transfer from one accredited program to another without being required to repeat training.

EFFICIENCIES are realized since there is no need for institutions to sponsor *dually accredited* or *parallel-accredited* allopathic and osteopathic medical residency programs.

The single accreditation system will ensure that the evaluation and accountability for the competency of physician residents is consistent across GME programs, helping to ensure the quality and efficiency of postdoctoral education, while preserving the unique dimensions of the osteopathic profession and recognizing its contribution to health care in the United States.

A Look at GME in Florida

In the February issue of the Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability *OP-PAGA Report*, an article entitled "Florida's Graduate Medical Education System" summarized the current state of graduate medical education (GME) in Florida.

According to the report, there are 53 accredited GME institutions in Florida, with 44 of them currently administering 407 residency programs for 5,157 approved positions. The remaining 9 institutions have recently received accreditation but are not yet training residents.

Of the 407 residency programs, 24 percent are primary care specialties, 25 percent are non-primary care specialties, and 51 percent are subspecialties. Approximately 54 percent of Florida's GME positions are primary care positions, while about 11 percent of residency positions were unfilled in academic year 2013-14. Institutions reported that residents who graduated from non-Florida medical schools comprised 73 percent of filled GME positions during academic year 2013-14.

In terms of graduates from Florida's medical schools from 2000 through 2013 who matched to a Florida residency program, 74 percent have an active Florida medical license and are practicing medicine in Florida.

NSU-COM Earns Accolades at FOMA Convention

During the 111th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention, held February 20-23 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, a number of NSU-COM-affiliated individuals were honored with awards for their various achievements, including Dr. Matthew Duke, Ajaypal Gill, Erin McClary, Taylor Schaubsluger Nick Scoglio, Dr. Janet Hamstra, and Dr. Howard Neer.

Ajaypal Gill Wins FOMA Student Award



OMS-II Ajaypal Gill received a FOMA Student Award and a \$500 cash prize. The FOMA Student Awards are based on criteria such as possessing leadership skills, supporting FOMA student district society initiatives, and showcasing significant

interest in the osteopathic profession and osteopathic manipulative medicine. *Pictured are Ajaypal Gill and Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP dist., FOMA president.*

Florida Hospital East Coast Scholarships



Two third-year students who completed a core rotation at Florida Hospital East Orlando—Erin McClary and Nick Scoglio—each received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Osteopathic Foundation of East Orlando for demonstrating excel-

lence in leadership and academics. 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.

Dr. Matthew Duke Garners Oliva Scholarship



Matthew L. Duke, D.O., a 2010 alumnus, received a \$1,000 FOMA Marcelino Oliva, Jr., D.O., Student Scholarship

Award, which honors students and graduates who advance and promote the practices and principles of osteopathic medicine, showcase dedication to continuing Dr. Oliva's vision, and epitomize the qualities of commitment, passion, and involvement in the political and legislative process. *Pictured (from left) are Jeffrey Grove, D.O., FACOFP, Dr. Duke, and Dr. James.*

Dr. Janet Hamstra Nabs FOMA Presidential Achievement Award



Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., associate professor of internal medicine and director of preclinical education, was the recipient of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association's (FOMA) Presidential Achievement Award in recognition and appreciation

for her dedication, expertise, and support in coordinating the annual FOMA Poster Competition. *Pictured are Dr. Hamstra and Dr. James.*

Taylor Schaubsluger Scores AFOMA Scholarship



In another show of NSU-COM strength, OMS-I Taylor Schaubsluger was named the winner of a \$500 AFOMA Believes in You Scholarship Award, which is presented by the Advocates of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (AFOMA). The award is partly based on a student's interest in osteopathic medicine, activities in the profession, and leadership abilities.

Dr. Howard Neer Honored with Morton Morris Award



Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs and HPD executive associate dean for professional affairs, was awarded the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine's Morton Morris Award. The award is given annually to a citizen of Florida who exemplifies the public

protection of all Florida residents. Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, served as executive dean for professional affairs at NSU's Health Professions Division prior to his death in May 2008. *Pictured are Marie Morris and Dr. Neer.*



HEALTH CARE LEGAL EAGLE

HIPAA Privacy 101: The Basics

By Fred Segal, Esq.



It is likely common knowledge among medical students that patients have certain legal rights to the privacy of their medical information. These rights are afforded to patients through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, colloquially known as HIPAA. The act's Privacy Rule is the part of the law that governs the disclosure of certain types of health information. This column will provide a brief summary of the Privacy Rule and some of its important provisions.

Fred Segal is a health law attorney in the Miami office of the law firm Broad and Cassel and is a graduate of NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center.

The Privacy Rule's general purpose is to safeguard protected health information (PHI) from improper disclosure by covered entities, which includes physicians and other types of providers. PHI, under the Privacy Rule, is individually identifiable health information relating to a patient's past, present, or future condition. Except as otherwise permitted by law, or authorized in writing by the patient, a covered entity is prohibited from using or disclosing PHI, except as for treatment, payment, or operational purposes.

Sometimes a covered entity uses vendors and other consultants, including attorneys, to assist in performing a function that involves a permissible use of PHI. The Privacy Rule defines these vendors and consultants as business associates of the covered entity. However, before a covered entity provides a business associate with PHI, HIPAA requires that the covered entity and the business associate enter into a business associate agreement where the business associate agrees to comply with all necessary HIPAA privacy and security rules.

Not every impermissible disclosure of PHI is punishable by the government. A covered entity may only face penalties if an impermissible disclosure rises to a level of a breach. A breach only occurs when an impermissible disclosure results in a significant risk of harm to the patient whose PHI was disclosed. The determination of whether a disclosure equates to a significant risk of harm is subjective and involves weighing factors such as whether the disclosure puts the patient at risk of financial or reputational harm.

If a breach occurs, a covered entity must notify the individuals whose privacy was breached in a manner provided in the Privacy Rule. The notification requirements vary based on how many patients' PHI was breached by the covered entity. The notification, among other

things, must describe steps the covered entity will take to prevent future breaches.

A covered entity could be subject to significant monetary penalties upon a breach of the Privacy Rule. However, there are no private causes of action under HIPAA. This means no patient can bring a lawsuit against a covered entity directly for damages suffered as a result of a breach of the Privacy Rule. All penalties are levied by the government at its discretion. Depending on the magnitude of the breach, penalties can range from \$100 to \$50,000 per violation and up to \$1.5 million for identical violations occurring during the calendar year.

All medical students and residents will, at some point in the near future, receive significant training regarding all of the dos and don'ts regarding the disclosure of patient information. This article is meant to be a simple primer of a law that is far more wide ranging. The moral of the story is this: If you aren't sure, then don't disclose patient information to anyone unless you have consulted with someone that confirms it is permissible under the Privacy Rule.



Research/Scholarly Activity - Faculty and Student Achievements



OMS-II's Sergey Arutyunyan and Michael Carranza

were selected to participate in the College of Osteopathic Medicine's 2014-15 Predoctoral Research Fellowship Program. During their fellowship year, which will commence on July 1, Arutyunyan and Carranza will have the opportunity to develop an individualized training program, engage in all aspects



of the research process, and collaborate with others involved in the exciting research field.



OMS-II Naveen Dhanwan, M.B.A., authored an article entitled "Putting Patients First: A

Novel Patient-Centered Model for Medical Enterprise Success" that will be published in the May/June issue of the *Journal of Medical Practice Management*.



Stephen G. Grant, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Master of Public Health Program who

also works with the college's Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, co-edited the second edition of *Molecular Toxicology Protocols*. The book, published in March, adds chapters on genomic methods. He also was selected to serve as a grant reviewer in November for the U.S. Army's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for the Preclinical Breast Cancer Research Breakthrough Award. In addition, Dr. Grant

was invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the journal *Toxicology in Vitro* and also serves as an editorial board member of the publication. He also authored a paper published in the *McMaster Online Review of Evidence*.



Elizabeth Hames, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, coauthored a poster

entitled "Analysis of Hospitalizations in a High-Acuity Nursing Home Population: A Quality Improvement Project" with **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, FACP**, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, and **Kenya Rivas, M.D.**, assistant professor of geriatrics, that was presented at the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) annual meeting held February 28-March 1 in Nashville, Tennessee. She also presented a lecture entitled "Chronic Kidney Disease in the Elderly: Current Trends in Geriatrics" with Dr. Rivas and **Hady Masri, D.O.**, assistant professor of geriatrics, at the AMDA meeting. In addition, Dr. Hames, Dr. Pandya, **Sweta Tewary, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, clinical assistant professor and evidence-based practice project director, and others were awarded a \$5,000 HPD Research Grant in February for their project proposal entitled "Defining Socially and Medically Vulnerable Populations of Older Adults Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS): An Interprofessional Analysis in Southeastern Florida."

Jay M. Fleisher, Ph.D., M.S., associate professor of public health, was notified by Scopus that his body of research has been cited 1,037 times in 758



journals. Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, featuring smart tools to track, analyze, and visualize research. The organization has developed its new and growing metric to measure the quality of one's research.



Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W., associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral

medicine, preventive medicine, biomedical informatics, and public health and director of international medicine, and **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, coauthored two articles entitled "Negative and Positive Beliefs About Mood and Health" in the January edition of the *American Journal of Health Behavior* and "Quality of Life, Health Status, and Health Service Utilization Related to a New Measure of Health Literacy FLIGHT/VIDAS" in *Patient Education and Counseling*. The duo presented a lecture entitled "Factors Associated with Health Literacy in Persons Aging with HIV/AIDS" at the Gerontological Society of America's 66th Annual Scientific Meeting held November 22 in New Orleans, Louisiana. They also presented on "The Abilities, Skills, and Knowledge (ASK) Model Predicts FLIGHT Health Literacy and Numeracy Performance in Spanish and English Speakers" at the Fifth Annual Health Literacy Research Conference held October 28-29 in Bethesda, Maryland.



OMS-II David Kim coauthored a manuscript entitled "Expression Profiling Strati-

fies Mesothelioma Tumors and Signifies Deregulation of Spindle Checkpoint Pathway and Microtubule Network with Therapeutic Implications" that has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the *Annals of Oncology*.



Lynn Lafferty, Pharm.D., M.B.A., N.D., CNC, CNHP, assistant professor of family

medicine, presented a lecture at the International Myeloma Foundation's Boca Raton Support Group for patients with multiple myeloma on February 3. The presentation focused on the primary chemotherapy drugs used in treating multiple myeloma, a question-and-answer session about herbal and vitamin supplements, and meditation techniques.



OMS-III Andrea Palestro coauthored a case report entitled "Management of Incarcerating

Pincer-Type Femoroacetabular Impingement with Hip Arthroscopy" that was published on February 19 in the online version of *Arthroscopy Techniques*.



Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, FACP, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, presented two lectures

entitled "Aging in America" and

“Weight Loss in the Elderly” for the Palm Beach County Health Department Preventive Medicine Residency in West Palm Beach, Florida, on December 19. She also presented “Thyroid and Parathyroid Disease,” “Dementia: Another Complication of Diabetes,” and “The AMDA Choosing Wisely” at the American Medical Directors Association annual meeting held February 28-March 1 in Nashville, Tennessee. Additionally, Dr. Pandya coauthored two papers, one with **Elizabeth Hames, D.O.**, assistant professor of geriatrics, entitled “Effects of Intrathecal Opioid Administration on Pituitary Function” that was published in the November 2013 issue of *Pain Medicine* and “The Burden of Sliding Scale Insulin,” which was published in the November 2013 issue of the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.



OMS-I Kristi Ray and a University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Medicine

first-year student won the Conference Choice award at UCF’s Third Annual Global Health Conference held February 1 in Orlando. Their award-winning research project entitled “How Does Your Garden Grow? An Interdisciplinary Study of Sustainable Agriculture Techniques in Developing Countries” combines environmental awareness with public health initiatives. The project, already successfully implemented in St. Kitts and Costa Rica, will be introduced in Bali, Indonesia, this summer.

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., RD, assistant dean for education, planning, and research and professor of public health,



family medicine, and disaster and emergency preparedness, presented two papers at

the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education’s 40th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference held February 27-March 2 in Denver, Colorado. The titles of her two papers were “Long-Term Care Medicine: A Comparison Between European Union Countries and the United States” and “Implementing a 160-Hour Interprofessional Faculty Development Program in Geriatric Education and Practice.” The second paper was presented in collaboration with **Stacey Pinnock, M.S.W.**, interprofessional education coordinator for the college’s Geriatric Education Center and the Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice. Dr. Rokusek also presented a one-hour CME program entitled “Childhood Obesity: From Mouth to Gut” to the Palm Beach Pediatric Society in West Palm Beach on January 16.



Janet Roseman, Ph.D., R-DMT, assistant professor of medical education, completed

a video presentation entitled “Honoring the Medicine: Searching for the Embodiment of Spiritual Commitment and Philosophy for Student Physicians” slated for presentation and publication at the International Conference on New Horizons in Education to be held June 25-27 in Paris, France. She also coauthored “A Qualitative Study of Physicians’ Views on Compassionate Patient Care

and Spirituality: Can Medicine Be a Spiritual Practice?” and the poster “Factors Impacting Family Physicians’ Skills in Addressing Patient’s Spiritual Needs: A 10-Year Qualitative Follow-Up Study” that was accepted for presentation at the 47th Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Conference to be held May 3-7 in San Antonio, Texas. She also had her coauthored article entitled “A Qualitative Study of Physicians’ Views on Compassionate Patient Care and Spirituality: Medicine as a Spiritual Practice?” published in the February edition of the *Rhode Island Journal of Family Medicine*. In similar news, Dr. Roseman’s article entitled “Honoring the Medicine: Searching for the Embodiment of Spiritual Commitment and Philosophy for Student Physicians” was published in the spring issue of *Advances in Mind-Body Medicine*. In funding news, Dr. Roseman received a \$5,000 grant from the Gold Foundation for her project entitled The Sidney Project in Spirituality and Medicine and Compassionate Care™, which is an educational program for residents at NSU-COM’s affiliated sites to expand the areas of education in compassionate medicine and to create a strong awareness of the emotional, physical, and spiritual dimensions of both patients and physicians.



Mark Sandhouse, D.O., M.S., associate professor and chair of the Department of

Osteopathic Principles and Practice, received his Master of Science in Leadership degree from NSU’s Abraham S. Fischler School of Education in December 2013.



Sweta Tewary, Ph.D., M.S.W., clinical assistant professor and evidence-

based practice project director, presented a lecture entitled “Maximizing Data Management Systems to Capture Educational Program Performance: Three Models of Qualitative and Quantitative Data” at the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America’s held November 20-24 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She also coauthored an award-winning poster with **Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A.**, assistant professor of public health, and **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, FACP**, entitled “Diabetes Foot Education Program for Health Care Professionals in Geriatric Care: Results from an Interprofessional Evidence-Based Training in Nursing Homes” that was presented at the Florida Medical Directors Association’s 22nd Annual Conference held October 17-21 in Orlando Florida. Dr. Tewary presented a second poster in Orlando entitled “Educating Caregivers to Help Improve Sleep among Persons with Dementia” with Dr. Cook, **Linda Maurice, M.A.**, director of the Lifelong Learning Institute, and **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**



OMS-IV Erica Turse and **OMS-II David Frankel** co-

authored and presented a clinical vignette poster entitled “Diagnosing Painless Hematuria—a Tricky Case in a 50-Year-Old Female” at the Florida Chapter American College of Physicians 2014 Residents and Medical Students Meeting on March 1 in Orlando.

GREAT GEC Hosts Seventh Annual Training Institute



On February 7-8, the Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) hosted its Seventh Annual Training Institute. This year's theme—*Socio-Medical Issues in Aging*—focused on the challenges faced by an interprofessional geriatric workforce to meet the growing social and medical needs of a new population majority in

the United States and worldwide.

In 2017, for the first time in human history, the population aged 65 and older will outnumber the population 5 years and younger. This year's training institute was highlighted by speakers from around the United States, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. The college's dean, Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP *dist.*, opened the training institute, emphasizing the urgent need for interprofessional geriatrics research to meet the grow-

ing demands resulting from increased longevity and a long-term projection of increasing numbers of people over 65 years of age worldwide.

Approximately 135 geriatric professionals and students participated in the 2014 event, where highlights included presentations on mental illness and ethical considerations, public health and successful aging, conscious aging in the LGBT community, one-day surgeries for patients with dementia, and compulsive hoarding.

"This year's training institute was by far the largest and best one yet. The interprofessional format and outstanding topics provided all participants with an opportunity to interact, discuss, and even plan for the future," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., RD, GREAT GEC executive director. "The training institute also provided our GEC students with a rich opportunity to hear from experts in geriatrics and to actively participate in an interprofessional environment. Our challenge for the future as we grow our training institute will be to have a larger venue and to increase even more our student and faculty participation. We are encouraging our GEC students to be actively involved in geriatric research and to think seriously about a career in geriatrics because the future is wide open to all who go into the field."

To learn more about the 2014 training institute, please visit www.nova.edu/gec/igs13/index.html.



NSU-COM Wins Big at FOMA Poster Competition



Pictured (from left) are OMS-III Tania Espinal, OMS-III Elyse Julian, OMS-III Andrea Palestro, Anthony Abraham, D.O. (PGY-III), and Jack Groh, D.O. (PGY-III).

During the 111th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention, which was held February 20-23 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, Florida, NSU-COM and its affiliated postgraduate programs nabbed all six of the research prizes up for grabs at the association's Fourth Annual Student/Intern/Resident/Fellow Research Poster Competition. Additionally, 48 of the 56 poster entries were from NSU-COM students or Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education/OPTI residents.

Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., associate professor of internal medicine and director of preclinical education, served as the competition's head judge. Four other NSU-COM faculty members also judged the event along with four representatives from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine-Bradenton. The NSU-COM judges were Drs. Cyril Blavo, Anjali Bhasin, Victor Jaffe, and Dennis Penzell. Dr. Hilda De Gaetano stepped in to judge in Dr. Blavo's place for the afternoon judging.

Entrants submitted abstracts, produced posters, and made poster presentations—all of which were included in the judging process. Prizes were awarded in two categories:

Osteopathic Intern/Resident/Fellow Case Study and Experimental Research

Osteopathic Medical Student Case Study and Experimental Research

Six winners were selected, with first-, second-, and third-place winners receiving \$750, \$250, and \$100, respectively. Featured in the box to the right are the NSU-COM-affiliated poster winners in their respective categories. First authors/presenters are listed in **bold**.

Resident Research

First Place

"Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy in Situs Inversus Totalis with Post-ERCP Pancreatitis and Larkin Syndrome: A Novel Diagnosis"

Anthony Abraham, D.O. (PGY-III)

Philip Pack III, D.O. (PGY-III)

Joshua Simon, D.O. (PGY-II)

Quoc Dang, D.O. (PGY-II)

Scott Moradian, D.O. (PGY-I)

Hector Lalama, M.D.

Mohammad Masri, M.D.

(Larkin Community Hospital General Surgery Residency)

Second Place

"A Young Female Patient with History of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Presents with a Rare Clinical Transvers Myelitis Presentation"

Nazeem Alexa Jahdi, D.O. (PGY-V)

(Larkin Community Hospital Rheumatology Fellow)

Third Place

"A Unique Case of Shoulder Pain in the Emergency Department"

Jack Groh, D.O. (PGY-II)

(St. Lucie Medical Center Emergency Medicine Resident)

Student Research

First Place

"Treating Schizophrenia in Pregnancy"

OMS-III Elyse Julian

OMS-III Tania Espinal

Shlomo Pascal, M.D.

Second Place

"A Case of a Marvelous Mass: An Ossifying Fibroma"

OMS-III Andrea Palestro

Matthew Uhde, D.O. (PGY-1)

Wayne Cai, Ph.D., M.D.

Third Place

"A Unique Case of Persistent HCG"

OMS-III Tania Espinal

OMS-III Elyse Julian

Faculty Focus - Activities, Achievements, and Awards

Sultan Salahuddin Ahmed, M.D., clinical associate professor of family medicine, was recently appointed to the Florida chapter of the Bangladesh Medical Association of North America Board of Trustees.



Cheryl Atherley-Todd, M.D., CMD, assistant professor of

family medicine and geriatrics, has been sanctioned by the American Medical Directors Certification Program as a certified medical director (CMD) in long-term care. The CMD certification requires indicators of competence in clinical medicine and medical management in long-term care. The selection process is based on an experiential model that incorporates existing mechanisms such as fellowship programs, board certification, and continuing medical education.



Daniel Hatton, Ph.D., M.S., adjunct associate professor of

biomedical informatics, was elected president of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Military Officers Association of America this past January in San Diego, California. The chapter is one of the largest in the United States, with 475 active members, plus auxiliary and associate members, including members on active duty serving around the globe. The focus is on service, particularly to junior enlisted members, their families, and their units in harm's way, wherever they

may be. Dr. Hatton has taught for the Biomedical Informatics Program since 2008 and was the recipient of the 2012 Golden Apple Award.



James T. Howell, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean of professional

relations, chair of the Department of Rural and Underserved Urban Medicine, and professor of public health, participated in the celebration of 125 years of public health in Florida that took place on February 20 at the Florida Department of Health headquarters in Tallahassee. During the event, Dr. Howell was recognized as the founding secretary of the newly reestablished Florida Department of Health in 1996 and as having served three times as Florida's state health officer.



Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor and chair of the

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was appointed to the NSU-COM Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education Board of Directors.



