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COLLABORATIONS

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

FACULTY *and* STAFF NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2018

Fond Farewells TO DIANNA SILVAGNI AND TRACI-LYN EISENBERG

On June 13, the college coordinated a farewell reception for two faculty members—Traci-lyn Eisenberg, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine and director of the Simulated Patient Program, and Dianna Silvagni, J.D., clinical assistant professor of medical education and nutrition.

Eisenberg, who joined the KPCOM faculty in July 2014, relocated to Orlando, Florida, to work for Premise Health, a health care access provider. Silvagni started working on the Art Observation Program about nine years ago as a volunteer. The innovative project led her to join the college as a clinical faculty member.

With the recent relocation of her parents to Broward County, Silvagni plans to spend more time with them. She also hopes to set up a small art studio to pursue her passion for painting. More traveling and writing a book are also on the horizon.

"Time flies," Silvagni said. "It has been a wonderful experience, and I have truly enjoyed getting to know the KPCOM faculty and staff members. It has been great fun."



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**DR. KIRAN C. PATEL COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

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FACULTY/STAFF MEMBERS EARN GOLDEN APPLES

During the Senior Awards Dinner Dance held May 17 at The Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida, a number of faculty members were awarded Golden Apple Awards from the students in recognition of the dedication they exhibited in their respective programs. Following are the Golden Apple Award recipients:

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
JORDAN MATHIS, M.S.



MATHIS

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ALINA PEREZ, J.D., M.P.H., LCSW



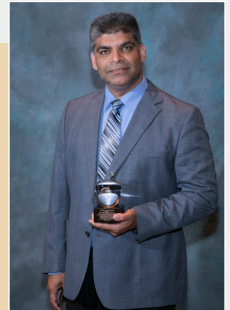
PEREZ

BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS
STEPHEN E. BRONSBURG, Ph.D., M.H.S.A.



BRONSBURG

MEDICAL EDUCATION
ARIF RANA, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., M.P.H.

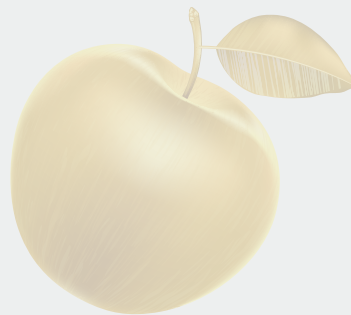


RANA

NUTRITION PROGRAM
MELINDA LUIS, M.S., RDN, LDN



LUIS



LIVING THE VALUES RECIPIENTS AND NOMINEES

The purpose of the Living the Values program is to recognize coworkers who are living NSU's eight core values on a continuum. Each month, the college is soliciting nominations for that month's specific core value. Two winners will be selected monthly representing both a faculty and a staff member.

The May *academic excellence* winners were **Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D., M.A.**, associate dean of preclinical education, and **Sharon Gordeen**, administrative assistant I. Dave Buchanan, Ed.D., and Sheri Schour also were worthy nominees.

The June *innovation* winners were **Jennifer Jordan, Ed.D., M.S.**, assistant dean of medical education, and **Kara Brien, M.B.A.**, academic program manager. Sadio Hazel, Denise Raof, and Justin Sowards also were deserving nominees.

The July *student-centered* winners were **Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.**, director of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum Program and community service, and **Rossalyn Santana**, administrative coordinator I. Evelyn Martinez, Nelly Tejada, M.B.A., and Chania Vargas also were worthy nominees.



MAY HONOREES
**Margaret Wilkinson
and Sharon Gordeen**



JUNE HONOREES
**Kara Brien and
Jennifer Jordan**



JULY HONOREES
**Debbi Cohn Steinkohl
and Rossalyn Santana**

Getting to Know...

