NSU
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine

COM OUTLOOK

Volume 17, Number 2 | Summer/Fall 2016

Graduation Spotlight Shines on a Champion for All Causes

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: SAVING LIVES WITH AHEC TOBACCO TRAINING AND CESSATION PROGRAM

COM Outlook

Volume 17, Number 2

COM Outlook is produced by
Nova Southeastern University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328-2018

http://osteopathic.nova.edu

Connect with us on Facebook
facebook.com/novaosteopathic/

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION
Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
HPD Chancellor

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.
Dean

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Scott Colton, B.A., APR
COM/HPD Director of Medical Communications and Public Relations
(954) 262-5147
scottc@nova.edu

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Debra R. Gibbs, B.A.
Medical Communications Coordinator
(954) 262-1545
dgibbs1@nova.edu

OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS
Ron Ryan, *Director*
Sheryl Koral, *University Editor*
Carol Reynolds-Srot, *Associate Editor/Copywriter*
Roberta Harris-McCafferty, *Graphic Production Manager*

In This Issue

4

12

18

Summer/Fall 2016

21

44

ON THE COVER: **Carisa Champion revels in the attainment of her three degrees by showcasing her academic hoods in osteopathic medicine (Kelly green), law (purple), and public health (salmon pink).**

Features

4 AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Saves Lives

12 Champion: Name Summarizes Graduate's Accomplishments

18 Clinical Professor Reflects on Longtime Collaboration

21 Graduation 2016: Awards and Highlights

30 NSU-COM Excels at FOMA Convention

35 Accomplishment Applauded at Student Awards Ceremony

40 Students Bring Music to Dementia Patients

41 Changing Course: Farewell to Faculty Members

44 Faculty Members Discuss National Leadership Roles

49 $2.75-Million+ Grant Promotes Health Literacy

Departments

2 Editor's Exchange

3 Chancellor's COMmuniqué

31 Student COMmunications

41 Faculty/Staff COMmunications

46 Research/Scholarly COMmunications

51 Alumni in the News

54 NSU-COMmunications

55 The Health Care Legal Eagle

56 NSU News *of* Note

NOTICE OF ACCREDITATION

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's, baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

06-050-16RWM

Editor's Exchange

SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR
COM/HPD Director of Medical Communications and Public Relations

This issue of COM Outlook is a perfect encapsulation of what makes our college so outstanding.

WHEN I JOINED NSU-COM in 1999, one of my initial tasks was to create the college's maiden magazine, which was a daunting endeavor when you consider I had no staff members, had never worked on a magazine before, and knew absolutely nothing about osteopathic medicine. Thankfully, I was given the latitude to learn on the job. And learn I did. I was responsible for every aspect of the publishing process, from writing and editing the content to designing and setting up the publication for print.

When you're that intricately involved with the process, the project quickly becomes a labor of love, which is what *COM Outlook* has been to me since the inaugural issue was published in the winter of 2000. In the ensuing years, I have had the honor of watching our college grow and had the pleasure of writing about the people and programs that have led us to new levels of achievement.

This issue of *COM Outlook* is a perfect encapsulation of what makes our college so outstanding. One of the major features focuses on our incredibly successful AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program. From a community service perspective, there can be little doubt that this vital program is doing more than its fair share to decrease tobacco use in Florida.

Because this is our graduation issue, our cover story celebrates the incredible accomplishments of one of the most accomplished students in the college's history—Carisa Champion, D.O., J.D., M.P.H. During her six-year stint as an NSU student, Champion earned three degrees—becoming the first person at NSU, and possibly the world, to pursue D.O., J.D., and M.P.H. degrees all at the same time.

In my role as *COM Outlook* 's executive editor, it has been gratifying to watch the magazine evolve into a nationally acclaimed publication that will perpetually serve as the defining historical repository of the people, programs, and passion that make NSU-COM the venerable educational institution it is today.

Chancellor's COMmuniqué

FREDERICK LIPPMAN, R.Ph., Ed.D.

I believe our admissions process plays a major role in explaining why we have such a variety of people providing health care services at the highest administrative level throughout the United States and globally.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) welcomes thousands of eager new students into its myriad programs. This moment of accomplishment is preceded annually by an exhaustive admissions process that allows us to select what we hope are not only the best and the brightest, but also the most compassionate and capable health care professionals of the future.

The HPD admissions process is very unique in terms of today's academic mindset, because we interview every applicant who is accepted into one of our programs. This process follows the admissions philosophy of Morton Terry, D.O., the founder of the Health Professions Division, who always said, "You can't tell a person's ability or potential just by looking at grades or standardized test scores."

We live by this credo, which I think effectively serves the health care professions and the people who are cared for by the health professionals who graduate from our programs. What gives me great pride is that, in looking at the graduates who went through our admissions process, their selection centered on humanistic criteria and not just on their grade point averages and standardized test scores. They were chosen based on an interview that helped the interviewers gain deeper insights about each applicant.

I believe our admissions process plays a major role in explaining why we have such a variety of people providing health care services at the highest administrative level throughout the United States and globally. Our graduates are serving in diverse roles, ranging from directors of trauma centers and county health departments to distinguished pharmaceutical research directors. Whether it be an alumnus who is serving as president of one of the largest pharmacy corporations or an alumna who is improving the health care outcomes of everyone from stroke victims to impaired veterans, our alumni are having a positive impact in all areas of health care.

These are the elements that make up a great university. NSU has evolved into an academic institution that serves as a paradigm of educational diversity and excellence due to the integrity, quality, and capability it provides its students and graduates.

MAKING A

AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation

DIFFERENCE:

Program Changes Behaviors, Saves Lives

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

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when cigarette smoking wasn't just popular; it was glorified. In the 1950s, before the health hazards associated with smoking were fervently advertised to the general public, movies and TV shows were rife with images of glamorous stars elegantly puffing on a cigarette as they delivered their dialogue.

That mindset was certainly in evidence in 1955 when 56.9 percent of males and 28.4 percent of females in the United States smoked, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Then came the milestone 1964 Surgeon General Report on Smoking and Health, which highlighted the harmful health consequences of tobacco use and played a major role in educating the public about its dire effects.

During the ensuing decades, tobacco use fell steadily; however, the statistics remain frightening. In 2014, nearly 17 of every 100 U.S. adults 18 or older (16.8 percent) smoked cigarettes, meaning an estimated 40 million adults in the United States currently use tobacco.

Recently, emotionally gripping ads showcasing the ravages of smoking-related illnesses or diseases have been repeatedly broadcast on the nation's TV screens. Nevertheless, cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year—or 1 of every 5 deaths. Additionally, more than 16 million Americans live with a smoking-related illness or disease, while direct health care expenditures, premature death, and productivity losses associated with tobacco represent a nearly $20-billion annual burden to Florida's economy alone.

Based on these sobering statistics, the Florida Legislature established an impactful and results-oriented initiative, called the Comprehensive Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Program, in 2007.

"During the state's legislative session in 2006–2007, the legislators were tasked with a constitutional mandate requiring that they create a statewide program that would work to aggressively reduce tobacco use in Florida," said Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., who serves as NSU-COM's associate dean for community affairs and as director of the college's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Tobacco Training and Cessation Program. "It was during that session when Tobacco Free Florida was launched and Florida's AHECs were called upon by the legislature to serve as a vital and integral component of this new, statewide effort."

(Continued on next page)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *continued*

As part of Tobacco Free Florida, the AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program is financed annually from the state's Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. The account was created following the settlement of a landmark lawsuit brought by former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles in the late 1990s against the major U.S. tobacco companies. With a current annual legislative appropriation of more than $13 million, the statewide Florida AHEC Network and its 10 affiliated regional centers provide free tobacco cessation services in all 67 counties. They also provide training for current and future health professionals to prepare them to treat tobacco dependency in a range of clinical and community settings.

According to recent statistics, nearly 70 percent of smokers want to stop. Additionally, because about 80 percent of the U.S. population visits a physician or other health provider each year, it's important to have a brief conversation with a health care practitioner about smoking-cessation strategies. Such a visit, followed by a referral to support services such as those offered by the AHEC programs, can double or even triple the quit rate. Therefore, the state's five AHEC programs—located at Nova Southeastern University, the University of Florida, the University of Miami, the University of South Florida, and Florida State University—are charged with accomplishing a two-pronged goal.

First, they must provide the training and other support services that Florida's health care professionals and delivery systems require to effectively work with tobacco-dependent patients in the clinical setting. Second, they must offer free and high-quality, live, group tobacco-cessation support classes, which are run by well-trained AHEC tobacco-treatment facilitators and available in every community in the state, as well as free nicotine replacement therapy for participants.

The NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine AHEC program's service area covers an extensive geographic region extending from Broward County to just north of Orlando, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. Interestingly, nearly 40 percent of the state's tobacco users reside within the 19 counties in this region. To address programmatic needs, the college's tobacco teams are strategically located at the program's headquarters at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, as well as at field offices in West Palm Beach, Fort Myers, and Orlando.

The AHEC program also relies on an extensive network of academic and community-based partnerships in each county and community throughout its vast service area. This assures that AHEC staff members and other resources are being effectively shared, leveraged, and utilized to address local, regional, and statewide needs.

"In this regard, our program works closely with more than 150 academic and community partners throughout the region," Zucker said. "This includes hospitals, community health centers, county health departments, behavioral and mental health sites, private practitioners, social and civic organizations, tobacco-free coalitions and health planning groups, businesses, municipal governments, and colleges and universities throughout the region."

Comprehensive Training Is Key

From a workforce training perspective, the college's AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program provides educational programming to both current and future health professionals. It is designed to enhance their clinical skills in assessing, treating, and referring their tobacco-dependent patients. This is a pivotal programmatic component, because being able to have a brief discussion about tobacco with smokers in a manner that is supportive and nonjudgmental helps motivate them to quit.

"The training we provide is vibrant and includes close working relationships with the state's osteopathic, pharmacy, dental, and dental hygiene professional organizations, as well as with several local professional groups, academic institutions, and health care organizations," said Zucker, who served as founding president of the Florida AHEC Network. "Recognizing that a significant number of tobacco users will visit their health providers each year, this focus on tobacco-cessation training for health professionals, together with the cessation services offered by the NSU-COM AHEC Program, creates an integrated approach that ensures a vast majority of tobacco users will receive the motivation, support, and assistance they need to quit."

In addition to providing tobacco-cessation training to current health care professionals throughout the state, the NSU-COM AHEC Program offers comprehensive and robust instruction to current NSU-COM students, as well as students in several other Health Professions Division colleges and programs.

Instructing the Next Generation of Health Care Professionals

Currently, about 1 in 6 adults in the United States smoke, meaning that the average physician who has 3,000 separate patient visits annually will have about 500 patient visits from smokers each year. Consequently, a single graduating class of 240 NSU-COM students will have 120,000 separate patient visits from smokers in any given year. Therefore, with a projected active practice span of 30 years, each single graduating NSU-COM class would have approximately 3.6 million separate patient visits by smokers.

"When we include the more than 1,000 students from many of the NSU Health Professions Division's colleges and programs, as well as students from the NSU College of Psychology who also receive NSU-COM AHEC tobacco-cessation training each year, the enormous opportunity we have to significantly reduce tobacco use in our society and positively impact population health is staggering," Zucker said.

As a result, the AHEC Program has developed a multidisciplinary tobacco-cessation training team that includes more than 20 faculty experts from the colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, and Dental Medicine to integrate tobacco training throughout their curricula. Similar curricular immersion models are also being developed for NSU optometry and physician assistant students, as well as for students from other affiliated colleges and universities throughout the AHEC Program's 19-county service area.

From an NSU-COM curriculum standpoint, the students are exposed to a series of didactic seminars and online training modules in their first year. Tobacco-related topics run the gamut from clinical pathophysiology and pharmacology to addiction, behavior, and public health. In addition, to enhance the educational experience of the tobacco-cessation training curriculum, all second-year NSU-COM students participate in team practicums at various Broward County middle schools, where they provide insightful tobacco prevention education to the students.

During their second and third years, NSU-COM students participate in small-group cases in areas such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Their tobacco-related training culminates with specially designed, required experiences that have the students working with smoking patients during their rotations in federally qualified health centers and other rural and underserved sites. The curriculum was carefully designed by a multidisciplinary NSU faculty team that included Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., who serves as NSU-COM dean, and Linda Sobell, Ph.D., M.A., and Mark Sobell, Ph.D., M.A., who are both internationally renowned clinical psychology and addiction experts serving as professors in the College of Psychology.

"Students exposed to this innovative curriculum immersion model graduate from NSU with what is probably the most comprehensive training in treating tobacco use and dependence in the nation, as well as the most experience in addressing tobacco use during their clinical experiences and

FORMER SMOKERS TOUT PROGRAM'S SUCCESS

"Quitting smoking was the best gift I've ever given myself, because it is the gift of health. Today, I breathe easy and appreciate and enjoy life more. My senses are restored, and I have more energy, not to mention money. NSU's smoking-cessation program helped me to finally break free from a nicotine habit I'd had for years."

—Brett Larsen, 44, a real estate broker in Fort Lauderdale

"I knew smoking would kill me, but I was struggling with the constant urge to smoke. After I quit, I felt empowered with a new type of freedom that was exhilarating. After some years of being a nonsmoker, I decided to get trained to facilitate the AHEC cessation classes. The classes had a big impact on my life, and I wanted to help offer that freedom to others."

—Heather Jackomino, 36, a certified addiction counselor who serves as a tobacco-treatment specialist in Naples

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *continued*

rotations," Zucker said. "As a result of this training, it is our hope that NSU-COM alumni will routinely refer their tobacco-dependent patients to tobacco-cessation support services, with it becoming a part of their patient care protocol from the day they enter practice."

