

COM outlook

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GRADUATION 2009: A Time For Reflection and Celebration



Dean's Message



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

The Council of Florida Medical School Deans (CFMSD) was established more than 15 years ago as an informal affiliation of the four existing colleges of medicine in the state to provide a forum to discuss items of mutual interest. During that time, the council members occasionally traveled to Tallahassee or Washington, D.C., as a group to discuss various issues. But that casual communication process didn't evolve significantly until about 10 years ago when the four Florida medical school deans, including myself, went to visit Senator Connie Mack in Washington, who served as a U.S. senator from Florida from 1989 until 2001. During the meeting, he made a revealing statement that really left an impression on all of us. What he said was, "It used to be so much easier when you each came in here alone because I could always have one of you play against the other. But now that you're coming in together, I not only have to listen, I have to act."

After we left that meeting, Senator Mack's comments served as the impetus for us to make the council a more-formal organization. So we hired a person to help us in this endeavor and started to create regulations and share staff and expertise from our individual colleges to assist with issues ranging from graduate medical education (GME) to academic legal concerns. We also began to look at areas we could impact that were directly related to the future of medical education, including the delivery and quality of medical care for all Floridians. Unlike the council's early days, we now convene via teleconference every month and have face-to-face meetings at least three times a year.

Over the ensuing years, the council took the position that it would never be opposed to a new medical school opening in the state. As the legislators and policymakers considered expanding medical education opportunities, the CFMSD provided pertinent information relative to the development and training of Florida's future physicians. This included issues such as knowing the full costs of medical education and the economic impact to the state. We also assisted the legislators in understanding GME and its needs as the number of medical students increased. We also presented knowledge of the relationship between GME, first-year positions, and the economic loss that would result if that number was not close to the number of graduating medical students.

There's also the fact that every medical school is a large economic engine that presents opportunities for additional revenue through its research endeavors, technology transfer, patents, students, faculty members, and other employees. Medical residents also provide the majority of care for the medically underserved and economically disadvantaged.

At a recent meeting with the Association of American Medical Colleges, which represents the allopathic medical schools, and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, which represents the osteopathic medical schools, we discussed how the CFMSD has evolved into a highly respected and balanced organization. Florida now has nine medical schools, of which two are branch

campuses, five are state schools, and two are private schools. This obviously puts certain competitive strain on the external training-site recruitment process. But even though those spots are competitively sought by the various medical schools, the CFMSD is the place we all go to when it concerns common areas of interest because we know we can turn challenges into opportunities and have a more positive impact if we work together.

While this all sounds very romantic and symbiotic, we are not the Cleaver family from *Leave it to Beaver*. We are a normal family, and we do have disagreements. But in the end, the CFMSD has always prevailed for the greater good of all the schools and thus for Florida.

Some of our recent accomplishments include having taken the leadership role in developing the Physician Workforce Act, which allows for accurate accountability for physicians licensed in Florida as to their scope of practice, their hours of practice, the amount of time they practice, where they practice, and their intentions for retirement. This was a budget-neutral item that has become very successful and is allowing us to really understand the needs of the medically underserved, the distribution of physicians, and the scope of practices throughout the state.

In terms of disaster planning, by learning the lessons from what occurred at Louisiana State University and Tulane University, the medical schools in Florida are working together to develop a plan of action in the event that any natural or manmade disaster forces one or more of our medical schools to close for a significant period of time. By working together as a cohesive team, our goal is to ensure that the affected students involved will be able to continue their education without interruption until such time as the affected institution(s) are able to reopen.

In addition, the CFMSD was one of the leaders in developing the Florida Patient Safety Corporation, which has become the first federally certified patient safety organization in the United States. In addition, the council members now serve as consultants to many legislators and their staff members in formulating bills related to health, health care, and health education and are also requested to provide testimony in many regulatory or bill hearings. We also work in partnership with the two state medical associations—the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association and the Florida Medical Association—to find ways to ensure a better distribution of physicians within the state and to provide the most current medical information for their meetings.

We are also working very closely with the Florida Area Health Education Centers Network, which is the most effective organization to provide education to rural and underserved populations and assist in providing all aspects of health care in both rural and urban underserved areas, including tobacco cessation programs.

I feel very proud to have been selected to serve as council chair for seven consecutive years and to work with such dynamic and visionary colleagues, including the CFMSD executive director. Their commitment to ensuring that the quality of medical education in Florida is of the highest caliber is extremely laudable. Because we are unified in our efforts, we continue to move forward to not just ensure we graduate the very best physicians but that we also participate in providing the very best care for all Floridians through our graduates, residency training programs, and within the delivery of health care within each medical school.



Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

An issue that is of great importance not only to the College of Osteopathic Medicine but to various other programs within the Health Professions Division involves our numerous external academic affiliations. To be specific, providing clinical education opportunities as part of our overall curriculum has always been one of our most challenging endeavors because we rely heavily upon our external training community, which includes

hospitals and medical centers as well as individual medical and health venues.

It is an issue that's become increasingly more challenging over the years as we have expanded so dramatically in regard to the depth and breadth of our programs as well as increased our class sizes. The need for clinical education rotation opportunities, whether they are in medicine, pharmacy, or other HPD programs, is a very important feature of the academic infrastructure we provide for our health professions students.

At the College of Osteopathic Medicine, clinical rotations are absolutely critical because the third and fourth years are primarily taught external of our campus. We do provide some clinical rotation opportunities through

I know I've discussed the following issue before, but it's important to note that several new medical schools are being established in the state of Florida that are competing with established schools for rotation sites to send their students. People focus on residencies when they talk about graduate medical education, but it's our responsibility in the third and fourth years to provide students with a range of clinical rotation opportunities. Therefore, it's important to understand that because of the non-growth of existing hospitals and the non-creation of new hospitals, you essentially reach a limit on the number of available opportunities for clinical education rotations. Consequently, with two new medical schools at Florida International University and the University of Central Florida coming on board, it's going to become much more of a challenge.

Fortunately, even as competition for clinical rotation sites has continued to increase over the years, the College of Osteopathic Medicine's success in this area deserves to be lauded because it positively reflects on its reputation as an exceptional academic institution. When you look at the prestigious entities that have affiliated with us academically, their participation clearly illustrates the quality of our program. It also demonstrates how successful we have been about not just providing didactic classroom information and sending students out on rotations, but that we also have a sense of responsibility and professional attitude that embodies a caring and holistic philosophy. This is not only attached to "the osteopathic mission," but also relates directly back to our founder, Dr. Morton Terry, who always said, "The most important thing is when you interview a student applicant, you always have to have in the back of your mind the question do you want this person to be your doctor?"

After all these years of being involved in the community, people recognize that this philosophy is 100 percent true here at NSU. That's

"When you look at the prestigious entities that have affiliated with us academically, their participation clearly illustrates the quality of our program. It also demonstrates how successful we have been about not just providing didactic classroom information and sending students out on rotations, but that we also have a sense of responsibility and professional attitude that embodies a caring and holistic philosophy."

the NSU health centers, but, to a great extent, the students perform their rotations at our numerous academic-affiliated units, such as Largo Medical Center, Broward Health, and Mount Sinai Medical Center, to name just a few. These affiliations are very important to the nature of not only our programs but really to the continued successful existence of our medical school programs. The education quality we currently offer would clearly be endangered were it not for these outstanding educational affiliation partners. To that end, we have been incredibly successful, which is due to individuals such as Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni and Dr. Joseph De Gaetano as well as the various other people who are involved in planning and executing the programmatic structures at these various entities.

Our goal is to provide our medical students with all-encompassing clinical rotation experiences that allow them to be involved in multiple medical areas during both their required and elective rotations. For example, the college currently offers a wonderful elective rotation with one of the preeminent plastic surgeons in the United States. We also are in the process of expanding clinical rotation opportunities for our students at various hospitals in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

not to denigrate any of our sister schools. But it's clear the motivating force behind people wanting to affiliate with us educationally is because our students are not just "9-to-5ers" who show up for their clinical rotations and go through them in a rote manner. As young as they are within the process of being prepared as physicians, they understand their responsibilities. Due to the interaction between the professional external community and our academic professional community here at NSU-COM, we're invited in and have set up so many new academic affiliations over the past few years.

I am very pleased by the constant oversight, the academic quality, and the ability we have to be malleable and transform as the external features of the provision of health care change. That's what keeps us on the proverbial cutting-edge of providing a good student product for our affiliated academic partners.



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Geriatric Symposium Informs While Raising Awareness

The NSU-COM Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) held its Second Annual Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Symposium, titled Addressing the Clinical Challenges of Elder Care, on April 25-26 at NSU's Davie campus.



Shining a Spotlight on Research Endeavors at NSU-COM

Due to the increasing amount of research activity occurring at the college, a new section titled Spotlight on Research will now be appearing in each issue of *COM Outlook*. This section will provide coverage on a diverse array of research and related activities such as grants, poster presentations, and clinical research.



CBAP Adapts to Adversity, Charts Exciting New Course

Since its inception as a taskforce in 2001, the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness has undergone a wealth of transformation. However, when substantial federal funding cuts occurred in 2008, the center quickly adapted by being innovative and seeking new funding streams.



Roger Alvarez Makes the Most of His Opportunities

Like most young boys, class of 2009 student Roger Alvarez contemplated a range of career choices as he progressed toward adulthood. Becoming a physician, however, was never part of his master plan. In fact, he vehemently railed against the idea when his family began proposing it to him when he was just eight years old.



Tiffany Sizemore Shares her Medical School Experience

When class of 2009 student Tiffany Sizemore became an NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine matriculant at the age of 19, it seemed as if she had been preparing for the momentous moment all her life, which is not an exaggeration. If you need further proof, simply glance over at the accompanying photo.



Graduation 2009: Exuberance Rules During Senior Week

A true sense of celebration was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2009 to get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, a jocular dining experience at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., and a festive awards banquet.

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Notice of Accreditation/Nondiscrimination

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On April 28, Anthony DeNapoli, Ed.D., who serves as dean of international affairs at NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services, was presented the inaugural NSU-COM Alliance Award for his invaluable contributions toward advancing the international growth of osteopathic medicine and various NSU-COM academic programs. Dr. DeNapoli (right) received his award from Dr. Silvagni during a presentation held in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room.



Scott Colton, director of medical communications, received a Best Feature Story or Article Award in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Communications Awards Competition. Colton, who was honored for his *COM Outlook* article entitled "Who's Watching the Baby? Analyzing the OB/GYN Crisis from a Student and Faculty Perspective,"

received his award at a dinner ceremony held April 17 at the AACOM Annual Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland.



On May 9, NSU-COM's Department of EMS Education and Training coordinated its annual free CPR Training Day, which was sponsored by the American Heart Association, at the Health Professions Division campus. With sessions starting every hour, the general public was able to work with CPR experts, who trained the attendees in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Attendees were taught

how to perform CPR on adults and infants and received a booklet about basic CPR and lifesaving techniques to perform on choking victims.

Correction: On page 35 of the April 2009 issue of *COM Outlook*, David Lang, D.O., was listed as a 1998 alumnus; however, he actually graduated in 1991.

Dr. Robert Hasty Wins Cocurricular Adviser of the Year Stuey Award



Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency, was honored as Cocurricular Adviser of the Year at the 10th Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards ceremony, which was held April 21 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on campus. The Stueys serve as a celebration of NSU's best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and responsibility.

Excerpts from his nomination form, which was submitted by the college's Student Government Association, aptly illustrate why Dr. Hasty was so deserving of this distinguished honor. "The responsibility of an NSU-COM cocurricular adviser is to his students, and Dr. Robert Hasty is the epitome of commitment and involvement when it comes to his students. He does an exemplary job in his role of teacher in instructing students in the art of medicine and advocates daily for the needs of students on a local and national level. He not only advises us on how to become the best physicians we can be, but his presence on campus is a model of those goals and what they can achieve."

"Winning the Stuey as Cocurricular Adviser of the Year for 2009 is a great honor and is one of the highlights of my life," Dr. Hasty stated. "As an academic physician at NSU, I feel I have the most amazing career with resources that empower me to do the meaningful work I am passionate about doing and love. Advising, teaching, and mentoring the physicians of tomorrow is my calling in life, and each day is a reward. I am inspired by the Stuey Award and am energized to make an even greater impact using and developing my skills in the years to come."

Other NSU-COM Stuey nominees were as follows:

Alumni of the Year

Tyler Cymet, D.O.

Graduate Organization of the Year

Student National Medical Association

Student of the Year

Travis Osterman, D.O.

Staff Person of the Year

Shelby Clinton

Dr. A. Alvin Greber Receives Distinguished Service Award at Bal Fantastique



Posing for a friendly photo (from left) are Dr. Lippman, Dr. Greber and his wife, Mary, NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP.

The 28th Annual Bal Fantastique, which was held March 28 at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale, is a gala dinner/dance that honors the vision of Dr. Morton Terry who, along with numerous other dedicated individuals, created a world-renowned health care teaching facility called the Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division. During this year's event, which featured a Kentucky Derby theme, A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, who serves as HPD executive dean for professional affairs, was presented with the HPD Distinguished Service Award for his copious contributions to the osteopathic profession and the Health Professions Division.

The Man Without a Face Addresses Tobacco Danger with Students



Rick Bender

On May 11, Rick Bender, a former baseball player with the California Angels organization, delivered an engrossing lecture to the students and faculty about the dangers and consequences of using tobacco. At the age of 26, Bender was diagnosed with cancer as a result of using chewing tobacco. Following several major surgeries, he ended up losing a third of his tongue and half his jaw and now has limited use of his right arm. His presentation, which was coordinated with the NSU-COM AHEC Program with assistance from the Broward County Health Department, explored the personal details of how he began using tobacco at the age of 12 and the influences of peers and tactics used by tobacco companies to market products to young people. Following his presentation, students were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and interact with Bender.

Stephanie Markle Participates in Next Top Doc Radio Contest



MS-IV Stephanie Markle was one of 16 third- and fourth-year medical students from across the nation selected to participate in ReachMD's *Next Top Doc* XM Radio competition. ReachMD and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) partnered to develop and produce this new and exciting educational program. The question/answer-style quiz show tests the scholarly skills of the top medical students in the United States as students from across the country compete in a game show/contest format over 15 consecutive weeks that began airing weekly in May on ReachMD's XM Satellite Radio Channel 160.

AMSA, the oldest and largest independent association of physicians-in-training in the United States, was responsible for selecting the contestants from its membership and hosting the taping of the competition at its March 2009 convention. The contest winner was named ReachMD's Next Top Doc and received a ReachMD \$5,000 educational scholarship. Unfortunately, Markle did not progress beyond the first few rounds of competition.

Celebrating Kente with SNMA



On May 8, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) hosted an event titled Celebrating Kente in the HPD's Steele Auditorium with the purpose of introducing the NSU community to Ghanaian culture by celebrating one of the country's most lasting contributions—the Kente cloth—which is a type of woven cloth that originated in Ghana. The cloth has been noted to have first been developed by the Asante and the Ewe tribes of Ghana dating back as early as the 12th century. The cloth is usually woven on a horizontal loom by a weaver and produces several feet of cloth.

The SNMA, already known for its promotion of cultural diversity and awareness on campus, is hoping to not only expand on the event for the coming years but possibly include mainstays of other cultures. The event was a great success thanks to its hard-working members, specifically third-year students Delali Blavo, Sabine Delinois, Berry Pierre, and Watson Ducatel as well as second-year students Rachel Pierre, Ruth Chery, and Monique Samuel. To view additional photos from the Kente event, please visit nova.edu/snma.

Academic Excellence, Research Endeavors Recognized at Student Awards Ceremony

On March 19, a number of awards and scholarships were presented to both students and faculty members at the annual undergraduate student awards ceremony, which was held in the Health Professions Division's Steele Auditorium. Students were honored in areas such as research, academic excellence, and service. In addition, several faculty members were presented with Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching abilities. For your information, the student research awards are listed in the new Spotlight on Research section that begins on page 14.

Bergeron, Hardwick Receive Dr. Matthew Terry Scholarships



Pictured are Christine Bergeron, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Jason Hardwick.

OMS-I Jason Hardwick and OMS-II Christine Bergeron were the recipients of the 2009 Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to NSU-COM students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.