KARA BRIEN, M.B.A., CAPM

Staff Snapshot



Enjoying a breathtaking early morning view



Getting ready to skydive with friends

Family Facts: I am unbelievably honored to have several families. I have my legitimate family, where I am the younger of two. My older brother is KPCOM hero Justin “Superman” Sowards. My trail family comprises three girls I met on a monthlong trek of the Appalachian Trail. My M.B.A. family also is amazing—willing to do backflips out of airplanes with me. Of course, there is also my KPCOM family, which somehow manages to put up with my neurotic demands and get work done.

Date of Hire: July 26, 2010

Official NSU-KPCOM responsibilities: I serve as the academic program manager in the Office of Clinical Education. We handle approximately 500 students at any given time, including their various clinical rotation requirements.

Reasons I enjoy working at NSU-KPCOM: I LOVE THE KPCOM because of the work-life balance. Dean Wallace once said, “We work for our vacation,” and this is something I appreciate more than anyone can know. We spend approximately a third of our lives at the KPCOM, a third sleeping, and a third being our separate, private selves (chores and driving to/from the KPCOM included). Having the ability to use my evenings, weekends, and personal time off as I need is essential to my mental, physical, and spiritual health.

What did you do professionally before joining NSU-KPCOM?

Nothing! The KPCOM was wonderful enough to hire me at the young age of 18 and groom me to where I am now. Prior to working at the college, I went to school part time at Broward College and held down two minimum-wage jobs so I could afford my first apartment.

Greatest achievement in life: Running a marathon with only 3½ months of training. I could barely run 1 mile in October 2015 and ended up finishing all 26.2 miles in January 2016. Nearly everyone thought I was crazy and told me it was an impossible feat; however, I had one friend who believed I could do it, so I did. It was through extreme challenge that I found extreme positive change. Now, waking up for a 7:00 a.m. COMAT exam is no longer as daunting as when I was waking up at 4:00 a.m. to run 8 miles before work in 97 percent humidity.

Favorite way to unwind when not at work: Yoga! I think I have asked most of my KPCOM colleagues to join me at this point. If I have not asked you, please stop by and ask me about Thursday evening or Sunday morning Hatha yoga. Hatha yoga involves deep stretching and isn't too physically demanding. My favorite yoga studio tends to incorporate meditation into the practice as well. It is the epitome of an exercise in mind-body-spirit.

STAFF SNAPSHOT: KARA BRIEN (continued)

My coworkers would be surprised to know this about me: While I am not religious, I have recently begun a spiritual journey. For the longest time, I have been plagued with racing thoughts and being overwhelmed with wanting to improve everything—even the things I do not have control over. Part of spirituality is becoming self-aware and relinquishing control through extreme focus and a quiet mind. I'm currently a novice in my practice, but I'll get there one day.

The most exciting thing that ever happened to me: It was the second-to-last day of my monthlong Appalachian Trail backpacking trek. My trail family and I reached a mountain summit and were in complete awe. The view was breathtaking—a complete and unobstructed 360-degree view. We stood there frozen, unable to turn away from watching a grand thunderstorm approach.

Being at a higher elevation, the dark clouds were incredibly close, some of which were even below us. Then the rain came. It was hard, cold, and blinding. The trail split into several directions, and we went the wrong way. The rain got worse, and we were separated. I chose to run with a 25-pound pack on my back and in soggy shoes. I ran back up the mountain and rediscovered the trail. Every few moments, I would yell the names of my companions, hoping to find them.

I spent an hour hiking, worrying, and reliving the actions that led to my current predicament. Thankfully, we found each other, but due to the weather delay, we lost a lot of time and ground. The next day, we had to deal with hiking 16 miles with only 500 calories of food. My trail name is Karbs—I don't like to be hungry.

When I retire, I plan to: I'm not sure yet, because retirement is too far away to be a tangible concept. The next step for me is to work toward living my vision of being a healthy, loved person who strives to make the world a better place.