Smoking Cessation Offers Striking Benefits

Dennis Penzell, D.O., who serves as associate professor of internal medicine and as an AHEC tobacco-cessation program medical training specialist, offered some compelling data concerning the substantial health benefits associated with smoking cessation.

"Within minutes to days after stopping smoking, your blood pressure is lower and you have better stamina, smell, and taste," he said. "In 2 to 4 weeks, the risk of respiratory infections decreases, and by 4 to 12 weeks, lung function is improved. After one year, the risk of heart attack is cut in half. Stroke risk is reduced to the level of that of nonsmokers in 2 to 4 years. After 10 years, the risk of dying from lung cancer is reduced by about 50 percent, while remaining smoke-free for 15 years decreases the risk of coronary heart disease to that of a nonsmoker."

As a key component of the Department of Health's Tobacco Free Florida Program, the AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program also provides highly effective, in-person cessation programs for tobacco users. In addition to the AHEC's community-based group programs, Tobacco Free Florida offers phone counseling through the Florida Quitline and an online web coach for tobacco users who prefer to quit on their own. Best of all, these services are offered at no cost to Floridians.

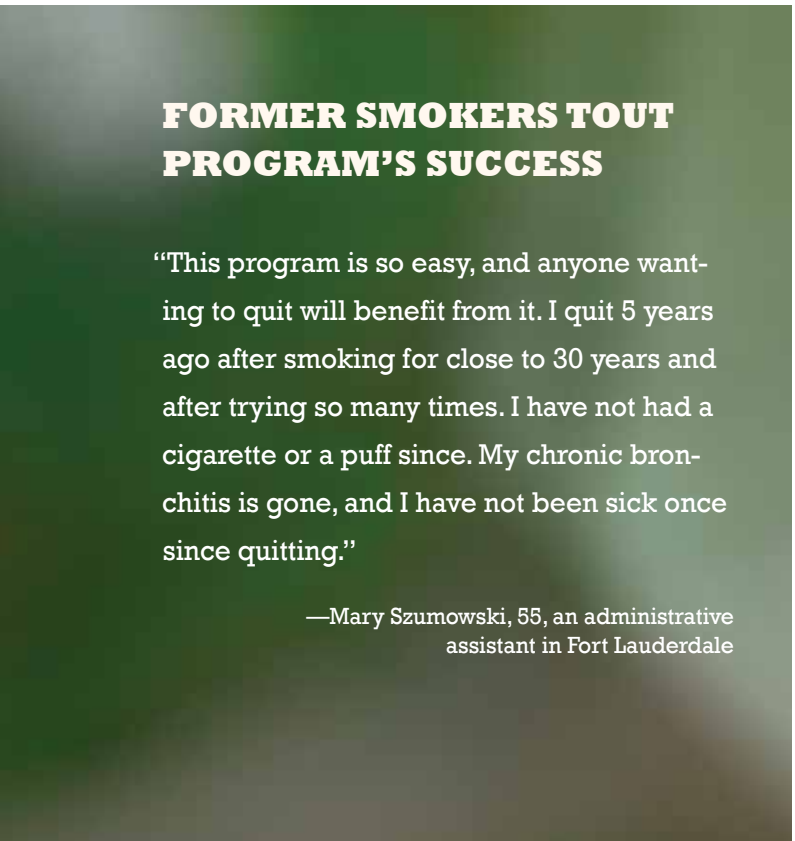
"While all 50 states have access to phone-based quit-line services, Floridians have the unique opportunity, through the five statewide AHEC programs, to learn the tools, techniques, and strategies to quit and stay tobacco free while sharing their quit experience with others in a supportive and respectful group setting," Zucker explained. "The programs are facilitated by tobacco-treatment specialists who are highly trained in treating tobacco use and dependence. The AHEC cessation programs are independently evaluated each year and continually show high satisfaction and quit rates."

For those seeking the in-person route to help them quit smoking, the NSU-COM AHEC Program offers two options: In option one, support groups meet once a week for six weeks and cover a variety of topics, including coping with withdrawal symptoms, managing addiction, and preventing relapse. In option two, participants attend an intensive two-hour session and learn how to develop a successful quit plan.

Compelling Statistics Chronicle Success

Since its establishment in 2007, the NSU-COM AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program has produced enviable results, which are exemplified by the following statistics.

- Each year, through its various tobacco initiatives, nearly 1,000 individuals, including AHEC faculty and staff members, students, and community partners, are providing tobacco counseling and group support services for tobacco users, education and training for current and future health professionals, and/or other programmatic services.
- Approximately 40,000 current and future health care professionals from multiple health disciplines have been trained, including more than 12,000 health practitioners and roughly 25,000 health professions students.



FORMER SMOKERS TOUT PROGRAM'S SUCCESS

"This program is so easy, and anyone wanting to quit will benefit from it. I quit 5 years ago after smoking for close to 30 years and after trying so many times. I have not had a cigarette or a puff since. My chronic bronchitis is gone, and I have not been sick once since quitting."

—Mary Szumowski, 55, an administrative assistant in Fort Lauderdale

AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program staff members travel throughout the state to share information at various conferences and events.

- Throughout the past decade, more than 250,000 middle and high school students have received tobacco prevention education services through the program.
- Approximately 35,000 participants seeking to terminate tobacco use have attended the cessation programs held in countless communities throughout the program's service area.

"There is no single initiative in the college that has potentially saved more lives than the AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program," Wallace said. "This program has educated thousands of medical students, faculty and staff members, residents, middle school students, physicians, and patients and has changed the health of Floridians for generations to come. I encourage all physicians and other health care providers to refer their smoking patients, as well as their friends and relatives who are still smoking, to these free cessation services."

James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., who serves as the college's assistant dean of professional relations, is especially suited to comment on the program's myriad achievements, because he previously served as Florida's first secretary of health and assisted former Governor Lawton Chiles in the state's landmark lawsuit against the tobacco industry.

"I am very proud of NSU-COM's AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program," said Howell, who also serves as a member of the Florida Department of Health's Statewide Tobacco Advisory Council. "Through its many accomplishments over the past decade, the program has truly been a key element in the enormous success of the state's Tobacco Free Florida initiative."

"To our knowledge, these efforts are unique to Florida, as no other state appears to have such a robust statewide program of tobacco-cessation training for both current and future health professionals," Zucker said. "Similarly, no other state appears to provide tobacco group support classes for these professionals to refer their smoking patients to in their communities. From an NSU viewpoint, we are very proud that our AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program was cited in a recent, statewide, independent evaluation conducted for the Florida Department of Health as serving

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *continued*

the largest number of tobacco users during the past year among all of the state's AHEC programs, while maintaining strong quit rates and ensuring high participant satisfaction."

Personal Pain Fuels Antismoking Crusade

For Zucker, the push to provide smoking-cessation strategies to patients is more than just a professional passion; it's a personal crusade.

"My dad passed away in his late 40s due to the ravages of tobacco use, leaving my mom widowed and my brother and me without our best friend," Zucker revealed. "My dad would never listen to our family when we begged him to quit cigarettes. But if his physician and the other health care professionals he visited had been trained to have a brief, three-minute conversation to motivate him to quit, I know my father would have given it a try. If there had been group support classes that he could have been referred to, I truly believe he'd be tobacco free and alive today."

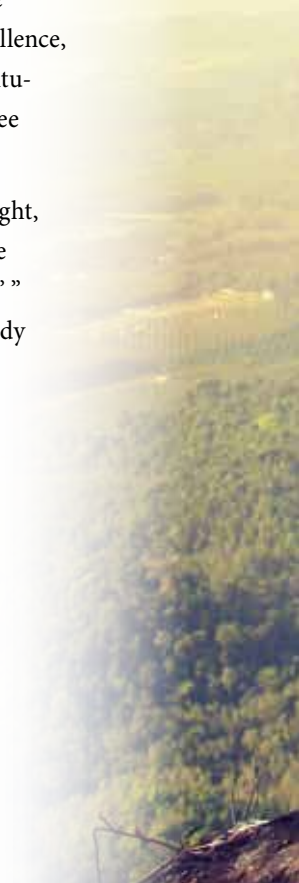
Due to the personal loss he experienced as a result of tobacco's deathly effects, Zucker takes great pride in celebrating the many lives that have been positively impacted by the NSU-COM AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program. "Thanks to the collective efforts of so many individuals and partners throughout South and Central Florida who are part of our tobacco team, we have already accomplished far more than any of us would have ever thought possible when we started this program in 2007," he said.

With an eye toward tomorrow, he foresees a future that builds on the hard-earned successes that have occurred throughout the program's inaugural decade. "It's thrilling to come to NSU each day and work with every member of our dedicated and enormously talented tobacco team both here on campus and throughout the region, and to know that what we do changes and saves lives. Yet, there is still so much more to be done," said Zucker of the program, which has already received about $27.4 million in funding over the past decade and recently signed a new $19.3 million, 5-year contract with the state. "Now that our group support classes have been implemented, evaluated, and continually refined, we foresee our program evolving into a national model in the war against the nation's leading preventable cause of death and disease."

Zucker, who is understandably proud of the program he and his AHEC cohorts helped construct, is also exceedingly gratified that the NSU-COM AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program has evolved into one of the university's largest externally funded projects. He's also pleased that it actively contributes to NSU's prestigious Carnegie Foundation classification as both a "high research activity" and "community-engaged" university. Additionally, the program has continued to support and enhance the NSU Core Values of community, innovation, academic excellence, and scholarship/research, as well as support institutional efforts to maintain healthy and tobacco-free NSU campuses.

"My motto has always been, 'When the cause is right, and when good people dedicate themselves to the solutions, then great things can and will happen,' " Zucker said. "I envision that, in spite of our already enormous success, the best is yet to come."

Individuals who are referred by a health care provider to the AHEC cessation services are three times more likely to quit. For more information on referring patients, family members, or friends to these free IQuit with AHEC cessation services, call 877-848-6696 or visit *http://ahectobacco.com*.



FORMER SMOKERS TOUT PROGRAM'S SUCCESS

"I can't express how grateful I am to the Nova Southeastern University smoking cessation program. I'm smoke free for over 6 years after being a severe smoker for over 30 years. The dedication, quality of the program, tools, and especially the follow-up, were instrumental to my success."

—Pilar Rodriguez, 54, who works in sales in Dania Beach

"I can sleep better at night, I have more energy, and my breathing is better. I also have my COPD under control, so I'm not having to take as much medication. As a result, I pay about 45 percent less now monthly for my medication than I used to when I was smoking. I definitely recommend that others use this program to assist them in quitting."

—Michael Blay, 59, a long-term care adviser in Lake Mary

CHAMPION:

Name Summarizes Superstar Graduate's Accomplishments

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

Sometimes, a name really does say it all. That's certainly the case for 2016 NSU-COM graduate Carisa R. Champion, D.O., J.D., M.P.H., who intrinsically encapsulates the laudable qualities of her last name.

During her six-year stint as an NSU student, Champion earned three degrees—becoming the first person at the university, and possibly in the world, to pursue D.O., J.D., and M.P.H. degrees at the same time and only the third to ever pursue a D.O. and J.D. simultaneously. She also racked up a dizzying array of achievements, from winning the NSU Student of the Year Award at the university's Student Life Achievement Awards in 2014 to being the only osteopathic student in the nation named to the American Osteopathic Association's Board of Trustees in 2015.

Blessed with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, as well as a limitless desire to help others, Champion possesses a relentless drive imprinted on her DNA before she was born. As a child growing up in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, Champion was already grappling with weighty career decisions due to her multiple interests.

"I knew from an early age that I was interested in health and social sciences, such as government and language, and I kept putting off deciding between the two, so those twin passions wrestled for my affection for a long time," she said. "Growing up, I went on several medical mission trips that showed me the ability of law and medicine to work together to help those in need. I did not have a name or job title for what I wanted to do, but I knew I wanted to somehow combine those complex areas to help people."

Because both her parents were nurses, Champion was exposed to the humanistic elements of health care at an early age, which played a major role in her initial vocational interests. "When I was really young, I wanted to be a veterinarian and loved learning about different health aspects of animals. As I grew older, that interest transferred to people and helping them," she said. "My mom would often take me to see her patients, so I was comfortable in a medical setting."

Another area in which Champion showed a comfortable affinity was leadership, which she evidenced at an early age. "Since I was a little kid, I have been a leader, be it on the playground or in sports," she said. "But I really became involved in leadership activities starting in high school, when I was elected president of a few clubs and student government."

(Continued on next page)

CHAMPION *continued*

Charting a Path from FSU to NSU

When the time came to begin her college career, Champion selected Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee based on several factors, including its popular study-abroad programs.

"I knew I wanted to focus on international affairs," said Champion, who had already participated in various medical outreach trips to countries such as Trinidad, Ecuador, Haiti, and Mexico prior to matriculating at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. "FSU's premed program also has a very good reputation, so I double majored in international affairs and premed and minored in biology, chemistry, and Italian studies."

Thanks to FSU's international programs, Champion had the opportunity to study in Florence, Italy, which only validated her desire to serve people globally. Equally as impactful was the time she spent working as a White House intern in Washington, D.C., during her last semester at FSU.

"During that time, I worked on the president's health boards and commissions and watched people make health policy decisions who had little to no understanding of their grassroots effects or inner workings," she explained. "This experience solidified my desire to be involved in medicine and politics from a practicing physician's perspective."

As she progressed through her undergraduate education at FSU, Champion soon found herself drawn to the public heath aspect of medicine as well, which made the postgraduate education decision-making process increasingly difficult to traverse. "When I started going on international mission trips and visiting underserved areas of the United States, I was struck by the dire need for medical care, social services, and legal representation," she said. "I had some anxiety with how I could make these seemingly very different interests combine into a career, but decided I would take it one step at a time."

