

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# COM Outlook

*College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Summer 2006

Volume 7, Number 3

## Class of 2006 Celebrates Commencement in Style





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

In February 1981, just months before Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) was set to begin matriculating its first class in North Miami Beach, the late Dr. Morton Terry discussed his vision by saying, "Our primary goal is to produce well-trained primary care physicians to meet the health care needs of Florida and neighboring states, particularly in rural and other medically underserved communities."

More than 25 years—and one merger—after Dr. Terry spoke those prophetic words about his brainchild, I am proud to say that NSU-COM has remained true to Dr. Terry's aforementioned mission as it relates to primary care and assisting the medically underserved. While we have become a leader in modern medical education and medical practice through cutting-edge curricular enhancements in research, standardized patients, and distance learning, we steadfastly adhere to the tenets espoused by Dr. Terry and the osteopathic profession in the mission and operation of our college.

For example, we require our students to participate in three months of rural rotations in medically underserved areas. This includes our correctional medicine rotation, which has become the most requested rotation in the clinical curriculum. We are also the only osteopathic college in the nation that requires every new D.O. faculty member who is allopathically board certified to become AOA-board certified within two years to ensure that they remain current and project to our students osteopathic principles as they apply to their specialty.

While we educate our students to prepare for any medical specialty that will make them successful, compassionate, and well-adjusted physicians, our curriculum also exposes our students to experiences that show the professional satisfaction and holistic practice associated with primary care medicine and practicing in medically underserved rural and urban communities. We have also experienced a continuous growth in the number of residency positions and affiliated residency programs—the majority of which are primary care in nature—while many other institutions have lost positions and/or programs or failed to make a major commitment to graduate medical education.

Proof of our adherence to Dr. Terry's original mission can be found in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* survey of "America's Best Graduate Schools 2007." In the report, NSU-COM ranked fifth out of all U.S. allopathic and osteopathic medical schools in regard to turning out the most primary care residents—a hefty 77 percent—and, of the top five, number one numerically based on total numbers. Our emphasis on primary care can also be illustrated by the fact that the largest two departments located within the college are family medicine and internal medicine.

In the field of primary care, we are the only osteopathic medical school in the United States to offer a preventive medicine residency. Additionally, our students are provided scholarships to pursue a master of public health (M.P.H.) degree, which is not available, to my knowledge, at any other medical school in the country. The M.P.H. scholarship is also available to every residency in our OPTI—the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.

We also have a geriatrics fellowship for osteopathic family physicians and are currently expanding it to include osteopathic internal medicine physicians. And we are establishing, thanks to a federal grant, the first correctional medicine fellowship in the world, which will provide another medically underserved population with better specialized care—the prison population.

Everyone involved with the college should feel proud of the fact that through the participation of our faculty, administration, students, and alumni, the college has positioned itself as a first-class educational entity that currently ranks as the 15th largest medical school and the 5th largest osteopathic medical school in the nation.

Although NSU-COM has programmatically expanded into many other areas over the years, we continue to adhere to the primary tenets of osteopathic principles and practice, which include focusing on holistic care, which is best expressed in primary care, and providing care to all medically underserved populations within rural and urban areas at local, regional, state, national, and international levels. Through population and community-based medicine, we are able to provide our students with a more global holistic approach to patient care never before fully appreciated in a formal environment.



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

Graduation is always a very meaningful experience to me, particularly because it serves as a culmination of the students' academic progress while also reminding me of the academic and future progress it indicates for the Health Professions Division and the university.

For example, when our osteopathic medical students walked across the stage at the Bank Atlantic Center on May 28, they did so knowing of all the on-campus enhancements that are going to occur in the near future. However, when the class of 2006 was initially accepted for matriculation over four years ago, there was no discussion about creating an Academical Village, nor were there plans to build a hospital by the North Broward Hospital District on the NSU campus, which will bring about many health education collaborative opportunities.

Similarly, the cutting-edge University Center, which will open later this year and serve our students by combining NCAA Division II athletics, intramural athletics, and student wellness, was only in its initial development stage when the recent graduating class began entertaining thoughts of attending the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Does the construction of a multipurpose University Center mean a lot to our medical students? Yes, it does, especially when you consider that HPD students account for nearly 60 percent of the participation in the university's assorted intramural activities. And now we're looking forward to the construction of a very extensive and sophisticated research building, which will be a 208,000-square-foot facility that will benefit not only our medical students and their teaching faculty but also the entire research community here at NSU.

What also come to mind during graduation are the incredible accomplishments of our faculty and students in the emerging image and reality that is now part of the NSU mission, which is research. We are now at a level of about \$45 million in funded research grants, which is starting to put the university in a very unique area because once you reach the \$100-million figure, you're really playing in the big time. That's why the university

leadership has set a personal goal to get us to that magic \$100-million mark within the next five years. We're clearly at a turning point not only in the Health Professions Division but also in the university in terms of taking a very large step. There's a lot of focus on Nova Southeastern University and its interests in the field of research, particularly biomedical and biotechnical research, and for good reason because we're doing exceptional research.

For the students, graduation is a time for them to reflect—with a sense of relief—on their academic accomplishments and the culmination of their didactic and initial clinical training here at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. We here at the Health Professions Division also feel that same sense of accomplishment, because as our graduates move on and become successful, it helps the university become more successful as well.

I have played a part in all our graduation ceremonies, including the first one, which took place in 1985 at the civic center at North Miami Beach's City Hall and featured a graduating class of 35. Back then, only the mother college of the HPD, which was then known as Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, was in existence. Over two decades later, The Health Professions Division has become such a multi-professional teaching facility that it's gotten to the point where we have to hold two separate graduation ceremonies—one for the non-allied health professions in May and one for the allied health professions in August.

Equally as important as the actual graduation ceremony is a wonderful series of senior awards dinners we coordinate the two nights before graduation. They are very festive and extremely well-attended events that give the students, their families, and their significant others an opportunity to have a good time and celebrate the students' educational careers by rewarding their colleagues and friends for their academic achievements.

It gives me a really good feeling to watch our students revel in their accomplishments, to see the warmth and camaraderie that pervades each graduation ceremony. It's a very special experience not only for the graduates but also for those of us who have witnessed them grow and mature throughout their matriculation here at NSU's Health Professions Division.



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In April, NSU Health Professions Division students and faculty traveled to Ecuador on a medical mission to provide needed care and medications to some of the country's poorest areas.

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Shara Steiner

M3 student Shara Steiner presented a poster on "Attitudes of Allopathic and Osteopathic Medical Students Toward Adult Neurology" at the American Academy of Neurology Conference, which was held last April in San Diego, California. She will also be presenting abstracts this fall at the Gerontological Society of America 59th Annual Scientific Conference in Dallas, Texas, and the 10th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Kyoto, Japan.

In U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools 2007" report, Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine ranked fifth out of 148 U.S. allopathic and osteopathic medical schools in regard to turning out the most primary care residents—a hefty 77 percent. West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine ranked first at 87.3 percent.

Lang, Newberry Receive Dr. Matt Terry Scholarships



Pictured at the ceremony are (from left): Mark Newberry; Stanley Simpson, D.O., associate professor of family medicine; Nicole Lang; and Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., NSU-COM dean.

On March 27, Mark Newberry (M1) and Nicole Lang (M2) joined an illustrious group of previous winners when they were selected as recipients of the 2006 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 students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.

Dana Block Named Student D.O. of the Year



Dana Block (center) with Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni and Student Government Association President Rob Zesut.

M3 student Dana Block, who served as Student Government Association president in the 2004-05 academic year, was selected as Student D.O. of the Year by her NSU-COM peers in March. During her three years at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Block has gained a reputation for being both a popular and prolific student who is always seeking ways to assist the community and provide enhanced educational opportunities for her fellow matriculants. In 2005, she earned kudos for creating an informative residency workshop that involved recruiting fourth-year students and recent graduates to share their experiences with M1, M2, and M3 students and coordinating a workshop on the creation of a curriculum vitae and personal statements. During the 2006-07 academic year, Block will be serving as director of political affairs on the Student Osteopathic Medical Association's (SOMA) national Board of Trustees.



Hillier poses with some of her paintings.

M3 student Shannon Hillier walked away with first-place honors—and the \$300 art division prize—in the Bob Gilman Talent Show, which was hosted on March 22 by the Health Professions Division. "In one way or another, art has always been a part of my life, and the intensity of medical school provided much of my motivation and inspiration to get creative," explained Hillier, who received several offers from attendees who wished to purchase her paintings. "They are very personal and express everything I've been through in the past few years. In fact, I think I've taken "medicine is an art" to a new and different level."



Tyese Gaines-Reed

In April, M4 student Tyese Gaines-Reed was selected as the 2006-2007 chairperson of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Board of Directors. The position entails responsibilities such as creating and enacting a corporate agenda for the organization and overseeing day-to-day operations of the national headquarters, which includes employee contract negotiations, external relationships, and financial matters. "It is my intention as chairperson to not only benefit SNMA, but also bring publicity to osteopathic medicine and NSU-COM," said Gaines-Reed, who is the second osteopathic medical student in history to serve as chairperson of the SNMA Board of Directors. "I have held various leadership roles in SNMA over the last six years, and it is an honor to be elected by my peers for this prestigious position of service.



In April, a number of M1 and M2 students participated in D.O. Day on Capitol Hill, which serves as the preeminent opportunity for D.O.s and students to come to Washington, D.C., and educate members of Congress

and their staff on osteopathic medicine and the profession's positions on important health policy issues where legislation is crafted—Capitol Hill. NSU-COM attendees included (from left) Monica Warhaftig, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, Terry Moy-Brown (M1), Kathryn Rooth (M2), Katherine Lumpkin (M1), Aaron Farmer (M1), and Maria Terneus (M1).



Arnold Melnick, D.O.

Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, who served as the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, recently published a book titled *Medical Writing 101: A Primer for Health Professionals*. The informative tome provides a global introduction to medical writing for health professions' students and for practicing health professionals who are just starting to do some writing. The publication includes advice on everything from writing articles and letters to composing charts and reports.



NSU-COM students Mangiaracina and Caban-Martinez with Dr. Viola Fryman.

In March, UAAO membership and NSU-COM osteopathic principles and practice (OPP) fellows traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, to participate in the annual American Academy of Osteopathy convocation. The gathering serves as a way for practicing osteopathic physicians from the United States to unite to discuss contemporary issues affecting the osteopathic profession and advances in manipulative medicine, as well as provide forums for students to learn from the masters of osteopathy. At this year's meeting, OPP fellow Melchiorra Mangiaracina and M2 student Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., met world-renowned osteopathic physician Viola Fryman, D.O., FFAO. During the convocation, Mangiaracina made a case presentation entitled "From Toe-Heel to Heel-Toe: Using OMT to Restore a Runner's High," while Caban-Martinez was appointed to serve as the UAAO student representative to the 2006-07 AAO Committee on Information Technology.

## COMmunications

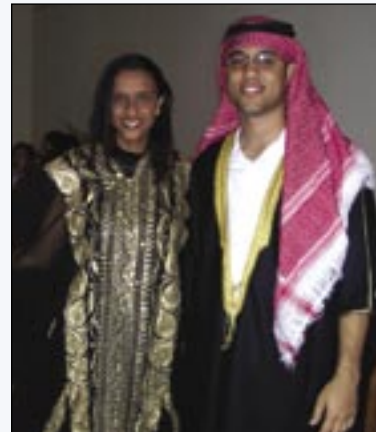
In May, the Student Government Association named the Pediatrics Club as Student Organization of the Year.