Drs. David Boesler and Lori Dribin Receive Golden Apple Awards



Dr. Boesler receives his Golden Apple Award from Hans Hilst, class of 2011 president.

David Boesler, D.O., associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice and chair of the Department of Neuromusculoskeletal medicine, received the Golden Apple Award from the class of 2011 for his outstanding teaching skills. Lori Dribin, Ph.D., who serves as professor of anatomy in the College of Medical Sciences, was the class of 2012's Golden Apple recipient but was unable to attend the award ceremony.

Academical Society Awards



Recipient Wendy Song with Dr. Debbi Cohn Steinkohl.

William Anderson Society



Recipient Mara Emily Weiss with Dr. Robert Hasty.

Louisa Burns Society



Recipient John Woods with Dr. Kenneth Johnson.

Robert Klein Society



Recipient Gabor Molinar with Dr. Khin Tu.

Fred Lippman Society



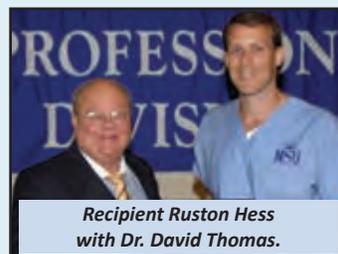
Recipient Kelli Burton with Dr. Stanley Simpson.

Anthony J. Silvagni Society



Recipient Shawn Iverson with Dr. Stanley Simpson.

Bradley I. Silverman Society



Recipient Ruston Hess with Dr. David Thomas.

A.T. Still Society



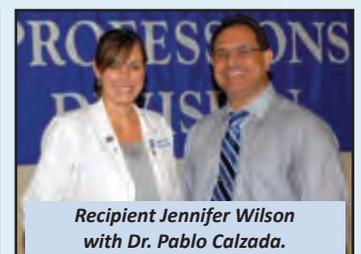
Recipient Bryan Peterson with Dr. Albert Whitehead.

Morton Terry Society



Recipient Donna Dalpe with Dr. Albert Whitehead.

James Turner Society



Recipient Jennifer Wilson with Dr. Pablo Calzada.

Ross Zafonte Society

Palmetto General Internal Medicine Residency Scores High Ranking



On March 6, the residents in the inaugural class at the NSU-COM Palmetto General Hospital Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency participated in the nationwide test given

by the American College of Osteopathic Internists. When the cumulative resident mean scores by rank were released in the spring, the NSU-COM Palmetto General program placed at number 13 out of 83 programs nationally. "This puts our program in the top quartile of all osteopathic internal medicine residency programs nationally," said Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, who serves as the residency's program director. "This is quite a feat for a program that hasn't even celebrated its first birthday and is composed of almost entirely PGY-1s. I am amazed at the quality of the residency and the academic culture we have created in such a short time.

AMWA Presents Vagina Monologues

By Denise Jordan, President of NSU-COM's AMWA Chapter



The *Vagina Monologues*, created by American playwright Eve Ensler, is becoming an annual tradition for the college's chapter of the American Medical Women's Association. This year's

adaptation, which was held March 13 in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on NSU's main campus, is made up of College of Osteopathic Medicine students who serve as both the actors and stage crew.

The Vagina Monologues is a series of soliloquies based on true accounts from women of all walks of life, and the women involved in this year's production did a beautiful and moving rendition of the monologues. With Women in Distress of Broward County on our minds, the executive board of AMWA worked diligently all year to plan and organize this event.

Because the university's Black Box Theatre was filled to capacity last year, we had to turn potential audience members away. However, under new leadership, the AMWA Executive Board made the decision to seek a larger venue. With the assistance of the Pan-SGA, we were able to secure the Miniaci Theater, which held a whopping 500 attendees. Our theory was that the more attendees we had, the more we could donate to Women in Distress. Our plan proved successful as we were able to raise over \$5,000. Women in Distress of Broward County received \$4,800, while Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues* charity for victims of rape in the Congo region of Africa, received \$500.

Insightful Information Shared at Annual Rural Medicine Retreat



Attendees who played a significant part in the retreat's success included (from left) Dr. Steven Zucker, Delia Celestine, Dr. Silvagni, Nancy Roussell, and Dr. Howell.

On June 5-7, the college's Department of Rural Medicine hosted its annual conference and recognition weekend for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and administrators from its network of rural/underserved training partners. These clinical

centers participate in the education of NSU-COM medical students and afford them the opportunity to render service in medically underserved communities.

The Rural Medicine Retreat, held at the Lago Mar Resort Hotel and Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was coordinated and hosted by James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the rural medicine department, and Delia Celestine, M.P.H., rural medicine administrative director. The retreat, which is part of the college's AHEC mission to extend academic resources to rural/underserved safety net sites throughout the state, brings NSU-COM faculty members together with primary care physicians and other providers from various community health centers, the Florida Department of Correctional sites, and private physician's offices to provide continuing education on vital health issues.

A number of relevant topics and hands-on demonstrations were presented at this year's retreat, including

- "OPP Introduction and OMM Lab" – Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc.
- "I-Stan Demonstration" – Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.
- "Motivational Interviewing" – Linda Carter Sobell, Ph.D.
- "Tobacco Dependency Treatment and Clinical Guidelines Update" – Dennis Penzell, D.O., M.S.

In addition to the aforementioned subjects, Ana Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., who serves as surgeon general and secretary of the Florida Department of Health, provided the keynote address on a range of health care issues impacting the state.

COMmunications

- OMS-II students **Tanaz Berahman** and **Natalie Lazarovits** were elected to Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA) national board positions for the 2009-10 academic year. Berahman will serve as convention coordinator while Lazarovits was elected SOSA secretary.
- OMS-II **Amanda Bailey** and OMS-IV **David Magness** were recipients of \$1,000 scholarships from the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF) Auxiliary. To be eligible for the ACOFP scholarships, students must be currently enrolled in an accredited osteopathic medical school, a member of the ACOFP, and active with their school's ACOFP student chapter.

AHEC Stresses Smoking Cessation Initiatives

On July 1, NSU-COM's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program began its 25th year of bringing NSU health professions training programs into medically underserved communities throughout South and Central Florida. Projected funding for AHEC's 25th year will surpass \$4.2 million. Below are some program highlights from the past six months:

AHEC played a key role in the planning and implementation of two major health fairs in the rural communities of Belle Glade and Clewiston. Nearly 300 health professions faculty members and students representing 10 health disciplines from NSU-HPD as well as Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College, and South University actively participated in this rural outreach effort. These health fairs, which also included the participation of the Palm Beach and Hendry County health departments and over 150 other community organizations, provided a broad range of medical, dental, optometric, mental health, and other screening, referral, and educational services to over 1,100 local residents.

With program planning assistance from the NSU Nursing Program, AHEC has developed partnerships with several universities and community colleges to train nursing students and nursing providers on tobacco cessation and prevention throughout the region. Among its program partners on this tobacco initiative are the nursing programs at the University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Indian River State College, Palm Beach Community College, Edison State College, Florida Southern College,



NSU-COM students perpetually play an integral role in the success of the Clewiston and Belle Glade health fairs.

South Florida Community College, and Valencia Community College.

AHEC been partnering with the NSU Center for Psychological Studies (CPS) on programming to train health professionals in the use of motivational interviewing techniques with patients who smoke. This has included the active participation of CPS faculty members Drs. Linda Sobell and Mark Sobell, who are renowned experts in the application of motivational interviewing in addressing health-risk behaviors, in the broad-based and comprehensive AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program. Through this alliance, NSU osteopathic medicine, dental, nursing, and pharmacy students, as well as community providers, continue to be trained in this very effective behavioral modification approach.

AHEC continues to collaborate with numerous community groups to implement tobacco cessation and prevention activities. This has included provision of tobacco cessation classes for the general public in multiple locations throughout Broward County in collaboration with the Broward County Health Department and the American Lung Association. Additionally, AHEC has established onsite tobacco cessation services for medically underserved populations at approximately 50 community health centers, rural hospitals, and other health service sites.

AHEC staff has been working with several regional and statewide organizations such as the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, and the Florida Nurses Association to conduct professional training workshops for health providers throughout Florida on effective techniques to treat tobacco dependency in the practice setting. Since the inception of this AHEC tobacco training program in 2007, over 3,000 practicing professionals from a wide range of health fields including medicine, nursing, dentistry, and pharmacy have participated in these and other NSU-COM AHEC tobacco treatment training workshops.



In May, AHEC partnered with the NSU College of Pharmacy to develop special seminars and workshops on motivational interviewing as well as tobacco cessation and prevention training for current and future pharmacists. Through these efforts, approximately 200 graduating pharmacy students were trained to address tobacco cessation and prevention in the pharmacy setting. Over the past year, over 2,000 health professions students have been trained by the AHEC Program.

In conjunction with the Florida AHEC Network, NSU's AHEC Program hosted its inaugural Florida Tobacco Summit, which was held in Orlando in mid May. This educational conference brought together members of Florida's health care community to review the latest tobacco-related treatment guidelines. During the summit, faculty members from the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Dental Medicine, and Center for Psychological Studies made presentations on a range of tobacco-related topics.

Because the AHEC Program believes in spreading its wellness message to the NSU community as well, it has been collaborating with the Division of Clinical Operations, the Center for Psychological Studies, and the Pharmacy Clinic to reduce tobacco use among NSU students, faculty, and staff. This is being accomplished through the delivery of on-campus cessation services that will be developed in support of the university's recently instituted Healthy Sharks initiative, which is aimed at promoting significant reductions in tobacco use within the NSU community.

NSU Division of Clinical Operations Update

By Robert Oller, D.O., CEO of the Division of Clinical Operations



Following the Dalai Lama's visit to the NSU campus in 2004, he continues to send his most trusted assistants to our health care clinics for treatment when visiting the United States. During his most recent visit in May, his assistants visited our campus to receive health care services from our internal medicine, dental, optometry, and audiology clinics, as well as cardiac care from the Broward Heart Center of Excellence, which was coordinated through NSU.

With the recent legislation signed on our campus by Governor Charlie Crist in the requirement that autistic children be covered by state health insurance programs, NSU's Division of Clinical Operations has been active in taking the lead in formulating a task force of NSU and other ICUBA universities' expertise to help guide both ICUBA and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida in developing the infrastructure to provide these services. More recently, the Division of Clinical Operations formulated a task force to include the NSU Center for Psychological Studies for the new Florida parity laws that relate to providing health care services for behavioral health on the same basis as medical services have been provided for in the past.

Reconfiguring of the first-floor medical suites in the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center has been completed with the addition of seven exam rooms and two counseling rooms. In addition, several

units such as the laboratory, medical assistance, and waiting areas have been enlarged, while three precepting rooms have been added to provide additional oversight training. We also will be providing imaging services to include X ray and ultrasound, which will enhance our ability to better serve our patients while expanding opportunities in providing training for our students in these areas. The imaging equipment is in the process of being reconfigured to provide digital imaging that can be reviewed online and stored electronically.

Recently, NSU President Ray Ferrero authorized the university to move to a smoke-free campus, which is an initiative that has been promoted by the university health and wellness programs as part of the Division of Clinical Operations. We are pleased to have joined forces with NSU-COM's AHEC Program in providing smoking cessation programs for our students and employees on our Davie campus as well as at various educational centers throughout Florida. Negotiations are in process to contract with Radiology Associates of Hollywood to interpret these studies with written reports.

On April 26, the Division of Clinical Operations once again coordinated the Boomers and Beyond: A Day for Health and Wellness event that provided free health screenings and services for diabetes, eye problems, fall risk and balance, mental health, blood pressure, body-mass index, dentistry, sonography, podiatry, physical therapy, and other health issues for over 1,200 attendees over the age of 35. The event targeted age groups of 35 and up. This year, there was a screening of the WPBT2 program *Do Not Go Gently*, narrated by Walter Cronkite, which explored the power of imagination in aging.

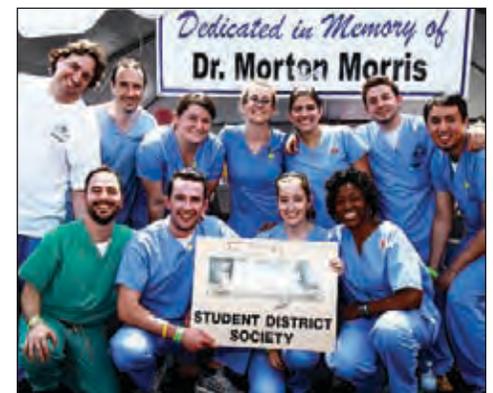
The university's Health Professions Division and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) teamed up once again on April 11 to hold the NSU/FOMA Annual Health Fair at the Tower

Shops/Home Depot Plaza near NSU's main campus. The health fair, which is open to the general public, offered free health checks and professional consultations, including vision, dental, blood pressure, and diabetes screenings. Over 1,600 people took advantage of the free services.

NSU is proud to offer all our free health care services whenever possible in these difficult financial times. To date, NSU has provided these services on a formal basis to over 12,000 people. The university also played a major role in the American Heart Association's Health Walk by raising about \$20,000.

The university recognized National Patient Safety Week with an educational event attended by over 200 faculty members, students, and staff members on March 11-12. The presentations, which were held at both our Davie and North Miami Beach sites, allowed the attendees to view the various patient safety presentations and posters created by faculty members and students.

On April 21, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences presented a certificate of completion to over 90 undergraduate students who participated in the Clinic Exploration Program, which invites select students to participate in a practicum rotation within HPD clinics. The purpose is to generate interest in the health professions clinical programs at NSU as well as to give those students interested in the health professions an opportunity to participate in clinical activities during their undergraduate education.



Students Showcase Their Political Activism During D.O. Day on the Hill

By Jason Hardwick (OMS-I) and Robert Morgan (OMS-I)

The road to D.O. Day on the Hill began in early February with topical briefings from Leann Fox, director of Washington advocacy and communications for the AOA. These briefings brought to the forefront some of the current medical issues and concerns of NSU-COM in order to better prepare us to discuss these topics with our representatives and senators. Our SOMA chapter members arrived in Washington, D.C., on March 4, where we were welcomed by nearly 1,400 practicing osteopathic physicians and fellow osteopathic medical students.

During the final briefing before our big day on the hill, we received our talking points, which are relevant issues in the field of osteopathic medicine. In the past, these points have included medical school loan repayment and funding to provide health care for children. In lieu of the recent stimulus package, our focus this year was more on advocating for the effective allocation of these funds for the osteopathic medical field.

House Resolution 914—the Physician Workforce and Graduate Medical Education Enhancement Act—was one of the talking points the AOA asked us to support while talking with our congressional members. This resolution aims to improve access to health care by increasing the number of residency programs for physicians in high-need areas of medicine—family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, preventive medicine, pediatrics, or behavioral and mental health—by establishing an interest-free loan program for hospitals committed to starting new osteopathic or allopathic residency training programs. This loan would be used to help offset the tremendous cost associated with starting a new residency program and provide the necessary incentives to attract more programs to be established in underserved areas. Statistics show that most residents will stay within 100 miles of where they



do their residency, and currently very few residency programs exist in underserved areas. Therefore, H.R. 914 would resolve the current deficit of residency programs for the increasing number of graduating osteopathic medical students.

On the morning of March 5, we arrived at Capital Hill, where students were quickly divided up by their voting districts. Physicians and students then attended meetings with their representatives and senators to discuss H.R. 914 and provide additional insight about osteopathic medicine. “I felt our message was well received,” said OMS-II Kurt Wukitch. “And I found the meetings very beneficial to both promoting the osteopathic philosophy and H.R. 914.” For those students from the Broward County area, their first meeting was with Florida Senator Bill Nelson, and the senator’s health legislative assistant was very receptive and optimistic for the future support of this resolution.

Student support is what drives this very important convention, and our college continues to turn out large numbers as 42 NSU-COM students attended this year’s D.O. Day on the Hill. For OMS-IV Mathew Levine, this was his fourth D.O. Day on the Hill, and when asked to comment on why he has shown so much support for this convention, he said, “Over the years I have started to appreciate the importance of being part of the health care solution rather than being left out of the discussion.”

