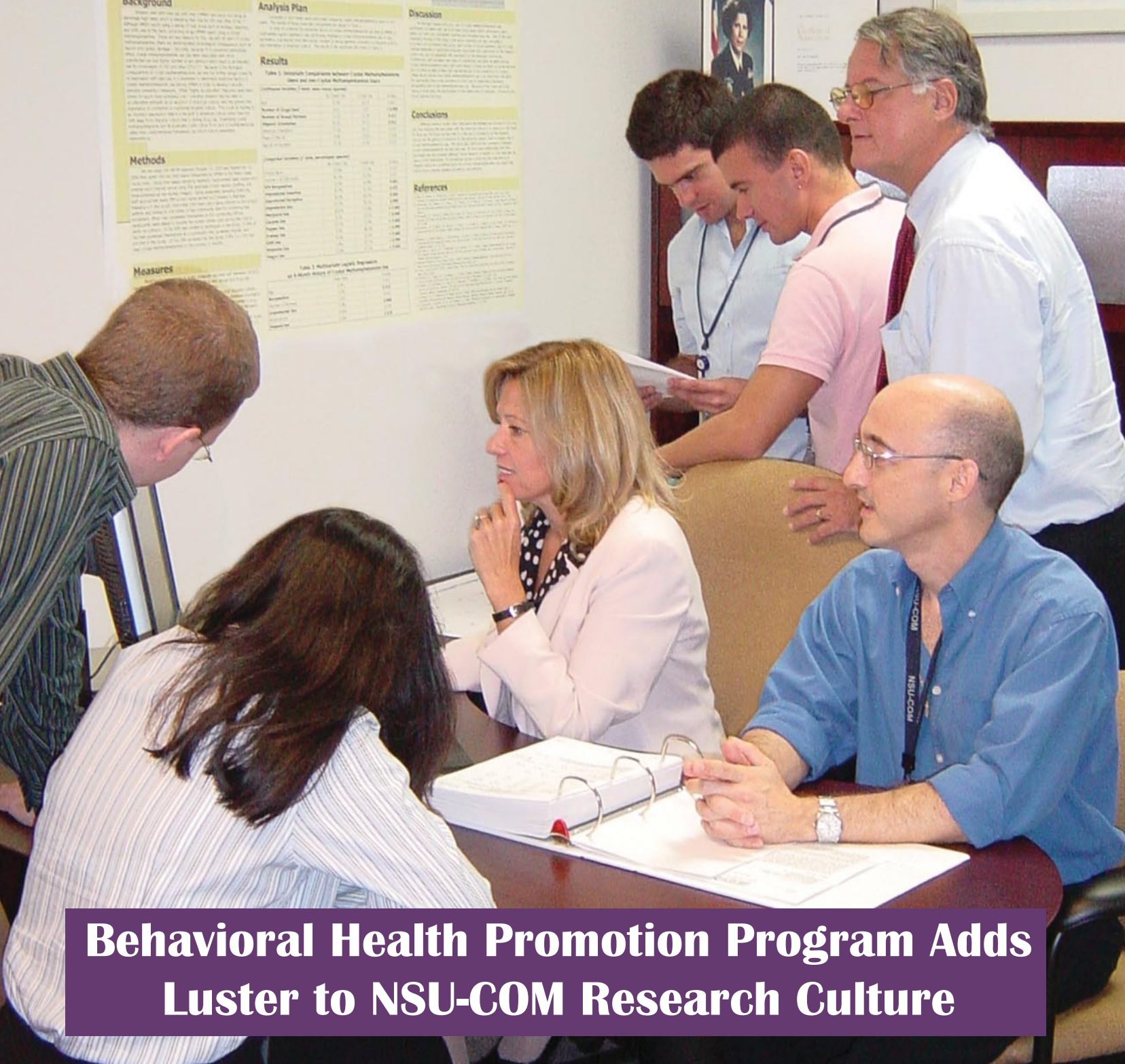
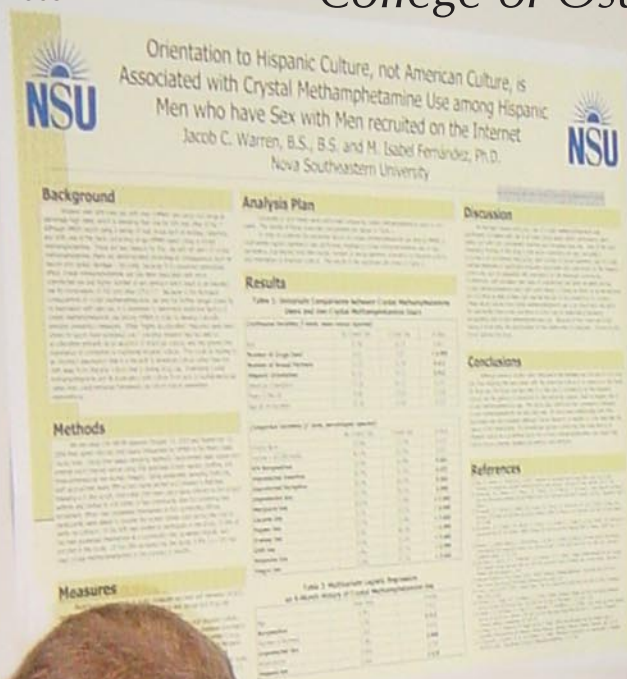


NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY COM Outlook

Fall 2005

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Volume 6, Number 4



Behavioral Health Promotion Program Adds Luster to NSU-COM Research Culture

Dean's Message



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

The NSU-COM Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program recently celebrated its 20th anniversary—and what a productive 20 years they have been.

Over the past two decades, AHEC has played an integral role in fueling the growth of the Health Professions Division (HPD), and more specifically, the College of Osteopathic

Medicine (COM). AHEC has helped the COM meet some of its basic missions such as providing clinical education in rural and medically underserved areas and introducing our first-year medical students to the practice environment of medicine through the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum. As a result, thanks to AHEC's efforts, we have graduates in practice in medically underserved areas in nearly every corner of the state.

It would be impossible for me to encapsulate all of AHEC's contributions to the college, the Health Professions Division, and the community in a few select paragraphs. To put it simply, the phenomenal growth of NSU-COM in both its activities and in the quality of its curriculum would not have been possible were it not for its partnership with AHEC. Over the years, AHEC has provided numerous interdisciplinary opportunities for NSU-COM and other HPD students to participate in important community projects such as the

- 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.
- Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project, which provides pharmacy and first-year osteopathic medical students with an opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss an array of topics that includes smoking prevention, the pharmacology of smoking, and cessation techniques. Following their training, the students then visit area middle schools to deliver their prevention message.

- Summer Health Career Camps, which focus on recruitment of high school students from underserved rural and inner-city areas—with an emphasis on minority recruitment—by providing them with an early introduction to the opportunities available to them to pursue a health-related education.

The AHEC Program also plays a pivotal role in the success of the college's Center on Bioterrorism and Mass Destruction Preparedness, which has spent the past two years providing an informative series of statewide seminars to school administrators, nurses, safety officers, and others responsible for the health and safety of schoolchildren.

While it is housed in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, AHEC has touched the lives of every student who has matriculated here over the past 20 years. In addition, our AHEC Program serves as an exemplary health education center from an agency standpoint. In fact, it's one of the true successes the state and federal government can always point to in terms of being a program that has truly benefited the citizens of its 19-county service area.

Back in 1971, I was part of the team in Erie, Pennsylvania, that developed the first community-based AHEC in the United States. I also worked for an AHEC and was closely affiliated with three others during my career, including two in South Dakota when I was in private practice. Consequently, because I am experienced with the AHEC system, I can honestly say our AHEC Program serves as a true paradigm of operational excellence.

Of course, much of this success is due directly to the leadership of Dr. Steven Zucker, who has served as the program's director since it was first established in 1985. Over the years he has assembled a dynamic, hardworking staff that functions as an incredibly cohesive and effective team. We appreciate all Dr. Zucker and his dedicated staff members have done and know NSU-COM would never be where it is today without AHEC's vital and much-appreciated partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HPD Executive Administration Communiqué



Fred Lippman, R.P.H., Ed.D.
Chancellor

Thanks to the extremely dedicated administrators, physicians, and staff who comprise our clinic system, we are well on our way to becoming a major player in the delivery of health care services in South Florida. Whether it be at our Davie and North Miami Beach clinics or ancillary sites such as the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in Pembroke Pines, we are

providing an ever-expanding range of services to the community.

For example, at the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center in Davie, the internal medicine division has experienced a dramatic rise in not only patient encounters but in the scope of its services. This can be attributed to several factors, including the expansive talents of our internal medicine physicians who hold multiple board certifications in the discipline such as Dr. Naushira Pandya, who is board certified in geriatrics, endocrinology/metabolism, and internal medicine.

We have also become much more proactive in our involvement with our largest teaching partner—the North Broward Hospital District. In the very near future, a group of premier subspecialty physician groups from the district will be opening offices on the third floor of the Davie clinic. This will create a wonderful collegial opportunity that will improve our internal referral system and provide for greater opportunities to offer grand rounds in specialty areas.