The NSU Health Professions Division Electronic Library now has 17,000 journals available online. In addition, *Up to Date* has been added to the research databases, and *MEDLINE* now provides references to 48,000 English language journals.

Alfredo Rehbein, M.B.A., who previously worked as a senior research associate in the college's Behavioral Health Promotion Program, was named director of financial and grant management.

Rita Silverman, M.P.S., director of clinical research, served on a panel with representatives from other Florida universities at the May 17 Enterprise Development Corporation BioTech 2006 Conference, which was held on the NSU campus. The conference sessions revolved around the theme "Bench to Bedside: South Florida Partnerships in Research and Medicine."

Carol Siu, M.S., who served as assistant to the dean for a number of years, was recently promoted to the position of administrative director of the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.



Participants in the IPSA Culture Show included M1 students Terry Moy-Brown and Marvin Romero.

During the spring semester, the International Professional Student Association (IPSA) coordinated its annual Culture Show, which included a fashion show featuring clothing from cultures around the world. Proceeds from the IPSA event were donated to the Polaris Project, which is a nongovernmental agency that works to combat and prevent all forms of human trafficking through intervention, survivor support, and policy advocacy.



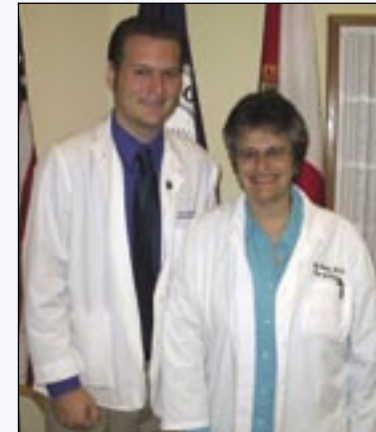
Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.

On April 30, NSU President Ray Ferrero Jr., J.D., was honored by The Soref Jewish Community Center, which presented him with its Humanitarian of the Year Award at a heartfelt ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie. In presenting President Ferrero with his award, Joel Berman, NSU's vice president for legal affairs, stated, "He has never been just about himself. He has always recognized the importance of working for the betterment of humankind. Simply put, he is a good-hearted soul."



Caban-Martinez (right) with his epidemiology mentor, David J. Lee, Ph.D., from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

M2 student Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., presented five coauthored research posters and made an oral presentation at the CDC and National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety/ National Occupational Research Agenda Symposium in Washington, D.C., last April. His oral presentation was entitled "U.S. Worker Dental Care Access and Unmet Dental Needs." He also attended the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in early May, where he presented a coauthored research poster entitled "Examination of Associations Between Visual Impairment and Mortality Risk Using Structural Equation Modeling: Examination of Associations Between Visual Impairment."



M1 Class President Travis Osterman presented Dr. Dribin with her Professor of the Year accolade.

On May 12, the M1 class honored Lori Dribin, Ph.D., professor of anatomy and assistant dean for student affairs in the College of Medical Sciences, by presenting her with its Professor of the Year Award. "Dr. Dribin truly deserves this award," said Class of 2009 President Travis Osterman. "From advocating for students and making our schedule manageable to making our neuroanatomy practicals fun, it shines through just how much she cares for the students." In related news, the M2 class named Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, as its Professor of the Year.

## Ache Honored with Dr. Kenneth S. Burnell Student Research Award



Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, Kevin Ache, and Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of education, planning, and research.

In March, M4 student Kevin Ache received the Sixth Annual Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Award, which is presented to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science. Ache, who received a cash award and commemorative plaque for his efforts, performed neurology research specifically geared toward a study involving the highly prevalent medical problem of headaches. He conducted his research under the mentorship of Paul Winner, D.O., who serves as clinical professor of neurology at NSU-COM.

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 last year, Dr. Burnell's will included a proviso that upped the endowment to \$125,000.



NSU-COM students showcased their athletic prowess on the basketball court.

NSU-COM's "Third Row Nerds" reached the championship game of NSU's inaugural Women's Intramural Basketball Tournament on April 19, losing to the team representing the College of Dental Medicine. Pictured (from left) are Casey Bonaquist (M2), Kathryn Rooth (M2), Jesse Pate (M1), Wendy Ballenger (M1), Katherine Lumpkin (M1), Nicole Coleman (M2), and Jill Scarlett (M3).



In April, about 20 members from the college's Christian Medical and Dental Association student chapter traveled to Nicaragua to participate in a medical mission that was coordinated through First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale. A full wrap-up of this humanitarian outreach effort will appear in the fall 2006 issue of COM Outlook.



Sylvia Urlich receives her award from HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman and NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr.

During the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony on May 28, Sylvia Urlich, M.A., who serves on the NSU Board of Trustees and the Health Professions Division Board of Governors, was presented with the Morton Terry, D.O., Founders' Award. The award recognizes individuals for their exemplary participation and service in the educational process of health care professionals. Previous recipients of this prestigious accolade include NSU Board of Trustee member David Rush in 2004 and NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., in 2005.

## Kaminski Garners David Spector Memorial Award



Donna Kaminski shares her moment of triumph with Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.

M1 student Donna Kaminski was the inaugural recipient of the David Spector Memorial Award, which was presented in March at a special ceremony held in the HPD's Steele Auditorium.

The cash award will be 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 was established last summer 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 a \$10,000 endowment fund at NSU-COM, future generations of students will have an opportunity to conduct further research in this field.

Kaminski, who worked in a substance-abuse program before matriculating at NSU-COM, has maintained that interest by playing an active role in the steering committee that established the college's Addiction Medicine Interest Group. She is currently meeting with representatives from local drug treatment centers to establish opportunities for students to volunteer and understand the vital role of these types of facilities.



Cristina Dupree

Due to the stellar job M2 student Cristina Dupree did in her role as NSU-COM's national liaison officer for the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA), the organization's national Board of Trustees awarded her with its SOMA Officer of the Year Award. "I am sure others deserved this award just as much, if not more, than I did," said Dupree, who will be serving as Region IV trustee in 2006-07. "It was such an honor to receive it, and I am really excited to be working for such an influential medical student organization."

such an honor to receive it, and I am really excited to be working for such an influential medical student organization."



Ezella Washington

M1 student Ezella "Zee" Washington had her article titled "Assessment of Local Tissue Edema in Arms of Women with Postmastectomy Lymphedema" published in the March 2006 issue of *WOUNDS: A Compendium of Clinical Research and Practice*. Providing Washington with editorial assistance were HPD faculty members Dawn Brown-Cross, Ed.D., associate professor of physical therapy, and Harvey Mayrovitz, Ph.D., professor of physiology.

Jacob Warren, Ph.D., a research associate in the college's Behavioral Health Promotion Program and a doctoral candidate in epidemiology at the University of Miami, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "Creation of a Markov Chain Model of National Center for Health Statistics 2002 Mortality Data: Examining Life Expectancies, Hypothetical Cure Scenarios, and Mortality Disparities."



Steve Bronsborg, M.S., M.H.S.A.

Steve Bronsborg, M.S., M.H.S.A., assistant director of programs and services for NSU-COM's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, was recently promoted to the position of rural outreach specialist for the All-Hazards Preparedness Project. In this role, Bronsborg is responsible for supervising, coordinating, and administering the delivery of all-hazards preparedness training programming to health care providers in medically underserved sites located within the 19 South and Central Florida counties served by the AHEC Program.



On May 15, OPP faculty members Michael Patterson, Ph.D., Mark Sandhouse, D.O., and Eric Shamus, Ph.D., along with Lynne Cawley, M.S., who serves as associate director of interprofessional and alumni affairs, participated in the Second Annual Fore the Kids: Saving Lives Charity Golf Tournament, which is coordinated through NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy.

## Susan Lucci No More: Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni Snares Stuey Statuette



Dr. Silvagni shares his moment of glory with NSU-COM Student of the Year winner Danny Hierholzer (left) and Alumnus of the Year nominee Dr. Glenn Moran.

It proved to be a golden night for Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni at the Seventh Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards as he walked away with a gilded statuette during the April 4 ceremony, which was held at NSU's Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Silvagni, who has served as NSU-COM dean since 1998, was honored as Academic Dean of the Year after five consecutive nominations in this category. M4 student Danny Hierholzer also earned a Stuey for being recognized as NSU-COM's Student of the Year although he lost in the NSU Student of the Year category.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine earned seven overall nominations in the Student Life Achievement Award balloting, including nods in the following categories:

**Administrator of the Year**  
*Albert Whitehead, D.M.D.*

**Professor of the Year**  
*Robert Hasty, D.O.*

**Alumnus of the Year**  
*Glenn Moran, D.O.*

**Cocurricular Advisor of the Year**  
*Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.*

**Graduate Organization of the Year**  
*Public Health Student Association*

## Antismoking Poster Contest Serves as Integral Learning Tool for Middle School Students



Kristina Orlando of Pioneer Middle School accepts her first-place award from SGA President Rob Zesut.

Providing public health education and awareness has been a goal of many NSU-COM students over the years, and that trend continued in 2006 when the Student Government Association (SGA) coordinated its Second Annual Be Smart—Don't Start Antismoking Poster Contest awards banquet on March 22 in the HPD's Chancellor's Dining Room.

Over 250 students, representing 10 area middle schools, competed for an Apple iPod Nano MP3 player and \$185 worth of Broward Mall gift certificates by submitting antismoking posters. The top 20 finalists



Pictured are the top-four finalists in the NSU-COM Be Smart—Don't Start Antismoking Poster Contest.

were then invited to an awards banquet sponsored by Pizza Loft, NSU-COM's AHEC Program, Olive Garden, and Contour Day Spa.

"This event is important because it reinforces what the middle school students learn when the osteopathic medical students travel to their schools and speak to them about tobacco cessation via the AHEC Program every year," said SGA Treasurer Ryan Toney. "It is a great way to prevent them from ever starting to smoke, and with the information they learn, they can encourage their parents to stop. It also gives the students an opportunity to do research, put their ideas on paper, and become advocates for a great cause. It also was beneficial to NSU-COM because it advertised our school and educated the students, families, teachers, and Broward County Public Schools representatives about what a D.O. is, what a D.O. does, and how a D.O. is different from and similar to an M.D."

## NSU Healthy Aging Expo Provides Vital Outreach



M3 student Ryan Chauffe does a blood pressure screening at the Healthy Aging Expo.

Nova Southeastern University hosted its inaugural Healthy Aging Expo on Sunday, March 12, which featured participation from a number of NSU colleges and programs and attracted over 300 older adults to the Health Professions Division campus.

The expo, which was free for all attendees, included a range of health screenings as well as lectures by NSU faculty from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Allied Health and Nursing, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Fischler School of Education and Human Services.

Non NSU-affiliated participants and sponsors included the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Broward County, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, CVS/pharmacy, the North Broward Hospital District, WPBT/Channel 2, Aramark,

Parties by Ronnie O, Foot Solutions, Lifeline Systems, League for the Hard of Hearing, Seniors Resource Guide, and Walgreens.

According to Robert Oller, D.O., who serves as chief executive officer of NSU's Division of Clinical Operations, "The Healthy Aging Expo is NSU's opportunity to give back to our community and showcase our vast array of expertise in aging health issues."

The event was created through the NSU Senior Services Team, which began discussing the concept of the Healthy Aging Expo over a year ago. "NSU is building its geriatric health care services and enhancing training in aging-related issues," said Michelle Gagnon Blodgett, Psy.D., who serves as HPD coordinator of Geriatric Clinical Services. "The Healthy Aging Expo is a result of these efforts."