Three words that best describe me: Open, honest, analytical

life
is a
journey



Hiking at sunrise



Doing a yoga tree pose

FACULTY/STAFF



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



BRONSBURG



RANA

R. Daniel Bonfil, Ph.D., professor of pathology for the College of Medical Sciences, served as first and second author of “Discoidin Domain Receptor 1 (DDR1): A Potential Suppressor of Prostate Cancer Progression” and “Complex Roles of Discoidin Domain Receptors (DDRs) in Tumor Growth and Experimental Metastasis: Role of Collagen I in DDR-Mediated Tumor Growth.” The research projects were presented in April at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) meeting held in Chicago, Illinois.



Debra Gibbs and Scott Colton display their recognition plaques.

Stephen E. Bronsburg, Ph.D., M.H.S.A., assistant professor of biomedical informatics, **Harold E. Wiggin**, Ed.D., adjunct assistant professor of biomedical informatics, and **Arif M. Rana**, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., M.P.H., department chair and biomedical informatics program director, received the Best Research-in-Progress Paper Award for their collaboration “Process Improvement in a Graduate Practicum to Create a Favorable Learning Environment for Knowledge Transfer.” The trio received the award from the International Institute for Applied Knowledge Management at the 2018 Knowledge Management Conference held June 20–22 in Pisa, Italy. Bronsburg also received the Fellow and Distinguished Scholar Award at the conference. Additionally, Bronsburg and **Michael Y. Shen**, M.D., adjunct assistant professor of biomedical informatics, coauthored the article “Telehealth’s Growth and Expansion in Florida Demands a Well-Trained Workforce” in the August 2018 issue of *South Florida Hospital News and Healthcare Report*.

Scott Colton, B.A., APR, HPD director of medical communications and public relations, and **Debra R. Gibbs**, B.A., medical communications coordinator, received recognition plaques from the Student Government Association (SGA) for their support and editorial contributions to the *SGA Rounds* student newsletter over the past four years. Colton helped the SGA create *SGA Rounds* in 2015 and serves as the newsletter’s executive editor and graphic designer; Gibbs serves as the associate editor.



DUKE



OVIawe

Kelly Duke, M.B.A., director of administrative services, received her M.B.A. from NSU’s H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship. Duke joined the KPCOM in November 2017, transferring from her human resources role in the College of Optometry.

Elizabeth Oviawe, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.Sc., M.M.I.S., M.S.B.I., director of the Division of Institutional Technology, successfully defended her dissertation on July 25 and earned her Ph.D. in Computing Technology in Education.



QURESHI



PEREZ

Yasmin Qureshi, Ed.D., D.P.T., M.H.S., associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice, recently graduated from the Doctor of Education program at NSU’s Abraham S. Fischler College of Education.

Alina M. Perez, J.D., M.P.H., LCSW, associate professor of public health, was a speaker and a presenter on end-of-life and caregiving issues at the South Florida Institute on Aging’s second annual Caregiver’s Symposium, held June 22 at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. Perez was also the lead author of the chapter “End-of-Life Decision Making: An Ethical Balancing Act” in the textbook *Ethics and Vulnerable Elders: The Quest for Individual Rights and a Just Society*, which is scheduled for publication in 2019. Additionally, she served as a peer reviewer for the *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*.

FACULTY/STAFF



POSEY



ROSEMAN-HALSBAND

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Alessandra Posey, D.O., chair of the Department of Sports Medicine and assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, was awarded a \$150,000, two-year grant from the American Osteopathic Association (grant #2061816723). The research's purpose is to assess the "Effects of OMT on Return to Play Post-Concussion." Assisting with the grant's execution are Lailah Issac, D.O.; Roody Joseph, D.P.T., PT, OCS; Lisa Lashely, Psy.D.; Michelle Johnson, D.O.; Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., M.B.A.; and Thomas Brown, D.O.

Janet L. Roseman-Halsband, Ph.D., assistant professor of integrative medicine, wrote a chapter on "Creativity as Medicine" for the book *Spiritual Herstories: Call of the Soul in Dance Research* published by Intellect Books—a peer-reviewed academic publishing company in the United Kingdom.