Nancy Klimas, M.D., director of the college's Institute for Neuro-

Immune Medicine, was prominently featured with several of her colleagues in an in-depth January 2 segment of the Al

Jazeera network's *America Tonight* program concerning chronic fatigue syndrome. Dr. Klimas was also featured in the January 7 edition of *USA Today* in an article highlighting her visit to Washington, D.C., to speak to the Veterans Administration Research Advisory Committee. In addition, she received the 2014 Perpich Award from the International Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (IACFS/ME) for distinguished community service. She was honored at the 11th IACFS/ME Biennial International Research and Clinical Conference held March 20-23 in San Francisco, California. The award is named for the late Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich, who as an IACFS/ME board member worked hard to influence his fellow politicians to recognize CFS/ME and to fund research to help treat and find a cure for the disease. The accolade is presented to a distinguished scientist, physician, or health care worker every two years at the IACFS/ME conferences.



Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., professor of biomedical informatics, public

health, and internal medicine and director of the Biomedical Informatics Program, was interviewed for a cover story entitled "Educating Tomorrow's Informaticists" for the February edition of *Clinical Innovation+ Technology* magazine.

Linda Maurice, M.A., director of the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), was quoted in the *Sun Sentinel* on January 17 in a front-page story about the



importance of lifelong learning educational programs. Since

2007, the LLI has almost doubled in size, growing from about 110 members to more than 210 in 2014.



Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., professor and chair of the De-

partment of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, was quoted in a front-page story in the *Sun Sentinel* on January 17. The article discussed changes to the federal Medicare program that would remove prescription antidepressants from the protected list of drugs vital to seniors' health.



Norman Rose, D.O., FACOS, FICS, clinical professor of surgery

and academic director of the Larkin Community Hospital General Surgery Residency Program, was named a Guardian of the Profession by the American Osteopathic Association. The honor recognizes an osteopathic physician who advances the culture of osteopathic medicine by having served in a local, state, or national osteopathic leadership role. A guardian also demonstrates a strong sense of pride in the osteopathic medical profession and works actively to promote and advance it.

AOA Honors NSU-COM Faculty Members as Unsung Heroes and Guardians of the Profession



In 2013, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) created two new classifications to honor osteopathic physicians who are serving the profession with distinction: Guardians of the Profession and Unsung Heroes.

A *Guardian of the Profession* is an osteopathic physician who advances the culture of osteopathic medicine by having served in a local, state, or national osteopathic leadership role. A guardian also demonstrates a strong sense of pride in the osteopathic medical profession and works actively to advance osteopathic medicine with colleagues and the general public.

An *Unsung Hero* is an osteopathic physician who has enhanced the image of osteopathic medicine by living each day as an example of what an osteopathic physician should be. Serving as an outstanding physician and role model, unsung heroes enhance the profession, create opportunities for current and future D.O.s, and instill pride in being a D.O. and a member of the AOA.

A number of NSU-COM faculty members were recognized, with some earning placement in both categories.

Guardians of the Profession: *OMS-III Carisa Champion-Lippmann, Dr. Joseph De Gaetano, Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Dr. Howard Neer, Dr. Edward Packer, and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.

Unsung Heroes: Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts, Dr. Cyril Blavo, Dr. David Boesler, Dr. Joseph De Gaetano, Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Dr. Doris Newman, Dr. Edward Packer, Dr. Mark Sandhouse, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Dr. Elaine Wallace.

**Only a dozen or so dedicated and esteemed students nationwide were accorded this special honor.*



Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., executive associate dean, was featured on the cover of the inaugural edition of *Leaders Across America*. The magazine profiled Dr. Wallace as an innovator of medical techniques.

On March 10, NSU-COM faculty and staff members gathered to say goodbye to **Yennifer Kusienski**, who served as an assistant to Johneta Goodwin, the college's director of administrative operations, since 2007. Kusienski's future endeavors will include doing consulting work on NSU-COM's Digital Measures Faculty Portfolio project. *Pictured (from left) are Johneta Goodwin, Yennifer Kusienski, and Dr. Silvagni.*



New Faculty and Staff Members Join the NSU-COM Fold



Blount.....Dr. Garcia.....Dr. Savu.....Dr. Purcell

James Blount, B.A., joined the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine in February as program administrator. Blount received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina, and has considerable experience in research and data management.

Angela Garcia, Pharm.D., M.P.H., CPh, joined the NSU-COM faculty team on January 6 as an associate professor in the Master of Public Health Program, where one of her primary responsibilities will be to oversee the required field experiences. Dr. Garcia, who previously served as a faculty member in the College of Pharmacy, earned both her Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Public Health degrees from NSU.

Mark Rice, B.S., who joined the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine (INIM) in March as a data analyst I, received his Bachelor of Science in IT-Software Development from Florida International University and has been involved with the INIM since 2012.

Cristina E. Savu, D.O., joined the Department of Internal Medicine on March 1 as an assistant professor. Dr. Savu is a 2008 NSU-COM graduate and completed her internship and residency at Broward Health Medical Center. Prior to joining the NSU-COM faculty, Dr. Savu participated in the Broward Health Physician Group as an internist.

Kamilah N. Thomas-Purcell, Ph.D., M.P.H., CHES, director of the Interprofessional Primary Care Education Program and assistant professor of public health, joined NSU-COM in November 2013. Previously, she was an assistant professor at St. George's University School of Medicine in St. George's, Grenada, West Indies.



By Scott Colton, B.A., APR, COM/HPD Director of Medical Communications and Public Relations

- CELEBRATING AN EDUCATIONAL MILESTONE - Nova Southeastern University Turns 50

The Nova Southeastern University that exists today, which includes a 314-acre main campus and comprises nearly 27,000 students as well as more than 162,000 alumni, is something its founders never could have conceived when it was initially chartered on December 4, 1964, and known by the moniker Nova University of Advanced Technology.

Initially located in offices on East Las Olas Boulevard in downtown Fort Lauderdale, the university would eventually relocate to a nearby western suburb called Davie thanks to the generosity of a \$300,000 gift from Edwin Rosenthal and a \$1-million donation from Louis Parker, which made possible the construction of NSU's first buildings on an abandoned naval airfield.

On a memorable day in September 1967, 17 Ph.D. students officially enrolled in the fledgling university, launching what has now become an esteemed and ever-growing educational enterprise comprising 18 colleges, schools, and centers. The academic diversity NSU offers

current and future students can be summed up in one simple statistic: Associate's, bachelor's, master's specialist, doctoral, and first-professional degree programs are offered in 150 programs.

Currently, the university offers degree, nondegree, and certificate programs at more than 52 national and international locations. It also has regional campuses in Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Miramar, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Tampa, Florida; Nassau, Bahamas; and San Juan, Puerto Rico, where students can receive in-person instruction without leaving their home city.

Although there have been many significant milestones along the way that have led NSU to the cusp of preeminence, perhaps none was more important than the historic merger that occurred in 1994 between Nova University and a rapidly burgeoning institution known as Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach. Through this historic merger, which included a fusion of names to create a rechristened Nova Southeastern Uni-



First Building on Las Olas Blvd.....Inaugural Class of Ph.D. Students.....Southeastern University in the 1980s

versity, a paradigm of educational excellence called the NSU Health Professions Division officially opened on June 22, 1996—and the accolades have been accruing ever since.

To help commemorate NSU's 50th anniversary, *COM Outlook* invites you to look back at some of the major milestones that have played an integral role in making the university the progressive and respected educational entity it is today.

1964 – Nova University is chartered by the state of Florida as Nova University of Advanced Technology. Interestingly, the first structure on Nova's main campus was a mailbox.

1965 – The facilities for Nova are built in Davie, Florida, on what had been Forman Field—a training field for naval aviators during WWII, which was designated by President John F. Kennedy for educational use only in 1961.

1967 – Classes at Nova University formally begin. There are 17 faculty members and 38 staff members on hand to teach the 17 students.

1970 – Five of the original 17 Ph.D. students graduate, and Abraham S. Fischler, Ed.D., is appointed president of Nova University of Advanced Technology—a position he will hold

until 1992. Dr. Fischler initiates the first doctoral distance education program in the nation, which is considered the forerunner of today's online education model.

1975 – NSU introduces its graduate computer science program.

1976 – Nova College is established on the main campus and is renamed the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences in 1989. Today, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences offers 35 undergraduate majors, 53 undergraduate minors, 3 certificate programs, and 2 graduate degree programs.

1979 – The College of Osteopathic Medicine—formerly known as Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine—is established, becoming the 15th osteopathic college in the nation. Thirty-five students graduate in the inaugural class of 1985.

1983 – NSU begins offering online graduate programs, creating the first electronic classroom in 1985. In 1989, the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences is established, offering courses that are an effective blend of theory and practice. All programs enable working professionals to earn a master's or doctoral degree without interrupting their careers.

1987 – The College of Pharmacy enrolls 49 students in its entering class. The college continues to be recognized for its students' passing rates on pharmacy licensing exams, which are greater than 97 percent, exceeding national averages.

1989 – When NSU's College of Optometry began in 1989, it was the only college of optometry in Florida—and it still is. The college offers the only online Master of Science degree



in Clinical Vision Research and the only five-year extended optometry and one-year preparatory optometry programs in the United States.

1993 – The College of Allied Health—now known as the College of Health Care Sciences—was established in 1993. Students who graduate enter the fields of occupational therapy, physician assistant, vascular and cardiovascular sonography, anesthesiology assistant, audiology, and physical therapy.

1993 – On October 26, Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences sign what will soon become an historic South Florida education merger.

1994 – On January 11, 1994, the state of Florida officially sanctions the merger between Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, creating the educational powerhouse Nova Southeastern University.

1995 – The College of Medical Sciences, which began educating students in 1995, offers a Master of Biomedical Sciences degree for those seeking careers in health care and higher education. Courses in anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology equip students with the basic scientific training to ensure their success in careers as health care providers.

1997 – When NSU's College of Dental Medicine opened in 1997, it became the first new dental college in the United States in 24 years. It now runs the largest community dental clinics in Florida. Each year, the college receives approximately 3,500 applicants for 110 seats.

1998 – Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., is named president and CEO—a position he holds until 2010. A longtime member of the board of trustees and

its chairman from 1988–1995, Ferrero sparks NSU's technological advances and ensures that almost two million square feet of facilities are built, including the Don Taft University Center.

2003 – The Carl DeSantis Building, which houses the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship and the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, opens.

2008 – On July 1, the Museum of Art / Fort Lauderdale becomes part of NSU's expanded creative campus when the two institutions agree to merge.

2010 – George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., is named NSU's sixth president. During his investiture, Dr. Hanbury introduces his Vision 2020, which has become a cornerstone for progress as NSU moves forward in the 21st century.

2012 – Initially a component of what used to be known as the College of Allied Health and Nursing, the College of Nursing was established as a sepa-

rate school—becoming the Health Professions Division's seventh college.

2012 – The Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research opens at the Oceanographic Center near Port Everglades, becoming the largest facility in the United States dedicated to studying coral reef ecosystems throughout the world. NSU received the largest grant in its history to build the center—a \$15-million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. NSU contributed an additional \$35 million to build and furnish the center.

2014 – On February 13, the Center for Collaborative Research—an \$80-million training research facility with full-service laboratories—has its official groundbreaking.