With a focus that now encompassed medicine, law, and public health, Champion faced the Herculean task of finding a compatible university that offered the disparate programs she craved. Then came the stressful waiting game of earning admittance to her first choice—Nova Southeastern University.

"I knew I wanted to pursue osteopathic medicine, because when I was at FSU, I was very involved in nutrition and the holistic care of people due to my interest in multiple approaches to helping people and addressing their complex needs. I also knew I wanted to remain in Florida, and NSU fit all the criteria," said Champion, who took both the LSAT and MCAT exams before applying to various universities.

In 2014, Champion celebrated her well-deserved win as NSU's Student of the Year with Anthony J. Silvagni, dean emeritus and director of international and interprofessional medicine at the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Prior to attending NSU-COM, Champion had the opportunity to meet Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP *dist*., who served as the college's dean at the time, and his wife, Dianna Silvagni, J.D., who currently serves as clinical assistant professor of medical education. "Once I met them, I couldn't wait to apply to NSU," Champion said.

"After I was accepted into both the law and osteopathic medicine programs, I approached the university about working with me on creating a pilot program where I could do both at the same time. Dr. Silvagni was very encouraging and supportive, and NSU was willing to try it," said Champion, who would go on to blaze many innovative trails during her time as an NSU student.

"It took a while and a lot of research for me to come up with the proposal, but we finally agreed on a six-year track that would allow me to fulfill all the requirements for each degree in time for graduation," she explained.

Above: During the NSU-COM medical outreach trip to Haiti in 2011, Champion formed bonds with several local children.

Left: The May 19 graduation dinner banquet, held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, served as a perfect venue for Champion to catch up with NSU-COM friends and mentors such as Scott Colton, who serves as COM/HPD director of medical communications and public relations.

"It was my hope that I would eventually not be the only student who went through this program, and that if my time in it worked out, other students could apply as well. Today, we have another student in the program, and two more applying."

Energetic Overachiever Sets Precedents

Once she arrived at NSU-COM, Champion quickly demonstrated why she would go on to become one of the most accomplished and honored students in the college's history. From serving as president of the NSU-COM Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board and chair of the Pan SGA Health Professions Division Committee to acting as national chair of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, Champion selflessly devoted her time to being a champion for her fellow students.

In 2013, Champion received the NSU-COM Student D.O. of the Year Award—an honor bestowed upon her by her peers. Excerpts from her Student D.O. of the Year nomination succinctly summarized Champion's most admirable qualities.

"As a four-year member of the SGA Executive Board, Carisa Champion proves more than capable of handling the daunting tasks of managing her personal life and her academic career. In fact, her record of the highest-ever recorded commitment to community service—around 700 hours—has helped both the NSU community and neighborhoods in need across the world.

"Under her leadership, the NSU-COM SGA thrived in advocating for students and their interests. Carisa worked on many important causes, which included heading up the graduation resolution that helped accommodate the students' schedules. She also helped to orchestrate and

After six years as an NSU student, Champion (center) celebrates with fellow graduates at the college's commencement ceremony.

design the HPD Student Lounge renovation and other projects central to student life. Her efforts and successes as a leader include serving as an NSU President's 64 member, Omega Beta Iota Political Action Honor Society national director, NSU's Relay for Life Education Sub-committee member, and A Day for Children graduate student director."

Incredibly, the aforementioned achievements only scratch the surface in terms of the many contributions Champion has made relative to her fellow students and the osteopathic profession. With a daunting academic regimen that had her pursue and complete three degrees in a six-year span, what has compelled Champion to be such an ardent activist?

"I get energized, and thrive on, being involved, which motivates me and gives me energy for other areas of my life, like academics," she said. "People frequently ask me why I do so much, but it just comes naturally to me. My drive and passion come from my faith in God and being blessed with a very supportive family that instilled in me the values to become a well-rounded, independent, and humble person. Many people assume that being so involved would drain me of my energy and leave me giving only the bare minimum to my academics, but for me, it is the other way around. I find that, when I am not involved, I get lazy and do not study as hard. I do much better academically when I am involved, so it's a win-win for me."

For Champion, making a positive difference in people's lives is one of the driving forces that spurs her to be actively involved in a range of activities.

"I loved working with my fellow classmates and helping make our experience in medical school the best it could be," said Champion, who received the Rose Community Service Award during the college's graduation dinner banquet in May 2016. "Medical school is extremely rigorous, so I have aimed to advocate for the students' voice when they are too tired or preoccupied to raise theirs. In terms of the osteopathic profession, I love being involved in leadership at the national level, because I believe in our profession and the way osteopathic medicine contributes to patient care. Patient care involves patient advocacy, and if we do not advocate for our profession and our patients, others who may not know much about our practice will make decisions for how we can care for patients."

Future Plans, Heartfelt Reflections

With the travails of pursuing her D.O., J.D., and M.P.H. degrees behind her, Champion is focused on the next

chapter of her osteopathic journey, which involves relocating to the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to pursue her general surgery residency training at Suburban Community Hospital.

"If you had told me a few years ago I was going to be a surgeon, I would have told you that you're crazy, since surgery was not really on my radar until I absolutely fell in love with it during my clinical rotations," she admitted. Once she completes her residency training, as well as a possible surgery fellowship, Champion has her sights set on a broad-based career that will allow her to maximize what she learned during her law, osteopathic medicine, and public health studies.

"I plan on being very involved with local and international medical missions, just as I have done in the past," she said. "I also will hopefully continue to be involved in health policy and leadership. In the past few years, I have helped write and shape policy for electronic cigarettes, physician payment reform, medical student debt, and interprofessional education. Consequently, I hope to continue in these endeavors to advocate for physicians and patient care."

Although Champion has her sights firmly set on the future, she took a moment to reflect on her unique relationship with NSU-COM and the many impactful relationships she formed that helped guide her through the emotional and academic minefields that often define the life of a medical student.

"The close friendships I have been so fortunate to make are those I will carry with me the rest of my life," she said. "I have also been very fortunate to be mentored by some amazing professors and administrators, whom I love. They have become my family, my second parents, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters. So many have poured their time into me, and I have been fortunate to be able to give back and pour my time into others through my leadership activities."

Now that she's a triple threat professionally due to her trio of hard-earned degrees, the medical profession will be a safer place for both patients and practitioners, thanks to a dedicated D.O. named Carisa Champion, who will tackle any and all obstacles as she ardently advocates on the profession's behalf.

A Champion's Words of Wisdom

"I have learned that anything is possible if you persevere and have faith. I am not the smartest person, but I have learned that endurance and delayed gratification can go a long way."

"Take things step by step. I lived off writing everything down in my planner and in my to-do lists."

"There will always be people who don't understand you, or are jealous of your success, and there's not much you can do about it besides being true to yourself and your beliefs and doing your best to make peace with everyone."

"Be nicer than necessary to everyone, because you never know what a person is going through. We are all going through things, and no one has a perfect life no matter how fabulous they seem on social media."

"Relationships need to be more of a priority than school and career, because they are what last the longest."

"Stop and smell the roses—literally. Life is what happens when you're busy making plans, as they say. Every day, I take time to read, pray, smile, and notice small things, such as the beautiful sky and nature around me."

Clinical Professor Reflects on Longtime NSU-COM Collaboration

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

Choosing a fulfilling career path is an extremely personalized adventure for most people. For some, the decision seems predestined at an early age, while others seem to struggle deep into adulthood to attain vocational fulfillment.

In the case of Marc Morganstine, D.O., M.S., FAODME, who serves as an NSU-COM clinical professor of family medicine, the decision to become a physician occurred following an unforeseen calamity that transpired when he was a child growing up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"When I was 8 years old, I was in a recital at my elementary school," said Morganstine, who has spent the past 25 years working as vice president of medical education at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, Florida, and as NSU-COM clinical assistant dean at Palmetto General since 2014.

"My family, including my grandmother who lived with us, came to see me perform," he added. "Unfortunately, my grandmother took a fall and was injured. She had severe diabetes and poor circulation, and the injury resulted in her needing to have her leg amputated. I felt very guilty

Marc Morganstine, left, receives the 2016 FOMA Lifetime Achievement Award from Steve Winn, FOMA executive director.

about her fall and wanted to do something to help her heal. I knew I had to become a doctor, which was a desire that never went away."

Morganstine, who would go on to be the first member of his family to become a physician, graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1969, completed his internship training at Metropolitan Hospital in Philadelphia, and then relocated to South Florida to join a private general medicine practice in North Miami Beach in 1970. He subsequently started his own practice, opening an office in Miramar in 1972.

By 1976, with a thriving private practice and personal fulfillment thanks to his recent marriage, all seemed right in Morganstine's world—until a severe spinal-cord injury changed the trajectory of his career.

"I suffered an accident that resulted in my having an incomplete quadraparesis—weakness in the muscles of all four limbs and of the trunk," he said. "This necessitated my leaving my patient-care practice. Fortunately, I was affiliated with Community Hospital of South Broward at the time, which offered me the opportunity to oversee a new training program it was starting. I became a director of medical education (DME) in 1976 and have been a member of the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators ever since, which makes me the longest standing DME in the osteopathic profession."

As luck would have it, Morganstine's practice was affiliated with Osteopathic General Hospital in North Miami Beach, overseen by Morton Terry, D.O., M.Sc., FACOI, who would go on to establish Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) and the NSU Health Professions Division. Because Morganstine and Terry had developed a relationship based on mutual friendship and respect over the years, when Terry established SECOM in 1979, he quickly solicited Morganstine to become a valued member of the college's faculty.

> **"Over the years, I have felt a deep commitment to helping shape and develop the training of the next generation of osteopathic physicians."**
>
> —Marc Morganstine

"For many years, Dr. Terry and Dr. Arnold Melnick, the college's founding dean, would contact me to see if I was interested in employment at the school," he said. "I told them I was dedicated to the school and would support it in any way I could, but that I enjoyed working in the post-graduate training area."

Although he was never a paid faculty member or administrator, Morganstine became a valued volunteer clinical faculty member, serving on several committees and sharing his time and expertise to enhance the college.

"I became very involved and committed to the school and its leaders and volunteered on many committees," said Morganstine, who is a Fellow of the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators. "But my favorite was always the Admissions Committee. I believed it was the bloodline to the profession and the most important committee at the college. It turns out I shared that view with Dr. Terry and continued to interview with him for many years. I am still on that committee today and still believe it is the most important committee at the university for each of its colleges."

In the late 1970s, with a career that had shifted from a patient care to an administrative track, Morganstine decided to pursue a Master of Science in Administration and Supervision of Education Systems from Nova University, which he received in 1979. From 1977 through 1991, Morganstine served as medical director and director of medical education at the now-defunct Humana Hospital—South Broward.

In 1985, Morganstine also established postgraduate training programs at Community Hospital of the Palm Beaches, which later became Columbia Hospital of the Palm Beaches, and served as director of medical education. Then came a call from his old friend, Morton Terry, in 1991 that culminated in Morganstine tackling a new position.

"I received a call from Dr. Terry, asking if I would consider starting a new postgraduate training program at a new

Clinical Professor Reflects on Longtime NSU-COM Collaboration *(continued)*

hospital affiliate, Palmetto General Hospital. I agreed and assumed that position in 1991," Morganstine said. "I worked in that position for 25 years and built the program into one of NSU-COM's premier postgraduate training affiliates."

In fact, the NSU-COM/Palmetto Internal Medicine Program is the largest in the profession. In addition to residencies in family medicine and internal medicine, there are fellowships in cardiology, interventional cardiology, critical care, and infectious diseases. Palmetto is also a key site for NSU-COM students to receive their core clinical training, as well as their elective specialty training, during their third and fourth years.

In 1999, when NSU-COM established its osteopathic postdoctoral training institute—the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education—Morganstine played an integral role from the start, eventually serving as its president from 2006 through 2008.

"Over the years, I have felt a deep commitment to helping shape and develop the training of the next generation of osteopathic physicians," Morganstine said. "This includes their medical knowledge as well as their development into empathetic physicians. I want them to exemplify all that is good in medicine and to be special human beings to whom their patients can relate. I have always treated and protected them as if they were my own kids."

During his achievement-filled career in osteopathic medicine, which includes a 35-year affiliation with NSU-COM, Morganstine has made a profound impact on many levels.

"I am most proud that I have been able to overcome extreme personal physical adversity and become a role model for many developing young physicians," said Morganstine, who received the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2016. "I hope I have made a difference in their lives, and have helped shape the future of osteopathic medical care."

In terms of his fruitful and fulfilling collaboration with NSU-COM, Morganstine has nothing but praise for the college that has grown from humble beginnings to become a premier and nationally recognized medical school.

"I am honored to be affiliated with NSU-COM," said Morganstine, who received the SECOM Distinguished Service Award in 1989 and the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Family Medicine Resident Educator of the Year Award in 2007. "I have been involved with the school since the day it opened in 1981. The people who comprise the leadership, administration, faculty, and support personnel are really where the affiliations are, and I am confident that the future is as bright as it has ever been for the students who attend NSU-COM."

Morganstine's Words of Wisdom

"Life is unpredictable. Adversity is inevitable in everyone's life. Focus on the positive and try to make a difference in the lives of others. Be honest and true to your principles. Care for others and show them love. That gives rise to my final thoughts. Family is paramount to life and happiness. Spend the time to assure they know how much you love them. I just celebrated my 42nd anniversary. I have been lucky in my life to have a wife who has been my support, life coach, spiritualist, confidant, and most importantly, the love of my life. That always helps."

Graduation 2016

Awards *and* Highlights

Senior Week provided an abundance of opportunities for the class of 2016 to get reacquainted while participating in a memorable sail on the *Lady Windridge* yacht and attending an awards banquet at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center.