NSU-COM Web Links

Admissions

<http://medicine.nova.edu/admiss/index.html>

Alumni

http://medicine.nova.edu/comalumni/alumni_affairs.html

Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness

<http://www.nova.edu/allhazards/>

Clinic Appointments

<http://www.nova.edu/healthcare/index.html>

COM Outlook

<http://medicine.nova.edu/forms.html#comoutlook>

Continuing Medical Education

<http://medicine.nova.edu/ce/index.html>

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program

www.medicine.nova.edu

Geriatric Education Center

<http://www.nova.edu/gec/>

Master of Public Health Program

www.medicine.nova.edu/ph

Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics

www.medicine.nova.edu/msmi

OMM Clinic

<http://www.nova.edu/healthcare/medical/ostmed.html>

Pediatrics

<http://www.nova.edu/healthcare/medical/pediatrics.html>

Speakers Bureau

<http://medicine.nova.edu/speakers/>

Sports Medicine Clinic

<http://www.nova.edu/healthcare/medical/sportsmed.html>

NSU Earns Top Ranking for Doctoral Degrees Awarded to Hispanics



In the May 4 issue of *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* magazine, a list of the 100 four-year colleges and universities in the United States that conferred the most bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees on Hispanic

students was published. Nova Southeastern University topped the list for doctoral degrees accorded and ranked second in regard to master's degrees. Statistics were derived from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System program. Following is where NSU placed nationally in four health professions categories:

Osteopathic Medicine: No. 1

Optometry: No. 1

Pharmacy: No. 1

Dentistry: No. 4

Students Recognized for Outstanding Community Service



A number of altruistic NSU-COM students were honored for providing more than 50 hours of community service throughout the 2008-09 academic year as part of the national Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents' (COSGP) Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health (TOUCH) program.

TOUCH began as an initiative to encourage osteopathic medical students to integrate their education and knowledge into the communities in which they live. All osteopathic medical students are eligible to collect and document their hours of community service throughout the year and submit this information to their COSGP representative. When students reach 50 hours, they receive a TOUCH pin, which recognizes their commitment to service. Following are the NSU-COM students who received recognition for their exceptional community service efforts:

Muneer Ali, Jessica Anderson, Christina Begeron, Sagir Bera, Tamara Boots, Ruth Chery, Ryan Chizner, Donna Dalpe, Sonia Daryanani, Jessica Davis, Watson Ducatel, April Ennis, Genny Feinberg, Emily Greer, Dane Gruenebaum, Tara Haston, Marlow Hernandez, Hans Hilst, Jessica Hilst, Minh Ho, Jasmol Jayaprakash, Aisha Khan, Pratchi Kothari, Nonna Kozlenko, Lindsay LaCorte, Vivian Lo, John Lukesch, Dulce Mascarinas, Poonam Mathur, Chad McDonald, Patrick Motz, Kaylesh Pandya, Jose Paz, Kyle Peterson, Berry Pierre, Nina Rivera, Trevil Robinson, Meghna Shah, Sarah Siddiqui, Erin Speck, Avery Suter, Andrea Vaughan, Nitin Wadhwa, Natalie Wessel, Candace White, and Cindy Yuen.

United Osteopathic Advocates Holds Inaugural Officer Elections

By OMS-II Marlow Hernández



The United Osteopathic Advocates (UOA), a new student interest group, held its inaugural officer election meeting on March 24. The UOA was honored to have the presence and support of Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, Rita Silverman, Dr. Patrick Hardigan, and Dr. Robert Hasty, who gave a brief presentation regarding the importance of osteopathic advocacy.

The UOA's purpose is to secure the future of osteopathic graduates, as well as the growth and survival of osteopathic medicine. The UOA has three main objectives—the expansion of scope and funding of medical research at colleges of osteopathic medicine, the development of new osteopathic residency programs, and the improvement of public recognition of osteopathic medicine. In order to accomplish these objectives, the UOA is committed to providing a forum for ideas and advocacy, formulating an agenda based on its members' suggestions, and advocating for policy provided there is substantial empirical evidence to support it. The UOA faculty adviser is Dr. Natasha Bray, assistant professor of internal medicine.

Eleven eager first-year osteopathic medical students were elected to executive board positions. The benefits of holding UOA office include membership in the Osteopathic Political Action Committee (OPAC). In fact, the UOA is the only student interest group in the osteopathic profession that requires its officers to be OPAC members. Other officer benefits include free systems/board reviews, free UOA shirts, and the opportunity to attend the AOA Convention in Chicago as well as the National Osteopathic Student Caucus (NOSC), which serves as the student voice at the AOA House of Delegates.

COMmunications

NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education has added several new AOA-accredited residency programs. They are

- palliative care at Broward General Medical Center
- family medicine and psychiatry at Larkin Community Hospital
- psychiatry at the Florida Department of Corrections

OMS-III Jessica Hilst was named second vice chair of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) for the 2009-10 academic year. The COSGP was established in 1974 as an official council of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine to serve as the official national representative voting voice of osteopathic medical students.

Geriatric Symposium Raises Awareness

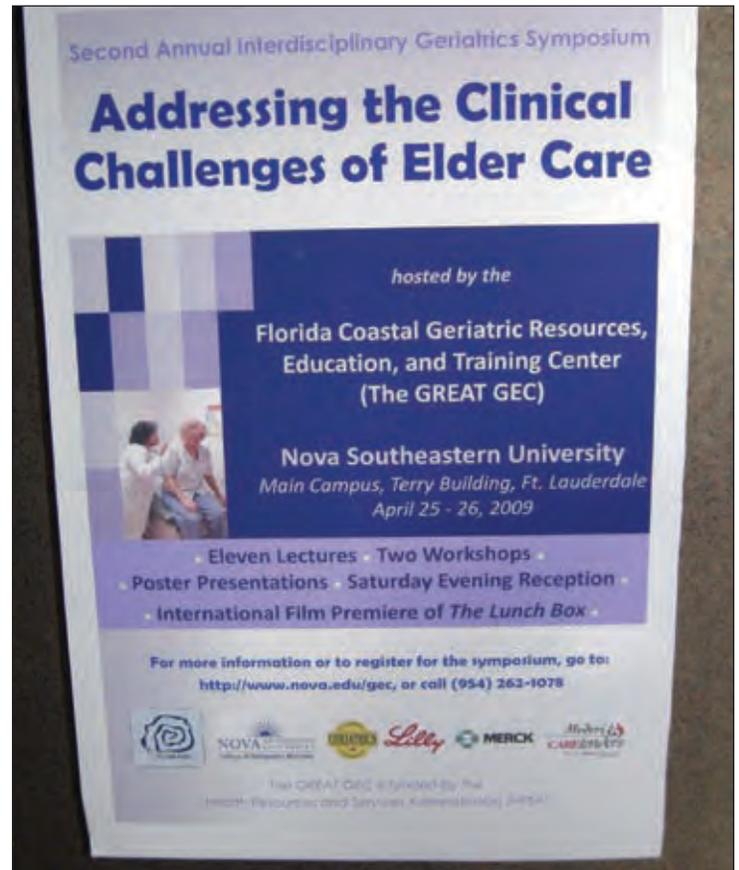
The NSU-COM Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) held its Second Annual Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Symposium, titled Addressing the Clinical Challenges of Elder Care, on April 25-26 at NSU's Davie campus.

Over 90 health, medical, and social service professionals and students attended lectures, workshops, and poster presentations by speakers from NSU, Florida State University, the University of Miami, the Institute for Quality Aging, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County. Topics included diabetes management, oral health, foot protection, osteoporosis management, falls prevention, elder abuse, cognition and dementia, driving safety, improving geriatric health care, and diversity in health care.

The conference was held in conjunction with the university's Boomers and Beyond event, which brought over 1,000 individuals to the NSU campus. The geriatric symposium, which involved partnership participation from the Florida Geriatrics Society, also included two insightful workshops. The first, titled "Accessing Community Resources," informed attendees on resources for eldercare, while the second, "Evaluating for Vascular Disease," provided a hands-on seminar in NSU's Vascular Sonography Lab.

The symposium's opening night reception featured the international film premiere of *The Lunch Box*, which tells the story of an elderly man who experiences a reversal of roles as he tries to care for his wife after she suffers a paralyzing stroke. This moving film affected the audience both personally and professionally and can be used as an educational tool to illustrate aging issues. The film, written and directed by teenage Slovakian filmmaker Lubomir Mihailo Kocka, is nominated in the Best Student Film category at the 2009 Swansea Bay Film Festival in South West Wales, United Kingdom. To receive copies of the film, please email Dr. Cecilia Rokusek at rokusek@nova.edu or Sona Hromulak at hromulak@nova.edu.

"This added feature to the symposium provided attendees with powerful insights into the aging process as seen by a



17-year-old writer, director, and producer," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., GREAT GEC executive director. "I hope this type of film premiere can become an ongoing part of our annual symposium."

Benevolent symposium sponsors were Merck, Mederi Caretenders, Lilly, and FGS, while onsite exhibitors were Mederi Caretenders, the Florida Geriatrics Society, NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, Senior Volunteer Services, Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services, and the League for the Hard of Hearing.



Slovak filmmaker Lubomir Mihailo Kocka and Dr. Cecilia Rokusek welcomed attendees to the international premiere of Kocka's film on aging titled *The Lunch Box*.

COMmunications

■ On April 30, the NSU-COM Pediatrics Club presented **John Wright, M.D.**, with its Arnold Melnick Child Advocate Award. Dr. Wright was honored for the instrumental role he has played in promoting awareness and initiating programs for child abuse victims in Broward County.

■ OMS-II **Berry Pierre** was named associate regional director to the south at the 45th Annual Student National Medical Association Medical Education Conference held in April in New Orleans, Louisiana.

■ In May, the **Student National Medical Association (SNMA)** was named Club of the Year by the NSU-COM Student Government Association Executive Board.



Shining a Spotlight on Research

Due to the increasing amount of research activity our students and faculty members are involved in on a consistent basis, a new section titled Spotlight on Research will be appearing in each issue of *COM Outlook* effective with the summer 2009 issue. In the past, research-related news was sprinkled throughout the magazine, but this cohesive focus on research will allow *COM Outlook* readers to truly appreciate the comprehensive scope of our college's efforts and accomplishments in this realm.

This section will provide coverage on a diverse array of activities that includes

- announcement of published articles/books and poster/conference presentations
- clinical research projects
- grant awardees
- research projects currently in development

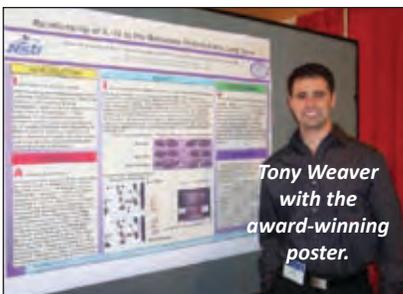
To ensure that all NSU-COM research activities are published in *COM Outlook*, please email related materials to Scott Colton, director of medical communications, at scottc@nova.edu. If you have any questions regarding this exciting new addition to the magazine, please call Colton directly at (954) 262-5147.

David Morcos Marches Off with Burnell Research Award



Pictured (from left) are Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam, David Morcos, and Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., assistant dean of education, planning, and research.

OMS-II **David Morcos** was named the winner of the Ninth Annual Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Award, which is presented to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science. Morcos, who earned a \$750 cash award as well as elective research credit on his transcript, was honored for his research project entitled “Molecular Cloning, Expression, and Characterization of Methionine-Gamma Lyase (MEGL) from Oral Pathogenic Organism *Porphyromonas Gingivalis* and its Clinical Relevance.” He conducted his research under the mentorship of **K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D.**, professor of biochemistry at NSU’s College of Medical Sciences. The award was created in 2000 when Dr. Burnell provided a \$50,000 endowment to the college for the purpose of recognizing student research. Following his death in 2005, Dr. Burnell’s will included a proviso that upped the endowment to \$125,000.



During the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians’ annual Convention and Exhibition held March 4-8 in Washington, D.C., OMS-II **Tony Weaver** presented two research posters that consisted of clinical

and laboratory research conducted by NSU-COM faculty members, residents, and students. The clinical research project was a case report entitled “*Klebsiella Pneumoniae* Presenting with *Candida Albicans* in a 23-Year-Old Immunocompetent Male” coauthored by OMS-II **Marlow Hernandez**, OMS-II **Yana Gofman**, **Jose Mendez, D.O.**, Weaver, and **Tracy Favreau D.O.** The laboratory research poster “Relationship of IL-19 to the Metastatic Potential of a Lung Tumor” was coauthored by OMS-I **Joshua Rothenberg**, Hernandez, Weaver, and **Natasha Bray, D.O.**

OMS-III **Bertha Baum** coauthored an article titled “A Novel Treatment for Rheumatoid Nodules (RN) with Intralesional Fluorouracil” that was published in the May 2009 issue of the *International Journal of Dermatology*.

Jaimin Patel Receives David Spector Memorial Award



Jaimin Patel (third from left) poses with Howard Spector, Nancy Fagin, and Raymond Ferrero III, J.D., assistant professor of family medicine and HPD executive director for intramural health affairs.

OMS-II **Jaimin Patel** was the recipient of the David Spector Memorial Award, which is presented annually to a first- or second-year osteopathic medical student who has participated in research pertaining to the prevention or treatment of substance abuse. The award, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash prize, was established in the summer of 2005 in honor of David Spector—an undergraduate psychology student in the NSU Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences who died from an oxycontin overdose in December 2004. Thanks to the benevolence of David’s father, Howard, who decided to find a positive outlet for his grief by establishing an endowment fund at NSU-COM, future generations of students will have an opportunity to conduct further research in this field.

Faculty Fragments

■ **Jay Fleisher, Ph.D.**, associate professor of public health, was appointed to serve a three-year term as a member of the *Journal of Community Health* Editorial Board. He also presented a coauthored oral research presentation titled “Health Effect Associations of Recreational Water Exposure and Alternative Fecal Indicator Bacteria Measurements at a Non-Point-Source Subtropical Marine Beach” and participated in the “Characterizing Risks (Epidemiology)” session at the Environmental Protection Agency Recreational Waters Research Forum held April 23 in Costa Mesa, California.

■ **Faustino Gonzalez, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine and access medical director of Hospice of Palm Beach County, Inc., was recently board certified in hospice and palliative care by the American Board of Internal Medicine. In March, he gave a podium and poster presentation titled “Sanctuary!! Open Access Hospice Offers Patients the Best of Both Worlds” at the Palliative and Supportive Oncology 2009 meeting held at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston, Florida. Dr. Gonzalez also had two articles approved for publication: “Acute Mental Status Changes in Two Patients Taking Capecitabine: A Case Report” in the *Journal of Clinical Geriatrics*, and “Diphenhydramine May Be Useful as a Palliative Treatment for Patients Dying with Parkinson’s Disease and Tremors: A Case Report and Discussion” in the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*.

Dr. Cyril Blavo Awarded Kenyon Cancer Research Grant



Dr. Leonard Levy presenting Dr. Blavo (right) with the Kenyon Award.

The \$14,600 Kenyon Faculty Research Award was presented to **Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP**, who serves as professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program. Dr. Blavo will serve as principal investigator of the project titled “Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Awareness Survey for at-Risk African American Women,” while OMS-II Marlow Hernandez will act as co-investigator.

The study’s purpose is to conduct research that will contribute to a community needs assessment that may generate programs to

increase both the awareness of HPV and the use of the vaccine to protect the at-risk community against the disease. The research will be conducted at local community centers where patients will be assisted in completing the questionnaire, which has been tested in prior research studies by the African Caribbean Cancer Research Consortium. The ultimate goal is to reach a representative number of participants in order to be able to generalize on the basis of the African American population in Broward County.

The Kenyon Faculty Research Award, which is derived from the proceeds of an endowment from the Franklin Kenyon and Francis Kenyon Agneski estate, is designed to help support NSU-COM faculty members in primary care-related cancer research. Dr. Blavo’s research support is for a 12-month period that began on July 1, 2009.

NSU-COM Earn First-Place Honors at ACP Clinical Poster Competition



Joshua Rothenberg

NSU-COM students **Joshua Rothenberg (OMS-I)**, **Marlow Hernandez (OMS-II)**, and **Tony Weaver (OMS-II)** received first-place honors in the Clinical Poster Competition at the Florida Chapter American College of Physicians Associates Meeting for their research poster entitled “Relationship of IL-19 to the Metastatic Potential of a Lung Tumor.” During the conference, which was held March 14-15 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure Conference Center in Weston,

Florida, a second poster was presented by Hernández, OMS-II Yana Gofman, Jose Mendez, D.O., and Tracy Favreau, D.O., on the topic “Klebsiella Pneumoniae Presenting with Candida Albicans in a 23-Year-Old Immunocompetent Male: A Case Report.”