(Editor's note: A significant portion of the timeline information was originally published in the fall 2013 issue of NSU's Horizons magazine.)



NSU-COM
at
35

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR
COM/HPD Director of
Medical Communications
and Public Relations

Dr. Silvagni Reflects on the College's Across-the- Board Ascension

With all the deserved excitement surrounding Nova Southeastern University's 50th anniversary commemoration, it would be easy to overlook an important numerical milestone related to the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

The college was established in 1979, thanks to the efforts of a trailblazing D.O. named Morton Terry, whose predominant objective was to construct a curriculum that was both comprehensive and cutting-edge. As the 1990s drew to a close, however, technological advances were having a significant impact on the way medical schools structured their curricula. Similarly, because the osteopathic profession continued to gain acceptance within the allopathic (M.D.) community and grow in popularity with the general public, NSU-COM needed to ensure it

remained relevant and a leader in an ever-evolving educational environment.

Enter Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP *dist.*, who became NSU-COM's commander-in-chief in 1998 and now stands as the most durable dean in the college's 35-year existence. During his 16-year tenure as NSU-COM's passionate and charismatic leader, Dr. Silvagni has overseen a sustained period of growth and achievement that even he couldn't have foreseen when he first arrived on campus to become the college's fourth dean.

"Each dean who preceded me made permanent contributions to the profession and to the professional evolution of our educational institution," Dr. Silvagni stated. "The growth of the college with Arnold Melnick, D.O. (1980-1989), the national integration with Joseph Namey, D.O. (1989-1991), and the development of an interdisciplinary



The Terry Building - Home to the College of Osteopathic Medicine since 1996.

contemporary education model with Matthew Terry, D.O. (1991-1997) were the results of the total effort and dedication of all involved with the institution during their tenures.”

Assessing Priorities... Effecting Change

Stepping into the shoes of his illustrious predecessors may have been daunting initially, but with the support of Dr. Terry, who served as chancellor of the Health Professions Division at the time, the college’s new captain was able to make positive and perceptible changes very quickly. “When I accepted the position in 1998, NSU-COM was known for being an excellent osteopathic medical school that provided its students with a quality education—but little else beyond that,” Dr. Silvagni explained.

A review of the existing faculty members soon revealed a deficiency both in the size as well as the depth and breadth of those educating the future generation of physicians. “The vast majority were either relocated professors from Philadelphia or graduates from our college and residencies,” he stated. “I spoke to Dr. Terry about it, and he agreed that if the school was to advance to the next level, there had to be a different way to direct it.”

To address this matter, Dr. Silvagni began enhancing and diversifying the faculty by recruiting a veritable alphabet soup of degreed professionals from other universities and disciplines to help build a sturdy infrastructure that would help the college expand into a range of areas and grow programmatically. This included the vital area of graduate medical education, which Dr. Silvagni addressed by establishing the college’s Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education in 1999.

With the support of upper administration, Dr. Silvagni spent the first five years of his deanship masterminding a mind-boggling mix of accomplishments that included an explosion of submitted grant proposals and grants received, development and implementation of local and international medical outreach trips, the formation of the Department of Education, Planning, and Research, and the development of the nation’s first osteopathic preventive medicine residency program. He also spurred the creation of the Alumni Association Fund, the expansion of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, and the implementation of standardized patients in the curriculum.

Additional highlights during those initial years included

Dramatic growth of internships, residencies, and fellowships in a range of disciplines

Emphasis on active learning

Development of dual-degree programs and articulation agreements with selected premed programs



Simulation: A key component of medical education today and into the future.

A significant increase in faculty and student-driven research

Establishment of a revolutionary bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction curriculum and center now known as the Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

Creation of an external advisory group called the Dean's Leadership Council

Establishment of a communications office and production of the award-winning *COM Outlook*

Incorporation of the M.P.H. Program under the NSU-COM umbrella and its accreditation

A focus on enhancing alumni relations

Growth and maturation of the Predoctoral OPP Fellowship Program

Establishment of the Predoctoral Research Fellowship Program

Over the ensuing years, numerous other innovations and enhancements were overseen by Dr. Silvagni, including the establishment of an on-campus Geriatric Education Center, academical societies to enrich the student-learning experience, the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, the addition of simulation and virtual-world technology teaching tools, and the introduction of new degree programs.

Of course, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the vast talents of the many dedicated individuals comprising NSU-COM's extensive assemblage of students, administrators, alumni, and faculty/staff members. "Our success has been able to occur because of the vitality of our people," Dr. Silvagni stated. "They put in more than a 40-hour workweek because they believe in what they're doing. We have an empowered faculty, an involved staff,



and a student body that is compassionate and dedicated.

"In my opinion, it's my responsibility to create an environment that allows our students and faculty and staff members to create and accomplish all the things they envision—and want to do," he added. "My job is to always make sure there's an environment that permits them to grow and find creative ways within themselves to meet their own potential. Based on our success, this is a challenge that is definitely being met."

Research Efforts Reap Rewards

One of the college's most significant strides relates to research, which was essentially nonexistent when Dr. Silvagni came on board in 1998. "We went from very little non-legislative external funding to number one in grant submissions university-wide, number one in total external funding, and number two in research funding dollars received after NSU's Oceanographic Center in relation to NSU's 18 colleges, schools, and centers," he explained.

NSU-COM's burgeoning reputation in the research realm was best exemplified when the November 2012 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* listed NSU-

COM as the number one private osteopathic medical school nationwide in the number of National Institutes of Health dollars in 2010 and number four of all osteopathic medical schools. In related news, the number of articles published by NSU-COM faculty members from 2006 through 2010 ranked fourth in the nation in the number of publications, but was number one in citations per publication and impact index compared to all of the public and private osteopathic medical schools.

With over \$16 million in current fiscal year external funding—and more on the horizon—NSU-COM has come a long way in a relatively short period of time. And now that construction has officially begun on NSU's long-awaited Center for Collaborative Research (CCR), the college's investigative possibilities appear limitless.

One of NSU-COM's most-ballyhooed research endeavors occurred in February 2013 when, under the direction of Nancy Klimas, M.D., the college opened the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine—a \$5 million first-of-its-kind facility that treats patients with conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis and Gulf War Illness, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis,

A FOCUS ON GLOBAL MEDICINE



and other illnesses. Last fall, the institute received a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to fund its research project titled “Understanding Gulf War Illness (GWI): An Integrative Modeling Approach.”

“The scope of our research efforts has expanded greatly over the years, which was evidenced last October when Dr. Raymond Ownby, who chairs our Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, received NSU’s Provost’s Research and Scholarship Award,” said Dr. Silvagni of the accolade that recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated significant achievement in support of NSU’s mission to foster scholarship, intellectual inquiry, and academic excellence. “We currently have external funding for projects related to areas including health literacy, interprofessional education, HIV/AIDS, neuro-immune medicine, geriatrics, electronic health records, tobacco cessation, and working with homeless populations.

“To some degree, everyone has assisted in enhancing our research endeavors, including our students and alumni, who are winning numerous state and national awards for their research-related projects,” he added. “In March, recent graduate Dr. Tracy

Romanello, who is currently a third-year family medicine resident at Lakeside Hospital, received the first-place award for her scientific poster at the national osteopathic family medicine scientific meeting.”

Progressive Approach Leads to Multifaceted Success

By focusing on an ambitious agenda combining growth, innovation, and enrichment and embracing an interprofessional approach, NSU-COM has truly evolved into the type of educational entity its founder, Dr. Terry, imagined when he established the college, and later, the Health Professions Division. “We are not isolationists; we are not silo makers.” Dr. Silvagni stressed. “We are a broad-based medical school that is built on interprofessional concepts that were initiated by Dr. Terry several decades ago. He wanted this to be a collaborative team of health professionals that could better serve patients. We’re not totally there yet, but we’re getting closer.”

A valuable byproduct of the college’s multi-layered approach to growth and excellence is that it’s allowed NSU-COM to become a true leader in various areas. “We have answered needs that have not been met

anywhere else—and we’ve led the way to show other people how to do it,” Dr. Silvagni explained. “Our evolution has projected the depth of knowledge we have here at this institution and through impactful projects such as our Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, Lifelong Learning Institute, Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center, Preventive Medicine Residency, Correctional Medicine Fellowship, Forensic Pathology Fellowship, and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program.”

Because the College of Osteopathic Medicine has quadrupled in faculty size since 1998 and incorporated so many forward-thinking ideas into its curricular mix, it would be impossible to summarize all the programmatic additions and academic enhancements that have occurred over the years. According to Dr. Silvagni, however, there are numerous points of pride that deserve special commendation.

“Whether we’re discussing areas such as scholarly activity and research or the quality of our academics through the incorporation of our standardized and simulated patient programs, we are now leaders in these areas,” he said. “We’ve also been quite innovative, which is reflected by the advanced technology we utilize and the fellowships we’ve created that don’t exist anywhere else in the world. We also maintain the practice of providing human cadavers for our students, which is something that exists less frequently in medical school curriculums today. Also, all students get to perform at least one autopsy during their second year at NSU-COM.

“We also have the only preventive medicine, correctional medicine, and forensic pathology residencies/fellowships in the profession and house cutting-edge master’s degree programs in Biomedical Informatics and Disas-

ter and Emergency Preparedness,” he added. “In addition, we graduate more physicians with a joint M.P.H. degree than any other college of osteopathic medicine and offer an accredited online Spanish version of our Master of Public Health Program. All these are innovations that have added to our esteem and the impact we make, which is illustrated by the amount of credit we get from other institutions—both M.D. and D.O.—that point to us as an example of excellence. We’ve also had a tremendous impact on reducing cigarette smoking in our catchment area through our AHEC Program and the involvement of our students.”

Looking Forward with Excitement

While it’s difficult to truly prognosticate what the future holds in store for NSU-COM, there are some trends that help foretell the college’s imminent trajectory. “What I envision in the next 10 years is us venturing into more exciting and in-depth areas,” Dr. Silvagni stated. “For example, I see us delving deeper into patient and computer simulation for procedures and skills prior to rotations as clinical education challenges, such as increased legal and governmental oversight and the competition from the increasing number of medical schools, make it harder to find the high-quality clinical sites we need to train our third- and fourth-year students.

“Consequently, I see us following the path of industries such as aviation and freighters/cruise ships, where simulation assumes a significant proportion of the learning so you don’t have to utilize the institution or actual patients in the initial learning process,” he added. “Essentially, procedures and interview techniques can be practiced quickly and frequently, allowing students to really hone their skills before interacting with a human patient. That’s why I anticipate

simulation playing an increasingly larger role in medical education. For example, through these new computerized models and mannequins, child-delivery techniques can be taught and practiced repeatedly so you don’t have to be on an OB/GYN rotation and hope there’s a large number of births or a complicated delivery while you’re there.”

According to Dr. Silvagni, “These advances in simulation will help take the pressure off our clinical sites. Of course, the enhanced use of simulation will have to be a hybrid program because medical students who are not being introduced to an actual clinical environment from day one would be a negative,” he stated. “I see a better blend of academics, combining clinical training along with technology.”