And the enhancements don't end there. We are focusing on making more efficient use of clinic space, which has already occurred to some degree with the creation of new pediatrics and internal medicine/geriatrics suites. We will also be doing some additional construction in the intake and business payment areas from a recordkeeping point of view, which will make it easier for the practicing physicians to scan charts and conduct other related tasks.

As these clinic enhancements continue, however, it's important for us to remain true to our original mission. This means we must be focused on providing quality health care for our patients while making equally sure we furnish our students and residents with the highest quality academic professional presentation of care possible. It's a vast

undertaking, but we are doing whatever it takes to improve our clinic operations, whether it's as simplistic as making sure everything is clean and freshly painted to ensuring the availability of having efficiencies built into the patient recordkeeping system.

We also want to provide our residents and students with the ultimate time-and-space opportunity to present their services in the same professional manner in which we are educating them through our curriculum, which offers more practical, on-the-job training to them during their professional period with us. To remain on the cutting edge of osteopathic medical education, we have modified much of our curriculum by implementing enhancements such as small-group teaching modules and the use of standardized patient training.

In an effort to present our services in the best and most efficient method possible, we recently reorganized the clinic operational structure, placing the management of medical professional services under the auspices of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Our overall goal is to make sure all involved in the clinic environment take some ownership in the presentation of their professional skills and be proudful in their presentation of care.

Our hope is that this heightened attention to our clinic service will bring about a leap of qualitative influence and exemplary education and patient care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Lippman Ed.D.", written in a cursive style.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irving Rosenbaum D.P.A.", written in a cursive style.



Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A.
Vice Chancellor and Provost





Health Professions Division

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

Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A.
Vice Chancellor and Provost

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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

Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.
Vice Dean

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Nova Southeastern University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
3200 South University Drive
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<http://medicine.nova.edu>

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ART DIRECTOR

Scott Colton

Director of Medical Communications

Please direct all editorial inquiries to

Scott Colton
(954) 262-5147 (phone)
(954) 262-2250 (fax)
scottc@nsu.nova.edu

All articles are written by Scott Colton,
director of medical communications,
unless otherwise indicated.

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16 Everglades AHEC Health Career Camp Captivates Participants

In June, the Everglades AHEC Center in West Palm Beach coordinated its annual weeklong Health Career Camp, which featured over 60 high school children and the participation of eight College of Osteopathic Medicine students and one from the Physician Assistant Program who served as camp counselors.

18 Record Participation Highlights Medical Mission to Jamaica

In what proved to be the largest and most successful NSU-COM Medical Mission to Jamaica yet, a massive 115-member health care contingent provided an array of services to a record 4,296 patients during the June 15-24, 2005, medical outreach effort.

20 Behavioral Health Promotion Program Adds Research Luster

Over the past several years, the College of Osteopathic Medicine has placed increasing emphasis on building a multifaceted research infrastructure within its hallowed halls. In March 2005, that effort was substantially enhanced when Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez and her eminent research team brought their ample expertise—and diversified portfolio of NIH-funded research studies—to the NSU-COM campus.

24 OSCE Program Expands to Incorporate CEME Residents

In May 2005, NSU-COM took its OSCE curriculum a step further by offering it to the 26 affiliated residency programs that comprise the 18-member Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.

26 Dr. Arnold Melnick Reflects on a Life Rife with Accomplishment

In the seven years since Dr. Arnold Melnick retired from his position as executive vice chancellor and provost of NSU's Health Professions Division, the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine has hardly become a retiring figure.

30 Tragedy Spurs Rita Mukherjee to Pursue Medical Career

Tragedy often strikes at the most unexpected times, which is exactly what happened to M2 student Rita Mukherjee when she was a child living in West Bengal, India, in the 1970s. At the tender age of 10, Mukherjee's world was shaken to its core when her father, a successful engineer, died suddenly from a coronary thrombosis.

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Imran Ismail

M3 student **Imran Ismail**, who won first place in the “What Would I Do if I Were President of IMANA?” contest, earned an all-expense-paid trip to San Francisco, California, and the opportunity to present at the 38th Annual Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) Convention held July 23-28, 2005. During the convention, Ismail was elected chair of IMANA’s

Student/Resident Committee. Organized by a small number of Muslim physicians in 1967, IMANA provides a platform for Muslim physicians and students to discuss issues and share ideas relevant to Muslims in North America and around the world. IMANA members also enrich their professional knowledge and learn about the theory and practice of Islamic medical ethics.