■ **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor of psychiatry and public health and chair of psychiatry, coauthored an article titled “Necrosis Factor-Alpha Levels in HIV-1 Seropositive Injecting Drug Users” that appeared in the *Journal of Neuroimmune Pharmacology* and presented a paper entitled “An Automated Intervention to Improve Health Literacy in HIV-Positive Individuals” at the Spring Congress of the American Medical Informatics Association held in May in Orlando, Florida.

COM Clinical Research Trials Abound

Over the past year, the college has been involved in a number of important clinical research projects. Following is a synopsis of the clinical research trials occurring at NSU-COM:

“A Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo- and Active-Controlled Efficacy and Safety Study of the Effects of Bazedoxifene/Conjugated Estrogens Combinations on Endometrial Hyperplasia and Prevention of Osteoporosis in Postmenopausal Women”

Principal Investigator: Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

April 2009-2011

Wyeth protocol 3115A1-3307-WW

\$110,000

“A Twelve Month, Open-Label, Safety Trial of Flibanserin 50 Milligrams to 100 Milligrams Daily in Women with Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder”

March 2008-June 2009

Boehringer-Ingelheim protocol 511.84

\$52,649

“A Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo- and Active-Controlled Efficacy and Safety Study of Bazedoxifene/Conjugated Estrogens Combinations for Prevention of Endometrial Hyperplasia and Prevention of Osteoporosis in Postmenopausal Women”

March 2006-August 2008

Wyeth protocol 3115A1-304

\$61,056

“A Prospective, Randomized, Double-Blind, Double-Dummy, Parallel-Group, Multicenter, Event-Driven, Non-Inferiority Study Comparing the Efficacy and Safety of Once Daily Oral Rivaroxaban (BAY 59-7939) with Adjusted-Dose Oral Warfarin for the Prevention of Stroke and Non-Central Nervous System Systemic Embolism in Subjects with Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation”

Principal Investigator: Robert Hasty, D.O.

December 2007-2011

BAYER protocol 39039039AFL3001/BAY 59-7939/11630

\$22,248



Dr. McCarthy Receives NSU President's Faculty Research Grant



Dr. McCarthy (left) with her award, which was presented by NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.

On May 26, **Heather McCarthy, D.O.**, assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, in collaboration with other NSU faculty members, was awarded a cash endowment in the annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant (PFRDG) program, which was created in 1999 to provide funding to faculty members in their efforts to secure additional resources for research activities. Each spring, PFRDG awards of up to \$10,000 are provided to full-time faculty members based on the quality of their applications. Dr. McCarthy's funded project is titled "Mechanism of Shoulder Wtitis with Wii Tennis—a Biochemical and EMG Analysis."

In addition, **Mac Taylor**, who serves as an assistant in the Office of the Dean and is pursuing her master's degree in marine biology from NSU's Oceanographic Center, was recognized for her collaborative work on the Oceanographic Center's "Internal Parasites of Tropical Pelagic Elasmobranchs and Mesopelagic Teleosts" project.

NSU-COM Faculty Members Present at AACOM Symposium in Maryland



Dr. Barbara Arcos

During the 2009 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Annual Meeting held April 15-18 in North Bethesda, Maryland, several NSU-COM faculty members made insightful presentations, which are listed below:



Dr. Marti Echols

- *Enhancing Geriatrics Rotation Training: Use of the Web* – **Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.**, assistant dean of medical education and assistant professor of internal medicine, and **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, chair of the Department of Geriatrics and associate professor

- *Integrating OPP into Patient Management: A Case-Based Approach to Resident Instruction and Assessment* – **Barbara Arcos, D.O.**, interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine and assistant professor, and **Janet Hamstra, Ed.D.**, medical education specialist and assistant professor of internal medicine

NSU-COM Team Conducts Breast Cancer Research



Nitin Wadhwa

During the past year, a team comprising NSU-COM students and faculty members has been pursuing the question of whether the comparison of past radiologic films helps to reduce breast cancer misdiagnoses among Florida radiologists. The hypothesis of the project,

titled "Use of Comparison Films and Rates of Malpractice Among Florida Radiologists," was that comparing past radiologic films would reduce the rate of overlooking cancerous breast tissue in women.

This research question was posed from the results of a prior COM research project dealing with physicians' awareness of the most commonly misdiagnosed diseases. Breast cancer was the number one misdiagnosed disease, and the results of this secondary research might begin to address one of the possible reasons why mammography is not always reliable. The results collected have shown that Florida radiologists (N=23) believe comparing past mammograms is important—or necessary—and that they would be more likely to pick up suspicious lesions and less likely to be sued for medical malpractice (R=0.99, p < 0.0001).

The COM students involved in the project are **Nitin Wadhwa, Marlow Hernandez, and Chris Bailey**. The faculty members involved are **Anjali Bhasin, M.D., Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., and Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.**

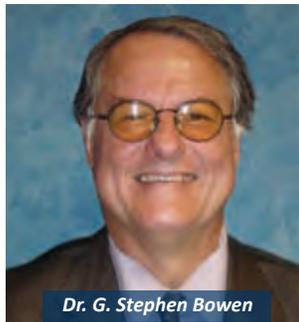
Faculty Fragments

- **Diane Sanders-Cepeda, D.O.**, assistant professor of geriatrics, and **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, presented a poster entitled "Recognition of Pituitary Disease in Long-Term Care Residents" at the American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting held April 29-May 2 in Chicago, Illinois.

- **Eric Shamus, Ph.D., P.T.**, associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice, coauthored an article entitled "Depressed, Low Self-Esteem: What Can Exercise Do for You?" in the April 2009 issue of the *Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice*.

- **Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc.**, professor and associate dean for academic administration, received a \$2,500 grant from NSU's Health Professions Division to investigate her research project titled "Comparison of ABO/Rh Blood Type to Infection with Tuberculosis or Scabies."

Behavioral Health Promotion Program Synopsis



Dr. G. Stephen Bowen



Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez



Preetam Gongidi



Dr. Robin Jacobs



Jimme Sierakowski

The Behavioral Health Promotion Program (BHPP) has been involved in a vast array of research activities over the past several months. Following is a summary of the program's recent and future activities:

Robin Jacobs, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health/preventive medicine, will present a paper entitled "Drug and Internet Use as Predictors of Risky Sex in MSM Aged 40 and Older" at the 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in August. Coauthors are **M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.**, **G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H.**, and **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.** In addition, Dr. Jacobs recently served as a reviewer for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Health Professions in its Centers of Excellence Grant Program, where she reviewed grant applications seeking funding for the next three years.

Dr. Fernandez, who serves as BHPP director and professor of public health/preventive medicine, will chair a session on "HIV Prevention Behavioral Risk Reduction" at the CDC-sponsored National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in August. Papers presented at this meeting section will focus on the epidemiology of risk behaviors for HIV and behavioral interventions for reducing risk for HIV infection. She also will direct and coordinate activities such as meeting presentations and educational sessions of senior research mentors and postdoctoral mentees at the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Meeting in Toronto in July. In addition, Dr. Fernandez is the principal investigator and scientific director of the Cyber Mentor Grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health to the APA, which connects junior and senior researchers and assists young investigators to write a grant application and obtain funding to develop their independent research programs.

The BHPP's 2008-2009 research fellows **Jimme Sierakowski** and **Preetam Gongidi**, who are third-year students, have been involved in several interesting projects. Sierakowski is senior author on a paper entitled "The Young and the Testless: Are Young Hispanic Males in South Florida Getting Tested for HIV?" Coauthors are Gongidi and Drs. Fernandez, Bowen, and Jacobs. The paper analyzes HIV-testing history and correlates of never testing among heterosexual Hispanic men recruited at community venues in Miami-Dade County in 2004-2005. The manuscript has been submitted to the peer-reviewed journal *Public Health Reports*. Other secondary analyses regarding HIV testing from the same data set have been submitted for poster presentation at the Florida Public Health Association and American Osteopathic Association annual conventions in 2009. Sierakowski and Gongidi are first authors on these meeting submissions.

In addition, Gongidi serves as first author on a research paper entitled "Sexual History Taking and HIV Screening in Primary Care Settings: Missed Opportunities for Prevention?" This study explored the sexual history taking as well as STI- and HIV-testing practices of Florida osteopathic physicians in attendance at the recent 2009 annual meeting of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. The article is coauthored by Sierakowski and Drs. Fernandez, Bowen, and Jacobs. Study results have been submitted for presentation at the upcoming American Osteopathic Association and Florida Public Health Association annual conferences. The paper will be submitted for publication to the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

Sierakowski also was busy throughout the prior academic year working with **Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI**, assistant professor of internal medicine, and **Rita Silverman, M.P.S.**, administrative director of NSU's Office of Clinical Research, on two pharmaceutical industry-funded research protocols. One study concerns venous thromboembolism after foot surgery, while the other concerns prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in patients with atrial fibrillation.

Faculty Fragments

■ **Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG**, associate professor of OB/GYN and director of the NSU Women's Health Center, coauthored an article with faculty members from NSU's Center for Psychological Studies titled "A Quick Drinking Screen for Identifying Women at Risk for an Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancy" that appears in the September 2009 issue of *Addictive Behaviors*. He also was invited by the Florida Department of Health to serve as a member of the state's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Interagency Group and has agreed to volunteer as an AOA media spokesperson for women's health concerns.

■ **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, has been approved for candidacy on the Fulbright Specialists Roster by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. Fulbright Scholars are chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential and have an opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Dr. Pandya also presented several lectures throughout Florida and the United States. These included discussing the topic "Diabetes Management in Nursing Homes" at the Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration conference in Orlando, "Diabetes and Ethical Dilemmas in the Elderly" for the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, and "New Protocols for Glycemic Management in Frail Seniors" for the Florida Society of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists in Tampa.

Biomedical Informatics Student/Faculty Activities

The following presentations were made by Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) program faculty members at the American Medical Informatics Association Spring Congress on May 27 in Orlando, FL: “Public Health Informatics” by **Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**; “Consumer Health Informatics” by **Kevin Clauson, Pharm.D.**; and “Evaluations in Health Information Technology” by **Wendy Thomson, M.S.N.**

Under the direction of Thomson, a group of students from the M.S.B.I. program are currently working on creating an electronic medical record (EMR) system for the Nursing Simulation Lab. This new system will allow nursing students to receive training in the area of health care technology. The students are **Patrick Casimir, Brian Cook, Joseph Desrosiers, Elizabeth Oviawe, and Luz Dalia Rodriguez.**

In June, **Shuangbao Wang, Ph.D., M.Sc.**, received a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) training certificate from IP3, which is an information technology training and management seminar publishing and education company serving professional associations, the government, and universities. He also conducted a federally funded research project to develop the technology to accurately measure improvement or regression in real time for patients with autism.

Under the direction of **Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.**, and Neal Stief, a group of M.S.B.I. students is working on the selection and implementation of an EMR system for Cano Medical Dental’s new medical facility in Pembroke Pines, Florida. The students are **Affifa Ahmed-Durand, Pierre Batravail, Charles Boisvert, Josean Malcolm, and Elias Reynoso.**

Recent Research/Conference Submissions

Gomez R and Lou JQ. (November 2009). Developing a census-tracking system to improve the real-time reporting capability in the Cleveland Clinic informatics system. Submitted to American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium, San Francisco, California.

Wang S. (November 2009). mEMR+: a ubiquitous agent-based EMR/HER portal for enhanced medical data security. Submitted to American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium, San Francisco, CA.

Islam M. (November 2009). Information privacy and security in health care: protecting electronic health records (EHR). Submitted to American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium, San Francisco, California.

Islam M and Thomson W. (November 2009). Medical underwriting program evaluation for health information technology. Submitted to American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium, San Francisco, California.

Lou JQ and Gomez R. (September 2010). Implementing a census-tracking system to improve the real-time reporting capability in the Cleveland Clinic informatics system. Submitted to MedInfo Expo by International Medical Informatics Association, Cape Town, South Africa.

(Note: Although individuals external of Nova Southeastern University contributed to many of the aforementioned projects, only NSU-COM biomedical informatics faculty members and students are listed.)

Following is a summary of current NSU-COM externally funded projects. To make the information as concise as possible, the table below provides the project title, principal investigator, funding agency, and total dollar amount disbursed for each funded project as of May 14, 2009. Please be aware that total dollar amounts listed represent disparate funding cycles. For example, the three AHEC awards listed below represent one-year funding cycles, while many of the others indicate multi-year allocations.

External Grants/Contracts-Funded Projects Overview

| Project Title | Principal Investigator | Funding Agency | Total Award |
|---|-------------------------|--|-------------|
| Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program | Dr. Steven Zucker | Florida Department of Health | \$2,272,444 |
| AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation Program | Dr. Steven Zucker | Florida Department of Health | \$2,000,000 |
| Model State-Supported AHEC Center | Dr. Steven Zucker | Health Resources and Services Administration | \$164,221 |
| Proyecto SOL: A Risk Reduction Intervention for HMSM | Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | \$1,189,289 |
| Young Hispanic Men "Entre Culturas: Navigating Culture, Identity, and HIV Risk | Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez | National Institute of Nursing Research | \$709,100 |
| Leadership Group for Adolescent Medicine Trials Network | Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez | National Institutes of Health | \$388,039 |
| Project POWER: A Health Promotion and HIV Risk Reduction for Black Men | Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | \$246,537 |
| ATN Coordinating Center | Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez | National Institute of Child Health and Human Development | \$121,604 |
| Center for Collaborative Biomedical Research | Dr. Leonard Levy | U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development | \$247,500 |
| Health Care and Other Facilities | Dr. Leonard Levy | Health Resources and Services Administration | \$196,413 |
| Geriatric Education Center | Dr. Naushira Pandya | Health Resources and Services Administration | \$816,058 |
| Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships Program | Barbara Kornblau | Robert Wood Johnson Foundation | \$155,000 |
| Study of Rehabilitation and Wellness Programs for People Living with Multiple Sclerosis | Dr. Jennie Lou | Multiple Sclerosis Foundation | \$140,000 |
| PBCHD Clinical Faculty Services (FY2009) | Dr. Jean Malecki | Palm Beach County Health Department | \$117,068 |
| Treatment of Endometriosis with NA vs. GnRH Agonist | Dr. Jay Fleisher | National Institutes of Health | \$108,376 |
| Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness MRC Core Competencies | Dr. John Pellosie | Florida Department of Health | \$80,000 |

Looking Back...at Some Early Deans



Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc.

It didn't take long for Mort Terry and I to realize we couldn't do everything ourselves—even though at the beginning we tried to save as much money as possible and still develop a creditable school. That meant we needed, as a beginning, some competent, self-starting deans to take over parts of the educational program. They came to us by various routes.

Early in our first year of existence, a lovely and lively grandmotherly type dropped by spontaneously. She had heard we had started a new osteopathic college, and, although she and her husband had retired to the west coast of Florida, she volunteered that she might help us some with the organization of the Anatomy Department. She had married her anatomy professor from graduate school, and she had taught the subject in another osteopathic school. She told us her name was Fran (that's Frances H. Higginbotham, Ph.D.), and her husband was A. Curtis (Curt) Higginbotham, Ph.D.

She never asked for a job. However, Mort and I were so impressed with her ability and personality that we offered her the chairmanship of the Anatomy Department. And not long after that, we looked at each other and simultaneously, I think, we said, "Wouldn't she be great as the assistant dean for basic science?" What a lovely lady! What a great teacher! What a great dean! Curt did not want a job, so he became emeritus professor but taught regularly for us. Serendipity at its best. But don't think this grandmother-type, who was soft-spoken, easygoing, and loved by all the students, was a pushover for anybody or anything. She organized a strong but friendly department, and the students learned to respect her, follow her directions—and love her at the same time.

I had known Matthew Terry since he was a newborn. Late one night, when Matt was about a week old, Mort called me with a pediatric question. My response: "Mort, I'll be glad to help, but there are a thousand good pediatricians between Philadelphia and Miami." To that he responded, "I forgot to tell you we're visiting my sister in Philly." So I made a house call on a future dean.