In terms of additional trends, Dr. Silvagni envisions “an increase in the use of genetics and genomes in medical education. The pharmaceutical world is beginning to establish the selection of medications based on the genetic makeup of a person. For example, it is known that certain antihypertensives will work better if you have a certain genetic composition,” he explained. “I also see more opportunities in the global community because our world is shrinking. There are no longer diseases isolated to a specific region or country, but there is still an endemic quality to them. So we need to learn more about other health care systems and see a broader range of cases so we will be familiar with them. Part of the excitement of the future of medical education is that some things you can foresee, while others are still unknown to us.”

Although no one is exactly sure of what the future portends, Dr. Silvagni can say with absolute certainty that his decision to become NSU-COM’s dean was one of the wisest he’s ever made. “I came to NSU because I thought it was a university that was in its infancy,

but with an infrastructure to leap forward—and it has actually exceeded my expectations,” he admitted. “Academia is traditionally known as being like a mega oil tanker that you’re trying to turn 180 degrees, which takes considerable time and many miles to achieve. Both the college and the university have progressed at rocket speed for the academic world in regard to the changes we’ve made during the years I’ve been at NSU.

“NSU was founded with a progressive idea and a unique approach to education,” he concluded. “It grew in spite of setbacks and naysayers and pushback, and it continued to focus on innovation and progressive thinking, as it continues to do today. I’m extremely proud to be affiliated with Nova Southeastern University and extremely pleased that I made the choice to come here when the position was offered to me. I can’t think of any other university medical school in the country—M.D. or D.O.—that would have afforded us the opportunity to do the kinds of things we’ve done here. For me, it was the right place at the right time at the right university with the right leadership allowing us to recruit the right faculty members and the right students. It was just meant to be.”



The *WOW* Factor - NSU-COM Statistical Highlights

Neuro-Immune Medicine



In February 2013, NSU-COM opened the **Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine** on the Davie campus. The \$5 million first-of-its-kind facility treats patients with conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) and Gulf War Illness (GWI), Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and other illnesses and conducts basic and clinical research within a single laboratory. The institute is the only one in the nation to study neuro-inflammatory and neurodegenerative disorders using the newest genomic techniques.

myelitis (CFS/ME) and Gulf War Illness (GWI), Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and other illnesses and conducts basic and clinical research within a single laboratory. The institute is the only one in the nation to study neuro-inflammatory and neurodegenerative disorders using the newest genomic techniques.

Correctional Medicine Specialty



In January 2013, the college received approval for a new medical specialty developed at NSU-COM in collaboration with the Florida Department of Corrections—**correctional medicine**. The college became the first medical school

in the country to gain such recognition when the standards developed by NSU-COM for this distinct specialty were approved by the American Osteopathic Association. NSU-COM now has the first accredited and approved correctional medicine fellowship program in the country.

International Selective Rotations



Fourth-year NSU-COM students are able to broaden their educational and cultural horizons by participating in life-enhancing **international selective clinical rotations**, which currently include 33 countries on 6 continents.

Prestigious Centers and Institutes



The college is home to **five prestigious centers and institutes** that provide vital training and support to individuals within as well as outside of the NSU academic community. They are the Institute for Disaster and

Emergency Preparedness (IDEP), the Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC), the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine (INIM), and the Center for Inter-professional Education and Practice (CIPEP).

Art Observation Program



In 2012, NSU-COM launched its **Art Observation Program**, which introduces medical and other health professional students to techniques that improve their ability to see their patients based on the utilization of

observing various artworks. NSU-COM utilizes the NSU Museum of Art / Fort Lauderdale for this interprofessional program, which includes the only online program of its kind for third- and fourth-year medical students.

Multiple Clinical Rotation Affiliations



When it comes to providing training to its third- and fourth-year students during their core clinical rotations, NSU-COM has **multiple affiliations** with a wide array of community health centers, private physicians' offices,

and hospitals. In fact, 34 hospitals—including five statutory teaching hospitals: Broward Health Medical Center, Florida Hospital, Largo Medical Center, Larkin Community Hospital, and Mount Sinai Medical Center—are part of our 17 core training hospitals having NSU-COM students assigned to them during their third year.

Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training



The **Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME)**—the osteopathic postdoctoral training institution affiliated with NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine—was established in January 1999 to further increase

and enhance new and existing opportunities for postgraduate medical training, internships, residencies, fellowships, and continuing education. The CEME is an alliance of 21 hospitals located throughout Florida and the southeastern United States that are linked through electronic networks,

The *WOW* Factor - NSU-COM Statistical Highlights

teaching, research, and community health collaborations, and a shared commitment to excellence in the education of tomorrow's physicians.

Area Health Education Centers Program



Since its inception in 1985, NSU-COM's **Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program** has received nearly \$80 million in grant and contract awards to support a wide range of educational, developmental, outreach, and research activities primarily to the medically underserved throughout Florida.

International Medical Outreach



To expose students to the needs of the underserved in various countries, NSU-COM offers several **international medical outreach opportunities** in which students can participate annually. In recent years, these experi-

ences have included humanitarian medical outreach trips to Argentina, Brazil, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Peru, and Vietnam.

Three Fulbright Specialist Scholars



Three NSU-COM faculty members/administrators—Drs. Leonard Levy, Naushira Pandya, and Anthony J. Silvagni—have traveled to Slovakia as part of the **Fulbright Specialists Program**, which was created in 2000 to

complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program and promote linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at universities abroad.

Degree and Certificate Programs

NSU-COM currently offers the following degree and certificate programs: **Osteopathic Medicine - D.O.**; **Biomedical Informatics - M.S.**, Graduate Certificate in Public Health Informatics, Graduate Certificate in Medical Informatics, M.S.N. in Nursing Informatics; **Public Health - M.P.H.**, Graduate Certificate in Public Health, Graduate Certificate in Health Education; and **Disaster and Emergency Pre-**



paredness - M.S. The college also offers the following joint and dual-degree programs: M.S. in Medical Education (M.S.Ed); Master of Health Law (M.H.L.); M.B.A. in Health Administration; Dental Medicine (D.O./D.M.D.); M.P.H./M.M.S. (Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies); and a pilot program in a D.O./J.D. degree.

Simulation and Virtual-World Technology



The college has eight patient simulators to provide its students with modern educational tools to hone their arsenal of clinical skills. Another teaching tool called **Second Life** is a virtual clinic the students can access at any time to practice clinical skills. To access the technology, the students design avatars of themselves and *fly* to the NSU-COM Virtual Clinic to practice on virtual patients.

Miscellaneous Facts of Interest

- According to recent figures, the college has 988 students 4,152 graduates 247 full-time and 1,130 clinical (adjunct/part-time) faculty members, and 121 staff members.
- As of January 2014, the college offers 90 internship, residency, and fellowship programs that provide 1,031 postgraduate training positions through its Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education. This includes 283 first-year positions, which exceeds the number of physicians the college graduates each year.
- NSU-COM offers the only preventive medicine residency in Florida and in the osteopathic medical profession. This residency is accredited for both M.D. (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) and D.O. (American Osteopathic Association) graduates.



Interprofessional Diabetes Initiative... Executive Achievements...Miss New Mexico

HPD Chancellor Named to Florida TaxWatch Board



Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division, was recently appointed to the Florida TaxWatch Board of Trustees. The organization is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan research institute widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars for more than 33 years.

Its mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high-quality and independent research on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies, and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida government.

NSU and ADA Launch Interprofessional Diabetes Education Initiative

In an effort to combat the diabetes epidemic, NSU and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) of Broward County have joined forces with community organizations to establish an **Interprofessional Diabetes Education and Awareness (IDEA) Initiative**, with the goal of offering free education seminars and other services to the community.

The IDEA Initiative began in fall 2012 when 9 NSU faculty members and 45 students from NSU's College of Health Care Sciences worked together to host diabetes workshops throughout Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Collectively, they educated approximately 170 children, adults, and senior citizens about diabetes.

A year later, the initiative has expanded to include faculty members and students from 10 different professional disciplines based in NSU's Health Professions Division, including physician assistant, occupational therapy, physical therapy, medical sonography, audiology, pharmacy, nursing, osteopathic medicine, public health, and optometry.

Local businesses and organizations including Walgreens, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, the Urban League, and others have also signed on as community partners. The IDEA Initiative Kickoff event took place on October 24, 2013, and the eight interprofessional teams are working together to create a variety of diabetes workshops for the community.



Amatuross Receive NSU President's Award for Community Service



NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., presented the NSU President's Award for Excellence in Community Service to philanthropists **Winifred** and **Joseph Amataro** at the university's annual Celebration of Excellence event on February 1, 2014.

Established in 1997, the President's Excellence in Community Service Award recognizes extraordinary professional engagement activities by a member of the South Florida community. The award encourages the ongoing pursuit of service and exemplifies NSU's *community* core value. (Pictured is President Hanbury presenting Winifred and Joseph Amataro with the President's Award for Excellence in Community Service.)

NSU OVERVIEW

Dental Medicine Dean Elected as Delegate to National Science Organization



Linda Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., dean of the College of Dental Medicine, was recently elected as a council delegate representing the Dentistry and Oral Health Sciences Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for a three-year term.

The AAAS, which is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science for the benefit of all people, seeks to advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world and publishes the journal *Science*. The council considers matters relating to disciplinary section business and the organizational bylaws.

"It is truly an honor to be appointed to represent the field of dentistry and Nova Southeastern University in this major scientific organization," said Dr. Niessen. "I look forward to working with my peers from throughout the country to advance our profession and support research and discoveries that will ultimately benefit patients throughout the globe."

NSU's Chief Information Officer Named as one the Country's Top 100 in the Field



Tom West, M.B.A., was recently named as one of this country's top 100 chief information officers (CIOs) by IDG Enterprise. West, who serves as NSU's vice president of information technology, joins others from across the country in being recognized in the Premier 100 Awards Program.

The Premier 100 Awards Program honors those CIOs who explore new

and innovative ways to incorporate technology to drive business results. West was honored as someone whose work has had a positive effect on NSU. In his role, he provides the university with the technological resources to support teaching, learning, and research.

"Providing an information technology foundation for a large and complex university like Nova Southeastern University can be a very daunting task indeed," said NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D. "Tom has provided a clear vision that has helped meet NSU's goal of providing state-of-the-art technology for its students, faculty, and staff. He's very deserving of this recognition."

Kamryn Blackwood Named Miss New Mexico USA

NSU senior **Kamryn Blackwood**, a standout student and player on the university's tennis team, was named Miss New Mexico USA and will compete in the 2014 Miss USA Pageant, which is slated to be nationally broadcast on NBC on June 16. Blackwood was also selected as Miss Congeniality by her peers. In 2013, Blackwood spent the summer in Kenya with the organization Houses for Hope, where she helped build houses, churches, and schools.