The week culminated on Friday, May 20, when 234 D.O., 79 Master of Public Health, 23 Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics, and 2 Master of Disaster and Emergency Management degrees were conferred during the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and College of Dental Medicine Commencement Ceremony at the Arena at the Don Taft University Center on the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. In addition, one graduate received his dual D.O./D.M.D. degree.

During the ceremony, graduates were acknowledged for their accomplishments in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Ted Deutch, a congressman representing Florida's 21st district, which includes communities in western Palm Beach County and Broward County, served as the keynote speaker and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree as part of the ceremony.

(Continued on next page)

Graduation 2016: Awards of Excellence

Chancellor's Award
Osteopathic Medicine

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine osteopathic physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession

Recipient: Israel Ugalde, D.O.

Dean's Award
Osteopathic Medicine

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program

Recipient: Kristen Selema, D.O.

Dean's Award
Biomedical Informatics

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program

Recipient: Michelle Shah, M.S.B.I.

Dean's Award
Public Health

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Master of Public Health Program

Recipient: Soo Jin Lee, M.P.H.

Dean's Award
Disaster and Emergency Management

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Master of Science in Disaster and Emergency Management Program

Recipient: Scott Paul Sloane, M.S., DEM

Albert L. Weiner, D.O., Memorial Psychiatry Award

Presented in memory of Albert Weiner, D.O., to the student achieving the greatest proficiency in psychiatry

Recipient: Allison Nussbaum, D.O.

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine

Recipient: Greggory Wilhoite, D.O.

Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics

Presented to an outstanding student who is in the upper quarter of the class in rank and possesses honor grades in pediatric ambulatory and hospital rotations, as well as one elective in a pediatric area with an honor grade

Recipient: Steven Von Edwins, D.O.

Recognizing Outstanding Achievement

Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service

Awarded to a student in the upper third of class in rank who actively organized and participated in at least three children's projects during his or her time at NSU-COM, and is considered by students and faculty members to have motivated children-related projects at NSU-COM

Recipient: Nicole Shovlin, D.O.

Nguyen

Woodard

Excellence in Geriatrics Award

Presented for aptitude and interest in geriatrics as well as clinical competency and superior performance in the geriatrics rotation

Recipients: Nhi-Kieu Nguyen, D.O., and Lauren Woodard, D.O.

Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award

Presented to the student with the highest achievement in the study of internal medicine, both academic and clinical

Recipient: Allison Hales, D.O.

Florida Chapter, American Academy of Osteopathy Award in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Presented to the student who, in the opinion of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, has achieved the highest proficiency in osteopathic therapeutics

Recipient: Ivana Gagula, D.O.

Samuel J. Salman, D.O., Award in Family Medicine

Presented by the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician as exemplified by the late Samuel J. Salman, D.O.

Recipient: Barbara Farrell, D.O.

A. Alvin Greber, D.O., Cardiology Award

Presented to the student demonstrating outstanding aptitude academically with recognized clinical application of knowledge in patients with cardiovascular disease

Recipient: Heather Lusby, D.O.

Research Award Osteopathic Medicine

Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty members

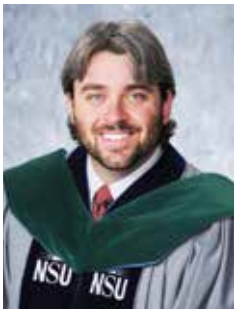
Recipient: Magui Mikhail, D.O.

Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award

Presented to the student exhibiting the highest quality of service and leadership, combined with scholarship, integrity, and personal worth

Recipient: Natalie Booth, D.O.

Graduation 2016: Awards of Excellence



Alumni Association Award

Presented to the student who, by his or her leadership, has done the most to maintain the cohesiveness, unity, and esprit de corps within his or her class for all four years

Recipient: Justin Nippert, D.O.

Rose Community Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated sincere interest in community service or community projects

Recipient:
Carisa Rose Champion, D.O., J.D., M.P.H.

Clinical Service Award

Presented to the student judged to be outstanding in clinical service

Recipient: Tracy Rogers, D.O.

Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

Presented to the spouse of a graduating student who best exemplifies the role of a professional's partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the osteopathic profession

Recipient: Veena Abraham

Dean's Government and Public Policy Award

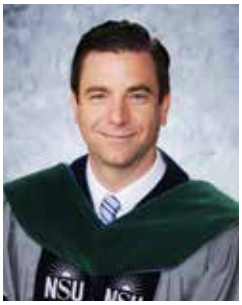
Presented to that member of the graduating class who has shown unique interest in developing an understanding of governmental and public health care policies

Recipient: Kelly Thibert, D.O., M.P.H.

Dean's Organizational Award

Presented to the senior who demonstrated organizational skills and leadership and received recognition from his or her peers during a productive academic career

Recipient: Ricky Patel, D.O.



Dean's Community Award

Awarded to that member of the graduating class who, by personal and professional conduct, and by contributions to the student affairs and to the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special recognition

Recipient: Paul Malczak, D.O.

Matthew A. Terry, D.O., Memorial Award

Presented to the student chosen by his or her peers as the exemplary osteopathic medical student

Recipient: Dana Sweeney, D.O.

Recognizing Outstanding Achievement

Public Health Student Service Award

Presented to the Master of Public Health student who demonstrated commitment to community service

Recipient: Mayur Sharma Banjara, M.P.H.

Thibert

Popara

Public Health Interprofessional Leadership Program

Presented to the students who represent exceptional leadership and dedication to collaborative learning through research of interprofessional concepts and the practice of team-based care

Recipients: Kelly Thibert, D.O., M.P.H., and Romana Popara, D.O., M.P.H.

Research Fellowship Award

Presented to the members of the graduating class who successfully completed the NSU-COM Predoctoral Research Fellowship

Recipients: Mai Gandhi, D.O., and Jacob Triplet, D.O.

Endocrine Society Award

Presented to the student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area and/or study of endocrinology

Recipient: Danielle Klima, D.O.

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) District XII Daniel R. Barkus Outstanding Achievement in the Study of OB/GYN

Presented to the student who ranks in the top 25 percent of the class, is pursuing OB/GYN residency training, and has obtained the highest academic grade in the women's health course

Recipient: Elizabeth Wilson, D.O.

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) District XII Outstanding Achievement in the Service of OB/GYN

Presented to the graduating student who ranks in the top 50 percent of the class, has demonstrated his or her intention of pursuing residency training in OB/GYN, and has effectively organized and participated in the greatest number and variety of activities related to the field of women's health

Recipient: Ricky Patel, D.O.

Biomedical Informatics Program Research Award

Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty members

Recipient: Kaelin DeMuth, M.S.B.I.

Graduation 2016: Awards of Excellence

Biomedical Informatics Program Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated sincere interest in community service or community projects

Recipient: David Fogel, M.S.B.I.

Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates

Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2012 to May 2016

Recipients (from left): Steven Von Edwins, D.O.; Logan Huff, D.O.; Christy Baggett, D.O.; Meghan Mayberry D.O.; Ivana Gagula, D.O.; and Timothy Roedder, D.O.

Psi Sigma Alpha inductees pose with David Boesler, D.O., M.S. (second row, far left).

Psi Sigma Alpha Recognition

Membership in the Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 10 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity.

Following, in alphabetical order, are the individuals who have received Psi Sigma Alpha recognition.

John Bodnar, D.O.; Paul Farnsworth, D.O.; Barbara Farrell, D.O.; Michael Gonzalez, D.O.; Allison Hales, D.O.; Stacie Hirota, D.O., M.S.B.I.; Kristen Lafferty, D.O., M.P.H.; Jason Levy, D.O.; Heather Lusby, D.O.; Zophia Martinez, D.O.; Magui Mikhail, D.O.; Scott Polansky, D.O.; Akiva Rabinowitz, D.O.; Tracy Rogers, D.O.; Elsa Santillana, D.O.; Kristen Selema, D.O.; Dana Sweeney, D.O.; Jacob Triplet, D.O.; Boris Volfson, D.O.; Greggory Wilhoite, D.O.; Amy Williams, D.O.; Elizabeth Wilson, D.O.; and Lauren Woodard, D.O.

Recognizing Outstanding Achievement

Sigma Sigma Phi inductees pose with David Boesler, D.O., M.S. (second row, far left).

Sigma Sigma Phi Recognition

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

Following, in alphabetical order, are the individuals who earned membership in Sigma Sigma Phi.

Sujeen Adhikari, D.O., M.P.H.; Phillip Berges, D.O.; Natalie Booth, D.O.; Carisa Rose Champion, D.O., J.D., M.P.H.; Aline Dang, D.O.; Paul Farnsworth, D.O.; Barbara Farrell, D.O.; Taha Faruqi, D.O.; Alecia Folkes, D.O., M.S.B.I.; Mai Gandhi, D.O.; Ajaypal Gill, D.O.; Michael Gonzalez, D.O.; Paul Hoffman, D.O.; Mohamed Ibrahim Ahmed, D.O.; David Kim, D.O.; Manny Lai, D.O.; Heather Lusby, D.O.; Paul Malczak, D.O.; Magui Mikhail, D.O.; Rita Mikhail, D.O.; Nhi Kieu Nguyen, D.O.; Chirag Patel, D.O.; Ricky Patel, D.O.; Timothy Roedder, D.O.; Lenzetta Rolle-Lake, D.O.; John Rose, D.O.; Holly Schisani, D.O.; Kevin Schoen, D.O.; Christopher Scholten, D.O.; Kristen Selema, D.O.; Jacob Triplet, D.O.; and Thomas VerHage, D.O.

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards, which are presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, recognize one graduating medical student and one outstanding faculty member judged to be exemplary in their compassion and sensitivity in patient care. These individuals consistently demonstrate compassion and empathy, act as role models for professional behavior, and demonstrate cultural sensitivity in working with people of diverse backgrounds.

Recipient—Student: Paul Malczak, D.O.

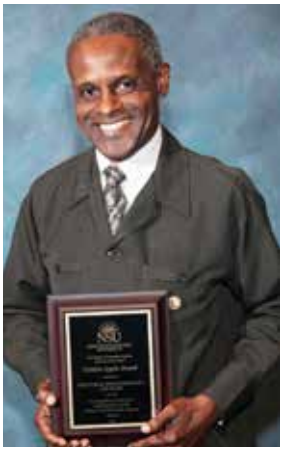
Recipient—Faculty Member: David Boesler, D.O., M.S.

Graduation 2016: Awards of Excellence

Golden Apple Award
Osteopathic Medicine

Presented by the class of 2016 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class

Recipient:
Kara Brien, B.S.



Golden Apple Award
Public Health

Presented by the class of 2016 to the M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class

Recipient:
The M.P.H. faculty and staff members, with Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.S., M.P.H.T.M., FACOP, accepting the award on the program's behalf

Golden Apple Award
Biomedical Informatics

Presented by the class of 2016 to the biomedical informatics faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class

Recipient:
Jacob Krive, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S., CPHIMS, LSSGB

Chancellor's Award
Public Health

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine public health professional—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession

Recipient: Mouhamed Halwani, M.P.H.

Chancellor's Award
Biomedical Informatics

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine biomedical informatics professional—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession

Recipient: Sergio Depres, M.S.B.I.

Public Health
Research Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated an effort to contribute to new knowledge in public health through research

Recipient: Shweta Thambad, M.P.H.

Recognizing Outstanding Achievement

Gold Humanism Honor Society inductees pose with David Boesler, D.O., M.S. (second row, far left), and Edward Packer, D.O. (second row, far right).

Gold Humanism Honor Society

The Gold Humanism Honor Society honors senior medical students, residents, role-model physician teachers, and other exemplars who have demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service and was organized to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and its constituent institutions.

Following, in alphabetical order, are the individuals who earned membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Trevine Albert, D.O.; Christy Baggett, D.O.; Natalie Booth, D.O.; Earl Gerald Carlos, D.O.; Carisa Rose Champion, D.O., J.D., M.P.H.; Steven Ferreira, D.O.; Sofia Funes, D.O.; Ivana Gagula, D.O.; Madeline Goldstein, D.O.; Michael Haynes, D.O.; Logan Huff, D.O.; Nedda Karimi, D.O.; Danielle Klima, D.O.; Paul Malczak, D.O.; Nhi-Kieu Nguyen, D.O.; Michael Nilmeier, D.O.; Justin Nippert, D.O.; Mackenzie Rapp, D.O., M.P.H.; Timothy Roedder, D.O.; Lenzetta Rolle-Lake, D.O.; Daniel Solano, D.O.; Dana Sweeney, D.O.; Kelly Thibert, D.O., M.P.H.; Steven Von Edwins, D.O.; and Kruti Yagnik, D.O.

Commissioning Ceremony

NSU-COM was proud to host its annual promotion commissioning ceremony for graduating seniors who will be entering the armed services of the United States. The event, which was established in 2005 to honor and showcase support for graduates who will be doing medical tours of duty in the armed services, is held annually to facilitate the promotion of these young officers from the rank of second lieutenant (army and air force) or ensign (navy) to the rank of captain (army/air force) or lieutenant (navy). These young men and women have attended NSU-COM via the armed services Health Professions Scholarship Program.

The graduates have committed to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces for a minimum of eight years as part of their scholarship obligation. Most will be pursuing graduate medical education opportunities within the armed services after leaving NSU-COM. This year's ceremony was presided over by Richard G. Malish, M.D., who currently holds the rank of colonel in the United States Army.

The following are the NSU-COM graduates who were recognized at the ceremony.

United States Army
Captain Christina Chadwick, D.O.
Captain Zachary Davey, D.O.

United States Navy
Lieutenant John Bissett, D.O.
Lieutenant Geoffrey Miller, D.O.