## Sixth Annual AHEC Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Project Educates Students of All Ages



Before the spring semester concluded, NSU-COM's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program coordinated its Sixth Annual Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project, which is part of the M1 and second-year pharmacy student curriculum. Through this initiative, which is also offered to NSU nursing students, nearly 500 students gained preventative health training by utilizing a variety of modalities, including group instructional technology in patient-oriented, problem-solving modules.

During the project, student physicians, second-year pharmacy students, and nursing students meet in small groups to discuss tobacco usage, the pharmacology of smoking, dependence/addiction, smoking prevention, and cessation techniques.

Following their comprehensive training, the NSU-COM, College of Pharmacy, and College of Allied Health and Nursing students utilized their newly learned knowledge and skills and delivered about 750 presentations on tobacco prevention to nearly 17,000 elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the Broward County Public Schools system. In addition to educating public school students in South Florida, the Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project sent pharmacy students

to Ponce, Puerto Rico, where they discussed the dangers of tobacco use with middle and high school students. Since its inception in 2001, the program has disseminated vital information to more than 90,000 elementary, middle, and high school students.

In 2001, the Florida AHEC Network comprising NSU-COM and four other Florida medical schools partnered with the Florida Department of Health to establish the Tobacco Prevention/Cessation Project. During the past six years, over 100 faculty and staff members from over a dozen AHEC-affiliated health professions programs have lent their time and expertise to this educational enterprise.

## NSU-COM Students Volunteer at Camp Superstar

By Jill Collins, Pediatrics Club Vice President



Pictured (from left) are Camp Superstar volunteers Chloe Evans, Amber Nash, Theresa Hess, Travis Osterman, Justin Arnold, Alexandra Grace, Ezella Washington, Joshua Cohen, and Jill Collins.

NSU-COM's Pediatrics Club, as well as several other members of the M2, M3, and M4 classes, took some time from their summer vacations in early June to volunteer at Camp Superstar as "Pals." The camp, which was created for children born with craniofacial anomalies and their families, was held on the NSU campus and was packed with everything from arts and crafts, kickball, and relay races to a trip to the Miami Dolphins' training camp, a dance, and a cheer-and-skit competition.

About 30 families from South Florida attended the camp, which also included an educational session for the campers to allow for discussion on how the public perceived their anomalies and how to handle bullies. The participating parents even had a session with health care providers from NSU's Health Professions Division, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Miami Children's Hospital, and Children's Medical Services that provided them with an open forum to speak with medical professionals involved in craniofacial care.

The inspiration for the camp came from its directors, Arthur and Shelly Green, who have a son who was born with a cleft palate. When he was growing up, it was very difficult for his parents to find support groups or other children with cleft palates. Today, their son is 26 years old and assists them to run the camp, which is in its eighth successful year.

Thanks go out to the following students for volunteering their time and truly making a difference in these children's lives: Justin Arnold (M2), Joshua Cohen (M2), Jill Collins (M2), Chloe Evans (M2), Alexandra Grace (M2), Theresa Hess (M4), Lindsay Kahn (M3), Amber Nash (M2), Travis Osterman (M2), and Ezella Washington (M2).

## FOMA Health Fair Attracts Record Attendance



Pictured (from left) are: M4 student Lior Shamai; M2 student William McCoy; Christopher Siano, D.O., 2004 NSU-COM graduate and current pediatric emergency medicine fellow at Miami Children's Hospital; Morton Morris D.O., J.D., FAOAO, HPD vice chancellor for professional affairs; and M1 student Luis Riccardi.

On April 29, history was made as more than 600 people—the highest number of attendees in the NSU/FOMA Annual Health Fair's six-year history—visited the Turnberry Tower Shops in Davie to participate in the event.

For the sixth consecutive year, NSU's Health Professions Division teamed up with the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Student District Society to coordinate the health care outreach effort, which featured representatives from the HPD and the NSU Center for Psychological Studies, as well as other local health care providers who were on hand to provide free health screenings to the community.

Expert health professionals were onsite to perform dental, blood pressure, diabetes, and other health screenings. There were also plenty of opportunities for the attendees to talk to—and glean information from—pharmacists, nurses, optometrists, physical therapists, dentists, gynecologists, psychologists, physicians, and occupational therapists. The NSU/FOMA Health Fair also featured entertainment for the whole family, including a bounce house for the youngsters and a tasty barbeque prepared by NSU-COM students.

More than a dozen local organizations participated, including the Davie fire and police departments, Memorial Healthcare System, SunCoast Physicians Health Plan, and Community Blood Centers of South Florida.

## Inaugural F.L.O.W.E.R.S. Seminar a Success

By Dana Block, M3 Student



On May 18, 2006, the Atrium Conference Room at Broward General Medical Center was tastefully decorated in cheerful colors, awaiting the arrival of participants in the first-ever Fully Loving Ourselves: Women's Enrichment and Resource Society (F.L.O.W.E.R.S.) workshop.

Approximately one dozen women from Broward County attended the inaugural event, which included a presentation on hygiene and physical health by Jennifer Goldman, D.O., and a session on hygiene and mental health by Laresha Hall, M.D. In addition, a cosmetic consultant from Mary Kay offered instructions on how to appropriately apply makeup. Bags of sample-sized hygiene products, including shampoos, conditioners, soaps, lotions, toothbrushes, toothpastes, and hairbrushes, were also distributed and door prizes were raffled.

Seminar feedback was 100 percent positive. Surveyed participants, who included representatives from Women In Distress and Planned Parenthood, were impressed with the organization and practicality of the workshop, and all were eager to participate in future F.L.O.W.E.R.S. events. One attendee even offered to take an active role in the planning of upcoming workshops. Topics to be addressed in future F.L.O.W.E.R.S. seminars include sexual health, domestic violence, financial responsibility, learning your strengths, putting your strengths to use, résumé writing, finding a good job, pregnancy, infant care, and others as requested/desired by program participants.

The inaugural F.L.O.W.E.R.S. workshop was made possible through generous donations from the AHEC Program, NSU-COM SGA, and the national AMSA Local Projects Grant Program. F.L.O.W.E.R.S. is a community outreach program designed and implemented by Dana Block (M3), Jill Scarlett (M3), Jackie Weisbein (M3), Nicole Lang (M2), and Kristina Martino (M2). The program's mission is to empower women of Broward County by providing them with the self-worth, knowledge, health, and sense of belonging essential to survive and excel in their personal lives.

## AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat Combines Education and Enjoyment



The Rural Medicine Retreat was coordinated by a dedicated group of individuals that included: Scott Colton, director of medical communications; Dr. James Howell, chair of the Department of Rural Medicine; Sherri Martin, outgoing director of financial and grant management; Donna Chase, administrative assistant; and Alfredo Rehbein, incoming director of financial and grant management.

On June 2-4, a large contingent of physicians and their family members made the annual excursion to the college's AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat, which was held at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort in Stuart, Florida. The retreat, which helps extend academic resources to rural safety net sites within AHEC's 19-county service area, brings NSU-COM faculty together with primary care physicians from community health centers to provide continuing education on vital public health issues.

The retreat provides attendees with a relaxed, informal setting in which to earn continuing medical education credits and explore ways of addressing primary care workforce needs in medically needy communities throughout South and Central Florida. It also serves as a fitting way to express gratitude to the



Dr. Robert Perraud (center), who served as director of the Department of Rural Medicine for many years and retired from NSU-COM in March, was honored during the retreat for his numerous contributions to the college. To commemorate his years of dedicated service, the college accorded him professor emeritus status and renamed the geriatric fellowship in his honor. Celebrating with Dr. Perraud are Dr. Silvagni and Dr. James Howell.

numerous statewide preceptors who take time out of their busy schedules to work with NSU-COM students during their mandatory three-month clinical rotations in rural medicine.

A number of relevant issues were discussed at this year's retreat, including

- All-Hazards Preparation - James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.
- Update on HIV - Jose Quero, M.D.
- Antithrombotic Update 2006 - Robert Hasty, D.O.
- Medical School Graduate Competencies - Joseph DeGaetano, D.O., Joseph Stasio, D.O., and Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.

## Dr. Edward Packer Receives Child Advocate Accolade



Stacey Helps, Dr. Edward Packer, and Dr. Arnold Melnick at the award ceremony.

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was the deserving recipient of the Third Annual NSU-COM Pediatrics Club Arnold Melnick Child Advocate Award, which was presented to Dr. Packer at a special ceremony held May 11 in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room. The award is named in honor of Arnold Melnick, D.O., the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, for his lifelong commitment to child advocacy.

"Dr. Packer continues to be a guiding light for the Pediatrics Club and has impacted so many patients' and students' lives," said M2 student Stacey Helps, who serves as president of the NSU-COM Pediatrics Club. "We are lucky to have an adviser who remains both involved and supportive of our efforts. Dr. Packer's energy about pediatrics is contagious, and he continues to make future pediatricians excited to enter the profession.

"In an age in medicine where many physicians are growing tired and frustrated, Dr. Packer continues to maintain his passion for pediatrics and motivate future pediatricians," she added. "He is a vibrant teacher, and his interesting stories and clinical pearls of wisdom capture the students' attention for an entire lecture, which can be difficult once we have been sitting in class for six hours or more. I cannot tell you how many students I have talked to this year who are now considering becoming a pediatrician purely because of the impact Dr. Packer had on them as a professor."

## Students Form Professional Ethics Committee

By Aaron Farmer, M1 Student



Aaron Farmer

After months of planning and consideration, the Student Professional Ethics Committee (SPEC) held its first meeting on May 10, 2006. With representatives from the M1, M2, and M3 classes present, SPEC began the arduous process inherent in any new administrative body such as ironing out rules and regulations, electing an officer to oversee meetings, and establishing procedures to ensure meetings run smoothly.

SPEC was established with the intent of promoting professional and ethical behavior among the future physicians at NSU-COM. As physicians, we will be faced with ethical dilemmas unlike any other profession. Ethics committees have been created throughout the medical profession to ensure physicians are accountable to both their patients and their peers. By establishing an ethics committee as students, we can become familiar with this environment and build the foundation for ethical behavior that will be essential for our upcoming careers.

In addition, SPEC was created to be an asset to students. The ultimate goal envisioned by SPEC is to act as an intermediary between the students and the administration for alleged ethical violations. Through the Internet, students will be able to file any complaints confidentially, which will then be reviewed by the committee before action is taken. This allows any grievances to be expressed by the students and then carefully considered prior to potentially serious administrative action that may be taken.

The road to medical school is full of difficult choices and sacrifice, and it is also one that we have all chosen to take. With the establishment of the Student Professional Ethics Committee, we hope to enhance the foundations of responsibility and ethical behavior built through the journey of becoming a medical student and future physician.

## Eye on AHEC: Funding, Bioterrorism...and More



The NSU-COM Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program has been vigorously working with its medical school

All-Hazards Training Initiative. In supporting the ongoing implementation of these important federally and state-funded initiatives, AHEC has actively assisted NSU-COM in planning, organizing, and delivering four major regional training workshops that have taken place in Broward, Palm Beach, Osceola, and Pasco counties. Collectively, over 300 health providers have attended these programs.

The program recently coordinated a special seminar on the National Health Service Corps' (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program for over 30 family medicine residents from Palmetto General Hospital and the North Broward Hospital District, as well as students from the NSU College of Dental Medicine. Several of these family medicine residents and dental students, who completed their training in June 2006, will receive assistance from AHEC in identifying practice opportunities in medically needy communities of the state and nation. As an active partner to the NHSC, the NSU-COM AHEC Program continues to promote the participation of HPD students, residents, and graduates in this important federal initiative designed to address the health workforce needs in underserved areas.

partners throughout Florida to maximize its statewide AHEC Network appropriation. At press time, it appeared that approximately \$11.8 million had been allocated for AHECs statewide, with NSU-COM's AHEC projected to receive about \$2.5 million for the fiscal period beginning in July 2006 and concluding in June 2007.