This accomplishment was years in the making and started at home while watching the pageant with her father before her junior season. "It looked fun, and I thought it was something I could do," said Blackwood. "My father urged me to think about it when I went back to school and see if it's something I really wanted. When I came back home, I decided it was something I wanted to do. When we started, I immediately fell in love with it."



CHIEF FAMILY MEDICINE	1981	BARRADALE, DON, MD
CHIEF OBSTETRICS	1981	HALOWAY, PATRICIA, MD
CHIEF INTERNAL MEDICINE	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF PEDIATRICS	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF RADIOLOGY	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF SURGERY	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF PHYSICIAN	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF NURSING	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF PHARMACY	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF LABORATORY	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF RECEPTION	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF SECURITY	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF TRANSPORTATION	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF UTILITIES	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF WASTE MANAGEMENT	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF WATER	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF WOODS	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF YARD	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD
CHIEF ZONING	1981	SMITH, JAMES, MD



THE STUDENT SERVICES TEAM:
Leslie Jones, Jeffrey Jurkas,
Dr. Delfina Wilson, and
Shelby Clinton.

By Debra R. Gibbs, B.A., Medical Communications Coordinator

What We’re D.O.ing: Dr. Delfina Wilson Discusses the Office of Student Services

In the academic universe, students represent the sun. As the planets, we do our share to work with those in our orbits, but it is the Office of Student Services that has the mighty task of addressing the comprehensive needs of all students and building their successes.

Delfina A. Wilson, Ph.D., director of student services, along with three dedicated members of her team, is committed to providing the planning, decision making, time management, and self-knowledge that supports NSU-COM’s student body.

Dr. Wilson came to NSU-COM in May 2013, after serving first as workforce specialist and then dean of student services/district director of recruitment at East Mississippi Community College. She earned her Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in leadership from Mississippi State University and has a Master of Art in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Educational Psychology.

Her eight years of experience in Mississippi, which include working as a training coordinator and a developer of early child-care curriculum, are only the latest stints in her career of service to others. In the mid-1990s, she sharpened her outreach, people skills, and community awareness by serving in the United States Air Force as a law enforcement officer—“a teaching cop,” she said. During her tour of duty,

she was offered a job to teach the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program at the Department of Defense schools. “I carried a gun, but got to go into the schools and talk about drugs, gangs, and peer pressure for four years. That was when I decided to go into education.”

With her career progressing well in Mississippi—her husband Robert’s home state—she got a surprise when he landed a job in Miami-Dade County. With that change, Dr. Wilson headed back to her home base. Born in Havana, Cuba, she moved to Miami with her immigrant parents in the late 1970s when she was three years old.

Within a short time of being back in South Florida, Dr. Wilson’s energy and skills won her the director position at NSU-COM, where she is committed to “forming a cohesive team for student services in which we all are connected and communicating with all the different departments. Students are central to all of our jobs. For me, it’s really important to make sure I know who is attending classes—and who is doing well or not so well,” she said.

She has hit the ground running—working breathlessly at times—to “learn everybody’s roles and address the needs of the students, to help guide them. One of the things I have



noticed is regardless of graduate or undergraduate status, they all have needs—and sometimes they just need someone to listen,” Dr. Wilson said. “Some students leave, some students take a break, some students get dismissed, and some students fall off track for whatever reason. For me, it is really important to find a way to be able to know where they are at all times.”

Dr. Wilson is engaged, focusing on the students’ total NSU-COM experience—beginning with the recruitment and admissions process. “We’re getting a lot more involved with our incoming applicants and making sure early on our prospective students know who we are and what we do. We want to be involved in the transition between applying and getting accepted,” she said.

Dr. Wilson aims to fill the big gap some students experience during the waiting period and strives to make students feel they are truly part of the college’s compassionate and caring culture. When students arrive, she offers a detailed, supportive orientation, but also makes sure “every once in a while to send students messages to touch base and remind them about social media or many other helpful things,” she said.

“My biggest challenge is to make sure that when something is needed, students know they can contact the Office of Student Services,” Dr. Wilson said. “There is no such thing as a commonplace day in student services. Even when you have something planned out, I know you had better be flexible and able to adjust because you never know when or how you will be needed. Every day is different.”

With all that she brings to her office, Dr. Wilson is armed and ready to meet the challenge.

The Office of Student Services’ Squad

Shelby Clinton, B.Sc., serves as the office’s administrative assistant and works closely with the fourth-year medical students in their application process to residency programs. She is currently enrolled in the NSU Master of College Student Affairs program.

Jeffrey Jurkas B.Sc., B.A., who serves as coordinator, is the liaison between students and staff members and assists Dr. Wilson. He is currently enrolled in the NSU Master of Business Administration in Human Resource Management program.

Leslie Jones, B.S., serves as the office’s assistant director.

STAFF SNAPSHOT

Jordan Mathis Secretary, Alumni Services



Date of Hire:
April 2011

Family Facts:
My family is small—just my parents, my sister, and I. My sister and I are very close. My father has been a police officer for over the past 20 years, while my mother is a director of managed service programs staffing services at Cross Country Staffing—a company that staffs hospitals.

Official NSU-COM Responsibilities: I was the secretary for the director of the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs when the two groups were combined. The departments were recently split and now I work mostly for the director of alumni affairs. My day-to-day activities include completing verifications and licensure forms for NSU-COM alumni. One of the best parts of my job is helping plan the different alumni receptions around the country for the various conferences we attend.

Reasons I enjoy working at NSU-COM:
I am able to establish many connections

for personal and professional development with the variety of people that work here, especially my coworkers. My office, which includes staff members from the Office of Student Services, has become a small family.

What did you do professionally before joining NSU-COM? I worked in the arena at the University of Central Florida and assisted in event planning, scheduling, invoice intake, and payroll.

Greatest achievement in life: Obtaining my bachelor’s degree was a big moment in my life. My degree is in interdisciplinary studies with a focus in education and public affairs and a minor in hospitality management.

Favorite way to unwind when not at work: Go to the beach and cook. I love to cook healthier versions of restaurant food. My favorite recipe is my homemade pesto bowtie pasta with grilled salmon.

My coworkers would be surprised to know this about me: I sometimes consider myself to be an introvert.

Three words that best describe me:
Friendly, open-minded, and funny.

Dedication to Health Care for Unsheltered Homeless Populations

By **Kristi Messer, M.S.W., M.P.H.**, Assistant Professor of Public Health and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, **Elliot Sklar, Ph.D., M.S.**, Assistant Professor of Public Health, Family Medicine, and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, and **Devra Cohen, M.P.H.**, Coordinator of Interprofessional Research and Outcomes Assessment

The process of reorienting patients to the center of health care delivery is nowhere more poignant than in working with the homeless, outside of traditional emergency rooms, hospitals, and outpatient clinics. Street medicine *reaches people where they are*—in alleyways, under bridges, on the streets—an essential first step to establishing a foundation of trust. This foundation is vital when providing care to individuals who have undoubtedly experienced trauma in their past and who are likely to be leery of traditional medicine.

NSU-COM's Project HOPE (Homelessness in Osteopathic Predoctoral Education), a HRSA-funded initiative, presented "Project HOPE: An Innovative Approach to Homeless Health Care Education" at the Ninth Annual International Street Medicine Symposium in Boston, Massachusetts, in November. Symposium attendees accompanied outreach workers from Boston's Health Care for the Homeless program to provide primary care to individuals on the streets of Boston who call this *home*.

The opportunity to spend time with the homeless in Boston was a salient reminder that caring for people is not solely defined by the provision of medical aid, but also by the powerful healing prospects that come with listening to their personal narratives. They are people, and they matter. It is the delivery of medical care in the broadest sense in terms of a commitment to health and to caring.

Fundamental to street medicine is the building of trust with the unsheltered in their own environments and on their own terms. Providing care in this manner exemplifies respect and serves to reduce critical barriers to care and ultimately promotes continuity of care. These resource-poor

individuals who experience chronic homelessness suffer a disproportionate burden of poor health, suffering, disabling conditions, and ultimately, premature death. They are disenfranchised from systems that may be well-intentioned but are not perceived as inviting.

NSU-COM's Project HOPE enhances the college's mission with an emphasis on preparing effective and sensitive primary care physicians through an innovative educational model that has the potential to lessen health inequities and expand upon the economic and social opportunities available to all citizens. Accordingly, all third- and fourth-year medical students



are required to track the housing status of all patients—irrespective of service setting—through a semi-structured interview as well as to track symptomology within these patients, as these factors are integral to the patient care plan.

Initial results have surprised medical students, faculty members, and project staff in recognizing that individuals without stable housing present at all of our medical settings and constitute the underserved in both urban and rural settings. Detecting housing status and providing care to homeless individuals during students' rotations may assist in building trust

and engage those experiencing homelessness to consider actively participating in the health care system.

Providers of street medicine recognize that they often are not able to meet all of the health care needs on the street, but there is always merit and benefit to extending an invitation to the unsheltered individual to be open to receive care. While accompanying the other conference participants in Boston, Project HOPE staff members discovered the importance of personalizing the type of care delivered, according to the preferences of the individual. In the absence of any gaping wounds or urgent needs, staffers tailored their brief visit to a particular concern, including brushing someone's hair, dispensing toothbrushes and toothpaste, and distributing clean, warm socks.

Focusing on a single aspect of helping one feel cared for sums up the encounters of those who specialize in street medicine and seek to aid individuals experiencing homelessness. This work challenges providers to do more and to look beyond what others may see as just another homeless individual. NSU-COM has developed a partnership with the TaskForce For Ending Homelessness, Inc. in Broward County, Florida, to provide NSU's medical and psychology students with an opportunity to provide outreach services to the homeless via two mobile units that venture out into the local community twice per day, 365 days a year.

It is a privilege to meet individuals where they are located and to connect with them as a person with the goal of permanent housing and quality health care. This is simply one of many examples where NSU-COM is paving the way in medical education as it relates to caring for underserved populations.



ENRICHING EXPERIENCES IN JAMAICA

By Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

In December, the NSU-COM Jamaica Medical Outreach Trip consisted of 63 participants, including 26 osteopathic medical students, which represented the largest number of D.O. students to participate at any given time. Unlike past outreach trips, the College of Pharmacy students and faculty members were unable to attend. It has been said, however, that challenges breed opportunity.

As a result, we decided to utilize three local Jamaican pharmacists, which worked out well as they provided great support and a wealth of information. Without the pharmacy students' participation, the D.O. student physicians all had to rotate through the pharmacy, so it was impressive to see how well the medical students adapted. Collectively, the various health care team members and community volunteers worked together to see approximately 2,000 patients.

The level of service provided and overall benefit to the students were expressed in the following summary written by second-year NSU-COM student Alecia S. Folkes, who said, "My trip to Jamaica for a medical outreach trip was nothing short of a great experience, and I am fortunate I was chosen to participate. Jamaica is such a beautiful country; however, many people there are in need. Being able to help was an experience I will never forget. The people we helped were so kind and thankful for any medical attention they could get.