United States Air Force
Captain Eric Brunk, D.O.
Captain Devin Kearns, D.O.
Captain Meshva Patel, D.O.
Captain Tyler Pitchforth, D.O.
Captain Michael Wojdan, D.O.

NSU-COM Excels at FOMA Convention

During the 113th annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention held February 18–22 at the Bonaventure Resort and Spa in Weston, Florida, a number of NSU-COM-affiliated individuals were honored with awards for their various achievements.

1990 Alumnus Honored with Morton Morris Award

Ronald J. Renuart, Sr., D.O., FACP ('90), FOMA president-elect and Florida House of Representatives member, was awarded the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine's Morton Morris Award. The accolade is presented annually to osteopathic physicians, nonosteopathic physicians, or entities that have demonstrated dedication, integrity, and commitment to improving health care for the citizens of Florida. 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.

From left: William H. Stager, D.O., M.S., M.P.H., FAAFP, FAAMA, FAAO, FACOFP, FOMA president; Marie Morris; Ronald J. Renuart, Sr.; and FOMA board members Joel Rose, D.O.; Bridget Bellingar, D.O.; and Anna Hayden, D.O.

NSU-COM Professor Garners Physician of the Year Accolade

Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., FAAFP, FACOFP, professor of family medicine, received the FOMA Physician of the Year Award. The accolade honors an osteopathic physician who, during the past year, has made significant and considerable contributions not only to the osteopathic profession, but also to the community, on both local and state levels.

Second-Year Student Receives AFOMA Scholarship

Second-year student **Timothy Nobles** received 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.

Timothy Nobles (right) receives his award from William H. Stager, D.O., M.S., M.P.H., FAAFP, FAAMA, FAAO, FACOFP, FOMA president, and Dianna Silvagni, J.D., NSU-COM clinical assistant professor of medical education.

From left: Nicole Bixler, D.O., FOMA president-elect; Hemali Patel; John Becher, D.O., American Osteopathic Association president; Chelsea Jacobs, LECOM-Bradenton student; and William H. Stager, D.O., M.S., M.P.H., FAAFP, FAAMA, FAAO, FACOFP, FOMA president.

Second-Year Student Wins FOMA Student Award

Second-year student **Hemali Patel** was the recipient of a $500 FOMA Student Award, which is presented to a deserving student 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.

Student COMmunications

COM Circle Allows Students to Provide Academic Insights

Earlier this year, Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean, decided to establish a student think tank called the COM Circle. It consists of 10 forward-thinking students who have the ability to provide constructive feedback and who have a genuine interest in strengthening the academic experience for their fellow students.

The COM Circle concept emerged when then-second-year students Daniel Leary and Nupur Shah met with Wallace regarding medical education and curricular changes. "We not only shared our ideas and thoughts from the perspective of current students, but also from the perspective of the former roles we held prior to entering medical school," Shah said. "I used to teach middle school science and then worked at a management consulting firm that specialized in education, which explains why I had many questions and thoughts regarding medical school curriculum. At the end of the meeting, we all agreed it would be an incredible opportunity for a few select students, who had unique backgrounds and could offer innovative ideas, to meet with Dr. Wallace on a regular basis."

In February, 10 first- and second-year students were selected to represent their respective classes. As COM Circle members, students have the opportunity to develop a strong network with their peers and to create lasting curricular changes at the college.

The students receive two community service hours for their participation in monthly meetings and earn leadership academic credit, which will appear on their transcripts when they apply for residency positions. The students selected to serve as COM Circle members are Amal Ayoub, Alex Breslau, Daniel Leary, Jennifer Manning, Daniel Novak, Areeg Rehman, Nupur Shah, Tony Swicer, Haley Talboy, and Karan Thakkar.

Donors, Students Recognized at Big Thank You Luncheon

NSU's fifth annual Big Thank You Scholarship Luncheon, which was held on March 28 in the Arena at the Don Taft University Center, provides NSU administrators and students with an opportunity to honor scholarship donors, who continually make a difference in the students' lives. Donor honorees represent many generous people who have created endowment funds at NSU over the past several decades—endowments that provide scholarships for deserving students throughout the university and enable them to pursue their dreams of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Third-year student **Angie Alegria** received the Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., Endowed Public Health Scholarship, while third-year student **Kristi Ray** received the Judy Morris, M.D., Endowed Memorial Scholarship. Both public health scholarships are provided by Marie Morris—the widow of Morton Morris, who served as executive dean for professional affairs at the Health Professions Division prior to his death in May 2008. To be eligible for the scholarships, nominees must be NSU-COM students or have already achieved their D.O. degree, showcase high academic achievement, be currently enrolled in the college's Master of Public Health Program, and demonstrate financial need.

From left: Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.S., M.P.H.T.M., FACOP, director of the college's Master of Public Health Program; Marie Morris; and Angie Alegria

Student COMmunications

OPP Fellow Concludes Memorable Year

Third-year student **Hassan Iqbal**, M.S., who recently completed his one-year NSU-COM Predoctoral Research Fellowship, was able to significantly enhance his research skills by participating in the fellowship, which provided him with the opportunity to develop a research project and collaborate with others involved in the research field.

Iqbal's study, "Predictors of Osteopathic Medical Students' Readiness to Utilize Health Information Technology in Future Clinical Practice," explored factors that predicted osteopathic medical students' readiness to embrace health information technology tools in their practice. Findings from this study could help guide medical education intervention efforts to better prepare tomorrow's osteopathic physicians and improve patient outcomes.

In his role as the study's principal investigator, Iqbal received a $5,000 NSU Health Professions Division grant to support his research. Once he completed the study, he submitted an article to the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* to disseminate the findings. He also coauthored three additional peer-reviewed academic journal papers with his fellowship research mentor, Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.S., M.P.H.

Through hard work and dedication, Iqbal has served as primary or coauthor on 13 podium or poster projects that were presented at regional, national, and international events and symposiums. These included the eighth annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies in Barcelona, Spain; the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo in Denver, Colorado; and the 17th annual Bureau on International Osteopathic Medicine International Seminar at the Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition (OMED) in Orlando, Florida.

NSU-COM Students Win Bethesda Hospital Poster Competition

On May 17, a trio of third-year students—**Allison Fraum**, **David McEnerney**, and **Terry Parsons**—were named as the winners of the Bethesda Hospital third annual Medical Student Poster Competition, which was held at the hospital's graduate medical education wing in Boynton Beach, Florida. Parsons captured first-place honors, while Fraum and McEnerney captured second and third place, respectively.

News Briefs

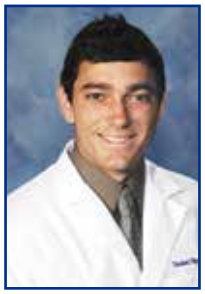
Third-year student **Kimberly Barron** served as a willing mock patient at the Doctor for a Day booth at the fourth annual Alliance for Kids Super Hero Carnival held at Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. This marked the second consecutive year that Barron volunteered at the booth to receive hundreds of mocks shots, several surgeries, and arms full of adhesive bandages from the participating children.

Third-year student **Devin Collins** received a $2,500 Horvitz Presidential Scholarship for the 2016–2017 academic year. The scholarship, which Collins has received for three consecutive years, is awarded based on academic achievement and financial need.

Second-year student **Joshua Gildin** coauthored an article, "The Effect of an Electronic Medical Record on Duplicate Testing: A Study of 18,000 Transthoracic Echocardiograms," which was published in the April 2016 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology.*

Second-year student **Christopher Larrimore**, M.Sc., authored a Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) resolution, "Tuition Equality for All State Residents at Osteopathic Colleges (S-16-10)," which was accepted and debated on the floor of the SOMA House of Delegates in Washington, D.C.

Third-year student **Neha Mahajan** was recently named as the inaugural student editor of *PULSE,* which is the quarterly publication of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians.



Third-year student **Jeffrey Morris** served as first author on a case report, "Fixed Violaceous Fingertips in a Young Girl with Anxious Hair Twirling Habit," which was published in the March 2016 issue of *Global Dermatology*.

Third-year student **Ila Sehgal** coauthored a rheumatology case report, "An Unexpected Cause of Amaurosis Fugax," which was presented at the Florida Academy of Family Physicians Family Medicine Spring Forum held April 8–10 in Orlando.

Several students received recognition for their poster presentations at the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians Spring Conference held April 14–17 in Phoenix, Arizona. Second-year student **Ashley Van Putten**, who serves as president of the college's Pediatrics Club, along with first-year students **Christina Baxter** and **Sneha Tolia**, received the Best Poster Award for Student Club. In addition, second-year student **Kristina Gemayel** earned the Best Poster Award for Case Study.

From left: Kristina Gemayel, Ashley Van Putten, Sneha Tolia, and Christina Baxter

On April 12, third-year student **Saamia Shaikh** was appointed national director for Omega Beta Iota—the national osteopathic political honor society—during D.O. Day on the Hill activities held in Washington, D.C. Omega Beta Iota was established in 2007 and provides a level of prestigious distinction to members of the osteopathic family who are exceptionally involved in the political arena. Induction is an honorary recognition for politically conscious and politically active medical students, physicians, and professional mentors who demonstrate excellence in health care politics.

Student COMmunications

Second-year student **Aadil Vora** presented his case report poster, "Fatal Cardiovascular Collapse Secondary to Neurofibromatosis Vasculopathy," on March 30 at the Foundation for Osteopathic Emergency Medicine Case Study Poster Competition. The event was held during the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians Spring Seminar in Scottsdale, Arizona. Vora coauthored the poster with Darren Cohen, D.O., assistant professor of medical education. In addition, Vora was appointed to the national board of directors of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association Foundation—a nonprofit organization that administers scholarships to osteopathic medical students and grants for various projects. In this role, Vora will serve as national director of financial affairs.

Fourth-year student **Kelly Thibert** was recently elected as the 2016–2017 national president of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). In her eight years as an AMSA member, Thibert has gained valuable experiences from lobbying on Capitol Hill and running institutes about primary care and interprofessionalism. "I am thrilled to have been elected to serve as president for this wonderful organization," said Thibert, who is the second NSU osteopathic medical student to become president of the association. "AMSA is an organization that has often reminded me of the importance of humanism in medicine, and in turn has positively affected the way in which I have learned and grown as a physician in training."

Osteopathic medical students from across the United States traveled to D.O. Day in Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators such as Mario Diaz-Balart, center, a Florida congressman representing the state's 25th district.

On April 13, more than a dozen NSU-COM students convened on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to advocate for their profession during D.O. Day, joining nearly 1,100 other D.O. students and osteopathic physicians. During their stay, the students focused on issues such as educating senators and members of Congress on medical student debt and the osteopathic approach to pain management.

Accomplishment Applauded at Student Awards Ceremony

On April 18, numerous awards and scholarships were presented to both students and faculty members at the annual First- and Second-Year Student Awards Ceremony. Students were honored in areas such as research, academic excellence, and community service, while several faculty members were presented Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching abilities.

From left: Bhavik Gupta; Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean; and Allison Nguyen

Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment

Second-year student **Bhavik Gupta** and first-year student **Allison Nguyen** were the recipients of the Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The endowment serves as a fitting tribute to NSU-COM students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.

Laura Morrison celebrates her accomplishment with her father, Rick Morrison.

Robert Klein Academic Society Endowment Scholarship

Second-year student **Laura Morrison** was the recipient of the Robert Klein, D.O., Academic Society Endowment Scholarship, which is awarded annually. To be eligible, nominees must be NSU-COM students in good standing, be actively involved in the Klein Academic Society, and submit an application and essay.

From left: Anita Singh; Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, assistant dean of faculty and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Zachary Robert Smith

David B. Levine Endowed Scholarship Award

Second-year students **Anita Singh** and **Zachary R. Smith** received the David B. Levine, D.O., Endowed Scholarship Award, which is presented to second-year osteopathic medical students who demonstrate an interest in family and/or internal medicine, display leadership in the osteopathic medical profession, and are members of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association.

Student COMmunications

From left: Jaclyn L. Siegel, Alexandra Grammenos, Marilyn and Stanley Silverman (the parents of Bradley Silverman), Heather Lee Kligfeld, and Alexander Robert Logsdon

Five Students Win Bradley I. Silverman Scholarship

Third-year students **Alexandra Grammenos**, **Muneeb A. Shah**, and **Alexander Robert Logsdon**, as well as second-year students **Heather Lee Kligfeld** and **Jaclyn L. Siegel**, were the recipients of the Bradley I. Silverman Memorial Scholarship. It was established in 2006 to honor outstanding NSU-COM students who participate in cancer-related community service and showcase compassion, commitment, and other laudable traits exemplified by Silverman.

Delfina Wilson, Ph.D., M.A., assistant dean of student and alumni affairs, presents the scholarship to Andrew Barnes.

Beth and Joel Rush Endowed Charter Scholarship

Second-year student **Andrew Barnes** received the Beth and Joel L. Rush, D.O., Endowed Charter Scholarship, which is provided to an NSU-COM student who is in good academic standing and demonstrates active participation or leadership within his or her class.

Second-year student Parth Gandhi presents Hady Masri (right) with the Golden Apple Award.

Faculty Members Earn Golden Apple Awards

David Boesler, D.O., M.S., associate professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, and **Hady Masri**, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, were the recipients of this year's Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching skills. Boesler received his award from the class of 2019, while Masri was honored by the class of 2018.