The AHEC Program staff has been playing an integral role in the college's Center for Bioterrorism/All-Hazards Preparedness Training Program and in its School Nurse



(From left): Dr. Camille Bentley, Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, and Shannon Hillier.

NSU-COM has invited the American Red Cross of Broward County Chapter (ARCBCC) to hold disaster relief training sessions at NSU's Health Professions Division, and we encourage your involvement in all the upcoming events.

Disasters often come with little or no warning and in all shapes and sizes. The purpose of this new program is for NSU-HPD students and faculty to gain American Red Cross certification and clinical experience while preparing for—and responding to—disaster conditions such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, blizzards, explosions, or other situations that cause human suffering or create needs that victims cannot alleviate without assistance. Our own community truly needs this help, especially since hurricanes are forecast to continually increase in both intensity and magnitude.

With the help of NSU-COM faculty members Dr. Camille Bentley and Debbi Steinkohl, we have begun the modification process of already formed ARCBCC programs to be geared toward health professionals. Once participants are trained in the basic disaster response courses and become certified, the NSU-HPD, in conjunction with the ARCBCC, will designate physicians, faculty, students, and other members to response teams. Trained team volunteers will serve as a reserve taskforce that can be called upon when a local disaster response requires increased staff support and be assigned in areas as close as possible to the area in which they live or work.

This new program has been modified to be of interest and benefit to NSU-HPD students and faculty by adding more clinical aspects to the learning programs. Students will be able to learn, use, and practice their newly formed skills in a way that is helpful to not just the community but for their own learning and experience as well. NSU-HPD faculty members are able to become team leaders and—with their permission—become responsible for the student team members to help them utilize their clinical skills.

According to Steinkohl, who serves as administrative director of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC), "Trained HPD volunteers are able to volunteer during their free time, which means non-work or school hours," she explained. "I'd also like to mention that first- and second-year medical students will receive some IGC COM-Serve credit for participating in the training program(s) and for the volunteer hours they contribute to them."

The courses consist of an initial meeting to introduce the program as a way for NSU students and faculty to be volunteers in this disaster relief team with the ARCBCC. At this meeting, various training and certification options will be reviewed, giving participants the necessary information to decide if they have an interest in pursuing the different training programs. In our first meeting that took place at NSU on March 16, the Disaster Health Services Team was the training program that was emphasized as being in the best interests of our NSU-HPD students and faculty.

After this initial meeting, there was an online training session that is mandatory to complete before moving on to the following training sessions. This flash course can be found at the following link: [http://www.redcross.org/flash/course01\\_v01/](http://www.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/).

The training courses required for the Disaster Health Services Team are as follows:

- Introduction to Disaster Services
- Disaster Health Services Overview
- Mass Care Overview
- Emergency Assistance to Families
- First Aid and CPR
- Disaster Health Services Simulation

Other team courses will eventually be offered at NSU at a specified date; however, all courses are available and offered at the ARCBCC site located at 6710 West Sunrise Blvd, Suite 111, in Plantation, Florida. For more information, or to register for these courses at ARCBCC's Plantation office, please call (954) 797-3847, (954) 797-3800, or (954) 797-1861.

This new program is offered and available to all NSU-HPD students, faculty, and family members. Certain certifications are only available to already licensed health professionals; however, everyone is encouraged to be active and participate in other areas. We hope to gain more volunteers who will become American Red Cross members and be certified in time to be prepared for the current hurricane season.

(Article contributed by M3 student Shannon Hillier.)





As part of the college's continuing efforts to enrich its research infrastructure, NSU-COM has launched a research fellowship program for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Patterned after its successful and highly competitive fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice (OPP), this newly created fellowship program will provide one year of structured training and experience in conceptualizing, conducting, and disseminating research for selected NSU-COM medical students between their M2 and M3 years. The inaugural fellows accepted into this nascent program are class of 2009 students Mete Akin and Katherine Quinones.

In addition to their fellowship year, program participants will receive tuition remission for their M3 and M4 years. "This exciting new fellowship program will greatly advance research efforts at NSU-COM. In today's competitive environment, it will enhance students' career opportunities by providing them with additional options," said Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., who serves as director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program and the new Research Fellowship Program. "What was astounding to me was how quickly Dr. Silvagni, our college's dean, was able to transform an exciting idea into reality. This is a mark of true institutional commitment."

Although the fellowship program is flexible and tailored to the specific needs and skills of individual students, all fellows will participate in three core activities:

- completing academic coursework
- serving as a research associate on an existing research study
- communicating scientific knowledge through publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at scientific meetings

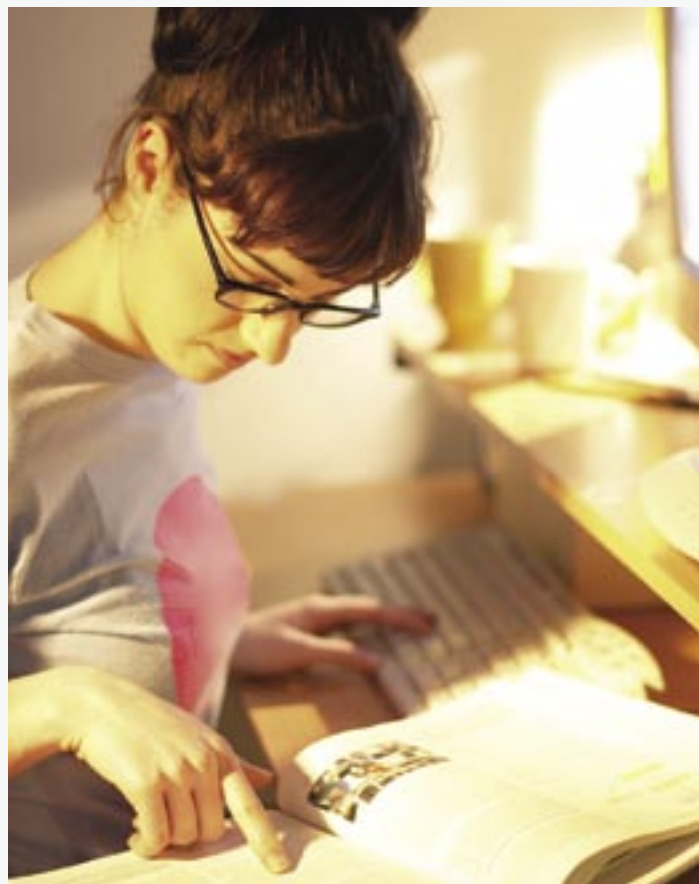
One of the fellowship's most innovative features is the Individualized Fellowship Training Plan (IFTP), which will outline the activities for the fellowship year. The percentage of time each fellow will dedicate to each of the core activities will be outlined in this plan.

At the beginning of the fellowship year, Dr. Fernandez will meet with the fellows to outline their career objectives, assess their research skills, and discuss ways to incorporate the core fellowship activities to advance each fellow's career plans. An

important part of these discussions will be to outline performance and evaluation standards and delineate timelines for completing the selected activities. To meet the academic course requirements, fellows will choose from a wide range of academic courses spanning myriad disciplines. These courses will not only enhance their methodological and analytical skills but will also provide subject matter expertise in selected areas.

Fellows will also gain direct experience in the conduct of research by serving as research associates in ongoing federally funded studies. In this capacity, fellows will participate in day-to-day research activities that include, but are not limited to, recruitment, obtaining informed consent, data collection, data analyses, and participant tracking.

In addition, the fellows will participate in regularly scheduled research team meetings, monitoring visits, and other research activities. Building competencies in the oral and written communication of scientific knowledge to diverse audiences will be the third focus of the fellowship year. Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in the writing and submission of at least one scholarly manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal and at least one abstract submission for presentation at a scientific meeting.



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

Effective with this issue, Dr. Arnold Melnick, the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, will be providing a quarterly column that will revolve around his recollections of the early days of SECOM (the precursor to NSU-COM). His columns will 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.

Graduation. What a fine word. What a scintillating occasion. All emotions flow: pride, accomplishment, happiness, and celebration. Families joyous, graduates sometimes fearful, and hundreds in supporting roles—faculty, administrators, and fellow students.

Looking back at the 18 or so COM graduations I've attended fills me with warm memories, but occasionally a lesser memory pops up.

I recall clearly the first graduation in 1985. The class numbered 40, and our faculty was much smaller than it is now, so we didn't expect too big a crowd—maybe 200 people. So we decided to keep it local and chose North Miami Beach City Hall Auditorium, marked with basketball bleachers along the two sidewalls. But we made every effort to create (from ground zero, as we had no experience) an appropriate and dignified commencement ceremony. As dean, I became the presiding officer.

In my honor, my son and daughter-in-law flew down from Philadelphia to surprise me, even bringing their three-month-old daughter, Rachel. As I approached the podium, I looked down at the first row—and saw Nona breastfeeding Rachel. Was I surprised? Perplexed? Embarrassed? Confused? Daunted? Flabbergasted? Yes, all of them. After a few speechless seconds—it seemed to me like a week—I started to talk, and the ceremonies went on to a successful conclusion as a wonderful charter class of graduates received their degrees. We had completed our first cycle.

The following year brought a different opening—and it affected everyone, not just me. On the Miami City Hall property, the "dressing rooms" were located about 50 yards from the auditorium but not connected to it. That meant—dressed in our academic regalia—we had to walk outside to reach the auditorium. Then came the rain—heavy rain. I was lucky; I had gone to the auditorium to check some last-minute details, but the entire academic procession—graduates and faculty and administrators—had to walk in the heavy downpour. All reached the auditorium, soaking

wet. In spite of this "auspicious" start, everything else went okay, and we graduated our second class.

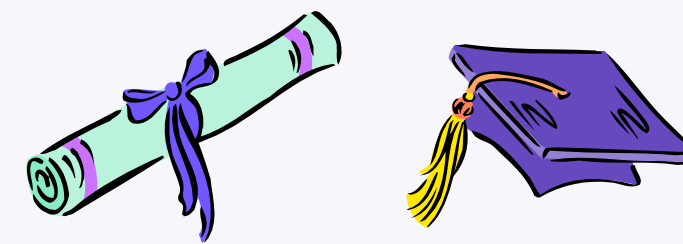
Then there was the time our vice provost, Stan Cohen, passed out—the only illness interruption I think we ever had. Stan had been the appointed roll-caller for several graduations, and as the graduates marched to the stage, Stan called each name aloud. This time, there were several hundred graduates. About halfway through, Stan simply collapsed on the floor, interrupting the calling of names for less than a minute. We got him to the hospital, where it turned out he had suffered from syncope (benign fainting spell). It was nothing serious, but it gave a jolt to the commencement exercises.

Then, too, there was the time a prominent local clergyman was asked to give a brief invocation. But it turned out to be a 20-minute address. The people on stage asked each other if this were the commencement address. No, just the loquaciousness of one individual. And probably none of the audience realized what was happening—except for boredom.

However, there were some far smarter clergymen. Several years later, we asked the graduating seniors if they had any preferences for the invocation. One student volunteered that her father was a clergyman and would be glad to do it. As we did every year, we alerted the clergyman that it had to be nonsectarian and nondenominational. A fine gentleman, he arrived at the Sunday afternoon ceremonies, and when introduced, gave a forceful and interesting message to the class. He concluded with, "I'm supposed to be nondenominational, but I just want you to know that if I were in my church this Sunday afternoon, I would have concluded with 'I ask this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen.'"