"The participating students from NSU's osteopathic medicine and occupational therapy programs were divided into three groups, and we visited three different sites each day, which included churches, community centers, schools, and resorts," Folkes added. "As a result, we had to be creative and make use of the resources available to the best of our ability. Thankfully, we had great doctors, occupational therapists, and pharmacists on board to guide us through the long workdays. I learned so much and improved on taking a patient history, writing a soap note, performing a



Dr. Anderson-Worts in action during the 2011 Medical Outreach Trip to Jamaica.

physical examination, and dispersing medications to the patients. I am so fortunate I was able to learn these skills early on in my medical career."

After 13 years of service, 16 medical outreach trips, and over 55,000 patient encounters, it was exciting to see the Jamaica Ministry of Health officially announce its decision to recognize the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree. The announcement, which appeared in *The Jamaica Gleaner* newspaper on January 9, marked a great development for the D.O. profession. Over the years, I and my co-coordinator Don Daly had petitioned the Jamaica Ministry of Health on several occasions to consider granting D.O.s full practicing rights. So hearing the news has been like a dream come true for both of us. Because we are Jamaican-born partners, our medical outreach is a true labor of love the Jamaican people have benefited from—and now the osteopathic profession is also a beneficiary of these efforts.

During the December trip, the medical outreach team—in partnership with Sandals Resort International and the Sandals Foundation—worked together to provide free medical care to residents in Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. Over 90 children from the Sandals Foundation adopted and supported Culloden Early Childhood, while the Whitehouse Basic School also received pediatric care. Some of the other key supporters included MoneyGram, Juci Patties, Jamaica National Building Society, GraceKennedy, Caribbean Airlines, Lasco, and the Kingston-Miami Trading Company.

It is obvious the December trip was successful not only because of proper preparation, but also due to new ideas, partnerships, and great support from health professionals, students, and volunteers.



In recent years, many medical schools have recognized the increasing importance of global health training. Approximately 25 percent of U.S. medical students graduate with some type of international clinical experience. While there are many compelling reasons to volunteer abroad during medical school, one of the most common is the opportunity to explore interests and develop purposeful career goals.

GLOBAL CLASSROOM

International Medical Outreach at NSU-COM

By Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W., Director of International Medicine and Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine, Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Biomedical Informatics, and Public Health



Many students have reported that global outreach programs opened their eyes to the vast need for health care in developing nations, realizing the potential they have to help as future physicians. International volunteerism offers exposure to a variety of clinical situations and learning experiences, probably the most valuable of which is the enlightening cultural exchange that occurs between students and residents of the host country—leaving a lasting impression on both sides.

NSU-COM has spent years building relationships with federal governments, health care facilities, and nongovernmental agencies abroad to facilitate global opportunities for our students. In my role as director of international medicine, I have developed and implemented medical outreach programs to Ecuador, Vietnam, Peru, Bangladesh, and Argentina along with input from the student body and the faculty-run Medical Outreach Committee, in addition to other global health initiatives. These programs aim to help students understand health disparities both in the United States and internationally, demonstrating constructive collaboration with other communities and nations to improve health conditions.

Thus, this training involves learning about health issues that transcend geographic borders and commonly present a greater burden to medically underserved populations. Beyond the provision of additional training sites for our students and serving patients in need, the broader goal of NSU-COM's International Medical Outreach Program is to cultivate a long-term exchange of resources and training opportunities with partner institutions overseas.

International experiences in resource-poor settings introduce students to diagnosis and management for a broad range of medical conditions, often with unique pathology and acuity that would rarely be encountered during their clinical rotations. Additionally, exposure

to medical systems with differing approaches and expectations toward physician-patient interaction may influence students' attitudes as future practitioners by building cultural competency. Practical experience within the medical and legal infrastructures of different countries also allows for a more contextual understanding of the anticipated changes in U.S. health care, making student doctors better equipped to practice in the new system that will be taking effect as they graduate.

Additionally, participating in a medical outreach program can positively impact medical students' awareness of different cultural and socioeconomic factors affecting health as well as acquiring clinical and language skills. It can build confidence in students regarding physical examinations and other procedural skills. The inability to rely on extensive laboratory testing, accessible consultants, and expensive diagnostic imaging encourages them to think critically and use clinical judgment in the field.

The benefits of international experiences for a physician's development have long been recognized. There is evidence to support the idea that medical students who take advantage of volunteer opportunities abroad develop a deeper appreciation for public health issues along with professionalism and cultural sensitivity, recognizing the importance of communication skills. Similarly, student doctors who participate in international clinical rotations

“Beyond the provision of additional training sites for our students and serving patients in need, the broader goal of NSU-COM’s International Medical Outreach Program is to cultivate a long-term exchange of resources and training opportunities with partner institutions overseas.”

are more likely to pursue careers in primary care, obtain public health degrees, and practice medicine among underserved and multicultural populations.

NSU-COM strives to provide health care to all who need it and to share

osteopathic principles and practice techniques with providers and patients around the globe. From the first day of medical school, our students are trained to work in partnership with their patients and communicate with

people from diverse backgrounds. International medical outreach programs allow them to develop further through opportunities to practice these skills outside the confines of brick and mortar and in the global classroom.

Students Share Their International Outreach Insights



ECUADOR EXPERIENCES (April 2013)

– “In both the family and internal medicine section, and more with each subsequent day, students

were expected to do some aspects of physical exams and were expected to ask more detailed and relevant questions, specifically discussing with the preceptors what the right course of action was and why. While each patient received personalized care, we were put in the role of what a medical professional does every day. There was never a moment to get truly comfortable; the limits of what was expected of us always grew, and the locations quickly changed. We recalled the moment when our first patient came in and we realized we were expected, with our own hands, to examine an actual patient—something that had only been theory moments before.” – *OMS-II Sofia A. Funes, president, NSU-COM International Medical Outreach Club (IMOC)*



PERU PERSPECTIVES (December 2013)

– “Students rotated through the different specialties every day, with two assigned to each

physician as well as triage and pharmacy so everyone had a chance to work together. As students, we had the privilege of applying all the skills learned in school and seeing a fair amount of pathology that many of us experienced for the first time. Measles, for example, is a rare occurrence in the United States but still witnessed in Peru, and we were provided an opportunity to see a patient presentation. Access to vaccination centers

can be a challenge for the many rural communities, and there was limited, if any, laboratory and radiologic studies available, creating the need for an accurate history and thorough physical exam. Our comfort obtaining a thorough history, physical exam, and presentation improved exponentially after just the first day.”

– *OMS-II Israel Ugalde, IMOC OMS-II representative*



VIETNAM RECOLLECTIONS (December 2013)

– “Our five clinic days consisted of providing health care to people in need around

the Ben Tre Province and Mekong Delta area. The students were able to work in different areas, which included triaging patients, working one-on-one with the physicians, and practicing osteopathic manipulative medicine on patients. Having the ability to do all this under the mentorship of various physicians made for a well-rounded clinical experience. A unique experience we had was performing osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) on many of the elderly patients with musculoskeletal problems. Performing OMT was perhaps the most rewarding clinical experience for me because I got to see firsthand the immediate impact OMT can have on a patient. As a second-year medical student, I was able to gain a lot of clinical experience with the community physicians that accompanied us on this adventure. We were fortunate enough to have time to not only learn valuable medical knowledge, but also experience the unique culture and food Vietnam has to offer. I look forward to the opportunity to go back again.” – *OMS-II Michael Haynes, IMOC treasurer*

Alumni Corner - Activities, Accomplishments, and Awards

Dean B. Adelman, D.O. ('92) is working as an associate professor in family medicine for the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.



Austin Bach, D.O., M.P.H. ('13), an intern at Larkin Community Hospital in South Miami,

Florida, had his article entitled "A Different View of the Middle East" published in the March issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. He also coauthored an article entitled "Tapioca Melanoma of the Iris Without Iris Heterochromia" that was published in a recent issue of *Optometry and Vision Science*.



Jeffrey Van Curtis, D.O. ('87), who served as medical director for Emory: The Doctor's

Office in Peachtree City, Georgia, was killed in a plane crash at LaGrange-Callaway Airport on February 22. Dr. Curtis was a past president of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association and served as an adjunct professor in the Kennesaw State University School of Nursing Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program.



Doede Donagh, D.O. ('04), who resides in Hawaii, currently works at two sites—

the Ka'u Rural Health Clinic, which is part of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation in Pahala, and Mango Medical Oceanview. The former is a

National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program site, while the latter is a branch of mangomed.org.

Victoria M. Dreisbach, D.O.

('97) gave a lecture on "Competency Restoration in the Elderly" at the 2013 meeting of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and had her article entitled "Not Mentally Ill, Not Dangerous, and Not Discharged?" accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*.



Alan A. George, D.O.

('10) coauthored an article entitled "Unusual Presentation of

a Granular Cell Astrocytoma" that appeared in the December 2013 issue of *Histopathology*. He also coauthored another article entitled "A Case of Oral Lichen Sclerosus with Gingival Involvement and Borrelia Identification" that will be published in an upcoming issue of the same publication.



Chelsea Gordner, D.O., M.P.H.

('05) recently completed eight years of training

at Baystate Medical Center, which is the western campus of Tufts University in Springfield, Massachusetts. During that time, she did a four-year internal medicine and pediatrics residency and a four-year combined adult and pediatric endocrinology fellowship. Dr. Gordner, who is board certified in internal medicine, pediatrics, adult endocrinology, and pediatric endocrinology, currently

serves as a faculty member at Baystate Medical Center in both the adult endocrine and pediatric endocrine divisions and as director of the center's inpatient diabetes program.



Thomas Green, D.O.

('88) was named associate dean of clinical affairs for Des

Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine effective April 1.



Marlow B. Hernandez, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.

('11) recently had his coauthored paper

entitled "Risk of Clostridium Difficile Infection in Hospitalized Patients Receiving Metronidazole for a Non-C. Difficile Infection" accepted for publication in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. In addition, he made an oral presentation with a group of colleagues on their coauthored research project entitled "Do All SPECT Appropriateness Criteria Predict Long-Term Clinical Outcomes? A Three-Year Follow-Up Study" at the American College of Cardiology's 63rd Annual Scientific Session & Expo held March 29-31 in Washington, D.C.



Jeremy D. Ingram, D.O.

('07) was recently elected a member of the Pinellas County

Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board as the representative for Bayfront Health of St. Petersburg, which is a Level II trauma center.



Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP dist. ('88)

was one of six individuals

nominated for the American Medical Directors Association's (AMDA) Medical Director of the Year Award. The winner was selected by an interdisciplinary panel that assessed the nominees on their clinical expertise in long-term care medicine and contributions to staff education, leadership, and community involvement.



Marc G. Kaprow, D.O., FACOI

('01) was elected as a member-at-large to the

Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Executive Committee in December 2013.



Joshua D. Lenchus, D.O., R.Ph., FACP, SFHM

('00), who serves as president

of the Jackson Health System medical staff, has been named Humanitarian of the Year by the Soref Jewish Community Center in Plantation, Florida, and will be honored on April 27 at the Signature Grand in Davie. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Lenchus has provided testimony during multiple state legislative sessions, where he advocates for public policy affecting the availability of high-quality and affordable health care.