Burnell Research Award recipients with Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of research and innovation

25 Earn Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards

A record 25 students were presented with Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards, which are bestowed to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science. The recipients (listed alphabetically) were **Allen Abello, Stefanie Altmann, Lorin Berman, Fernando Doval, Madeline Fasen, Kelly Gaunt, Kristina Gemayel, Zenith Haq, Rupali Harpale, Adrienne Law, Roberto Leoni, Shannon Mohabir, Akarshan Monga, Jeffrey Morris, Sunny Parekh, Nishant Patel, Fatima Ramirez, Mackenzie Rapp, Catalina Rodriguez, Nicole Salach, Michael Smith, Ashley Van Putten, Jennifer Wong, Arash Zarrin, and Julian Zorrilla**.

East Florida Physicians Alliance Endowed Scholarship

Third-year students **Sergey Arutyunyan** and **Neha Mahajan** received the East Florida Physicians Alliance Medical Education Endowed Scholarship, which was established to support osteopathic medical students who want to attend and/or make presentations at medical conferences by providing funding for registration fees and travel expenses.

Delfina Wilson, Ph.D., M.A., assistant dean of student and alumni affairs, presents the endowed scholarship to Sergey Arutyunyan.

Student COMmunications

Ashwin Kalyandurg provides a demonstration of his hand-walking abilities for Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean.

Hand-Walking Prowess on Display During Relay for Life

Second-year student Ashwin Kalyandurg was recognized for his noble effort to walk on his hands for more than 10 hours during NSU's annual Relay for Life event on April 9–10 that benefits the American Cancer Society. Kalyandurg, who performed this feat by walking on his hands in front of the quad in front of NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, accomplished this quest to support the brother of one of his closest friends, who is undergoing cancer treatment.

From left: Jared Ham-Ying; Juan Arana; Delfina Wilson, Ph.D., M.A., assistant dean of student and alumni affairs; Romeena Lee; and Natalie Negron

Four Students Win Robert and Eugene Friedman Scholarship

Second-year students **Jared Ham-Ying** and **Romeena Lee**, along with first-year students **Natalie Negron** and **Juan Arana**, were the winners of the inaugural Robert and Eugene Friedman Scholarship, which is presented to the students who best demonstrate active participation and leadership in their class.

Delfina Wilson, Ph.D., M.A., assistant dean of student and alumni affairs, and Sahyly Hernandez

Humana Terry G. Smith Preceptorship

First-year student Sahyly Hernandez earned the Humana Terry G. Smith Preceptorship, which is presented to the first-year student selected to participate in a paid summer preceptorship with Humana.

Pictured are the peer mentor honorees with Hilda M. De Gaetano, D.O., FACOP, FAAP, assistant dean of preclinical education and academic projects and professor of pediatrics.

Academic Society Peer Mentors Recognition

Second-year students were honored for their contributions to their individual academic societies as well as their commitment to fellow society members. They are listed in alphabetical order by academic society as follows: **Anna Galvis** (William G. Anderson, D.O.); **Erik Thomas** (Louisa Burns, D.O.); **Daniel Novak** (Robert Klein, D.O.); **Alex Breslau** (Fred Lippman, Ed.D.); **Elizabeth McCaskey** (Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.); **Alethea Appavu** (Bradley I. Silverman, D.O.); **Allison Nguyen** (A.T. Still, M.D., D.O.); and **Stephen Judge** (James Turner, D.O.). First-year students **Samantha Rykiel Levine** (Morton Terry, D.O.) and **Theddy Blanc** (Ross Zafonte, D.O.) also won recognition. In addition, second-year students **Claudia Vallin**, **Itsuka Kurihara**, and **Kelly Gaunt** received the peer executive awards.

All winners are nominated by their peers as being supportive and involved society members who exemplify the attitudes regarding NSU-COM participation, community service, and professionalism within their societies.

Two Win C.H.A.S.E. Honorary Anesthesiology Scholarship

First-year student **Aman Kaur** and third-year student **Catalina Rodriguez** garnered the C.H.A.S.E. Honorary Anesthesiology Scholarship, which is presented to students interested in attending the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting on June 10–12 in Palm Beach, Florida.

From left: Aman Kaur; Delfina Wilson, Ph.D., M.A., assistant dean of student and alumni affairs; and Catalina Rodriguez

Student COMmunications

Students Bring the Sound of Music to Dementia Patients

Second-year student Beth McCaskey discusses music with an appreciative senior citizen.

ON JULY 8, the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Bach, big band, and jazz streamed into the earbuds of a group of older adults taking part in a music project at Covenant Village of Florida in Plantation. The project was initiated by NSU Health Professions Division students—including several from the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The goal of the inventive initiative was to provide portable music players to the residents and create a positive experience for them by incorporating the sounds of familiar music into their lives.

Participants' responses ranged from wide-eyed surprise and laughter to a sense of calm, and even intrigue, as one participant focused on mastering the buttons on his portable music player, which was gifted to him by the NSU Geriatrics Club. "We were hoping the music would create a positive experience that would trigger happy emotions, prompt verbalization, and tap into their memories," said Elizabeth Hames, D.O., CMD, assistant professor in the NSU-COM Department of Geriatrics.

Hames said the music project was inspired by Dan Cohen's documentary *Alive Inside*, which chronicles the positive impact music can have on those with memory loss. Students from the Geriatrics Club wanted to model the music project on Cohen's program and test it locally, with Covenant Village of Florida serving as the natural choice.

"NSU faculty members and students are a familiar and welcoming presence at Palm Villa and the Care Center," said Karen Northover, who serves as the health care administrator for Covenant Village of Florida, which is a faith-based, not-for-profit, continuing care retirement community. "Students come here to learn, observe, and interact with older adults as part of their education. The music project was an opportunity that benefited both of our organizations. What better way to create joy and peace of mind for our residents and their families than by providing a better way of life."

Palm Villa and Care Center residents selected for the project had mild, moderate, or severe dementia. They were paired with students who spent an afternoon talking with them about their hobbies, talents, favorite songs, and preferred music genres. In some cases, family members were interviewed to provide more detail.

Students used this information to create a customized playlist of 8 to 10 songs for each resident and then uploaded those songs on the portable music players. Each resident also received his or her own gift bag that contained items chosen specifically for them, in hopes of triggering a memory. Costs associated with the purchase of the portable music players, music downloads, and other items were covered by a $700 grant awarded to the club by the NSU Health Professions Division Pan Student Government Association.

Although many of the NSU Geriatrics Club members will begin their clinical rotations or residencies next year, Hames said she hopes the project can continue. "We have a new batch of students each year, but I hope we can continue visiting with residents and uploading music," she said. "Anything non-pharmacological that can make quality of life better is worth doing."

Faculty/Staff COMmunications

Changing Course
Farewell to Faculty Members

From left: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP *dist.*, NSU-COM dean emeritus and director of international and interprofessional medicine; Eleanore and Leonard Levy; and Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean

ON JUNE 7, the college coordinated a farewell reception for **Leonard Levy**, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of research and innovation. During his 17 years at the college, Levy worked with the geriatrics, biomedical informatics, disaster and emergency management, research and innovation, and public health programs.

"After 49 years—17 of them at NSU-COM—I am about to end an extremely rewarding career, one I would not want to change in any way," Levy said. "I consider myself so blessed, having served in multiple roles in academic health centers, including as president, vice president, founding dean twice, and full-time consultant."

On June 30, the NSU Board of Trustees approved professor emeritus status for Levy. After his formal retirement, Levy will remain part of the college as a clinical professor.

Delfina Wilson, left, receives a warm send-off from Elaine M. Wallace, dean.

ON MAY 24, the college organized a farewell reception for **Delfina Wilson**, Ph.D., M.A., assistant dean of alumni and student affairs, who is relocating to Kansas City, Kansas, with her husband and children. Wilson came to NSU-COM in May 2013 after serving as dean of student services and district director of recruitment at East Mississippi Community College.

Faculty/Staff COMmunications

Cheryl Atherley-Todd, M.D., CMD, FAAFP, assistant professor of family medicine, recently became a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The degree of Fellow recognizes AAFP members who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues, as well as in their communities, by their service to family medicine, their advancement of health care to the U.S. population, and their professional development through medical education and research.

Gary Cravens, M.D., M.S., joined NSU-COM in February as an assistant professor in the Biomedical Informatics program. He received his M.S. in Health Informatics from Indiana University in 2015—a complement to his other master's degrees in physiology, physics, and computer science. During his prolific career, he has worked in software development and project management for the federal government and in private industry.

Jennifer Jordan, Ed.D., joined NSU-COM in April in the role of assistant dean of medical education. Jordan, who has been a member of the NSU community for 17 years, received her Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership from NSU in 2008 and formerly served as chair and assistant professor in the Department of Higher Education, Organizational Leadership, and Adult Education at the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education.

Jordan Mathis, who serves as the college's student services coordinator, received the Staff Achievement Award during the annual NSU-COM Administrative Professionals Day event. Revolving around a festive Hollywood theme, awards were also presented in fun categories such as Best Talent Act, Best Look-Alike Male, Best Hollywood Entrance, and Hollywood Best Dressed.

Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean, congratulates Staff Achievement Award winner Jordan Mathis.

Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs and HPD executive associate dean for professional affairs, received the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association Lifetime Achievement Award in May "in recognition of distinguished lifetime leadership and commitment to osteopathic education and advocacy."

Left to right: Cheryl Atherley-Todd, Gary Cravens, Jennifer Jordan, Howard Neer, Naushira Pandya, Arif M. Rana, Janet L. Roseman

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, FACP, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, was the recipient of the annual NSU-COM Faculty/Director Achievement Award. In honor of her accomplishment, she received a weekend stay at the Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida.

Arif M. Rana, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., M.P.H., director of faculty development and assistant professor of biomedical informatics and medical education, was conferred the Master of Public Health degree from NSU-COM on May 20.

Janet L. Roseman, Ph.D., M.S., R-DMT, assistant professor of medical education, was the inaugural recipient of the Presidents Professional Practice Award from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The award honored her work in spirituality and medicine. The ceremony was held June 3 on the university's campus as part of an evening celebrating the accomplishments of alumni. Roseman was selected as the winner from a field that included hundreds of distinguished alumni.

Anthony N. Ottaviani (center) receives his HPD Distinguished Service Award from George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer (left), and Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., HPD chancellor.

Anthony N. Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H., MACOI, FCCP, clinical professor of internal medicine, regional dean, and director of medical education at Largo Medical Center, was honored with the HPD Distinguished Service Award during the Health Professions Division's 31st annual Bal Fantastique held April 9 at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. Ottaviani, who has practiced in the fields of pulmonary and critical care medicine for more than 40 years, is a member of the HPD Board of Governors and previously served on the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Board of Trustees, including time as president in 2008. In 2014, he was elected president of the American Osteopathic Foundation's Board of Directors.

Faculty Members Discuss Memorable National Leadership Roles

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

Naushira Pandya (left) and Doris Newman

DURING THE PAST YEAR, two faculty members served as leaders of national organizations: **Naushira Pandya**, M.D., CMD, FACP, chair and professor of the Department of Geriatrics and director of the college's Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center, and **Doris Newman**, D.O., FAAO, assistant dean of osteopathic clinical education.

Pandya spent her year as president of the AMDA—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, which is the only medical specialty society representing the community of more than 50,000 medical directors, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other practitioners working in various post-acute and long-term care settings. Newman served as president of the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO), an osteopathic medical society with a focused educational mission. AAO members are predominately osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students trained in the United States who have a high degree of interest in the art, the science, and the integration of osteopathic manipulative medicine and treatment.

Touching upon their rewarding tenures, the women shared reflections of their memorable terms in office. "My experience as AAO president taught me that the political nature of our profession, and the importance of being at the table when political decisions are being made, is no easy way around difficult decisions," Newman said. "As president, I was regularly reminded that there exists in this profession many osteopathic physicians dedicated to the principles that Dr. A.T. Still, the founder of osteopathic medicine, put forth so many years ago. Many D.O.s have dedicated their lives to furthering the study and practice of those principles for the betterment of their patients."

"I have a deeper understanding of medical politics, development of regulations, evolving payment and quality reporting systems, and the interdependence of federal and state agencies," Pandya said. "The information and resources I gained through my AMDA leadership have helped bring NSU-COM and its Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center to the forefront of state, national, and international arenas. My heartfelt belief is that despite all the complexity of health systems management, it is still teamwork and the empathic and thoughtful care of individual patients and families that matter most."

Both faculty members thanked Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean, for supporting their work and encouraged others to seek the enlightening and empowering experiences of seeking national leadership roles.

Pandya offered the following advice: "I would recommend others accept the challenge, but I would urge them to enter with eyes wide open and enlist the support of family, friends, and colleagues." Newman agreed, adding, "It is only in our dedication to these organizations that we can truly understand the multifaceted sides of issues and work to gain a deeper understanding of the practice of osteopathic medicine, improve the care of patients, and forge new ground in the training of future osteopathic physicians."

Transitions

Brien

Harper-Celestine

Hamstra

Hardigan

Sandhouse

Kara Brien, B.S., administrative assistant in the Office of Clinical Education, was promoted to the position of manager of the Department of Emergency Medical Services Education and Training programs, where she will oversee staff members responsible for training. Brien will serve as the primary liaison between the NSU Training Center and the American Heart Association emergency cardiovascular care programs.

Delia Harper-Celestine, Ed.D., M.P.H., assistant dean of osteopathic postgraduate education, who focused on postgraduate residency training programs and working with Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education partners, transitioned to the position of assistant dean of student and alumni affairs.

Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., M.S., director of preclinical education, was promoted to the position of assistant dean of postgraduate education.

Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., M.B.A., joined the college as a full-time professor of public health and medical education in June. In addition to his NSU-COM responsibilities, Hardigan will continue to serve as the Health Professions Division's executive director of assessment, evaluation, and faculty development and as chair of NSU's Statistical Consulting Center.