What a spectacular closing. He hewed to the letter of the law but also got his message across in a friendly, non-threatening way. Brilliant maneuver, and I don't think anyone was upset because of the way he did it. That was an invocation!

Smiles, laughs, and problems aside, graduations are great—at least ours always seemed so—all 21 of them. With them, we turned out...ahem...graduated hundreds of fine osteopathic physicians. For that, SECOM is justly proud.





Camille Bentley, D.O.

**C**amille Bentley, D.O., FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and medical coordinator for the college's AHEC Program, received her fellowship award designation in March during the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Annual Conclave of Fellows Award Banquet at the ACOFP 43rd Annual Convention and Exhibition in Grapevine, Texas. The honorary designation of fellow is bestowed upon those candidates who have contributed outstanding national and local service through teaching, authorship, research, or professional leadership. They have also contributed outstanding service in their professional careers and family practice duties in their community and civic activities. In the accompanying photo, Dr. Bentley receives congratulations from Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, (left), and Joseph Stasio, D.O., FACOFP, who sponsored Dr. Bentley for this distinguished honor.



Robert Perraud, D.O.

**R**obert Perraud, D.O., who served as associate professor and director of the Department of Rural Medicine for many years, retired from NSU-COM effective March 15, 2006. To commemorate his years of dedicated service, the college accorded him professor emeritus status and decided to name the geriatric fellowship in his honor. The fellowship will now be officially known as the Robert L. Perraud, D.O., Geriatric Fellowship.



Naushira Pandya, M.D.

**N**aushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, maintained a busy lecture agenda over the past few months that included discussing "Aging Successfully" at NSU's Healthy Aging Expo. She also provided an "Update in Diabetes Management: Old and New Drugs" at the American Medical Directors Association 29th Annual Symposium in Dallas, Texas, and discussed "Anemia and Chronic Renal Disease in the Diabetic Hypertensive Patient" at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians 43rd Annual Convention and Exhibition in Grapevine, Texas. Her May 2006 schedule included providing an NSU-COM internal medicine grand rounds seminar on "Care of Diabetes in the Elderly," discussing diabetes and osteoporosis at NSU's Institute of Learning in Retirement, and teaching a workshop on "Train the Trainer: Implementation of AMDA's Clinical Practice Guidelines" in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the American Medical Directors Association.



Loretta Graham, Ph.D.

**L**oretta Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, was appointed as a member of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee. Dr. Graham was selected to this voluntary position in recognition of her wealth of experience and expertise in the field of clinical skills testing.



K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D.

**K**.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, had his research article titled "Effect of Food Deprivation and Hormones of Glucose Homeostasis on the Acetyl CoA Carboxylase Activity in Mouse Brain: A Potential Role of ACC in the Regulation of Energy Balance" published in the February 16 issue of *Nutrition & Metabolism*. Dr. Venk collaborated on the research with his lab assistant Domingo Llanos and NSU-COM students/recent graduates Kristophe J. Karami (M4), John Coppola, D.O. ('05), Karthik Krishnamurthy, D.O. ('05), and Rita Mukherjee (M2). In addition, Dr. Venk was named chair of the American Chemical Society-South Florida Section.



Steven Zucker, D.M.D.

**S**teven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., who serves as AHEC Program director and associate dean for community affairs, recently received the Florida AHEC Network's prestigious Golden Legacy Award for his 20-plus years of leadership and service to the AHEC programs and centers throughout the state. Dr. Zucker, who served as the founding president of the Florida AHEC Network, is the first recipient from any of Florida's medical schools to be recognized with this special award. Dr. Zucker was also selected by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to serve on its Bureau of Health Professions/Bureau of Primary Care Workforce Development Collaborative Joint Planning Group, which assesses best practices in the training, recruitment, and retention of health providers for underserved communities.

**C**yril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. & T.M., FACOP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, was appointed to the Broward Regional Health Planning Council Board of Directors in April 2006. He was also reappointed to the Florida Department of Health's Genetics and Newborn Screening Advisory Council.



A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

**A**. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, professor and HPD associate vice chancellor for professional and extramural affairs, was presented with a recognition award in March 2006 from the Center for Research in Medical Education at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The award inscription reads, "In recognition of your outstanding contribution to curriculum development and in appreciation for your excellent skills as a teacher. The example you have set is the standard for those privileged to be your colleagues and students."



E. Joan Barice, M.D.

**E**. Joan Barice, M.D., clinical assistant professor of preventive medicine, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree in May as part of Northwood University's Florida Campus commencement ceremony. Dr. Barice was honored for her career of service and accomplishments, her contributions to the field of preventive medicine, and the benefits she has provided to the countless patients and populations she has served.



Stanley Cohen, Ed.D.

**S**tanley Cohen, Ed.D., professor and vice provost of the Health Professions Division, was a featured speaker at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (ACCOM) 2006 Annual Meeting held June 21-24 in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Cohen was invited by AACOM to present material from his book titled *I'm a Tree, I Can Bend: Adapting Your Communication Style to Better Suit Your Students' Needs* during the organization's "Teaching and Learning Styles" seminar.



Leonard Levy, D.P.M.

**L**eonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor and associate dean for education, planning, and research, was appointed to the Graduate and First Professional Degree Committee, which is a component of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation process. In March, he presented a grand rounds lecture to NSU-HPD faculty on the topic "Pathophysiological Approach to the Understanding of Gouty Arthritis."



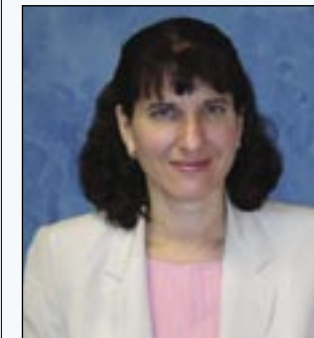
Monica Warhaftig, D.O.

**M**onica Warhaftig, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, along with several other Health Professions Division faculty members, appeared on NBC 6's *South Florida Today* show in March to discuss "Fall Prevention for Seniors." The appearance served as a perfect way to promote the inaugural NSU Healthy Aging Expo, which was held Sunday, March 12 and attracted over 300 older adults.



James Howell, M.D.

**J**ames Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, served as a speaker at the Palm Beach Medical Society Heroes in Medicine Awards Luncheon on April 28 and the North Broward Medical Center EMS Breakfast on May 15. He also participated in the NSU College of Pharmacy's 17th Annual Contemporary Pharmacy Issues symposium on May 7, where he made a "Bioterrorism Presentation for Pharmacists" and served as a panelist during the "Can Pharmacists Provide First Responder Services?" discussion.



Elisa Ginter, D.O.

**E**lisa Ginter, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, lent her talents to the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' Clinical Skills Case Development Committee in Philadelphia in late April. The committee's charge is to develop and improve this new portion of the COMLEX-USA Level 2 board examination, which must be successfully completed by all D.O. students to obtain licensure. Dr. Ginter also served as the main course instructor for the Physical Assessment Institute in Patient Care Management CME seminar that was coordinated through NSU's College of Pharmacy in May.



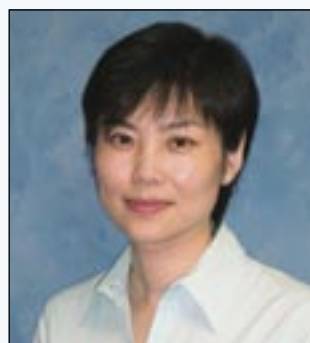
M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.

**M**. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., professor of preventive medicine/public health and director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, was elected vice chair of the Adolescent Trials Network. She also accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Behavioral and Social Consequences of HIV/AIDS study section within the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes for Health for a period lasting from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2010.



Eric Shamus, Ph.D.

**E**ric Shamus, Ph.D., assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice and director of the NSU-COM Sports Medicine Program, was a featured speaker at the Interdisciplinary Summit on Nutrition and Physical Fitness, which was held May 12 in NSU's Carl DeSantis Building. During his seminar, Dr. Shamus discussed "An Integrated Cognitive-Behavioral Psychosocial, Exercise, and Smart-Eating Intervention."



Jennie Lou, M.D.

**J**ennie Lou, M.D., M.Sc., professor of public health, was recently appointed as director of medical informatics. In this role, Dr. Lou will direct and manage the development and implementation of medical informatics instructional programs for physicians, residents, medical students, and others as well as address informational needs of the clinical system. In March, she made a presentation titled "Tackle the Cognitive Deficits and Improve Your Daily Performance" during the National Teleconference on MS and Cognition, which was hosted by the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.



Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

**K**enneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of NSU's Women's Health Center, received the NSU Partner of the Year Award from the university's Women's Resource Institute. He also served as a lecturer at the CME on the Beach seminar for the physician assistant annual board review and made an M.P.H. grand rounds presentation on "HPV Vaccine and the Prevention of Cervical Cancer."

## Medical Village Hospital Update

**O**n April 19, the North Broward Hospital District (NBHD) filed a new Certificate of Need application for the Medical Village Hospital. The Medical Village Hospital will be located on the campus of Nova Southeastern University and be built, owned, and operated by the NBHD.

The NBHD's solid financial position provides the opportunity to build and own the facility without impacting the current strong bond rating. In addition, no tax funds will be used in the design and construction of the hospital.



Robert Hasty, D.O.

**R**obert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was commissioned by the Florida Department of Health to record a Web cast titled "Cholesterol Control Using the ATP III Guidelines." The Web cast will be available to health care practitioners for continuing medical education purposes throughout the next year. Dr. Hasty was also nominated for the Student Osteopathic Medical Association's George W. Northup, D.O., Outstanding Educator of the Year Award by the NSU-COM student body.



Hilda DeGaetano, D.O.

**H**ilda DeGaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor of pediatrics and director of systems curriculum, presented lectures on the "Psychological Effects in Children of Bioterrorism and All Hazards" to school nurses in Tampa on March 9, at NSU's Fort Lauderdale-Davie campus on April 21, and at NSU's Palm Beach campus on June 5. Dr. DeGaetano's lectures were part of the college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness program that is funded through the Florida Department of Health to conduct bioterrorism and mass destruction training seminars for the state's public and private schools.



Gary Hill, D.O.

**G**ary Hill, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was accepted as a STAR (Steps Toward Academic Research) fellow in the inaugural class of the Texas EXPORT Center Program for the 2006-07 academic year. During the one-year fellowship, Dr. Hill will be required to make seven trips to the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. The program's goal is to stimulate research in health disparities by enhancing a scholar's ability to formulate and propose research projects for funding by federal agencies.

**S**amuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was elected as a fellow in the American College of Physicians—the nation's largest medical specialty society. Its mission is to enhance the quality/effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism.

**A**ndrew Kusinski, D.O., assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, has been named assistant residency director of the Sports Medicine Subspecialty Residency.



Sharing a reflective moment at the farewell party are Johneta Goodwin, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and the Martins.

**I**n April, the dedicated duo of Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOP, and his wife Sherri were honored at a farewell party to celebrate their innumerable contributions to NSU-COM over the past five years. During their time at NSU, the Martins helped the college establish new levels of academic, fiscal, and clinical excellence in their respective roles as associate dean for academic affairs and director of financial and grant management. Dr. Martin has accepted a challenging position as the founding dean of the new Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Denver, Colorado.



Edward Packer, D.O.

**E**dward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, recently received the 2006 America's Top Pediatricians' Award from the Consumer Research Council of America. He also served as a presenter at NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness training program for teachers and school nurses at various sites around Florida, lectured on "The Pediatric OSCE" at the annual American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians' spring meeting, and helped coordinate the annual NSU/FOMA Health Fair.