I followed Matt's life and career after that, and I knew that after earning his D.O. degree from Michigan State, he went into medical education there and earned a master of science in medical education degree. I knew his warm personality and his ability and the potential he could bring. I spoke to Mort about bringing him to Miami to join us. Mort had some reluctance—I think he was afraid nepotism (correctly

or incorrectly) would get in our way. I finally convinced him, offering an agreement that I would hire Matt and be his supervisor and that Mort would not act as Matt's boss in any way. He accepted readily, and the rest is history.

Matt served so well. He came in as assistant dean for academic affairs and in short order earned a promotion to associate dean. Ultimately, he followed Joseph Namey, D.O., as dean of the college. Matt made a tremendous impact on the school and on the students, who loved working with him. And he added much to our structure of medical education.

Then there was Dr. Namey. Joe was a major player in college accreditation for the American Osteopathic Association when he first visited SECOM. Mort and I knew Joe from other activities, so he was no stranger—and he from his view regarded with pride what we were doing. On his second accreditation visit, his team included a non-D.O. basic scientist from another school, sharp but stuck on rules and how-to's. When he became picayune and nitpicky in his interpretation of minor regulations, Joe (who headed the team and was chairman of the AOA Committee on Colleges) recessed the meeting and took him aside. After a brief chat, the inspection continued and we passed preliminary accreditation.

Later, Mort and I talked, and we felt that Joe would be a great addition to our administrative team because of his ability as well as his experience in the AOA and in college inspection matters. It did not take long after—I think it was 1983 or 1984—that we were able to entice him into becoming a member of our team as associate dean for clinical affairs. Steeped in background knowledge and well experienced in medical practice, he was a great appointment. And he continued to give service to us, in time becoming dean of the college.

As you can see, serendipity for us in the early days replaced the usual academic regimen of a search committee and multiple interviews for these positions. We didn't have time for that, but by chance we got three outstanding persons to get us started—three persons of great stature not only in our school but in the entire profession. They brought our program to a high level so we could provide the best for our students. They brought background experience and warm personalities, and all three left an indelible mark on our school and our students.



Dr. Arnold Melnick is the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM). His pithy columns serve as a humorous and insightful bridge to the past—and remind us of how far our college has come in a relatively short period of time.



Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H., associate professor of family medicine and public health and program director of the Broward General Medical Center Family Medicine Residency, provided a lecture in July on adolescent health and wellness for a teen mentoring program called Precision at the Broward Sheriff's Office Community Center in Pembroke Park.



Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., FAAFP, associate professor of family medicine/public health and assistant dean of clinical operations, was appointed to the prestigious Clinical Education Section of the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation Evaluator's Registry.



Raymond Ferrero III, J.D., associate professor of family medicine/public health and HPD executive director for intramural affairs, was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve a two-year term on the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council.



Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency, provided a lecture on "Prevention of Medical Errors" at the Atlantic Regional Osteopathic Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in April. He also was appointed as vice coordinator for advance items for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, became a residency program site inspector for the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI), and had his article about collegiality published in the summer edition of the ACOI's *Internal Medicine Resident News* publication, which is geared toward osteopathic internal medicine and subspecialty trainees.



Robert Oller, D.O., professor of family medicine and CEO of the NSU Division of Clinical Operations, who has served on United Health Care's medical advisory committee for the past five years, has been asked by United's administration to continue to provide his expertise in its development of programs dedicated to physicians' services and the delivery of health care for its members. He also served on the planning committee for the 18th Annual Conference on Diabetes Mellitus, which was coordinated by the American Diabetes Association Southeast Florida Division on March 27-28 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida. On April 18, Dr. Oller made a presentation to over 100 high school students possessing an interest in pursuing a career in the health professions at a special program held at NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.



Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A., joined the NSU-COM faculty in May, assuming the position of chair of psychiatry. Dr. Ownby, who will work closely with the college's Master of Public Health Program, received his M.D. degree from Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine and his Ph.D. from Kent State University. He completed his residency training at Jackson Memorial Hospital and was formerly employed with The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.



Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, made a presentation for the Smart Start program in the NSU Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center to parents on the impact of childhood nutrition on brain growth. In addition, he received the 2009 America's Top Pediatricians Award from the Consumer Research Council of America.



Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, received a Valor Award from the American Diabetes Association at a ceremony held in May at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. The annual Valor Awards are presented to a range of community leaders that have made significant philanthropic contributions to the South Florida community.



Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., executive director of education, planning, and research and project director of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, was an honored guest at the +421 Foundation fundraiser sponsored by the Slovak General Consulate in New York City on May 14. During her stay in New York, Dr. Rokusek, who serves as Florida Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic, met with representatives from Slovakia about possibilities for future student and faculty exchange programs. She also presented a seminar on "Nutrition for Positive Aging" to the Islamic Senior Group of South Florida on May 30.



Khin Tu, M.D., associate professor of anatomy in the College of Medical Sciences, was appointed as international adviser for the Hope Foundation. He also was named president of the U.S. chapter of the International Center for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

Clinical Faculty News

- **Michael Bell, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery, has been appearing as a regular guest on CNN's legal analysis TV program *Nancy Grace*.
- **Stephen Cina, M.D.**, clinical professor of pathology and deputy chief medical examiner for Broward County, Florida, was one of two autopsy experts asked to respond to readers' questions on the *New York Times'* Consults blog regarding the topic "Should You Have an Autopsy Done?"
- **Julie Dahl-Smith, D.O.**, who serves as osteopathic director of medical education at the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine, recently received a Resident Exemplary Teacher Award. The Medical College of Georgia is one of NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education partners.
- **Barry Doublestein, D.S.L., M.A.**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine and president of the Osteopathic Institute of the South, recently earned his doctorate in strategic leadership with an emphasis in strategic health care innovation from Regent University's School of Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship in Virginia Beach, Virginia. As part of his doctoral activities, he authored a manuscript titled *Leading Medicine from the Future*. The book's intent is to encourage physicians to involve themselves in strategic foresight activities that help them monitor trends affecting the practice of medicine.
- **Bradley Feuer, D.O., J.D.**, clinical professor of family medicine, who serves as regional director of medical education for the Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education, helped coordinate a seatbelt educational program that was held at Panther Run Elementary School in Pembroke Pines. Dr. Feuer, who also serves as chief surgeon for the Florida Highway Patrol, provided materials the second-grade students used in reading exercises during the week, along with teacher-led social stories and coloring of informational booklets.
- **Alan Lazar, M.D., FACS**, clinical assistant professor of surgery, has been featured on several South Florida newscasts regarding the platelet-rich plasma and stem-cell treatments he provides for arthritis sufferers and patients and those who have experienced orthopedic injuries.
- **Rakesh Mittal, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of pediatrics, was recently recertified in pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatric Emergency Medicine. In May 2009, he was named chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach, Florida.
- **Robert Norman, D.O., M.P.H.**, clinical associate professor of internal medicine and president of Dermatology and Skin Cancer Centers of Florida, appeared on a local CBS newscast to discuss the importance of avoiding tanning salons. He also received the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund.
- **Joshua Perper, M.D., M.Sc.**, clinical professor of surgery and public health and chief medical examiner for Broward County, appears weekly on the CNN TV program *Nancy Grace* and recently published a book titled *When Doctors Kill - Who, How, and Why*. He also serves as associate editor of the *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology* and is actively involved in many regional and state organizations such as the Broward County Medical Association, the Broward County Emergency Medical Services Council, and the Florida Association of Medical Examiners.
- **Robert Rosenstein, M.D., FACC**, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, coauthored a response letter titled "Benazepril Plus Amlodipine or Hydrochlorothiazide for Hypertension" that was published in the March 12 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

COM Faculty Members Play Integral Media Role in Swine Flu Pandemic

When the swine flu pandemic captured the world's attention in April, NSU-COM faculty members were immediately recruited by the university's Office of Public Affairs to serve as expert speakers on the topic and provide valuable information to the South Florida community and beyond.

In the days following the outbreak, which began in Mexico and quickly spread across the United States and the world, NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty members were asked to appear on various TV or radio programs and compose editorials for local newspapers. Following is a summary of how NSU-COM faculty members stepped up to allay public fears and provide essential information:

James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, participated in a swine flu town hall panel discussion held May 11 at the South Florida Science Museum in West Palm Beach that featured leading scientists, public health experts, school district representatives, and other public officials. The free event focused on the nature of the outbreak in South Florida and throughout the country, dispelled myths and fears, and offered information on how to reduce the risk of becoming infected. Dr. Howell also was quoted in an article on swine flu that appeared in the *Palm Beach Daily News*.

Jean Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and director of the Palm Beach County Health Department, also participated in the swine flu town hall panel discussion held at the South Florida Science Museum in West Palm Beach.

Krishnamurti Munoz, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, appeared on the national Spanish news program *Al Rojo Vivo* on the Telemundo TV network.

John Pellosie, D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM, assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health and vice chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, appeared on WPLG Local 10 on its morning show and on 1290 WJNO news radio in West Palm Beach. He also was a quoted expert in an article on swine flu that appeared in the *Naples Daily News*.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.S., FACOFP dist., NSU-COM dean, and **Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**, executive director of education, planning, and research and project director of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, composed an editorial on the swine flu crisis that was published in the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*.

In addition, 2002 NSU-COM alumnus **Laurent Dryfuss, D.O.**, an E.R. physician at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston, Florida, appeared on the CBS4 local morning news show to discuss the issue and answer viewer questions.

Medical Outreach in Peru: The Softer Side of Medicine

By OMS-I Heidi Hagerott



“Let the world change you...and you can change the world.”
– *Motorcycle Diaries*

From April 3-12, a group of 12 individuals came together from across the United States to embark on a humanitarian journey that allowed the participants to showcase their medical gifts at Scalpel at the Cross—Mission 6. Little did I know what was awaiting me when I stepped off the plane in Lima, Peru, with my 11 teammates. Our team consisted of a variety of talents, one of which I would like to write about. Bob Tilges, who specializes in prosthetics and orthotics, joined our team just two weeks before departure. He had made a prosthetic leg for a young Shipovo Indian woman named Alejandra who had been an amputee since the age of three.

Imagine this scenario in today’s world, especially in the United States, as an amputee. One may see it as an inconvenience, but life can be lived fully and happily with the services of so many wonderful people such as Tilges; however, in the jungle, those services are nowhere in sight or even thought of as a possibility. Life must carry on at all expense. With a strong will and a determined heart, Alejandra lived her life, using a stick as a crutch to stomp through the mud and brush of the jungle. Not only did she care for herself but for her family as well. When Alejandra first entered the clinic, I could see the strength in her eyes and solemn expression. Did she know what was to await her? After living life for 20 years without a limb, how would one adjust to such a dramatic change?

We arrived at the clinic in Pucallpa late Monday evening after our three-day weekend in Lima. We started to unpack and stock the clinic with the donated supplies collected from the United States while Tilges started working diligently to fit Alejandra with her new leg. Seeing him work with Alejandra was a blessing in itself. His gentle spirit and soft touch were inspirational because it proved that communication takes many forms—not only words. When she was ready to take her first steps, the medical team lined up in the hallway of the clinic, ready with enthusiasm and anticipation. A face so stoic and solemn suddenly turned into an expression of delight

and excitement. Could we even imagine what it would feel like to walk without a crutch after 20 years? Is it even possible for us who live in a world so developed with technology to understand what it is like to live by any means possible? So often we take those small blessings for granted. This beautiful young woman was blessed with so much that day by the means of utilizing God’s wonderful gifts to spread his love and compassion.

After a long week in Pucallpa working with the medical team, sharing fellowship and life stories, I sit today in my home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with a different perspective on life; I feel as though I left my family, not only the mission team, but the people of Pucallpa as well. I miss the faces of the children with such an innocence and love for life but also the faces of many years of suffering and pain, hard work, and struggles. I cannot go on in my daily life as if the people of Peru have disappeared, as if their suffering is over, but I can be content in my heart that I have used my gifts to touch the lives of the few we were able to see. This trip has revealed a new mission in my life, a clearer path that God wants me to follow.

If you would like to support Scalpel at the Cross or sponsor a student to attend a mission, please contact Lisa Schroder at lisa.schroder@scalpelatthecross.org or visit the organization’s Web site at www.scalpelatthecross.org.



Hagerott gets a grip while assisting with a surgical procedure.



CBAP Charts Exciting New Course

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

Since its inception as a taskforce in 2001, the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) has received significant state and national funding—and undergone a wealth of transformation.

In 2005, the center received a three-year federal grant totaling over \$5.2 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration that targeted interdisciplinary all-hazards preparedness curriculum development and continuing education. Its elevation to national center status in 2006 brought additional cachet to the CBAP, which was one of only seven such centers in the country to receive this distinctive recognition. However, when the seven centers comprising the National Education Strategy Team (NEST) were placed under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2007, an imminent policy change would lead to yet another CBAP transmutation.

“Once CBAP and the other NEST organizations were put under the ASPR office, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act was passed by Congress,” explained Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., CBAP project manager and executive director of education, planning, and research. As part of this legislation, all the money the original NEST centers were awarded now went into a new grouping of centers with almost the same mission, but with one significant clause: Only schools of public health could apply for the money. Essentially, we were now out of the picture because we have a public health program at NSU and not a school of public health.”

The latest change, which officially transpired in 2008, could have been a ruinous one for the center. But, in typical CBAP fashion, the program quickly adapted to the substantial federal funding cuts by being innovative and seeking new

funding streams. “We began to do some strategic planning and looked at the fact that all seven NEST centers were alive and well because of the commitment of their universities, such as NSU, to stand behind their CBAP-related programs,” she stated. “We also came to the realization that grants don’t make programs; they enhance programs.”

After a thorough self-analysis of the center’s strengths and weaknesses, it became clear that the CBAP excelled at doing curriculum development for NSU Health Professions Division students and providing training to organizations locally, regionally, and nationally. “Curriculum development for our students has been a major success because we have integrated it into so many NSU-HPD colleges, including osteopathic medicine, allied health and nursing, optometry, and pharmacy,” Dr. Rokusek said. “Other schools across the country have also incorporated CBAP’s introductory and intermediate courses. In addition, NSU-COM, along with the American Medical Association, has been one of the primary trainers for the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), which accredits 19 individual allied health programs. We have been doing training nationwide for CAAHEP on these curricula—and are getting paid for services we used to offer for free when we were nationally funded.”

Currently, the CBAP has various community partnerships and affiliations as well as a diverse array of contracts and fee-for-service agreements. “We also derive funding through our teaching and tuition generation because we have two online NSU graduate degree tracks at the Criminal Justice Institute as well as some courses that are being taught in the Master of Public Health Program,” she explained. “Any money that is generated through training, teaching, or tuition goes directly back into the center.

After the lessons we've learned from creating our online curriculum, we are now focusing on customized training, which organizations like CAAHEP love. In an effort to be green, we've also gone paperless; we do everything online. Once our presentation is done, we give the attendees a Web site they can visit to download and print out manuals, so we've cut our costs that way. In addition, we now provide flash drives for all trainees of our daylong programs. We've definitely become wiser and smarter."

Due to financial necessity, the center also has identified and subsequently provided curriculum development training for a number of other organizations that pay for CBAP services. "We contracted with the Miami-Dade Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to do training for its volunteers, which we recently completed," Dr. Rokusek stated. "We also received several state contracts from the Florida Department of Health. One is to provide chronic health illness training for people working in shelters, while another is to train staff members in health departments who haven't participated in patient care in a long time so they can brush up on their skills.

"We also have a contract to conduct statewide training for volunteers involved in a surge, which means if the health care system becomes overwhelmed in a crisis, these volunteers will be trained and ready to step in and provide care," she added. "The Office of the U.S. Surgeon General identified competencies for volunteers, so we took those competencies and developed them into a training program that is online and available to all MRC volunteers in Florida as well as nationwide. We've also affiliated with the Public Health Institute of Florida and are providing training for several local, state, and national organizations, including the Florida Association of Community Health Centers, the National Association of Community Health Centers, and the Palm Beach Dietetic Association."