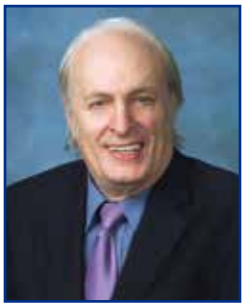
Mark Sandhouse, D.O., M.S., assistant dean of administration and academic director of medical education for the college's training programs, was promoted to the position of associate dean of administration.

Research/Scholarly COMmunications

Steve E. Bronsburg, Ph.D., M.H.S.A., CTTS, coauthored a research journal article with Steven B. Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., "Text Messaging's Impact on an Evidence-Based Medicine Tobacco Cessation Program," which he presented at the International Institute for Applied Knowledge Management conference held June 22–25 at the University of Lisbon in Portugal. During the symposium, Bronsburg presented a second coauthored article, "Using Data Analytics to Further Understand the Role That Boredom, Loneliness, Social Anxiety, Social Gratification, and Social Relationships (BRAG) Play in a Driver's Decision to Text." Both papers were published in the May edition of the *Online Journal of Applied Knowledge Management*.

Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A., coauthored a paper, "Supporting Medical Home Transformation Through Evaluation of Patient Experience in a Large Culturally Diverse Primary Care Safety Net," which was published in the May/June edition of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*. Cook coauthored a second paper, "Pilot Test of a Six-Week Group Delivery Caregiver Training Program to Reduce Sleep Disturbances Among Older Adults with Dementia-Innovative Practice," which was published in the April edition of *Dementia*.

Isa Fernández, Ph.D., M.A., was the primary author on a paper, "Embedding HIV Mentoring Programs in HIV Research Networks," which was published in *AIDS and Behavior*. In addition, she serves as the senior mentor on a four-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Minority AIDS Research Initiative for the study, "Feasibility and Acceptability of a Couples-Based HIV/STI Prevention Intervention for Drug and Alcohol Using Latino MSM."



Jay M. Fleisher, Ph.D., M.S., M.A., was selected to serve as a reviewer for the following peer-reviewed journals: *Water Research, Elsevier Science Ltd., Journal of Community Health, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, Water and Health*, and *Water Science and Technology*. He also made several oral and poster presentations at the United States Environmental Protection Agency Recreational Waters Conference held April 12–15 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Elizabeth Hames, D.O., CMD, (left) and **Kenya Rivas**, M.D., CMD, presented a lecture, "Post-Acute and Long-Term Care of Older Adults with Both Dementia and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)," at the American Medical Directors Association Annual Conference held March 19 in Orlando, Florida. In addition, Hames and Rivas were certified as regional trainers for the National Task Group on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities after completing their coursework in the spring. Hames was also appointed to serve as NSU-COM's medical director of Covenant Village in Plantation, Florida.

T. Lucas Hollar, Ph.D., (left) coauthored an article with **Nicole Cook**, Ph.D., M.P.A., and **David Quinn**, M.P.H., "Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Policies Show Promise in Reducing Secondhand Smoke Exposure Among Racially and Ethnically Diverse, Low-Income Seniors," which was published in the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.

Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.S., M.P.H., coauthored a paper with **Raymond Ownby**, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., "Factors Associated with Depression in Homebound Older Adults," which was published in *Mental Health Clinician*.

Roody Joseph, D.P.T., PT, OCS, served as lead author for the research paper, "Sex Differences in Self-Reported Hip Function Up to Two Years After Arthroscopic Surgery for Femoroacetabular Impingement," which was published in *The American Journal of Sports Medicine*. Joseph, who serves as an associate professor of sports medicine, received his doctorate in physical therapy from Florida International University in 2012. He joined the NSU-COM faculty in January 2016 after completing an orthopedic physical therapy residency program at The Ohio State University.

Michelle Johnson, D.O., presented a lecture, "Complicated Vaginitis," at the 83rd annual Conference of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists held April 14 in Fort Lauderdale.

Linda Maurice, M.A., presented at three events at the American Society on Aging's (ASA) Aging in America Conference held March 20–24 in Washington, D.C. The events included a panel discussion, "Latest Trends from Lifelong Learning Research and Practice and Resultant Best Practices," the presentation, "The Boomers are Coming! Are You Ready?" and the "ASA Lifelong Learning Practitioners and Researchers Peer Group" discussion. Maurice was also appointed to the ASA Lifetime Education and Renewal Network Council.

Pamela Moran-Walcutt, D.O., presented a lecture, "¡Que dolor! Implementing a Required Medical Spanish Course: Lessons Learned," at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Annual Conference held April 6–9 in Washington, D.C.

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, FACP, coauthored a position statement of the American Diabetes Association on "The Management of Diabetes in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long-Term Care," which was published in the February issue of *Diabetes Care*. In addition to making presentations involving two national organizations, she was invited to Washington, D.C., on March 25 to attend the White House unveiling of a special report, "The Economic Consequences of the Criminal Justice System on Families and Communities."

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., M.Sc., R.D.N., presented a lecture, "Completing the Cycle of Education for Students in the Community: Miles Traveled and New Curves Ahead," to the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages on May 25 in Washington, D.C. She also authored the chapter, "Community-Based Nutrition Services and Resources," in *Pediatric and Adult Nutrition in Standard, Chronic Diseases, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, which was published by Oxford University Press.

Research/Scholarly COMmunications

Renowned Researcher Receives World Class Faculty Award

ON MAY 19, **Nancy Klimas**, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Immunology and director of the college's Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, was the recipient of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance World Class Faculty Award, which was presented at the alliance's mid-year luncheon held at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. The award is presented annually as part of the alliance's Educational Excellence Builds Business campaign, which showcases the high quality of Greater Fort Lauderdale's pre-K–20 education system and the outstanding quality of the local workforce, including world-class faculty members who are nationally or internationally known in their fields.

"Dr. Klimas is an integral leader and one of our most outstanding researchers and clinicians," said Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean. "She is an excellent mentor to developing faculty researchers and students. She adds wisdom and a sense of humor to our collegium of chairs that is uniquely Nancy."

In her role as director of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, Klimas has recruited some of the brightest minds in research to Broward County, ranging from immunologists and microbiologists to neurosurgeons and physicists. They collaborate in the effort to find better treatments and cures for diseases that often do not receive the attention they deserve. Under her leadership, the institute has grown to more than 50 employees and secured more than $10 million in external federal funding—sponsored research, training, and service programs—since it was established in 2013. In addition, Klimas' research team has secured an additional $8 million in funding for its work at the Miami VA.

Faculty, Staff Members Earn NSU Research Grants

From left: Lubov Nathanson, Ph.D., M.Sc., assistant professor of clinical immunology at NSU-COM's Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine; Ralph Rogers, Ph.D., executive vice president and provost; and Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., NSU-COM dean

On April 26, several NSU-COM faculty and staff members, in collaboration with other NSU faculty researchers, were awarded cash endowments at the university's 17th annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant (PFRDG) and 14th annual Quality of Life (QOL) Awards ceremony.

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer, and Gary Margules, Sc.D., vice president for the Office of Research and Technology Transfer, recognized 25 research projects that received PFRDG awards of up to $15,000 each for fiscal year 2017, for a total of $370,828. They also acknowledged the dedication and innovation of the 43 faculty members and 43 students from the 10 academic units that submitted 52 PFRDG proposals.

NSU-COM recipients of the PFRDG awards were Lubov Nathanson, Ph.D., M.Sc.; Stephen Grant, Ph.D.; Nancy Klimas, M.D.; Maria Vera Nunez, M.D.; Jeffry Cournoyer, ATC; Violetta Renesca, M.S.N.; Irina Rozenfeld, M.S.N., A.R.N.P.; Jill Wallace-Ross, D.O.; Isa Fernández, Ph.D., M.A.; Kristine Freitas, B.S.; and Natalie Donn, M.S. In addition, Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., LCSW, received QOL recognition.

$2.75-Million+ Grant Promotes Health Literacy in Underserved Populations

Health literacy is a critically important ability that allows people to become active participants in their health care. Yet, one in three Americans have little to no health literacy skills according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Further, 24 percent of African Americans (9.5 million), 41 percent of Hispanics (21 million), and 29 percent of people 65 or older (12.5 million) possess below basic levels of health literacy. This suggests these individuals may be unable to use health information for even the most basic tasks, such as following directions on how to take a medicine.

A research team led by Raymond L. Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., professor and chair of NSU-COM's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, recently received a five-year, $2,756,300 R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health to combat this major challenge. The grant will be used to develop a user-friendly computer application to help educate people about a variety of chronic health concerns at a level appropriate for them.

Examples of some health-related topics the app will address include fatigue, pain or physical discomfort, shortness of breath, sleep problems, depression, anger, stress, memory problems, and medication adherence.

"With patients having to navigate an increasingly complex health care system, our goal is to provide people with the information they need to manage their health in an easily accessible, personalized way they can understand and use," Ownby said.

Once developed, the program will be accessible in English and Spanish via an app that can be downloaded from the App Store®, or Google Play™, or available through the Internet. Users will provide basic demographic information and answer additional questions to determine their health issues and literacy. From there, users will be able to view relevant educational videos with slides and audio narration. Researchers will test the program at NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus and at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, by measuring how much people learn and how they apply it to their health based on positive results.

In addition to Ownby, the interprofessional research team includes: Amarilis Acevedo, Ph.D., NSU College of Psychology; Ron Chenail, Ph.D., NSU College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Michelle Doldren, Ed.D., M.P.H., CHES; Robin Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.S., M.P.H.; Arif Rana, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine; Michael Simonson, Ph.D., NSU Abraham S. Fischler College of Education; Kofi Kondwani, Ph.D., M.S., Morehouse School of Medicine; and Sara Czaja, Ph.D., University of Miami.

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R01MD010368. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

Research/Scholarly COMmunications

HPD Research Day Spotlights Innovation

On February 12, the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) coordinated its fifth Research Day event, which attracted an estimated 3,500 live and videoconference attendees to the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus and featured 154 poster and platform presentations. Research Day, which is held every two years, allows the seven HPD colleges to spotlight the various research projects being developed through the creativity of their faculty members, students, and collaborative partners.

As has been the case at every Research Day, the College of Osteopathic Medicine played an integral role in the event, with **Janet Hamstra**, Ed.D., M.S., associate professor of internal medicine and director of preclinical education, serving as the point person for all NSU-COM-related oral and poster presentations. NSU-COM students and faculty members contributed 10 oral and 23 poster presentations to the event and collaborated with a variety of individuals from other HPD colleges and hospitals across South Florida and the United States.

During the event, a number of students received $100 Barnes & Noble gift cards in honor of their innovative research projects. The following are the NSU-COM students who received recognition:

- Third-year student **Sergey Arutyunyan**—"Sunburn Risk and Florida Residents: A Cross-Sectional Study Examining Demographic, Dermatological, and Attitudinal Factors"
- First-year student **Sean Baksh**—"Cancer Gene Therapy Targeted Toward Methionine Metabolism: Characterization of Methionine gammalyase-deaminase (Mgld)"
- Third-year students **Kelly Corbitt** and **Alexandra Grammenos** and second-year students **Allen Abello** and **Jason Mammino**—"Face and Neck Skin Firmness and Water Content Assessed in Young Women"
- Third-year students **Zaid Rana** and **Hassan Iqbal**, M.S.—"The Association Between Sex and Professional Career Aspirations and First-Year Osteopathic Medical Students' Intent to Work with Underserved."

Faculty Duo Receives Kenyon Cancer Grant

From left: Janet L. Roseman; Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of research and innovation and award administrator; and Kamilah B. Thomas-Purcell

In March, **Janet L. Roseman**, Ph.D., M.S., R-DMT, assistant professor of medical education, and **Kamilah B. Thomas-Purcell**, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of public health, received the 2016–2017 Kenyon Primary Care Cancer-Related Research Grant. Since 2001, NSU-COM has provided this funding opportunity to faculty members through an endowment created by the late Franklin Kenyon and Frances Kenyon Agneski.

Roseman is conducting a study to understand how primary care physicians in obstetrics and gynecology/women's oncology at the Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island in Providence can potentially benefit from participating in the Sidney Project in Spirituality and Medicine and Compassionate Care. For the past three years, the project has been part of the curriculum at NSU-COM's affiliated residency sites.

Thomas-Purcell is managing a study designed to determine the effects of a social marketing education intervention on breast and cervical cancer screening in women ranging in age from 21 to 64 in Grenada—an island country and sovereign state consisting of the island of Grenada and six smaller islands at the southern end of the Grenadines in the southeastern Caribbean Sea.

Alumni in the News

Alia Abdulla, D.O. ('07), a fellowship-trained surgical oncologist and medical director of the surgical oncology department at North Shore Medical Center in Miami, recently published a chapter in the textbook *Melanoma* focusing on the follow-up guidelines for resected melanoma.

Dana Block-Abraham, D.O. ('07), who joined the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2015, is in the midst of completing a fetal intervention fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Block-Abraham, who is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and in maternal-fetal medicine, completed her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She then completed a maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

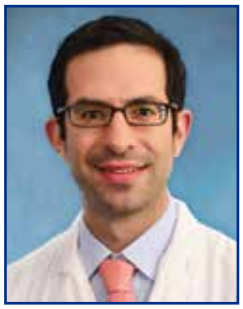
Bridget Bellingar, D.O. ('86), who has been a self-employed osteopathic physician since 1987, was reappointed to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine by Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Ulyee Choe, D.O. ('05), was appointed as director of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County. He previously served as director of the Florida Department of Health in Polk County and director of the Hardee County Health Department. He also serves as an assistant professor in the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine's Division of Infectious Disease and International Medicine.

Almari Ginory, D.O., FAPA ('06), was appointed as program director for a new psychiatry residency program at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida. She previously served as associate program director of general psychiatry, fellowship director of forensic psychiatry, chief of consultation liaison psychiatry, and clinical director of the University of Florida Adult Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic.