Pictured (from left) are Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D., Dr. Godreau, and Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.

**O**n May 25, the college coordinated a farewell party for Ayleen Godreau, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of public health and preventive medicine, who left the college to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship opportunity.

## CEME Profile: Florida Hospital East Orlando



*In 2005, COM Outlook began featuring informative spotlights on the various organizations that comprise the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education. The accomplishments and contributions of this interactive 18-member network are indeed merit worthy because each participating member provides exceptional postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.*

**F**lorida Hospital East Orlando, which was established in 1990 when Florida Hospital acquired Orlando General Hospital, is a 144-bed, full-service community hospital that treats over 10,000 inpatients, 65,000 outpatients, and 60,000 emergency patients annually. Available services include cardiology, digestive health, general medical/surgical units, outpatient/radiology, pain management, and women's medicine.

The hospital, which began its affiliation with the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education in 1999, currently has 24 NSU-COM medical students (15 core) and 16 interns/residents rotating through its pre- and postgraduate programs, which include

- an internship with a family medicine track
- a family medicine residency
- a family medicine/neuromusculoskeletal integrated residency
- a gynecologic oncology fellowship
- a podiatric medicine and surgery residency

Florida Hospital East Orlando, which provides inpatient OMT services and outpatient OMT clinics, also houses an on-campus nursing home, cancer center, and women's health pavilion. In addition, the hospital is currently undergoing construction of a new tower, which will add 80 new beds initially and an additional 80 beds in the future. Construction on the new tower is slated for completion by January 2007.

The hospital has also been the recipient of several prestigious accolades. These include a mention in *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Hospitals 2005" study, as well as the 2002 American Osteopathic Foundation Women's Health Initiative Award and the 2002 American Osteopathic Foundation- Best Practice Diabetes Award.

Joseph D. Allgeier, D.O., currently serves as the facility's director of medical education for osteopathic programs.

# Graduation 2006 Overview



## Class of 2006 Rejoices During Senior Week

A sense of camaraderie was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2006 to get reacquainted while participating in a host of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, an evening cruise on the *Jungle Queen*, and a lavish awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 28 when 161 D.O. and 28 M.P.H. degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise. During the ceremony, hundreds of other proud HPD graduates received their long-awaited diplomas from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Florida Senator Mel Martinez delivered the commencement address.

## Graduation 2006: Senior Awards Banquet



### 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: Olga Martinez, 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: Richard Walters, D.O.  
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



### 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: Michelle W. Foley, D.O.  
Presenter: Samuel Snyder, 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: Victoria E. Hutto, D.O.  
Presenter: Albert Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.



**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: Lior Shamai, 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: Elizabeth Arena, D.O.  
Presenter: Lawrence Jacobson, 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: Eric S. Papierniak, D.O.  
Presenter: Steven Cimerberg, 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: Eric S. Papierniak, D.O.  
Presenter: Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.



**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: Danielle A. DeGennaro, D.O.  
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



**Donna Jones Moritsugu Award**

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

Recipients: Elizabeth G. Biggers, D.O., and Joel Biggers, D.O. (not present)



**Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award**

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

Recipient: Joseph F. Llach, D.O.  
Presenter: Maureen Campbell, D.O.



**Clinical Service Award**

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

Recipient: Natascha M. Minidis, D.O.  
Presenter: Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.



**Geriatrics 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: Kristophe J. Karami, D.O.  
Presenter: Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD



**Public Health Student Service Award**

Presented to the student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

Recipient: Danielle A. DeGennaro, D.O., M.P.H.  
Presenter: Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H.



**Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics**

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

Recipient: Kyle A. Caswell, 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.

Recipients: Patrick J. Moran, D.O.  
Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.



**Public Health Leadership Award**

Presented to the student who demonstrated leadership in public health.

Recipient: Maria Crespo, M.P.H.  
Presenter: Jay Fleisher, Ph.D.



**Research Award – Public Health**

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

Recipient: Jaleh Mirza, M.D., M.P.H. (not present)  
Presenter: Gabriel Suciu, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.



**Government and Public Policy Award**

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

Recipient: Victoria E. Hutto, D.O.  
Presenter: James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.



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

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

Recipient: Ashley H. Chandler, D.O.  
Presenter: Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.



**Golden Apple Award  
(Osteopathic Medicine)**

*Presented by the class of 2006 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.*

Recipient: Lori Dribin, Ph.D. (not present)  
Presenter: Robyn M. Valdes, 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 considered by students and faculty to have motivated children-related projects at NSU-COM.*

Recipient: Andrea Z. Ali, D.O., M.P.H.  
Presenter: Hilda DeGaetano, 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: Lior Shamai, D.O., M.P.H.  
Presenters: Mary Allegro and Albert Whitehead, D.M.D.



**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.*

Recipients: Kevin A. Ache, D.O.  
Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.



**National Health Service Corps Certificates**

*Presented to class of 2006 students who will be working with the NHSC to provide primary care to underserved areas.*

Recipients: Elizabeth G. Biggers, D.O., Patrick J. Moran, D.O., and Arnaldo Sanchez, D.O.  
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.



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

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

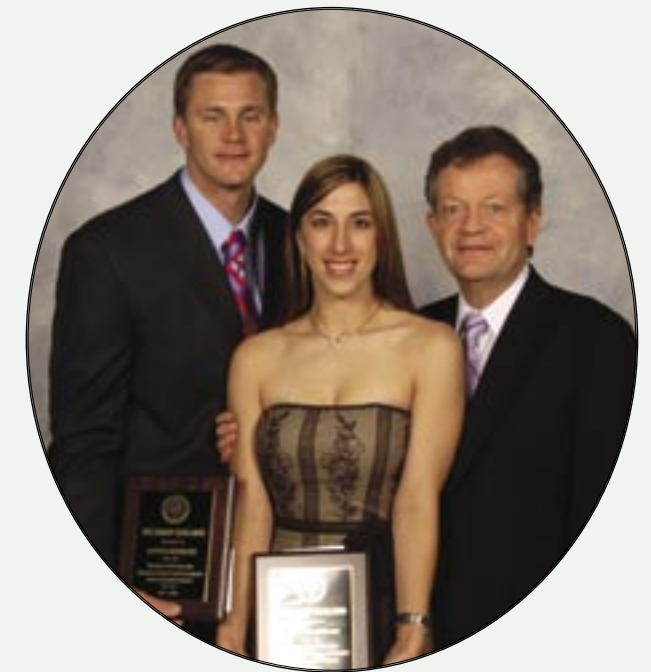
Recipient: Bonnie Watson-Lloyd, D.O.  
Presenter: Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.



**Golden Apple Award  
(Public Health)**

*Presented by the class of 2006 to an M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.*

Recipient: Alina Perez, J.D.  
Presenter: Brenda E. Mallett, M.P.H.



**Rose Community Service Award**

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

Recipients: Danielle A. DeGennaro, D.O., M.P.H., and Danny M. Hierholzer, D.O.  
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.



## Sigma Sigma Phi Membership

Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity that was established in 1921 in Kirksville, Missouri, by seven students from the American School of Osteopathic Medicine. The fraternity's main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. To earn membership consideration, Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Following are the individuals who earned membership in NSU-COM's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter: *Delcine Abraham, D.O.; Andrea Ali, D.O.; Sara Ansari, D.O.; Elizabeth Arena, D.O.; Danielle DeGennaro, D.O.; Michael Escoto, D.O.; Erin Gerhart, D.O.; Monika Goyal, D.O.; Amber Gruber, D.O.; Carol Kitay, D.O.; Carol Liebl, D.O.; Natalie Mang, D.O.; Jamie Matherly, D.O.; Natascha Minidis, D.O.; Chris Nebel, D.O.; Luzan Phillpotts, D.O.; Manuel Rodriguez, D.O.; Lior Shamai, D.O.; Amber Uddin, D.O.; Heather Urrego, D.O.; and Robyn Valdes, D.O.*

## Endocrine Society Medical Student Achievement Award

Presented to the graduating student who has shown an interest in endocrinology by participating in an elective rotation or a research project.

### Recipient

Hadi Berry, D.O. (not present)

### Presenter

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD

## Dean's Award (Public Health)

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

### Recipient

Tanvir Syed, M.D., M.P.H. (not present)

### Presenter

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

## 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 (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. Following are the individuals who earned entry into the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society:



*Elizabeth A. Arena, D.O.  
David S. Coykendall, D.O.  
Anne N. Douglas, D.O.  
Michelle W. Foley, D.O.  
William J. Kellett, D.O.  
Carol A. Kitay, D.O.  
Natalie E. Kot, D.O.  
Ragasri Kumar, D.O.  
Vanessa A. McDonald, D.O.  
Natascha M. Minidis, D.O.  
Cynthia W. Sessums, D.O.  
Brooke Nichole Sliger, D.O.  
Duane M. Tippets, D.O.  
Alexander M. Waite, D.O.  
Richard Walters, D.O.  
Bonnie Watson-Lloyd, D.O.*

## Commissioning Ceremony

The Commissioning Ceremony was established in 2005 to honor and showcase support for graduates who will be doing medical tours of duty in the armed services. Following are the 13 graduates who were recognized at the ceremony:

### United States Army

*Captain Ashley Chandler-Chatigny, D.O.*

*Captain Paul Hendrix, D.O.*

*Captain Dennis Jinho Park, D.O.*

*Captain Christopher John Rosemeyer, D.O.*

*Captain Jison Sim, D.O.*

*Captain Mark Welch, D.O.*

### United States Navy

*Lieutenant Bryan Currie, D.O.*

*Lieutenant Michael LaRochelle, D.O.*

*Lieutenant Martin Lunceford, D.O.*

*Lieutenant Lynita Mullins, D.O.*

*Lieutenant Michael Pruitt, D.O.*

### United States Air Force

*Captain Allison Casey Frakes, D.O.*

*Captain Natascha Minidis, D.O.*



## 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 2003 to May 2006.

### Recipients

*Jessica Sheridan Babare, D.O., Amber Gruber, D.O., Daniel Halpert, D.O., Jamie R. Matherly, D.O., and Patrick J. Moran, 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

*Anne Njeri Douglas, D.O., Michelle Whiddon Foley, D.O., Natalie E. Kot, D.O., Cynthia Witt Sessums, D.O., and Richard Walters, D.O.*

### Osteopathic Recipients of Honors Certificates

*Elizabeth Anne Arena, D.O., David Scott Coykendall, D.O., William Josiah Kellett, D.O., Carol Anne Kitay, D.O., Ragasri Kumar, D.O., Vanessa A. McDonald, D.O., Natascha Maren Minidis, D.O., Brooke Nichole Sliger, D.O., Duane Michael Tippets, D.O., Alexander Manson Waite, D.O., and Bonnie Watson-Lloyd, D.O.*

### Public Health Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates

*Tanvir Syed, M.D., M.P.H.*

### Public Health Recipients of Honors Certificates

*Lior Shamai, D.O., M.P.H.  
Muhammad Zahid, M.D., M.P.H.*





# Senior Week Fab Photo Retrospective



# Senior Week Fab Photo Retrospective





Health Care Outreach: NSU Style

## Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health Excels Thanks to Interdisciplinary HPD Participation

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

The Fifth Annual AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which encompasses the Hendry Glades Community Health Fair in Clewiston and the REACH (Rural Education Awareness Community Health) Fair in Belle Glade, proved to be a categorical success that provided a cornucopia of health care services to the 1,600 or so combined attendees.