The Florida Department of Health also asked the center to develop a training DVD that is being used statewide and nationally—and meets the competencies of the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General—for the Florida Medical Reserve Corps, which comprises 29 MRC units in Florida covering 56 of the state's 67 counties. The DVD, which is available for online viewing, was written and produced by CBAP staff and faculty members and features various CBAP personnel, as well as two NSU-COM students, who appear on camera to discuss emergency preparedness tools. "We are the only organization in the nation that has designed such a comprehensive training tool," Dr. Rokusek said. "We also created a manual and a test that MRC volunteers can link to in order to assist them with the learning process."

According to Dr. Rokusek, an exciting byproduct of the center's collaboration with the Florida Medical Reserve Corps has been the involvement of the students. "The fact that our students are involved is very exciting," Rokusek stated. "Because of all the preparation we did for the DVD project, we presented the information to NSU's medical and physician assistant students. As a result, I'm proud to say that 26 NSU-COM students and one P.A. student signed up to be MRC volunteers."

As the center continues to adapt and evolve, Dr. Rokusek has her eyes set firmly on the future as she and her

team map out CBAP's future. "Over the years, we've developed a reputation in the state for doing Web-based, customized training for vulnerable populations, so that's something we're going to continue focusing on in the future. However, my dream is that we become a very strong academic center integrated with public health and criminal justice," said Dr. Rokusek, who has been asked to coauthor a book on emergency preparedness with Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., who serves as CBAP director and associate dean for education, planning, and research. "In June 2008, *Newsweek* reported that one of the fastest-growing and needed disciplines in the next 10 years will be emergency preparedness personnel at every level from law enforcement and health care to schools. My goal is for CBAP to become a strong academic unit within Nova Southeastern University, and I believe we are headed in that direction.

"We also need to continue building our academic base outside of NSU and look at areas of research we can develop," she added. "We've been so busy training and meeting the requirements of our federal grants that we really haven't sat back and said, 'This is what we need to do to follow up on the training we've provided.' There's a lot of anthropological research we could be doing. Another area I'd like to concentrate on is innovative training opportunities we haven't focused on much yet, such as businesses. Because of what is happening federally in terms of funding cuts, we have to be vigilant at looking at creativity within the community because there are a lot of for-profit organizations competing for the same funding dollars. Fortunately, the CBAP team is up to the challenge. Our greatest challenge has now been brought to us in this national and worldwide real-life drill dealing with the H1N1 outbreak."

For further information on available training programs, including customized training, contact Amy Heemsoth at heemsoth@nova.edu or (954) 262-1850.

Sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, the mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical, and other volunteers. MRC volunteers assist their neighbors at local shelters, fill in at local hospitals, and may provide first aid at alternative medical treatment sites in the event of a public emergency. The Core Competency Training represents the necessary knowledge that MRC volunteers need, regardless of their responsibilities within the MRC unit. More information about the Medical Reserve Corps is available at www.nova.edu/allhazards.



Roger Alvarez (left) celebrates the culmination of his NSU-COM education with classmates Michael Alvarez and Stephanie Markle.

Star Student: Roger Alvarez Makes the Most of His Educational Opportunities

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

Like most young boys, class of 2009 graduate Roger Argelio Alvarez, M.S., contemplated a range of career choices as he progressed from childhood and adolescence to adulthood. “Initially I wanted to be a paleontologist, then a marine biologist, and then a biophysicist who studied protein modeling and structures,” said Alvarez, who was born in Miami. “That was my plan growing up.”

Becoming a physician, however, was never part of his master plan. In fact, he vehemently railed against the idea when his grandmother began proposing it to him when he was just eight years old. “I had done really well in school from an early age, and once my family saw that, my grandmother began telling me I needed to be a physician or I’d be wasting my gifts. Being a physician in Cuba, which is where my family is from, is considered the thing to be professionally, but I rebelled against the idea and said, ‘No way!’ At the time, I

thought scientists discovered new things and physicians basically just learned that information and applied it. It’s funny in retrospect, but I actually thought being a physician really wasn’t intellectually interesting enough at the time.”

So how did Alvarez, who has gone on to become one of NSU-COM’s most popular and acclaimed students, actually make the decision to pursue a career in osteopathic medicine? According to Alvarez, it was a combination of factors that lured him away from his goal of becoming a biophysicist.

Life Alters Alvarez’s Plans

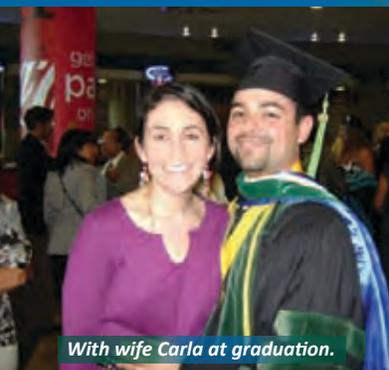
It was thanks to his father, who operates a family-owned automobile body shop in Miami, that Alvarez developed his all-encompassing passion for assimilating science-related knowledge. “I had always been interested in different types of science since I was a kid, which was something I got from



Alvarez takes the plunge...literally!



Quality time with friends.



With wife Carla at graduation.



Relishing his Stuey victory with his parents.

my dad,” explained Alvarez, who worked at the body shop while he was growing up. “My father fixes cars for a living, but he’s the most curious person I know. Whenever we would watch TV, my father would put on Discovery Channel documentaries, and he would show me videos about the animals in the Serengeti and about marine life. We always had an aquarium at home, so I would read books about it and learn about how the ecosystem of the tank worked, how the bacteria affected chemicals in the tank, how that affected the fish, and how the light affected the plants.”

After graduating from high school, Alvarez decided to pursue his interest in biophysics by enrolling at the University of Miami, where he double majored in biology and physics. “I did a bunch of bench research and found it to be pretty interesting,” he said. “But at the same time I was also involved in my fraternity and my church doing community service projects. I was volunteering at places like Camillus House and Habitat for Humanity and working with mentally challenged kids at the university. And I found that working on

Alvarez, who was with his aunt in the hospital when she took her last breath, said his decision to become a physician coalesced during this trying time in his life. “I found that even though I did not have any medical training at that point, I knew it was a formative moment for me finally deciding to go into medicine,” he explained. “I think I would have decided to go into medicine anyway, perhaps a bit later than I did, because I was starting to shift in that direction in thinking about the fact that I loved science but wanted to directly help people in a one-on-one, face-to-face way. That’s when I decided I wanted to be a physician because, although I didn’t have any medical training yet, when my family had questions about my aunt’s cancer, the basic knowledge I had gained in my biology, genetics, and physiology courses helped me translate in more basic terminology what the physicians were saying to my family. I also saw I was able to maintain my composure in times when the rest of my family was more emotional.”

He may have thought he was a pillar of strength, but – inevitably – the double whammy of his sister’s car

“People sometimes ask whether it is more important to be a competent physician or a compassionate one. I think that question creates a false divide,” Alvarez stated. “What is competence without compassion? It has been my view that it is our compassion for our patients that wills us to clinical competence.”

these projects made me really happy. As I mentioned, I found my lab work interesting, but I didn’t get the sense of joy and satisfaction from doing it that I got from being involved in my community service projects.”

As his passion for biophysics began to wane, two life-altering events rocked Alvarez to his core – setting the stage for his decision to abandon biophysics and choose instead to embrace what he once renounced as a career choice: becoming a physician. First, his sister was severely injured in a horrific car crash. Then, his beloved Aunt Blanche, who he was extremely close to, was diagnosed with incurable lung cancer while he was a sophomore at the University of Miami.

“At the time I was actually working in a cancer research lab, which was separate from my studies at the University of Miami,” he explained. “My aunt had complained of having a bad headache for several months. But when it finally became too severe for her to endure, she went to the hospital for a brain scan, and it turned out she had a tumor in her brain caused by undiagnosed small-cell lung cancer. Immediately, my defense mechanism regarding this devastating news was to start learning everything I could about small-cell lung cancer. She was diagnosed on Christmas Eve and died about four months later.”

accident combined with his aunt’s rapid deterioration and subsequent death exacted a considerable emotional toll on Alvarez, who soon found himself mired in a time of great sadness and anxiety that adversely affected his academic progress at the University of Miami. “To be honest, I received awful grades for quite a while because of my difficulties,” he admitted. But as time passed and his melancholy abated, he quickly rededicated himself to the task at hand: graduating from the University of Miami and gaining entry to medical school.

Changing his career choice midway through college posed an additional challenge for Alvarez, who addressed the issue in a most pragmatic way. “Because I hadn’t taken premed courses when I first got into college, I knew I wouldn’t have a strong application to submit when I applied to various medical schools,” he stated. “I had to find a Plan B in order to eventually get where I wanted to be, so I looked around for programs that would help me do just that. Consequently, I applied to several post-baccalaureate and master’s programs with the intention of enhancing my credentials.”

After graduating with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Miami, Alvarez was accepted into a



Pre-Doc: Alvarez with his parents and sister during a family outing.



Alvarez and Carla with Travis Osterman (class of '09 president) and his fiancée, Laura.

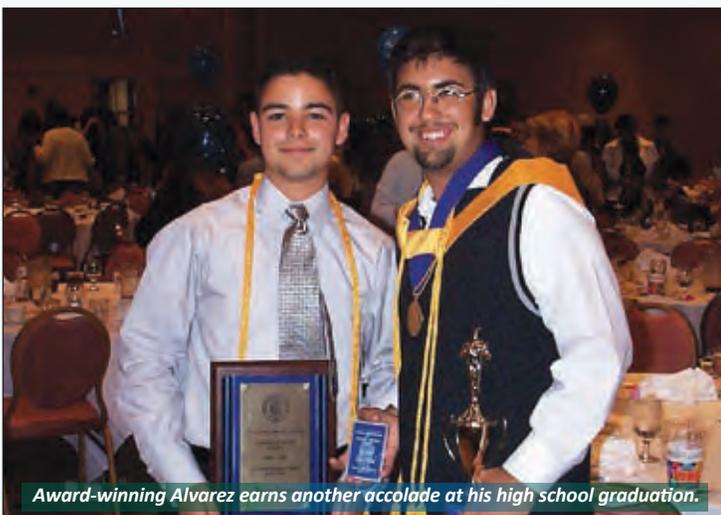
complementary and alternative medicine master's program at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Fortunately for Alvarez, it was during this educational experience that he learned about the wonders of osteopathic medicine. "I had not heard of osteopathic medicine until I went to Georgetown," admitted Alvarez, who earned an M.S. degree in physiology and biophysics from Georgetown in 2004. "One day we had a D.O. named Gary Kaplan, who was a family practice physician and a clinical faculty member at Georgetown, talk to the class about the neurophysiology of osteopathic manipulative treatments and osteopathic medicine. He discussed how manipulating the musculoskeletal system could affect other systems, which was a concept that immediately interested me. Many of my classmates were impressed as well, so we asked Dr. Kaplan if we could shadow him and get an idea of what he did in his clinical practice. I was fascinated by what he did and thought it was the coolest thing ever. He used OMT on every patient and spent so much time with each one. I had never seen anything like that before. That's when I decided that osteopathic medicine was a great option for me to pursue."

NSU, Here I Come!

Following the completion of his master's degree, Alvarez returned to South Florida with the intent of bolstering his résumé even further. To that end, he accepted a full-time job

doing psychiatry research at the University of Miami as well as several ancillary teaching positions. "I was actually working three jobs at the time," he explained. "I was doing full-time research at the University of Miami, teaching courses at night in anatomy and physiology and introduction to general biology as an adjunct faculty member at Miami Dade College, and teaching MCAT classes at Kaplan."

He then began the arduous process of applying to various medical schools, including NSU-COM, LECOM-Bradenton, and the University of Miami. "I was waitlisted at several schools, including NSU-COM, but was accepted to LECOM-Bradenton, so I sent in my deposit and actually went up there to secure housing and find roommates," he said. "But I really wanted to go to NSU, so I kept calling Delia Celestine, who was the admissions counselor for the college at the time, once a month and sending her new publications I had done as well as additional letters of recommendation I had received. I finally got a phone message from Delia, which I have saved to this day, that said, 'Hello Roger. I just wanted to let you know we had a seat open up in the incoming class and wanted to know if you were still interested.' This happened in July 2005, just two weeks before class started. So even though I had already put down a deposit at LECOM-Bradenton and found a house and roommates, I immediately accepted Delia's invitation to attend NSU-COM."



Award-winning Alvarez earns another accolade at his high school graduation.



Family portrait: Alvarez at age five with his parents and sister.

Once he arrived at NSU, Alvarez quickly distinguished himself as a compassionate student leader who excelled at every conceivable level. In addition to being named Student D.O. of the Year by his peers in 2007, Alvarez received the university's highest student honor in 2008 when he was named NSU Student of the Year at the Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards, which serve as a celebration of NSU's best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and responsibility.

It would be impossible to list all of Alvarez's numerous accomplishments in the space allotted, so perhaps it's most fitting to publish excerpts from the 2008 Stuey Award nomination form that was submitted on his behalf by his peers in the Student Government Association. "As a student leader, Roger's focus has consistently been on two major areas: working with students, local administration, and national leaders to enhance the training of osteopathic medical students, and serving the community. He began his work as a student leader by serving as the OMS-I representative to NSU-COM's Academic Curriculum Committee, where he brought important academic issues from his colleagues to the committee, which then voted on significant rule changes that positively impacted the students. He was later elected as SGA vice president and then SGA president. In these positions, Roger has worked tirelessly both locally and nationally as a representative for the college's student body, helped organize various SGA functions, and worked closely with the SGA Senate and the student organizations.

"In addition to his work with the SGA, he organized and taught physiology review sessions to students having difficulty with the course. Through his work, he not only helped many first-year students but also raised more than \$1,000 for a not-for-profit foundation he established with his colleagues called the Sajjad Hasan Foundation, which is named for a beloved student who passed away from thymus cancer in October 2007. The foundation aims to assist osteopathic medical students who take a leave from their studies to fight a serious illness, as the class of 2009 did by offering support to Hasan during his cancer fight.

"Roger also has worked with the



Gazing intently at the camera!



Alvarez with his sister, Minette.



Watch out world, here I come!



Adrenalin rush in the sky.



Newlyweds Carla and Roger.

medically underserved through several projects, including a medical mission trip to Ecuador, the REACH Fair, and other smaller health fairs. As a contributor to two previous mission trips to Ecuador, he implemented a project that provided nearly 2,000 bottles of child and prenatal vitamins to the indigent people of Ecuador who receive treatment annually from the medical mission team. Despite his numerous extracurricular involvements, Roger has remained resolutely focused on his academic pursuits, which include working toward a master's degree in public health and completing research in addition to dedicating his time to the intense osteopathic medical curriculum."

When Alvarez was asked to explain why his NSU-COM career has been so fulfilling and successful, his response was immediate. "I think it comes from doing what makes me happy," said Alvarez, who recently celebrated another milestone event in his life when he married his longtime girlfriend, Carla Mayorga, Ph.D., in early June. "I've always gotten my happiness from working with other people, so just studying alone in a library and getting good grades would have been a pretty miserable existence for me. That's why I had to do other things to enjoy the medical school experience. My goal was to enjoy the NSU experience and take advantage of all the opportunities I felt I could handle. Sometimes I've been guilty of putting too many things on my plate, but I wanted to do it all. I can honestly say I loved going to medical school, and it's because I always took advantage of the opportunities that were available to me.

"I enjoyed being able to help my classmates because I had been a professor and tutor before I ever came to NSU," he added. "As a result, I felt I had an advantage in that I could probably get along with and understand where the faculty was coming from and help mediate the student-faculty relationship. So I became involved in student government, and through that involvement I saw how important it was to focus my attention on other areas like public policy and devote time to the national student government bodies of the AOA and AACOM. I saw how vital it was for the students to be politically involved and help make changes for the betterment of themselves and the profession."



Alvarez Analyzes His Future

Although his four-year stint as an NSU-COM student has come to an end, the fond memories he's accumulated along with the friendships he's made with various classmates, administrators, and faculty members will help sustain him spiritually as he embarks on another exciting, yet challenging, stage of his life. "The relationships I've made here at NSU have been the most enjoyable aspect of my medical education," he admitted. "I can say I know people from the class of 2007 to the class of 2012, which is pretty amazing. Not a lot of students have that opportunity, and it's because of my involvement that I know all those people and stay in touch with many of them. There are people in the faculty and administration who I know I can always call at any point in my career for help or guidance, and vice versa. I also enjoyed mentoring the students who have followed in my footsteps in student government like Jessica Hilst and Lindsay LaCorte. The great thing is that I learned just as much from them as they learned from me. It's been a lot of fun."