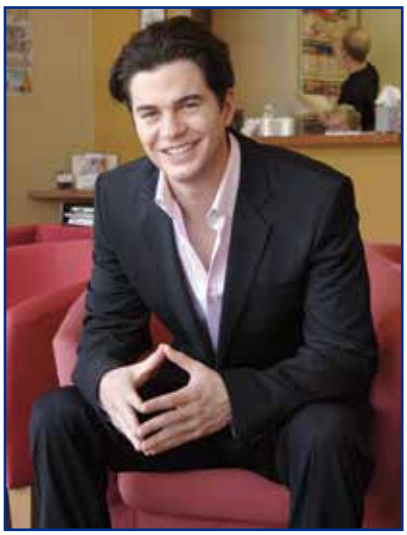
Manuel Gonzalez-Brito, D.O. ('97), recently joined the administrative team at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, Florida, as vice president of medical education. In this role, he is involved with implementing and organizing a high-quality educational program and is responsible for the oversight, administration, and accountability of the hospital's American Osteopathic Association-approved programs.

Matthew Hesh, D.O. ('01), has been named chief of abdominal imaging for SimonMed, which is one of the largest outpatient medical imaging providers and physician radiology practices in the United States.



Rob Isaak, D.O. ('07), was appointed to serve as an oral board examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology. He is currently an assistant professor of anesthesiology in the University of North Carolina's liver transplant and vascular anesthesiology division.

Alumni in the News



Will Kirby, D.O., FAOCD ('00), won a prime-time celebrity version of the long-running CBS game show *The Price is Right*, which featured past contestants from the *Big Brother* reality series. Kirby's winnings, which totaled more than $50,000, were donated to Active Minds—a charity focused on promoting mental health awareness on college campuses. Kirby also serves as the medical brand ambassador and as an adviser to *ReputationStacker.com*, which is an online tool physicians use to boost positive patient reviews of their practices.

From left: Mark Baiada, founder and president of BAYADA Home Health Care; Joshua D. Lenchus; and Ann Baiada, director of BAYADA Home Health Care

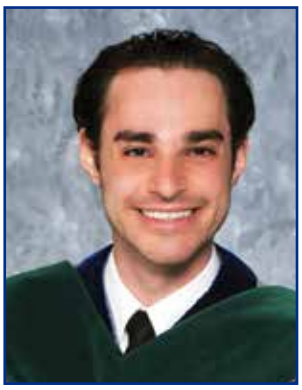
Joshua D. Lenchus, D.O., R.Ph., FACP, SFHM ('00), who serves as president of the Jackson Health System medical staff in Miami, was the recipient of the Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions BAYADA Award for Technological Innovation in Health Care Education and Practice, which was accompanied by a $10,000 cash award. Lenchus and his team were honored for the cutting-edge, simulation-based procedural instructional curriculum they created, which resulted in the provision of safer patient care. This marked the first time a physician group, as well as an osteopathic physician, was honored since the award was established in 2004.

Shoshana D. Levy, M.D., M.P.H. ('14), was named chair-elect of the American College of Preventive Medicine Young Physician Section.

Shivani Patel, D.O., M.S., FAAP ('11), who completed a pediatric hospital medicine fellowship in June 2015 at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, recently began working as a faculty member at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in the Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine.

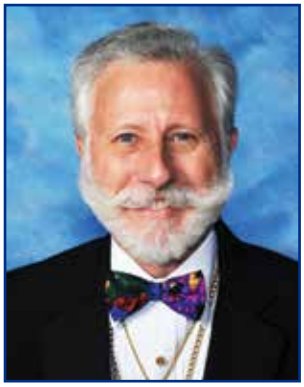
Austin Payor, D.O. ('08), was selected to serve as the assistant medical director for Florida Hospital Tampa, which is affiliated with Tampa Bay Emergency Physicians/US Acute Care Solutions. He also serves on the US Acute Care Solutions Observation and Clinical Decision Unit.

Activities, Accomplishments, and Awards



Puzzo

Rankin



Stager

Wessel

Carlo J. Puzzo, D.O. ('15), and **Stephen R. Gallo**, D.O. ('15), had their article, "Massive Hematochezia in a Patient with a Previously Repaired Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm," published in the March issue of *Vascular Disease Management*.

Bruce G. Rankin, D.O., CPI, MRO, FACOFP ('85), who served as president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians in 2015–2016, works as the medical director of Avail Clinical Research and has family medicine offices in Deland and Orange City, Florida. In 1985, Rankin was the inaugural recipient of the NSU-COM Samuel Salman, D.O., Award in Family Medicine.

John Shewmaker, D.O., ('00), has written a book trilogy on aviation safety that exposes flaws in the National Transportation Safety Board investigation process, the nature of aviation accidents, and how to avoid common mistakes when conducting medical examinations on pilots. The first two books—*Flying Under the Weather* and *Murder in a 172*—are available on Amazon. The third book—*Head in the Sand, Death in the Clouds*—will be published soon.

William H. Stager, D.O., M.S., M.P.H., FAAFP, FAAMA, FAAO, FACOFP *dist.* ('89), received Distinguished Fellow recognition from the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) on April 7 at the ACOFP 53rd annual Convention and Scientific Seminars, which took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is only the 68th osteopathic physician to earn this prestigious designation.

Tony L. Weaver, D.O. ('11), began a fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in July 2016. He also coauthored two peer-reviewed articles that were published in April: "Two-Year Follow-Up of Autologous Fat Grafting with Laser-Assisted Facelifts" in the *Annals of Plastic Surgery* and "Benign Pneumatosis Intestinalis: Can We Avoid the Knife?" in the online edition of *The American Surgeon*.

Natalie Wessel, D.O., M.P.H. ('13), a third-year OB/GYN resident at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, recently presented a grand-rounds lecture, "Pregnancy Doesn't Have to Be Painful: Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment of Low Back Pain in Pregnancy," to the center's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her lecture included a one-hour didactic session for her M.D. colleagues, which allowed them to learn about osteopathic manipulative treatment and how it can help alleviate low back pain in patients during pregnancy. Wessel is currently the only osteopathic physician in her department at the University of California Davis Medical Center.

NSU-COMmunications

ShaDO Day Event Educates Premedical Students

ON APRIL 21, the NSU-COM chapter of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) organized its annual ShaDO Day event in honor of National Osteopathic Medicine Week. As a result, more than 35 premedical students from across Florida were invited to visit the university and learn about NSU-COM's curriculum, as well as what it takes to be an osteopathic medical student.

The premedical students were taken on a tour of the Health Professions Division, participated in a demonstration that allowed them to witness basic physical diagnosis exams with standardized patients, and interacted with patient simulators. They also had the opportunity to spend an hour with the college's dean, Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.; eat lunch with an osteopathic admissions counselor; and watch first-year NSU-COM students perform osteopathic manipulative treatment techniques on each other.

During ShaDO Day, the premedical students had an opportunity to perform mock exams on a patient simulator.

Due to their interactions with first- and second-year NSU-COM students, many of the premedical students expressed their interest in learning more about the college's curriculum.

Scott Colton poses with the AACOM awards.

NSU-COM Receives Two AACOM Communications Awards

IN MARCH, NSU-COM further cemented its reputation as a communications leader when it received two national awards in the 2016 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Excellence in Communications (EIC) Awards Program.

The college's publication, *COM Outlook*, earned third-place honors in the Best Magazine category. In addition, Scott Colton, B.A., APR, who serves as COM/HPD director of medical communications and public relations, received second-place honors in the Best Feature Article category for his piece titled, "Childhood Cancer Survivor Daniel Bral Targets Bright Future."

AACOM represents the 33 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States, which are accredited to deliver instruction at 48 teaching locations in 31 states.

The Health Care Legal Eagle

By Fred Segal, J.D.

Use, Retention, and Control of Medical Records:

A Brief Primer

AS I'M SURE YOU ARE AWARE, medical records are an extremely sensitive issue. The use and disclosure of medical records to third parties, along with the creation, retention, and distribution of records, are subject to numerous federal and state statutes and regulation. The following is a brief summary of some of the Florida and federal statutory provisions related to medical records.

The Health Insurance Accountability and Affordability Act, also known as HIPAA, is a federal law that essentially sets forth regulations regarding the use, disclosure, and safekeeping of Protected Health Information (PHI) by covered entities. The act defines covered entities as health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers who electronically transmit any health information. Most of the time, medical records are considered PHI.

Each state has its own statutes and regulations relating to the creation, retention, and distribution of records. In Florida, a medical record must be legible and contain sufficient information to identify patients; support the physician's diagnosis of the patient; justify treatment; and document course of results accurately. A physician or physician group, entity, or any other service provider must retain a patient's medical records in their files for at least five years.

However, there are other considerations in determining how long to retain records—most importantly, the maximum amount of years within which a patient can initiate a medical malpractice claim. In Florida, certain malpractice claims could be brought against a physician for up to seven years after the date the incident occurs. With this in mind, physicians should highly consider retaining patient medical records for at least seven years.

If a patient requests his or her records from a service provider, the provider is allowed to request reasonable payment of costs from the patient to produce records. The Florida statutes give guidance as to what are considered reasonable charges.

The ownership and control of a patient's medical records in Florida are governed by Florida Statute Section 456.057. This statute states that any health care practitioner who generates a medical record after examining or treating a patient is considered the records owner. However, notwithstanding the above, if an employment contract or other agreement between an entity and the treating physician designates that the entity is the records owner, then such entity will be the records owner.

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

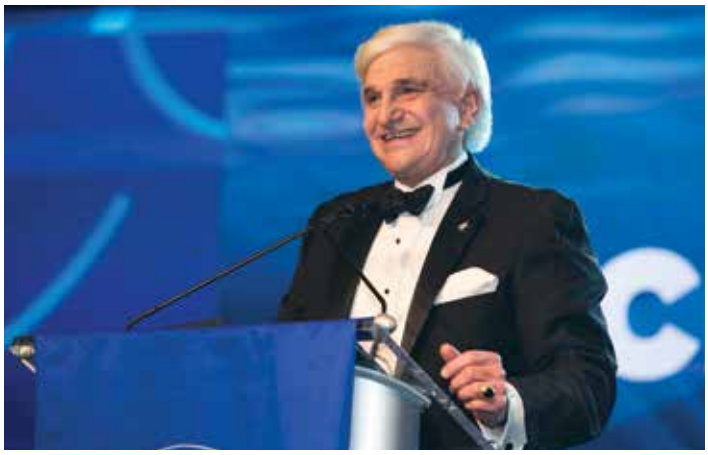
NSU News *of* Note

NSU Aims to Raise $500 Million by 2020

NSU HAS SEVERAL GOALS set as it launches its "Realizing Potential: The Campaign for Nova Southeastern University" philanthropic crusade. These include scholarships and research opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds; breakthrough stem-cell research; new therapies for patients with cancer and autism; and interprofessional collaboration in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics to name a few.

The campaign is the largest philanthropic effort in the university's more than 50-year history and in the history of Broward County. Officials plan to raise $250 million, with another $300 million secured through sponsored research, service, and training projects.

Through this philanthropic campaign, NSU seeks to raise the $250 million by December 2020 to support excellence for its students, faculty members, and 21st-century educational initiatives. Coupled with the university's goal of also raising another $300 million,



On January 30, 2016, NSU Board of Trustees members and campaign leadership members joined George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer, to announce the official public launch of Realizing Potential at the university's annual Celebration of Excellence gala.

the Realizing Potential campaign is part of NSU's Vision 2020 goal to raise more than $500 million in external funding. NSU has already raised more than half of the support in both philanthropy and sponsored projects since launching the silent phase of the campaign in July 2008.

Hospital to Be Built at Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus

ON MAY 17, Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration submitted its final approval for HCA East Florida to relocate Plantation General Hospital to Nova Southeastern University's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

"This will propel us toward achieving NSU's Vision 2020, providing the highest-quality health care to our community and opening the doors for countless teaching and research opportunities," said NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.

The 200-bed community hospital will serve South Florida and will eventually become a teaching and research facility integrated with NSU's clinics, research centers, and clinical trials. This milestone addition, coupled with this year's opening of NSU's Center for Collaborative Research, will provide students and

faculty members with expanded opportunities for research and training.

NSU and HCA East Florida will provide additional information on groundbreaking, construction, and estimated completion of the hospital as it becomes available.

What would you do if you were tobacco FREE?

NSU Offers Two Free Types of Programs

Option 1
A two-hour session is offered where participants learn how to develop a successful quit plan.

Option 2
Support groups meet once a week for six weeks and cover a variety of topics including coping with withdrawal symptoms, managing addiction, and preventing relapse.

Free nicotine patches, lozenges, and gum are available to help tobacco users cope with nicotine withdrawal symptoms (while supplies last and if medically appropriate).

(954) 262-1580 *ahectobacco.com*

IQuit with AHEC is the in-person option of Tobacco Free Florida's free and easy ways to quit.

Programs cover all forms of tobacco.

Sponsored by the AHEC Tobacco Program of Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and the State of Florida Department of Health.

NSU

NSU NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NOVA
SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

NSU News *of* Note

Dental College Kicks Off National Gives Kids A Smile Program

NSU's College of Dental Medicine provided pro-bono dental services to 750 schoolchildren and special-needs patients in South Florida on February 5 to help kick off the American Dental Association (ADA) Foundation's Give Kids A Smile Day program. The children received examinations, cleanings, oral health education, and preventive and restorative services, which were valued at more than $300,000, all at no cost.

The ADA Foundation selected NSU from among 1,500 sites throughout the United States as the Give Kids A Smile Day national launch site due to the university's leading efforts since the program was launched more than a decade ago.