Norman Rose, D.O., FACOS, FICS, clinical professor of surgery, served as the grand marshal at the Des Moines University graduation ceremony in Iowa on May 25. Rose, who graduated from Des Moines University 55 years ago, had the honor of leading the participants in the processional and recessional and announcing the ceremony's official opening and closing.

Sometimes, doing something well pays off. On June 27, **David L. Thomas, M.D., J.D., Ed.D.**, professor of surgery and public health and chair of the Division of Correctional Medicine, reaped an unexpected reward. Thanks to one year of very few insurance claims in the Health Professions Division, the MagMutual insurance company delivered a check for \$21,000.

Maria Vera-Nunez, M.D., ABOIM, IFMCP, assistant professor of clinical immunology and integrative medicine, completed all requirements to be a functional medicine certified practitioner through the Institute for Functional Medicine in May. The functional medicine model is an individualized, patient-centered, science-based approach that empowers patients and practitioners to work together to address the underlying causes of disease and promote optimal wellness.

Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., associate dean for community affairs and director of the Area Health Education Center's Tobacco Cessation and Training Program, received a Broward Community and Family Health Centers Partnership Award during the organization's annual partnership luncheon on August 14. Zucker was honored for collaborating with the Broward Community and Family Health Centers on many vital initiatives over the past few decades.



Norman Rose leads the processional at the Des Moines University graduation ceremony in Iowa on May 25.



From left: David Thomas; Lesa Kemp, vice president of independent agent distribution at MagMutual; and Elizabeth Guimaraes, M.B.A., ARM, LHRM, NSU director of risk management



VERA-NUNEZ



ZUCKER

Inspire, create,
repeat

FACULTY/STAFF

Transitions

RENEE ALEXIS, M.D., M.P.H., was promoted to chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

CYRIL BLAVO, D.O., M.S., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, will share two roles: chair of the Department of Public Health and assistant dean of preclinical education in Clearwater.

MELISSA CHAMBERLAIN, M.B.A., is the new director of admissions and will report to the college's dean, Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.

ANNETTE CLARKE, M.B.A., moved to the Department of Public Health.

DARREN COHEN, D.O., relinquished his responsibilities in the simulation clinic and standardized patient lab in order to focus on the development of emergency medicine.

BLAKE CONSTANTINIDES, B.A., will be director of finance and administration in Clearwater.

SASHAH DAMIER moved from the OPP Clinic to the role of service program specialist with IDEP.

ANA MARIA HOMS, Psy.D., M.B.A., will be the director of medical education in Clearwater.

KENNETH JOHNSON, D.O., FACOOG, relinquished his position as chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to dedicate time to his role as executive associate dean in Clearwater.

MICHELLE JOHNSON, D.O., was promoted to director of simulation and standardized patients. She will report to Cyril Blavo.

ELIZABETH OVIawe, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.Sc., M.M.I.S., M.S.B.I., was appointed director of the Division of Institutional Technology and reports to Mark Sandhouse, D.O., M.S., associate dean of administration.

STEPHANIE PETROSKY, M.H.A, RDN/LDN, FAND, is now the full-time director of the master's and soon-to-be-approved Bachelor of Nutrition program.

ALFREDO REHBEIN, M.B.A., was promoted to executive director of finance and administration.

CINTHYA SILVA relocated from the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs to support the Office of Preclinical Education as a coordinator.

JUSTIN SOWARDS is the new instructional technology specialist and reports to Elizabeth Oviawe.

MANELLE ST. HILAIRE, M.P.H., TTS, will be director of preclinical education in Clearwater.

DAVID L. THOMAS, M.D., J.D., Ed.D., moved from his role as chair of surgery at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus to focus full time in academics. Kenneth Johnson will serve as acting chair of surgery until a new chair is identified in Clearwater.

NATACHA VILLEDROUIN, M.S., will be director of student services in Clearwater.

NEW HIRES

PATRICK BARRY, D.O., joined the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice in Davie in July.

MATTHEW BRENNAN, D.O., joined the college as a urology fellow in Davie in July.