Now that he has graduated with honors from NSU-COM, Alvarez will be heading to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, to begin his three-year internal medicine residency. However, don't be surprised if he someday returns to NSU in the role of alumnus turned faculty member. "I'm really excited about going to Emory and the opportunities that await me there," he explained. "My plan is to complete my internal medicine residency and then go on to specialize in cardiovascular disease/cardiology. Then I hope to return to South Florida to work with one of the medical schools in the area—hopefully NSU. I've already had conversations with faculty members like Drs. Robert Hastay, Sam Snyder, and Joe De Gaetano where I made it explicitly clear that I would love to come back to work at the college. My dream is to stay involved in academic medicine, practice clinical cardiology, and conduct cardiology research."

Because he always has the students' best interests at heart, Alvarez even has some advice to impart to the incoming class of 2013 members. "I would tell them to just enjoy the experience, and the way to enjoy it is to avail themselves to the opportunities that are there," he said. "The other thing

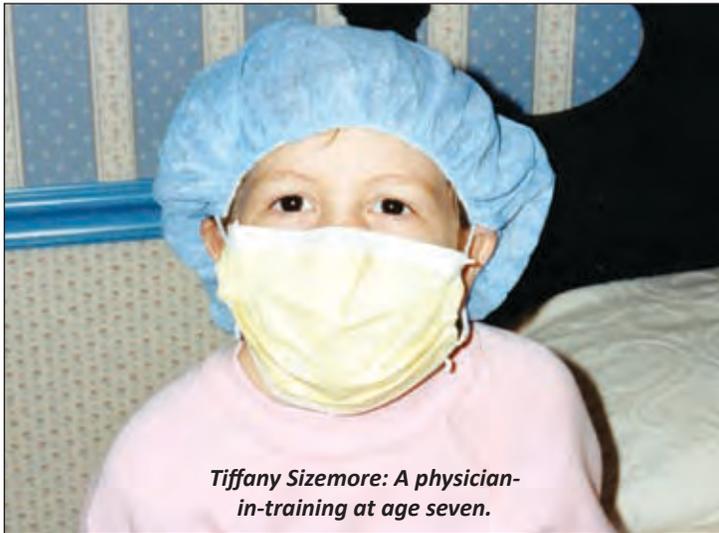
that goes hand-in-hand with that is to always think about your future patients. Even when you're in first and second year and you don't have an actual patient in front of you, remember that everything you do is for your future patient. Even when you're in the library and you're studying the cardiovascular physiology textbook or the renal physiology textbook, have in mind that there will be a future patient who will benefit from the knowledge you are attaining.

"If you always keep your mind focused on the patients, then you will want to be a better person who can serve them in a more-humane and empathetic way," he added. "You'll want to be a better student because the knowledge you gain will positively impact their lives; in fact, you'll want to be better in every respect. It will also help give you the energy you need to get through the numerous hurdles that present themselves in medical school. For me, that energy came from thinking about the patient, really loving what I was doing, and recognizing the gift it was to be able to even be here. If you truly love something, you'll be better at it. "People sometimes ask whether it is more important to be a competent physician or a compassionate one. I think that question creates a false divide. What is competence without compassion? It has been my view that it is our compassion for our patients that wills us to clinical competence."



Medical School at Age 19: My Experience

By OMS-IV Tiffany Sizemore



Tiffany Sizemore: A physician-in-training at age seven.

I assume that subconsciously at seven years of age I knew I wanted to be a doctor. There is more than one photo of me at that age in a scrub cap and mask holding a baby doll. Although I often changed my mind about what I wanted to be when I grew up, one central idea always stood out—and that was helping people.

I always excelled in school, and I knew I had all of the options in the world as far as my career was concerned. In high school, however, I was set on being a pharmacist. I worked as a pharmacy tech for five years, three of which were in a hospital setting. During these years I understood what drew me to pharmacy so much. It was the science. Science had always intrigued me as a child, and it carried through into my adulthood. I could not, however, put my finger on what it was about the career I had chosen I was unhappy about. Suddenly, it dawned on me: I was missing the people. The rough, uncut conversations and the one-on-one physical encounters were things that being a pharmacist would have never been able to offer me. Thus, the decision was made, and medicine is what would offer me all I needed in a career to be happy.

Although it may seem to be the opposite of a hardship to many, applying to medical school at the age of 19 was no easy feat. I graduated from Florida Atlantic University at age 19 with a bachelor's degree in psychobiology, and I thought I was ready to take on the world. However, I had to prove I was not only intellectually competent but also mature enough to literally hold others' lives in my hands.

The research that went into my application decisions was not easy. I did apply to both M.D. and D.O. programs because I was not educated enough on the osteopathic philosophy at the time. I received numerous interview invitations, but after thoroughly researching the osteopathic profession, and the impact I thought it could have on my future patients, I only accepted interviews from osteopathic colleges. As it happened, NSU-COM was my first interview.

I did all the appropriate research. I knew that Dr. Andrew Taylor Still was the founder of osteopathic medicine. Heck, I even knew his birthday. I had all the pertinent history memorized

for that interview session. But I'll never forget the look on my interviewers' faces when they saw me, then a 19-year-old girl, telling them why I thought osteopathic medicine was so wonderful and how I thought I could change the face of medicine.

Osteopathic medicine is more than medicine. It is a thought process that enables us to care for our patients on a much deeper level than we ever thought we could. I'm sure we all remember that first OMM lab when we were taught how to touch and feel. We were all standing there, thinking the professors were crazy. "What do you mean you are teaching us how to feel?" Well, now we know. We know that compared to the other physicians that are practicing, we really can feel things they may not be able to. We can tell the difference in an acute and chronic back injury by feeling. We can tell if a patient's weeklong chest pain is cardiac in nature or really just a rib dysfunction by feeling. More than anything, we can tell when one of our patients may be experiencing emotional compromise or having severe psychological issues, all by feeling. Sure, we learn how to crack necks, crack backs, and tape a sprained ankle, but the philosophy is so much more than that. The osteopathic philosophy offers us so much more than we ever thought it would. We have learned how to emotionally relate to our patients, treat them appropriately, as a whole—not as individual pieces.

As you may have assumed, I was accepted into NSU-COM. And it was the first and only acceptance that I, in turn, accepted. NSU-COM, to me, had a small, friendly feeling that made me feel comfortable and safe. Of course, the sunshine and Dean Silvagni's motorcycle and mustache didn't hurt either.

After four long years, we can all say it has been far from easy, and it has not gone without some disagreements over certain issues. I am graduating from medical school at 23 years of age, and I can honestly say I would have done nothing differently. Some think I have missed out on the best years of my life, but I say the best are yet to come. Nonetheless, when it comes down to it, we are all receiving from NSU-COM the greatest gift that could be offered to us—the gift to be able to help and save others. And for that, I am eternally thankful.



Sizemore experiences the joy of delivering her first baby.

Graduation 2009



Exuberance Rules During Senior Week

A true sense of celebration was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2009 to get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, a jocular dining experience at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. in Fort Lauderdale, and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 24 when 220 D.O., 42 master of public health, and 2 master of biomedical informatics degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise.

During the ceremony, 790 graduates from various NSU-HPD colleges received their long-awaited diplomas in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who represents Florida's 20th Congressional District, delivered the commencement address.

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



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: **LaKisha Springer, D.O.**
Presenter: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.



Dean's Award – Osteopathic Medicine

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

Recipient: **Erica Lau, D.O.**
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.



Morton & Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award

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

Recipient: **Rami Heart, D.O.**
Presenter: Gary Hill, 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: **Travis Osterman, D.O.**
Presenter: Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



Chancellor's Award – M.P.H. Program

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

Recipient: **Robyn Phillips-Madson, D.O., M.P.H.**
Presenter: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.



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

Presented to the graduate who excelled in the cardiovascular system and received a grade of 85 percent or more on his/her internal medicine clinical rotation written examination.

Recipient: **Erica Lau, D.O.**
Presenter: Gary Hill, D.O.



Alumni Association Award

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

Recipient: **David Jabs, D.O.**
Presenter: Howard Neer, D.O.



Dean's Organizational Award

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

Recipient: **Travis Osterman, D.O.**
Presenter: Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D., M.A.

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



Dean's Community Award

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

Recipient: **Jill Collins, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: *Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.*



Bradley I. Silverman Award

Presented to students who have participated in cancer-related community service.

Recipients: **Mathew Levine, D.O., and Shawn Iverson (OMS-II)**

Presenters: *Marilyn and Stanley Silverman*



Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

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

Recipient: **Jerry Cajina, D.O.**

Presenter: *Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.*



Clinical Service Award

Presented to the student judged to be outstanding in clinical service.

Recipient: **Tiffany Sizemore, D.O.**

Presenter: *Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed*

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



Florida Geriatrics Society Award

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

Recipient: **Elizabeth Hames, D.O.**

Presenter: **Diane Sanders-Cepeda, D.O.**



Public Health Student Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

Recipient: **Nina Mahmud, M.P.H.**

Presenter: **Alina Perez, J.D., M.S.W.**



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: **Roger Alvarez, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: **James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.**



Research Award – Public Health

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

Recipient: **Claudia Giovanelli, M.P.H.**

Presenter: **Gabriel Suciu, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.**

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics

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

Recipient: **Andrew Mallon, D.O.**
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.



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

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

Recipient: **Elena Timoshkin, D.O.**
Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, 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: **Maria Behnam-Terneus, D.O.**
Presenter: Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.



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

Presented in memory of Dr. Albert Weiner to the student achieving the greatest proficiency in psychiatry.

Recipient: **Colin Smith, D.O.**
Presenter: Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



Golden Apple Award (Osteopathic Medicine)

Presented by the class of 2009 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

Recipient: **Robert Hasty, D.O.**
Presenter: *Travis Osterman, D.O.*



Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service

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

Recipient: **Monica Marcus, D.O.**
Presenter: *Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.*



Golden Apple Award (Public Health)

Presented by the class of 2009 to the M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

Recipient: **Alina Perez, J.D., M.S.W.**
Presenter: *Nina Mahmud, M.P.H.*



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

Presented by the FSACOFPP to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician.

Recipient: **Elena Timoshkin, D.O.**
Presenter: *Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.*

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



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 grade in the women's health course.

Recipient: **Meredith Trippel, D.O.**

Presenter: *Daniel Barkus, 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.

Recipient: **Katherine Quinones, D.O.**

Presenter: *Albert Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.*



Rose Community Service Award

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

Recipient: **Heather Mikes, D.O.**

Presenter: *Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.*



Dean's Award – M.P.H. Program

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

Recipient: **Shannon Millay, M.P.H.**

Presenter: *Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M.*

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



Endocrine Society Award

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

Recipient: **Jasmol Jayaprakash, D.O.**

Presenter: Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD



Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society 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/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: **Jessica Fischetti, D.O.**

Presenters: Daniel Barkus, D.O.

Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

Leanne Sitler was not on hand to accept the award, which is presented to the spouse of a graduating student who exemplifies the role of a professional's partner in being an individual in his/her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the osteopathic profession.



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 2006 to May 2009.

Recipients

Amil Badoolah, D.O., Stephen Fromang, D.O., Renee Marchioni, D.O., and Elena Timoshkin, D.O.

Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

Outstanding Senior Awards

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

Osteopathic Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates

Jason Cox, D.O., Christopher McDow, D.O., Ryan Kenny, D.O., Erica Lau, D.O., Xiomara Richardson, D.O., and Nicole Tuve, D.O.

Osteopathic Recipients of Honors Certificates

William Brown, D.O., Devindra Dabiesingh, D.O., M.P.H., Laura De Leon, D.O., Stephen Fromang, D.O., Andrew Gaugler, D.O., Erich Gerhardt, D.O., Rami Heart, D.O., Matthew Ryan, D.O., and Michael Williams, D.O.

Public Health Recipients of Highest Honors Certificate

Recipients have demonstrated outstanding academic performance that has qualified them for recognition as graduates with highest honors (4.0 GPA).

William Garrity, D.O., M.P.H., Holly Marciniak Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., Shannon Millay, M.P.H., and Robyn Phillips-Madson, D.O., M.P.H.

Research Fellowship Award

Mete Akin, D.O., M.P.H., and Katherine Quinones, D.O., were not present to be honored as the members of the graduating class who successfully completed the inaugural NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Research Fellowship.

Graduation 2009: Senior Awards Ceremony



Sigma Sigma Phi Membership

Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity whose 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. Roger Alvarez, D.O., M.P.H., Maria Behnam-Terneus, D.O., Kimberly Boardman, D.O., Jill Collins, D.O., M.P.H., Kylee Eagles, D.O., Aaron Farmer, D.O., Jacquelyn Fisher, D.O., Paul Ghattas, D.O., Cara Golish, D.O., Alexandra Grace, D.O., M.P.H., Carrie Hersh, D.O., Scott Hewitt, D.O., David Jabs, D.O., Jasmol Jayaprakash, D.O., Mathew Levine, D.O., Katherine Lumpkin, D.O., Stephanie Markle, D.O., M.P.H., Terry Moy-Brown, D.O., Travis Osterman, D.O., Doni Rivas, D.O., Matthew Ryan, D.O., Jennifer Sears, D.O., Emily Sutton, D.O., and Nicole Tuve, D.O.



Commissioning Ceremony

The **Commissioning Ceremony**, 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. This year's ceremony was presided over by Brigadier General Douglas J. Robb, D.O.

United States Army

Captain Maria Artigas, D.O., Captain Danielle Cafasso, D.O., M.P.H., Captain Aaron Farmer, D.O., and Captain Ezella Washington, D.O.

United States Navy

Captain Sarah Freidel, D.O., Captain Kyla Henke, D.O., Captain Scott Hewitt, D.O., Captain Frederick Schiebel III, D.O., and Captain John Stowers, D.O.

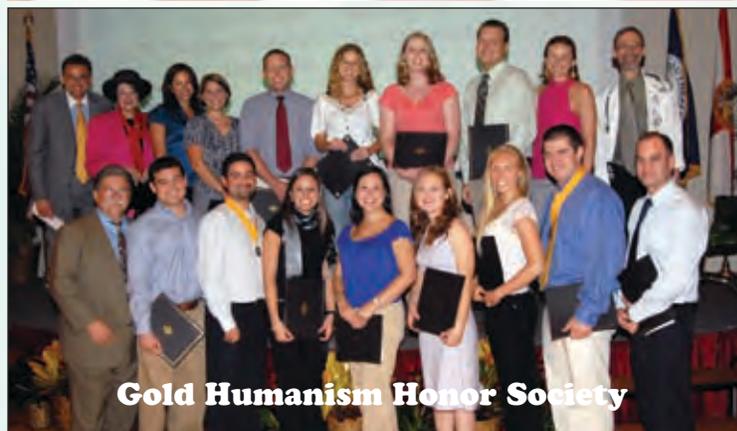
United States Air Force

Lieutenant Erin Hitchcock, D.O., and Lieutenant Anne Stoltz-McLendon, D.O.



Psi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Membership in the **Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society** is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement, high moral character, and integrity. Roger Alvarez, D.O., M.P.H., William Brown, D.O., James Buwen, D.O., Jason Cox, D.O., Devindra Dabiesingh, D.O., M.P.H., Laura De Leon, D.O., Stephen Fromang, D.O., Andrew Gaugler, D.O., Erich Gerhardt, D.O., Rami Heart, D.O., Carrie Hersh, D.O., Ryan Kenny, D.O., Erica Lau, D.O., Andrew Mallon, D.O., Jose Martin, D.O., Christopher McDow, D.O., Matei Popa-Radu, D.O., Xiomara Richardson, D.O., Matthew Ryan, D.O., Meredith Trippel, D.O., Nicole Tuve, D.O., and Michael Williams, D.O.



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. Roger Alvarez, D.O., M.P.H., Wendy Ballenger, D.O., Maria Behnam-Terneus, D.O., Jill Collins, D.O., M.P.H., Kylee Eagles, D.O., Stephen Fromang, D.O., David Jabs, D.O., Katherine Lumpkin, D.O., Andrew Mallon, D.O., Stephanie Markle, D.O., M.P.H., Jeanine Martin, D.O., Heather Mikes, D.O., Peter Obesso, D.O., Travis Osterman, D.O., and Nicole Tuve, D.O.