The two-day fair, which was held February 18 at Belle Glade Elementary School and February 19 at Clewiston Middle School, was the most comprehensive health care initiative in the event's five-year history thanks to the coordination efforts of the college's AHEC Program and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). In a major show of interdisciplinary support, over 200 students and faculty members from 11 NSU Health Professions Division programs participated in the outreach effort. These included:

- ☺ audiology
- ☺ dental medicine
- ☺ medical sciences
- ☺ nursing
- ☺ occupational therapy

- ☺ optometry
- ☺ osteopathic medicine
- ☺ pharmacy
- ☺ physical therapy
- ☺ physician assistant
- ☺ public health

The Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which is also sponsored by Glades PATCH, the Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, and Henry Regional Hospital, has a twofold objective:

- to conduct two health fairs targeting Florida's medically underserved populations from the Belle Glade and Clewiston communities that provide much-needed education and medical services to the local populations
- to provide a multidisciplinary educational experience for osteopathic medical students as well as students and faculty from all colleges and programs at the Health Professions Division campus

Attendees were able to benefit from an array of comprehensive physical exams and traditional health screenings such as blood pressure, glucose, vision, dental, skin cancer, and cholesterol,

as well as self-breast screening exam areas that were set up through the nursing and osteopathic medicine programs. "If a problem was detected during the self-breast exams, we referred the women to a community organization called Comprehensive Health Services that was doing thermal breast imaging, which is actually an alternative form of a mammography that catches early breast cancer," said Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., who serves as the college's IGC COM<sup>2</sup>Serve Program administrative director.

The NSU-HPD health care cadre also had a surplus of support because more than 160 community organizations were on hand to provide pivotal outreach to the multitude of children and adults who comprise the large farm worker population in Belle Glade and surrounding communities. The Belle Glade attendees were mostly of Haitian heritage, while the Clewiston fair primarily consisted of Hispanic participants.

Masterminding such a successful health care outreach effort each year takes the collective efforts of hundreds of dedicated individuals, who selflessly work together to provide education and health care to underserved rural populations.

"The AHEC Program, which provides funding and grassroots involvement in the planning and operations for the Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, plays such a pivotal role," said Steinkohl. "Dr. Steven Zucker and his AHEC staff were so supportive, as was the college's dean, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and veteran family medicine faculty member Dr. Camille Bentley, who has led the health care teams since the fair's inception. In addition, we have a wonderfully supportive and cohesive HPD faculty that's willing to participate in an important community outreach activity that allows us to come together and lend our unique strengths for one common cause."



Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health leadership in attendance included (from left): Sandra Williams (2004-05 AMSA president); Danielle DeGennaro (2003-04 AMSA president); Camille Bentley, D.O.; Leslie Bridges (2005-06 AMSA president); and Debbi Cohn Steinkohl.



Pictured (from left) are Barbara Arcos, D.O., a local health fair attendee, Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H. (M2), Scott Branch (M2), and Melchiorra Mangiaracina (OPP fellow).

### NSU-HPD Faculty and Staff

Eyad Albarg, D.D.S.	Barbara Arcos, D.O.	Camille Bentley, D.O.
Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. & T.M.	Daun Brown-Cross, Ed.D., M.B.A., P.T.	
Peggy Davis, M.S.N., M.A.Ed.	Rick Davis, Ed.D., PAC	Glen Familiant, D.D.S.
Harvey Feldman, M.D.	Barry Freeman, Ph.D.	Kathy Fuller, Pharm.D.
Michael Funk, M.P.H., PAC	Tanya Gress	Lisa Hansel, Au.D.
Robert Hasty, D.O.	James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.	Pam Jaffe, M.D.
Diane John, M.S.N.	Kenneth Johnson, D.O.	Pamela Kasyan-Itzkowitz, O.T.
Harold Laubach, Ph.D.	Janet Leasher, O.D.	Ronnie Martin, D.O.
Zulima Munoz, D.D.S.	Ruth Nemire, Pharm.D.	Alberto Noquera, D.D.S.
Pamela Oliver, O.D.	Jonette Owen, Au.D.	Edward Packer, D.O.
Judith Parker, O.T.D.	Steven Sager, M.P.A.S., PAC	Gustavo Saldias, M.P.H.
Judith Schaffer, D.O.	Zsuzsanna Seybold, M.M.	Eyad Shehadeh, D.D.S.
Joseph Stasio, D.O.	Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.	Debra Stern, D.B.A., P.T., M.S.M.
David Thomas, M.D., J.D.	Richard Vause, PAC, M.P.A.S.	
Caressa Ward, Pharm.D.	Monica Warhaftig, D.O.	

### NSU-COM Students

Sonny Achthi (M2)	Latifa Akande (M2)	Roger Alvarez (M1)
Justin Arnold (M1)	Olphabine Athouriste (M2)	Cynthia Benson (M2)
Casey-Sue Bonaquist (M2)	Tamara Boots (M1)	Scott Branch (M2)
Leslie Bridges (M2)	Rebecca Brushwood (M2)	
Alberto Caban-Martinez (M2)	Lisa Caltabiano (M2)	Bob Cambridge (M2)
Ashley Chapman (M2)	Jill Collins (M1)	Collette Cushman (M1)
Ernie Digiovani (M1)	Charles Digby (M1)	Natasha Dumra (M2)
Bonnie Eady (M2)	Minerva Ellis (M1)	Aaron Farmer (M1)
Jessica Goldstein (M2)	Alexandra Grace (M1)	Gibson Gray (M1)
Aditi Gupta (M2)	Shanna Hampton (M3)	Melissa Hartman (M2)
Ericka Hersh (M2)	Matt Irwin (M2)	David Jabs (M1)
Scott Jeansonne (M1)	Jennifer Lamneck (M2)	Christopher LeMay (M2)
Michael McCann (M2)	Gayatri Menon (M2)	Heather Mikes (M1)
Terry Moy-Brown (M1)	Amrita Mukherjee (M2)	Kent Newsom (M2)
Viet Nguyen (M2)	Aarthi Prasad (M1)	Anna Pevner (M2)
Katherine Quinones (M2)	Rhea Ramlal (M2)	Prema Ramsahai (M2)
Libby Rhee (M1)	Molly Ryan (M2)	Omar Shami (M2)
Stacy Stibb (M2)	Anita Tamirisa (M2)	Elena Timoshkin (M2)
Sandra Williams (M3)	Nick Zilieris (M2)	

### OPP Fellows

Allison Bloom	Sean Goddard	Melchiorra Mangiaracina
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# International Outreach Continues with Enriching Medical Mission to Ecuador

*By Caye Serling, Medical Mission Participant*

In April, NSU Health Professions Division students and faculty traveled to Ecuador on a medical mission to provide needed care and medications to some of the country's poorest areas. The group was organized by NSU-COM's DOCARE chapter.

A team of 67 doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical students, PA students, and community volunteers ventured into the jungle and mountains and overcame challenging conditions to provide free medical care to more than 2,500 people in five days. Community centers and schoolhouses, some with no electricity or running water and only benches to serve as exam tables, became temporary clinics.

For many students, it was their first medical mission trip. "I thought it would be an awesome learning and growing opportunity, both professionally and personally," said M1 student Libby Rhee. "I knew I'd

get a lot of hands-on experience that is usually rare for first-year medical students." For Maria Terneus, the incoming NSU-COM DOCARE president, this mission was special. "Part of my medical school application said I wanted to return to Ecuador, since that's where I'm from. It's an incredible opportunity that I could do it in my first year of medical school."

Ecuador is a country about the size of Colorado, located along the equator on the northwestern part of South America. About 16 million people live there, with 17 indigenous ethnic groups represented. More than 65 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line, living on less than \$1 per day. Most of these people live in rural or mountain areas with limited access to health services.

The group visited four such communities to offer free medical care, including

- San Jose Obrero - located in the mountains just outside the country's capitol of Quito
- Baeza - located in the Quijos River Valley
- San Jacinto - located outside Tena, the state capitol of Napo
- Quichua village of Chonta Punta - in the heart of the Amazon jungle

Getting from place to place wasn't easy as road travel throughout Ecuador can be dangerous because heavy fog is common in mountainous areas and rains and mudslides often close or wash out roads. The DOCARE group traveled for hours to reach each destination, on narrow mountainous dirt roads next to sharp 1,000-meter precipices, passing by mudslides and one partially washed-out bridge en route.

For their part, local residents waited in line for hours, sometimes standing in the rain or midday heat to receive free medical services that might not have been possible if not for the DOCARE volunteers. The team of doctors and students provided prenatal care, pediatric and general medical consultations, gynecological exams, anti-parasitic and antifungal treatments, eye screenings, and medications. Most commonly, patients were treated for parasites, scabies, and fungal infections. Volunteers also observed tropical diseases not seen in the United States, such as leishmaniasis and even leprosy.

Not surprisingly, many patients hadn't seen a doctor in over a year. Dr. Pablo Trujillo is the only doctor in Baeza, and he says the mission is a "big deal" for the people. "We can write prescriptions, but people can't afford them, so the medications are a big help. The patients come for medical help and for moral support. All of us as physicians have not just a medical obligation but a moral obligation. If we as physicians don't fulfill that part, we miss out."

"Health care in this country is desperate at best," Matt Terry, executive director of the Ecuadorian Rivers Institute, told the group. "It's poorly funded, and the funds are poorly distributed. Even one visit gives these people esteem and makes them feel important. Education from a brief visit can empower these people."

This mission was several years in the making. Elaine Wallace, D.O., professor and chair of NSU-



COM's Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, traveled to Ecuador on two previous smaller planning missions. "We met with the minister of health and the first lady to identify regions that would be best served by our mission," she explained. "The areas we chose were classified as 'severe' poverty, and we've agreed to return to these same locations over the next five years and work with their physicians to develop a program."

Dr. Wallace says there's a psychological difference when patients see the same team return. M2 student Cynthia Benson thinks so too. "Sixty-seven people from America came to take care of people who have no other help; that has an impact. I hope that sends a message to the people we treated that they are important and that they matter."



But health care in Ecuador still lags behind the United States, and the process of seeing patients is far from routine. "There were no diagnostic tests to run, there was no elaborate pharmacy from which to choose all the new drugs on the market. It was just your hands, a few pieces of equipment, and a creative mind," said M2 student Andrew Schlusel. "It was unique, which made it a lot of fun."



It also required resourcefulness. "One of the biggest challenges we faced was not having enough time or medications for the vast number of patients," said M2 student Michael Colonna. "When medications ran out, osteopathic clinicians and students utilized osteopathic manipulative medicine, which had substantial effects on the mind, body, and spirits of our patients."

The ability to adapt is important, said M2 student Ashley Chapman, outgoing president of NSU-COM's DOCARE student chapter. "Our motto is 'be flexible.' You have to go with the flow in the Amazon, and things can change at a moment's notice. Every day it was new, every day was different, every day would change," said Chapman, who was responsible for much of the mission's administrative planning.



And the patients are grateful for the care. Rachel Weisgerber, a Peace Corps volunteer and New Jersey native stationed in Tena, told the group what their visit meant to the locals. "The people appreciate that what they know to be 'rich Americans' would take time off from work

or use their vacation to give them free medicines. They are amazed people would pay money to help them and show they're not forgotten."

Michael Funk, M.P.H., PA-C, assistant professor in the NSU Physician Assistant Program and a veteran of eight missions himself, feels medical missions are empowering for the students who participate. "I always love the change that occurs in the students," he explained. "They usually have little or no clinical experience, and they gain a huge amount of confidence on these trips."

Dr. Wallace agrees. "I thought the students did a fantastic job. They were always willing to pitch in. Everyone worked hard and long hours and rendered excellent patient care, and everyone felt they had excellent learning opportunities with the faculty."