Michelle R. Mendez, D.O.

('96), who received the Physician of the Year Award in 2012 from the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, was ap-

Alumni Corner - Activities, Accomplishments, and Awards



pointed to the Board of Osteopathic Medicine by Florida Governor Rick Scott for a term that began on December 18, 2013, and will end on October 31, 2016.



Camilo Ruiz, D.O. ('07) and his wife **Tiffany Sizemore-Ruiz, D.O.** ('09)

were featured on the February cover of *Las Olas Lifestyle* magazine for an inside article entitled "Power Couples." In addition, Dr. Ruiz was featured on Mundo Fox's *Brown & Co.* and *Doctora Azaret* on CNN en Espanol to

provide commentary on his sleep specialty. Dr. Sizemore-Ruiz was equally as busy, appearing on Hot 105 radio and in *Latina Magazine* to speak about heart disease in women as the spokeswoman for the American Heart Association's South Florida Chapter.



Brett Scotch, D.O. ('99) was elected president of the Hillsborough County

Osteopathic Medical Society for 2014 and was awarded the Guardian of the Profession honor by the American Osteopathic Association.

Gregory Semon, D.O. ('08) and **Paul Wisniewski, D.O.**



('03), a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, are currently working as surgical critical care fellows at Orlando Regional Medical Center in Orlando, Florida. In January, they co-presented their research at the Society of Critical Care Medicine 43rd Critical Care Congress in San Francisco, California. Their presentations were entitled "Atypical Presentation of ARDS in Three Patients



Following Propane Explosion" and "Reduction of Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections in the ICU."



Richard Thacker, D.O., FACOI ('92) was board certified in hospice and palliative care and elected a board member to the Osteopathic Political Action Committee. He also became a clinical instructor in internal medicine for the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine and is developing training sites in Tallahassee, Florida.



Elise Zahn, D.O., M.B.A., FACOEP ('96) was recently appointed to serve as a board examiner for the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine.

AOA Alumni Reception in Las Vegas - October 2, 2013

During the 118th Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition, which was held September 30-October 4 in Las Vegas, Nevada, NSU-COM coordinated an alumni reception at the Bonnie Springs Ranch in nearby Blue Diamond, Nevada.





FAMILY PORTRAIT: Pictured (from left) with Dr. James at the 2013 FOMA Convention are his sons Nicholas and William and his wife of 25 years, Carolyn Holly James.

Pictured in the far right photo (back row from left) are Jeffrey James, Dr. Gregory James, and Christopher James. Pictured front row (from left) are Laura James Grizzle, John James, and Joyce James.

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR, COM/HPD Director of Medical Communications and Public Relations

Dr. Gregory James Gives Back by Serving as FOMA President

One of the osteopathic profession's longstanding traditions has been the passionate commitment of its healers to advance the vocation by serving as mentors to the upcoming generation of osteopathic physicians and giving back through altruistic, volunteer-driven endeavors.

Over the past year, 1988 NSU-COM alumnus Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP *dist.*, spent a significant portion of his increasingly rare spare time epitomizing that selfless and time-honored custom by serving as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA). As he explains, it was a practice he learned early in his career.

"During my medical training and at the beginning of my career, some of my mentors told me that I cannot complain about the health care system unless I am working to improve it and offering my own solutions," said Dr. James, who serves as the state medical director for Optum Care Delivery and Management—the long-term care division of

United Health Group. "I believe the best avenue for me to do this is through the FOMA because it is the only organization that represents and supports all the osteopathic physicians in Florida. As the state with the third-largest number of D.O.s in the country, I felt this would be the best way to try to help our profession."

As Dr. James can attest, serving as president of a major statewide medical organization requires a significant commitment from both a time and travel standpoint. "I spent about 10 additional hours per week on the computer and phone," said Dr. James, who initially planned on becoming a professional baseball player before wisely pursuing a career as an osteopathic physician. "I also attended at least one district meeting or seminar per month. The FOMA also has quarterly board meetings that require preparation and take place over two days every three months in different parts of the state. On average, I was away from home at least every two weeks for at least an

overnight stay, and sometimes three to four days.”

In terms of time spent working on the computer, Dr. James’ responsibilities included reviewing the FOMA budget and expenses at least once a week and assessing legislative updates every few days when the Florida Legislature was in session in March and April—and at least every two weeks during the remainder of the year.

“I also spent the month leading up to every board meeting participating in committee conference calls and agenda preparation,” said Dr. James, who spent the first 20 years of his career working as a faculty member and residency director for two family medicine residency programs that graduated over 100 family physicians. “These tasks were made much easier by an excellent staff in Tallahassee led by our executive director, Steve Winn, and the associate director, Michelle Winn.”

For those who undertake an unpaid leadership position for an organization such as the FOMA, the ultimate goal is to leave a lasting legacy based on outstanding service and achievement. During his one-year presidential tenure, Dr. James admirably accomplished both of the aforementioned objectives. When asked to cite his proudest presidential achievement, he

tactfully deflected any discussion of personal triumph to focus on one specific FOMA-related feat.

“For the first time in over 10 years, the FOMA put forth a resolution to the American Osteopathic Association’s House of Delegates (HOD). We took a strong stand that any negotiations with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to absorb our residencies must guarantee the survival of our profession,” he proudly stated. “There were several states and organizations that submitted resolutions on the ACGME issue as well, but in the end, it was the FOMA resolution that was the only one accepted. It was then passed unanimously by the entire HOD. I am also proud of the fact that I was able to attend every event, and visit every district to which I was invited, as the FOMA president. It was a great privilege, so I want to thank the osteopathic physicians in Florida for allowing me to represent them as their president this past year.”

As with any success, it’s rarely achieved without the support and sacrifice of devoted family members who willingly share their loved one



with others for the sake of the greater good. Such is the case with Dr. James’ wife of 25 years, Carolyn Holly James, and their sons, William and Nicholas. “They get all the credit for allowing me the additional time needed to volunteer to the profession,” he stated. “They realize how important it is to keep this great profession strong—and under the direction of physicians. I also give tremendous credit to my parents, John and Joyce James, who gave me the support I needed to get into, and through, medical school.”

Now that his presidential term has concluded, Dr. James hopes many of his osteopathic peers will follow in his footsteps and give back to a profession that has provided so much to so many. “I am glad to be working in a profession that makes a difference in the lives of those we see and those we touch every single day,” he explained. “I recommend that those who read this article find a way to volunteer their time and talents to improve the osteopathic profession and ensure its survival. If anyone asks you in the future if you did your part for the profession, you will want to answer yes because it is very difficult to complain about an issue unless you are doing something positive to try and fix it.”



Pictured (from left) are FOMA leaders Stephen R. Winn (executive director), Dr. James, and Jeffrey S. Grove, D.O., FACOPF (2011-12 FOMA president).

Alumni Reception at the 111th Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention

February 21, 2014 - Hyatt Regency Bonaventure - Weston

As is the case with all major osteopathic medical conferences, an alumni/student reception was held during the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association's (FOMA) annual convention, which attracted about 130 attendees. In addition to alumni, faculty/staff members, and their families and friends, a number of dignitaries were in attendance such as Norman Vinn, D.O., M.B.A., FACOPF (president of the American Osteopathic Association), Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H., FACOPF *dist.* (2013-14 FOMA president and 1988 alumnus), Jorge Luna, D.O., FACOPF (2014-15 FOMA president), Jeffrey Grove, D.O., FACOPF (ACOPF president and 1990 alumnus), Anthony N. Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H., MACOI, FCCP (NSU-COM clinical professor of internal medicine and regional dean), and Ronald Burns, D.O. (AOA trustee).



Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fund-raising 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**.

2014 Donors

Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

Mr. Ronald Assaf

Doctor's Hosp. Foundation/Dr. Howard Neer

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90) (pledge)

NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Broward College Foundation

Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. George Linsey

Medical Help Family Practice, Inc.

Ms. Debbie Milam

Mr. William Oberlink

Barry and Judy Silverman Foundation

Dr. Elaine Wallace (pledge)

Mr. Frank Zappala

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

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Leonardo Cisneros ('96)

Drs. Chad Frank and Yasmin Qureshi Frank

Ms. Ashley Sharp

Dr. Albert Whitehead (pledge)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Michael P. Heid ('93)

Ms. Cynthia Hill

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Mr. Dominic Bortot
(in memory of Victor Bortot)

Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)

Dr. Karen Oldano ('89)

Dr. Mallard Owen

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Mr. Richard Ascher

Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)

Drs. Joel and Elizabeth Biggers (both '06)

Broward Coalition on Aging, Inc.

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

Dr. Ronnie Derrwaldt ('99)

Dr. Benjamin DiJoseph ('94)

Mr. Paul Foo Foo/Salomom Foundation

Ms. Diana Graves ('86)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)/Broward
County Osteopathic Medical Association
(in memory of Julian Blitz)

Dr. Cheryl Kohn ('04)

Dr. Michael MacDonald ('90)

Dr. Gladys Martinez ('90)

Ms. Deborah Meline (pledge)

Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97)

Ms. Brenda Roberts

Dr. Jill Ross ('07)

Dr. Paul Schneider/Michigan Osteo Assoc.

Dr. Todd Silberstein ('96)

Mr. Neal Sonnett

Dr. Joseph Spaulding ('98)

Ms. Susan Talpins

Mr. Robert Tischenkel

Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

Ms. Carol Adlestien
(in memory of Julian Blitz)

Howard and Eleanor Bloch

Dr. Donnell Bowen ('07)

Dr. David Buczkowske ('12)

Dr. David Cislo ('88)

Dr. Sruthi Devarinti ('13)

Ms. Betty Friedman

Dr. Sylvan Goldin
(in memory of Julian Blitz)

Dr. Robert Hand
(in memory of Julian Blitz)

Mr. Kenneth Hurewitz

Dr. Aaron Klein ('01)

Ms. Suzanne McKellips
(in memory of Julian Blitz)

Ms. Linda Maurice

Ms. Janice Orlando

Ms. Elaine Perry

Ms. Anne Quinn

Dr. Lincoln Ropp ('12)

Dr. Paul Smith ('07)

Dr. JoAnna Vanvleet ('04)

Ms. Lisa Wintter
(in memory of Julian Blitz)



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College of Osteopathic Medicine
3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018

Calendar of Events

May 14, 2014

Senior Awards Ceremony

1:30 p.m. – Steele Auditorium – Health Professions Division

May 15, 2014

Senior Awards/Dinner Dance

7:00 p.m. – Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood, Florida

May 18, 2014

HPD Commencement Ceremony

1:00 p.m. – BB&T Center – Sunrise, Florida

July 30-August 4, 2014

FSACOF 34th Annual Convention and National Family Practice Update
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek in Orlando, Florida – Alumni Reception (TBA)

August 10, 2014

Class of 2018 White Coat Ceremony

10:00 a.m. – Signature Grand – Davie, Florida