Graduation 2009 Fun Photo Gallery



NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

Past Presidents

Pre 1995 - Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)
 1996 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
 1997 - Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)
 1998 - Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)
 1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)
 2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)
 2001 - Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)
 2002 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
 2003 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 2004 - Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)
 2005 - Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('88)
 2006 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)
 2007 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
 2008 - Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)

Trustees at Large

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87)
 Mayrene Hernandez, D.O. ('01)
 Stephen MacDonald, D.O. ('90)
 Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 William Stager, D.O. ('89)

2009-2010 Officers

Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)
 President

Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)
 President Elect

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O. ('94)
 Vice President

Andrew Gross, D.O. ('93)
 Secretary

Annette Da Silva, D.O. ('96)
 Treasurer

Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)
 Immediate Past President

Howard L. Neer, D.O.
 Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs

Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.
 Director, Alumni Affairs

Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro
 2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.
 2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
 2005 - Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.
 2006 - Howard Hada, Ph.D.
 2008 - Cyril Blavo, D.O.
 2009 - A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)
 2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)
 2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
 2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)
 2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
 2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
 2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)
 2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)
 2009 - Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)

Alumni in the News

Richard David Hedelius, D.O. ('08) won first prize at the American College of Physicians Navy Chapter meeting for his PowerPoint presentation on "PFO's in Navy Divers."

Steven W. Cimerberg, D.O. ('87) was named president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians at its annual convention held July 29-August 2 in Orlando, Florida.

Smith Joseph, D.O. ('98), a board-certified internist at Universal Medical Center, was elected to the Miami Dade College 2009 Alumni Hall of Fame.

Thomas Green, D.O., M.P.H., FACOEP ('98) recently joined Emergency Medicine Physicians, Inc. as the medical director of the Emergency Department at St. James Hospital Olympia Fields in Olympia Fields, Illinois. Dr. Green completed his internship and emergency medicine residency training at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, where he served as chief resident. Dr. Green, who is board certified in emergency medicine, also serves as associate program director and assistant professor for the emergency medicine residency program at Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Christopher Siano, D.O., M.P.H., FAAP ('03), who is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric emergency medicine, recently completed his pediatric emergency medicine fellowship

training at Miami Children's Hospital and has accepted a faculty position at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. In this new position, Dr. Siano will serve as assistant professor and pediatric emergency medicine attending physician. In addition, he currently works as a medical staff member at North Broward Medical Center in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Yvette A. Tivoli, D.O. ('08), who recently completed her traditional rotating internship at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, Florida, coauthored an article entitled "Kawasaki Disease: Case Report and Review of Literature" that appeared in the January 2009 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology*. Dr. Tivoli coauthored the article with **Bradley P. Glick, D.O., FAOCD** ('89), who serves as program director of the Wellington Regional Medical Center Dermatology Residency in Wellington, Florida.

Elise Zahn, D.O., FACOEP ('96), who is an NSU-COM clinical associate professor of family medicine and works in the Delray Medical Center Emergency Department, currently serves as medical manager of the Urban Search and Rescue Team 2 for South Florida (USAR-FLT-2).



Enjoyment Rules at Alumni Golf Tournament



The Fifth Annual Senior Week NSU-COM Alumni Golf Tournament, held May 18 at the Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie, proved to be a resounding success in every conceivable way. A record 80 golfers participated in the shotgun scramble tournament, including students, faculty members, alumni, and NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine supporters.

The first-place team consisting of Adam Tsakonas, Lewis Guerreris, Thai Nguyen, and Jason Palmateer shot a 56, winning the tournament in a two-way playoff. The second place team comprising Adam Beno, Paul Heidrich, Blake Winokur, and Barbara Kane also shot a 56, losing in the playoff. Finishing in third place with a score of 60 was the team of Craig Morris, Jason Stoss, Jacob Shilts, and Jason Shilts. Lamont Humber won the longest drive for men, while Tracy Templin earned the longest drive award for women. Paul Heidrich was the closet to the pin winner for the men, while Jewell Frei captured the closet to the pin award for women.

NSU-COM would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for playing such a pivotal role in the event's success: Bruce Silverman from Herff Jones Yearbooks, Edwardo Del Riego-Bringer Lines, Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Paul Cawley, Heron Bay Golf Club, Eagle Trace Golf Club, Baron Marketing, Schokolad, Pizza Loft, Vigneto's, Firestone Tires, Chili's, Toss Up Salads, Longhorn Steakhouse, Tower Pizza, Runner's Depot, Olive Garden, Shorty's Bar B-Q, Jason's Deli, Leslie Jones, Dr. Bart Whitehead, Katherine Caboverde, and Dawn Loforte.

Alumni Reunion Date Change

Due to the 2010 Super Bowl, which is being held in Miami on February 7, 2010, the 14th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Program has been rescheduled for January 29-31. Please join us in celebrating and honoring the class of 1985's landmark 25th anniversary reunion. In addition, we will be honoring the class of 1990's 20th anniversary and the class of 2000's 10th anniversary.

Future Alumni Rejoice at Festive Dinner Gathering



During Senior Week, the NSU-COM Office of Alumni Affairs sponsored an evening of merriment for the graduating seniors at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. on Fort Lauderdale beach. "This year, the event was less formal than in the past," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "The students had been apart for awhile during their fourth-year rotations, so with the event being less formal, this gave them an opportunity to mingle and get reacquainted with each other. We wish them well as they move on into their residencies and proudly welcome the class of 2009 into the Alumni Association."

Class of 2009: Top 10 Percent

Now that the class of 2009 graduates are officially members of the NSU-COM Alumni Association, it is our pleasure to list in chronological order the 22 hard-working individuals who finished in the top 10 percent of their class:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Erica Lau, D.O. | 12. Devindra Dabiesingh, D.O. |
| 2. Nicole Tuve, D.O. | 13. Matthew Ryan, D.O. |
| 3. Jason Cox, D.O. | 14. Stephen Fromang, D.O. |
| 4. Christopher McDow, D.O. | 15. Michael Williams, D.O. |
| 5. Xiomara Richardson, D.O. | 16. Carrie Hersh, D.O. |
| 6. Ryan Kenny, D.O. | 17. Andrew Mallon, D.O. |
| 7. Andrew Gaugler, D.O. | 18. Matei Popa-Radu, D.O. |
| 8. Erich Gerhardt, D.O. | 19. Jose Martin, D.O. |
| 9. Rami Heart, D.O. | 20. Roger Alvarez, D.O. |
| 10. Laura De Leon, D.O. | 21. Meredith Trippel, D.O. |
| 11. William Brown, D.O. | 22. James Buwen, D.O. |

Please be sure to visit the NSU-COM online listings for job opportunities, locum tenens work, and practices for sale by visiting <http://medicine.nova.edu/alumni/jobs.html>.

Licensure and Residency Application Assistance Available



Are you looking to renew or apply for your license or applying for another residency? The NSU-COM Office of Student and Administrative Services and the Office of Alumni Affairs are here to serve you. There are several ways to contact us for verification, dean's letters, etc. You may send the information to us at NSU-COM, Office of Alumni Affairs, 3200 S. University Drive, Terry Bldg., Room 1485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328; via fax at (954) 262-2544; or via email at cawley@nova.edu or kc712@nova.edu. Phone requests can be made by calling (954) 262-1029, (954) 262-1491, or (954) 262-1416. Transcripts must be requested by you through the university registrar's office. Requests also can be made online at <http://www.nova.edu/cwis/registrar/services.html#transcript>.

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter. For example, the college has received a number of donation cards with credit-card pledges where no name is listed. The Office of Alumni Affairs cannot process the credit-card donation without a name indicated, so if you have not received a letter of thanks from NSU-COM but know you have made a credit-card contribution, please contact Ms. Cawley at the aforementioned phone number.

2009 Donors

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

Dr. Paul Winner
(to be used for neurological education and research)

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

Mr. Howard Spector
(David Spector Memorial Endowment Fund)

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

Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)
(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench)

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

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)
*Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)
Dr. Soling Li ('00)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)
Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)
Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)
*Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05)

*Dr. Stan Cohen

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

*Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)

*Drs. Ken ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Mark Khorsandi ('99)

Dr. Lynita Mullins ('06)

*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

*Dr. Christopher D. Robert ('99)

Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)

*Dr. Richard R. Thacker ('92)

Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)

*Dr. Steven Zucker

Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

*Dr. Candice C. Black Budner ('96)

Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)

Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)

*Dr. Marti Echols

Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)

Dr. Michele Lapayowker ('90)

Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)

Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)

**in honor of 2009 Living Tribute Award
recipient Dr. A. Alvin Greber*

Cumulative List (1999-2009)

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

David Kimmel Foundation/Mr.
and Mrs. Stephen Mason/Harry
Wendroff, CPA

Dr. George Linsey

Mr. Howard Spector

Dr. Paul Winner

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

Heritage Circle

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

Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)

Dr. Albert Whitehead
(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)

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

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)
Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)
Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)
Dr. Raymon Prieue ('86)
Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson
Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

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

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)
Dr. Charles Chase ('89)
Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)
Dr. Robert Crook ('88)
Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Florida Society ACOFP
Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)
Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)
Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)
Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)
Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Clock Tower Society (continued)

Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)
Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)
Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)
Dr. Gregory James ('88)
Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)
Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)
Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)
Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)
Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)
Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)
Dr. Michael Ross ('88)
Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)
Ms. Geraldine Terry
Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)
Dr. John Windsor ('89)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)
Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)
Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)
Dr. James Beretta ('88)
Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)
Broward County Osteopathic
Medical Association
*Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)
Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)
Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)
Dr. Bruce David ('88)
Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)
Drs. Felix Fernandez/Ravi Mehan ('00)
Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)
Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)
Dr. Brad Glick ('89)
Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)
Dr. John Gordon ('92)
Dr. Thomas Green ('98)
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)
Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)
Dr. James T. Howell

Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)
Dr. Walter J. Kay
Dr. Robert Klein ('91)
Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)
Drs. Jared and Susan Lechtenstein ('01)
Dr. Soling Li ('00)
Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)
Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)
Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)
Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)
Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)
Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)
Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)
Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)
Ms. Lorraine Snyder
Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)/Dr. Robyn
Zelnick ('87)
Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)
Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)
Dr. Aye Unnoppet ('00)
Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)
Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Ms. Mary Smith
Dr. Bridget Bellinger ('86)
Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)
Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)
Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo
Dr. Edgar Bolton
Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)
Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)
Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)
Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)
Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)
Dr. Alan David ('92)
Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)
Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)
Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)
Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)
Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)
Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)
Dr. Diana Graves ('86)
Dr. A. Alvin Greber
Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)
Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)

Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)
Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)
Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)
Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)
Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)
Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)
Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer
Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)
Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)
NSU-COM Class of 1994
Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)
Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani
Dr. Edward Packer
Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)
Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)
Mr. John Potomski
Dr. David Rabaja ('94)
Dr. George Ramie ('96)
Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)
Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)
Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)
Dr. Steven Sager ('90)
Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)
Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)
Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)
Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)
Dr. William Sjovall II ('96)
Dr. William H. Stager ('89)
Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)
Dr. Donald and Hildy Teplitz ('85)
Ms. Louise Todaro
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)
Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)
Dr. Ira Weiner
Dr. Margaret Wilkinson
Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)
Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)
Dr. Barnet Alpert
Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)
Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)
Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)
Dr. Leslie Arroyo-Barrows ('86)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi
 Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)
 Dr. Daniel Barkus
 Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)
 Dr. Paul Bates ('86)
 Dr. Ronald Bekic ('04)
 Dr. R. Patrick Bell
 Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)
 Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)
 Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)
 Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)
 Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)
 Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)
 Dr. George Campbell ('99)
 Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)
 Dr. Octavia M. Cannon
 Dr. Robert Cano ('95)
 Dr. James Caschette
 Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05)
 Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)
 Ms. Ann Cawley
 Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)
 Dr. David Cisko ('88)
 Dr. Jules Cohen
 Dr. Stan Cohen
 Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)
 Mr. Scott Colton
 Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98)
 Dr. Robert D'Amico ('87)
 Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90)
 Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)
 Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87)
 Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)
 Dr. Jon and Janee Dodds
 Dr. Cynthia Chobanian Egan ('89)
 Dr. George Elias ('99)
 Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)
 Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)
 Dr. Gary Gary
 Dr. Steven Gillon ('86)
 Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)
 Dr. Joanna L. Greenblatt-Drowos ('04)
 Ms. Marcia Groverman
 Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock ('86)
 Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)
 Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)
 Dr. Edward Hartwig
 Dr. William Hayes ('89)
 Dr. David Heller ('85)
 Dr. David C. Hellman ('88)
 Dr. Richard Herman ('89)

Dr. Marc Herschelman ('91)
 Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87)
 Dr. William Holt ('86)
 Dr. Myron Howell
 Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)
 Dr. Lawrence Jacobson
 Dr. Thelma Jamison
 Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and Yoyen Lau ('93)
 Donna Kaplan
 Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)
 Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)
 Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95)
 Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)
 Dr. Mi Kim ('90)
 Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)
 Dr. Mark Khorsandi ('99)
 Dr. Stephen Krathen
 Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)
 Dr. Michael Landman ('88)
 Dr. Michele Lapayowker ('90)
 Dr. Kim Lark ('94)
 Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)
 Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)
 Dr. James Liang ('99)
 Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)
 Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)
 Dr. Albert Lopez ('92)
 Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)
 Dr. Jason Lue ('99)
 Dr. Sonal Majmundar ('94)
 Dr. Anthony Marchese ('01)
 Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)
 Dr. Cindy Marika ('87)
 Dr. Arnold Melnick
 Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96)
 Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)
 Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97)
 Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92)
 Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)
 Dr. Lynita Mullins ('06)
 Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)
 Dr. Iran Niroomand-Rad ('89)
 Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)
 Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87)
 Dr. Aeyal Oren ('99)
 Mr. Alexander Packman
 Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)
 Dr. Brent Penhall ('07)
 Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)
 Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)
 Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)

Dr. Michael Rasansky ('06)
 Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94)
 Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92)
 Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)
 Dr. Christopher D. Robert ('99)
 Dr. Michael Rohan ('01)
 Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)
 Dr. E. Larry Roycraft ('93)
 Dr. Allan Rubin
 Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)
 Dr. David Saltzman
 Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)
 Dr. Melvin Sarnow
 Dr. Theodore Schock ('87)
 Dr. Andrew Schwartz ('03)
 Dr. Sandra Schwemmer
 Dr. Robert Sculthorpe
 Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)
 Dr. Josephine Shallo-Hoffman
 Dr. John Shover
 Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni
 Mr. Stanley Silverman
 Dr. Rita Sivils ('92)
 Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94)
 Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder
 Dr. Marian St. Petery ('00)
 Dr. John H. Stanton ('90)
 Dr. Margaret Starr
 Dr. Mark Stich ('87)
 Dr. Colene Stout
 Dr. James Sullivan ('87)
 Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan ('88)
 Dr. Richard J. Susi
 Dr. James H. Taylor
 Dr. Richard R. Thacker ('92)
 Dr. David Thomas
 Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)
 Dr. Dafna Trites ('94)
 Dr. Claudine Ward ('02)
 Dr. Douglas P. Webster
 Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93)
 Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)
 Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86)
 Dr. John E. Williams ('96)
 Dr. Michael Williams ('00)
 Dr. Paul Winner
 Dr. Scott Yagger ('89)
 Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)
 Dr. Adrian M. Zachary ('98)
 Dr. Christopher Zub ('99)
 Dr. Steven Zucker



2009-10 Calendar of Events

July 29-August 2, 2009

*other B vitamins in converting carbohydrate into the body's
usable form of energy. B vitamins are essential for
the production of red blood cells, and they help maintain
healthy skin, eyes, nerves and digestive system.*

Florida Society ACOFP Annual Convention
Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate – Orlando, FL
Alumni reception scheduled for Friday, July 31.

September 11-13, 2009

FOMA Mid-Year Seminar
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay – Tampa, FL

November 1-5, 2009

AOA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (Halls A and B) – New Orleans, Louisiana
Alumni Luncheon – November 2 (Room TBA)
Alumni Reception – November 2 at the National World War II Museum (6:30-9:30 p.m.)
(RSVP required for alumni reception.)

January 29-31, 2010

14th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Program
Renaissance Hotel in Plantation (social events) and NSU-HPD Campus (CME)
Welcome Reception on January 29
CME Seminars on January 30-31 in the Morris Auditorium
Dinner Banquet and Living Tribute Award Presentation on January 30

February 18-21, 2010

107th Annual FOMA Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Bonaventure – Weston, Florida
Alumni Reception – February 20, 2010 (Location TBA)