Chapman says she would recommend a medical mission for everyone, including students and professionals. "For students, it's a life experience that cannot be substituted with anything else. I think there are students who learned more about medicine in five days in the Amazon than they would in a semester of school," she explained. "The coolest part of the mission for me was seeing all 67 people—physicians, family, and friends—come together and do everything they could do as a group, and how much they enjoyed their experiences and the help they could give the people in Ecuador. It made it so worth it."

This was also the first year the mission was open to relatives and friends of physicians and students. Non-medical volunteers painted, gardened, assisted in the pharmacy, and managed patient flow.

Despite the long and precarious bus rides, difficult working conditions, lack of bathroom facilities, and other challenges, the volunteers would do it all again. "I would be back in a heartbeat," said Schlusel. "I could never have imagined how much I learned in 10 days, not only about medicine but about myself and life in a different culture. I think it's an experience everyone should take part in."

"I think that it is important to continue to challenge yourself in different ways, and trips like Ecuador give you new ways to accomplish that," said Benson.

Additionally, this mission was part of a larger picture: to gain practice rights for American-trained osteopathic physicians and to teach principles of osteopathy to Ecuadorian physicians. "We have several students from Ecuador at NSU-COM, so it's in their best interests to take these doctors back into their country and give them practice rights," said Dr. Wallace. "This is the

first South American country that we're making major inroads into. These were the highest-level negotiations and plans that we've made. We're trying to develop a working relationship between allopathic and osteopathic physicians in Ecuador."

In its role as a medical outreach organization, NSU-COM's DOCARE chapter's primary objective is to provide medical and surgical health care to underserved communities in South Florida, Latin America, and Guatemala. The chapter is a volunteer humanitarian organization consisting of physicians, students, dentists, optometrists, pharmacists, and other health care professionals.

To obtain additional information on the NSU-COM DOCARE program, to volunteer for future missions, or to donate medical supplies or money, please contact Maria Terneus at (954) 258-7224/terneus@nsu.nova.edu, Sarah Steelman at (954) 262-1100/ssteelma@nsu.nova.edu, or visit NSU-COM's DOCARE Web site at [www.nova.edu/docare](http://www.nova.edu/docare).

**Health Care Practitioners**

Florence Bailey (nurse practitioner)	John Cunha, D.O.
Catherine Fitzpatrick (nurse practitioner)	Michael Funk, M.P.H., PA-C
Sarah McGinley D.O.	Edert Ortiz, P.A. Naushira Pandya, M.D.
Siddharth Pandya, D.O.	Naresh Pathak, M.D. Catherine Pyun, D.O.
Almos Trif, M.D., Ph.D.	Elaine Wallace, D.O. Claudine Ward, D.O.

**NSU-HPD Students**

Farah Ahmedi (M2)	Roger Alvarez (M1)	Cynthia Benson (M2)
Casey-Sue Bonaquist (M2)	Paola Bordoni (M1)	
Reana Brahja (P.A.)	Andrew Breitberg (M2)	
Bob Cambridge (M2)	Ashley Chapman (M2)	Michael Colonna (M2)
Dustin Fontenot (P.A.)	Kristin Garton (M2)	Cara Golish (M1)
Aditi Gupta (M2)	Megan Hanson (M2)	John Hatfield (M2)
Richard Hedelius (M2)	Christiane Hunt (M2)	Nicole Lang (M2)
Katherine Lumpkin (M1)	Michael Mishkin (M2)	Matthieu Myers (P.A.)
Emily Nakagawa (M2)	Alejandro Perez (M1)	Jessica Ranheim (P.A.)
Libby Rhee (M1)	Bo Rowan (M2)	Andrew Schlusel (M2)
Christian Setzer (M2)	Anita Tamirisa (M2)	Maria Terneus (M1)

Elena Timoshkina (M2)	Ian Vincent (M1)
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**OPP Fellows**

Lauren Abratt	Allison Bloom	Kari Bradham
Sean Goddard	Melchiorra Mangiaracina	Lena Weinman

**Community Volunteers**

Chris Bayer	Romney Benham	Caye Serling	Jilda Garton
Laura Goldschmidt	Larry Lang	Kathleen Miller	Sandra Mora
Didi Pathak	Hina Pathak	Neeti Pathak	Nirmal Pathak
Beverly Price	James Price	Fabiola Zambrano	

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- John Geake, D.O. ('93)
- Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)
- Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)
- Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
- Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)
- Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
- Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
- Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)

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- Dan Carney, D.O. ('95)
- Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87)
- Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
- Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)

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- Howard L. Neer, D.O.**  
Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs
- Lynne Cawley, M.S.**  
Associate Director, Interprofessional/Alumni Affairs

**Living Tribute Honorees**

- 2002 – Mary Allegro
- 2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.
- 2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
- 2005 - Edey Groseclose, Ph.D.
- 2006 – Howard Hada, Ph.D.

**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)

**Alumni in the News**

**E**lizabeth Hancock, D.O., FSACOF (86) is a founding member of the newly formed American Board of Disaster Medicine and the American Academy of Disaster Medicine. The American Board of Disaster Medicine, which is under the auspices of the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS), will be offering the first board certification examination for disaster medicine sometime in November or December 2006. Board certification in disaster medicine is open to family physicians and physicians of other specialties who are interested in being recognized for—and would like to become more involved in—expertise related to mass casualty triage and treatment as well as decontamination procedures for nuclear, biological, and chemical terrorist attacks.

**M**ichael Herman, D.O., LCDR ('99) recently completed his military obligation with the navy and has just started a hepatology and liver transplant fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, which will be followed by a gastrointestinal fellowship.

**M**att Hesh, D.O. ('01) completed his radiology residency at Temple University Hospital and is starting a fellowship in radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in July 2006. He is the only D.O. to have ever matched into this position. His wife, **S**usanna Chyu, D.O. ('01), finished her fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at Jefferson Medical College this past June. She was a recipient of the prestigious American Psychiatric Association's Minority Affairs Fellowship. Drs. Hesh and Chyu can be reached at [mattdoc66@hotmail.com](mailto:mattdoc66@hotmail.com).

**C**aptain James Hill, D.O. ('01), who completed his emergency

medicine residency at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, was recently featured in a searing HBO documentary called *Baghdad ER* that captures the day-to-day lives of doctors, nurses, medics, soldiers, and chaplains working at the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq.

**G**regory James, D.O., M.P.H. ('88) was appointed by AOA President Philip Shettle, D.O., to represent the AOA at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit in Atlanta, Georgia.

**J**oseph Perez, D.O. ('01) received the Physician of the Year Award at Hollywood Medical Center in Hollywood, Florida.

**D**avid Pizzimenti, D.O. ('02) is currently serving as medical director at a hospital located in a very underserved area near Memphis, Tennessee.

**M**ichael Pritchett, D.O., M.P.H. ('02) is in the process of completing a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

**E**lise J. Zahn, D.O., FACOEP ('96) was named medical director of the emergency department at Columbia Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida. Since the completion of her emergency medicine residency at St. John Oakland Hospital in Michigan in 2000, she has distinguished herself working for TeamHealth in Palm Beach County. A fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians, Dr. Zahn serves as an NSU-COM clinical associate professor and as a clinical instructor at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

## Educational Experience Prompts Words of Praise from Dr. Parham Eftekhari



Dr. Parham Eftekhari (center) with Dr. Fred Lippman and NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.

After earning his D.O. degree in May, class of 2006 alumnus Parham Eftekhari, D.O., sent a heartfelt letter to HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman to express his gratitude for the superlative and well-rounded education he received at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Eftekhari has graciously allowed COM Outlook to reprint his letter, which is featured below.

I feel proud to have come from a long list of family ties with Nova Southeastern University, with my oldest brother being an alumnus of the College of Pharmacy and the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and my youngest brother about to begin dental school at NSU this coming year. My six years of studies in the Master of Biomedical Science degree program and the College of Osteopathic Medicine have enabled me to accomplish more than I had ever envisioned prior to attending graduate school. The clinical and research skills I have learned at Nova Southeastern University have enabled me to

become a more knowledgeable and empathetic osteopathic physician. I am now proud and grateful to become an alumnus of NSU-COM.

As residency match day arrived this year, I felt fortunate to have the opportunity to continue my residency training in internal medicine at Yale University. I have always had a strong desire to match into the Yale University Residency Program because of its strong emphasis on academic sciences and international research projects. Although there may be some minor curriculum differences between osteopathic and allopathic residency training programs, I will make it an absolute priority to personally meet with the program director of Yale during my residency training and thoroughly discuss NSU-COM's diverse and thorough academic curriculum.

I feel incredibly proud today, as I have officially become a colleague amongst my classmates and faculty at NSU-COM. Many of the experiences I have had at NSU-COM and NSU's College of Medical Sciences, including biomedical research in diabetes, have allowed me to mature both personally and academically. But, more importantly, it was all of the opportunities that NSU-COM has provided me with and the outstanding education that persisted throughout my four years of study here that have enabled me to become accepted into my number one residency choice. I will make sure to continue my strong ties with NSU-COM and The Health Professions Division as I prepare to become an effective leader and physician in my community.

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### 2007 Alumni Reunion Weekend

After much discussion at the recent Alumni Association meeting, it was determined that the association wanted a change of venue for future reunions. As a result, the 11th Annual Alumni Reunion scheduled for February 9-11, 2007, will be held at the Renaissance Fort Lauderdale - Plantation Hotel, which is located approximately 10 minutes from the NSU campus. All social events will be held at the Renaissance, while the CME sessions will continue to be held on the NSU campus.

The Renaissance has agreed to reserve rooms at a rate of \$209 per night; however, you must make your reservations by midnight on January 5, 2007. You may contact the hotel directly at 1-800-316-7708 and ask for our group rate. We hope you will join us in February 2007 for another educational and fun-filled weekend honoring the classes of 1987 and 1997.

### Alumni Dinner in Tampa

On May 8, NSU-COM coordinated an alumni dinner that was held at Fleming's Steakhouse in Tampa, Florida, for graduates living in the area and attended by the college's dean Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni and Office of Alumni Affairs representatives Dr. Howard Neer and Lynne Cawley. During the dinner gathering, Dr. Silvagni updated the alumni on the numerous enhancements taking place within the college and throughout NSU's Davie campus.

These periodic dinner socials serve as a way for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater, which is why the Office of Alumni Affairs will continue to hold these events in various parts of the country. Be on the lookout for a dinner invitation in your area in the near future.

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.

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Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

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\* in honor of 2006 Living Tribute Award honoree Dr. Howard Hada

### Cumulative List (1999-2006)

#### 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. George Linsey

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

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

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 Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)  
 Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)  
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**Submission of Alumni News**



**Scott Colton**  
 In my role as editor-in-chief and graphic designer of *COM Outlook*, I am always seeking ways to enhance the publication's content and make it as informative as possible for our readership. One of the ways I hope to accomplish this is by providing expanded coverage of the myriad individuals who comprise NSU-COM's distinguished alumni base. If you have published a book, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position, please contact me at (954) 262-5147 or submit the information via email to [scottc@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:scottc@nsu.nova.edu).

**Corporate Contributions**

- Abbott Laboratories*
- AstraZeneca, Inc.*
- Biovail Pharmaceuticals*
- Central Magnetic Imaging*
- Florida Department of Corrections*
- Florida Osteopathic Medical Association*
- Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*
- GlaxoSmithKline*
- Merck and Co., Inc.*
- Pace Travel*
- Palm Beach County Medical Society*
- Pfizer, Inc.*
- Sankyo Pharma, Inc.*
- Schering Sales Corporation*



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