CLAY GUYNN, D.O., joined the college as a sports medicine fellow in Davie in July.

ANDREA HORBEY, D.O., will join the Department of Pediatrics in Davie in September.

LAILAH ISSAC, D.O., joined the Department of Sports Medicine in Davie in July.

ROHIT MEHRA, D.O., joined the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice in Clearwater in July.

KIARA MONTERO joined the college in June as an administrative assistant in the Department of Public Health.

LISETTE PEREZ, D.O., will join the Department of Family Medicine in Davie in October.

DONRIE PURCELL joined the college as a psychiatry research assessor.

SARA SOSA-GARCIA joined the college in May as a research assistant in the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine.

IOANA SCRIPA, Ph.D., joined the Master of Science in Nutrition faculty on August 13.

ALFREDO SUAREZ-SARMIENTO, M.D., joined the college as a postdoctoral urology research associate in Davie in July.

MURRAY TODD, M.D., will join the college in September as a neurologist in the Department of Internal Medicine.

IRIS WALDEN joined the college on August 6 in the role of credentialing specialist.

ROBERTO WEIR is the new administrative assistant I in the reception area.

SHANE WILLIAMS, D.O., joined the Department of Family Medicine in Davie in July.

FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE NSU PRESIDENT'S RESEARCH GRANTS

On May 15, a number of KPCOM faculty members, in collaboration with other NSU faculty researchers and students, received grants in the university's 19th Annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant (PFRDG) Awards ceremony.

During the event, 30 research projects received PFRDG awards of up to \$15,000 each for fiscal year 2018. Various university researchers received a cumulative \$374,363 in awards. The ceremony also recognized the dedication and innovation of the 50 faculty members and 55 students from the 13 academic units that submitted 55 PFRDG proposals. There are two funding tracks involved: the Research Development Track providing up to \$15,000 and the Research Scholar Track providing up to \$3,000.

KPCOM FACULTY GRANT RECIPIENTS

Maria Abreu, Ph.D.
Vladimir Beljanski, Ph.D.
Alison Bested, M.D.
Gary Cravens, M.D.
Shahnaz Fatteh, M.D.
Mary Ann Fletcher, Ph.D.
Stephen G. Grant, Ph.D.
Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D.
Marc Kesselman, D.O.
Nancy Klimas, M.D.
Mariana Morris, Ph.D.
Lubov Nathanson, Ph.D.
Maria Vera Nunez, M.D.
Arif Rana, Ph.D., Ed.S.
Violetta Renesca, M.S.N.
Irina Rozenfeld, M.S.N., A.R.N.P.
Claudia A. Serna, Ph.D.
Rodrigo Schmidt, M.S.
Malav Trivedi, Ph.D.



COLLEAGUES CELEBRATE MULTIFACETED RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS



KPCOM SENIOR WEEK PHOTO GALLERY

Senior Week provided a wealth of opportunities for the class of 2018 students to celebrate their long-awaited KPCOM graduation with proud faculty and staff members while attending an afternoon awards presentation, participating in a celebratory bash at the B Ocean Resort on Fort Lauderdale Beach, and attending the Senior Awards Dinner Dance at The Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida. The week culminated on May 18 when a multitude of KPCOM graduates received their degrees during the Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony held at the Rick Case Arena at the Don Taft University Center on NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.



SENIOR WEEK

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SENIOR WEEK

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UPDATES IN MEDICINE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

On June 1-3, the third annual Updates in Medicine weekend at the Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida, attracted more than 430 attendees. The family-oriented continuing medical education (CME) weekend included participation from NSU-KPCOM alumni and faculty and staff members, rural and urban underserved medicine preceptors, Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education members, clinical directors of medicine, and Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum physician educators. During the action-packed event, participants had the opportunity to earn 5.5 hours of CME credits, attend various meetings and presentations, enjoy a festive dinner dance, and network with peers.



UPDATES IN MEDICINE





Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of
Osteopathic Medicine
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

NSU
Florida

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