Fun the Focus at Osteoblast 2005



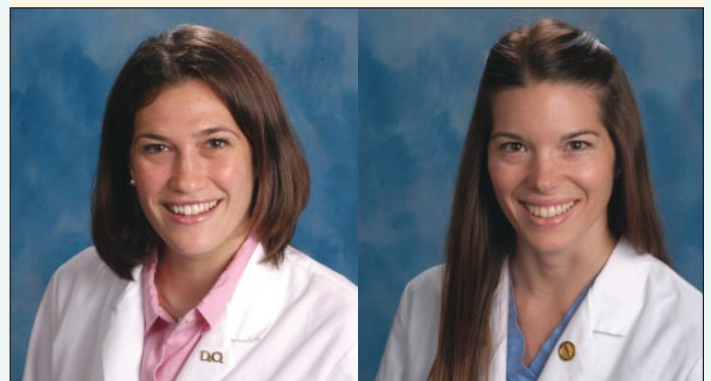
On August 5, the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) held its annual **Osteoblast**, which serves as a welcoming party for the incoming M1 students and allows them to mingle with other NSU-COM students and faculty in a fun and informal beach setting. “The clouds rolled in early in the day and it started to rain,” said SOMA President Omar Shami. “But just when things were looking doubtful, the sky cleared up, the temperature cooled down, and it became a spectacular evening for a party.”

Of course, the Osteoblast would not be complete without the traditional M1 versus M2 tug-of-war competition, which was won by the M2s in the male event and the M1s in the female division. “As the sun set, the ocean turned silver and the offshore lightning storms provided a breathtaking show,” Shami said. “Dance music and laughter filled the air, and the students showed that sand does indeed make a good dance floor.”



According to a study released by HealthGrades, **Sun Coast Hospital** in Largo, Florida, received five-star ratings of excellence for quality outcomes in pulmonary services, placing in the top five percent in the United States. Sun Coast Hospital, which is a member of the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, also earned five-star ratings of excellence for the treatment of aspiration pneumonia, community-acquired pneumonia, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

M4 Students Kitay, Liebl Receive SGA Scholarships

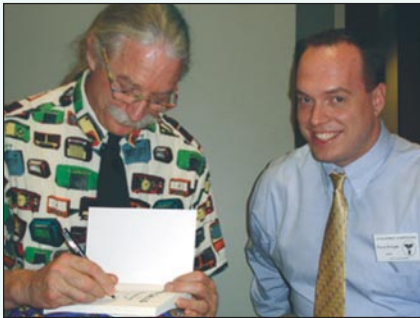


M4 students **Carol Kitay** (left) and **Carol Liebl** (right) were the recipients of a one-time Student Government Association scholarship, which was awarded to two M4 students who were setting up international clinical rotations. Kitay and Liebl, who each received \$1,000 to help with their upcoming rotations in South Africa, are going to be involved in a collaborative program between the University of Pretoria School of Medicine in South Africa and Stanford University School of Medicine in California. They will be working in various rural clinics and hospitals as well as helping with community classes on disease prevention and the building of homes and clinics in communities when needed.



Ronnie Oller “clowns” around.

Ronnie Oller, the wife of Robert Oller, D.O., chief executive officer of NSU’s Division of Clinical Operations, showcased her devotion to NSU by dressing up like a clown at the Back-to-School Physicals Kickoff Event, which was held on Saturday, July 23 at the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center.



During SOSA's spring conference, Dorgan had the chance to meet the renowned humanitarian Patch Adams, M.D.

M2 student **Bryon Dorgan** was elected as conference coordinator of the Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA) National Executive Board. In this role, Dorgan is responsible for a range of duties that includes the coordination of SOSA's

fall conference in late October, which is being held in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the American Osteopathic Association and American College of Osteopathic Surgeons symposiums.

NSU Medical Village Takes Next Step in Legislative Process



On June 17, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) issued a preliminary denial for the North Broward Hospital District's Certificate of Need application for the **Medical Village Hospital at NSU**.

Under Florida Health Care Regulation, the decision rendered by AHCA is strictly preliminary. The North Broward Hospital District and NSU now have the opportunity to participate in a formal administrative hearing in Tallahassee. An administrative law judge will be assigned to the case, and the process of a full and complete factual evidentiary review will occur. The administrative law judge is not bound by the preliminary decision issued by AHCA and will conduct a trial with live and documentary evidence.

Presenting the case in front of an administrative law judge will provide NSU with an opportunity to demonstrate the need for an academic medical center. The innovative programs and culturally competent care detailed in the Certificate of Need will provide unparalleled care to citizens in west central Broward, in addition to providing outstanding educational opportunities to NSU students.



Alberto Caban, Jr., M.P.H.

M2 student **Alberto Caban, Jr., M.P.H.**, was awarded a scholarship to present the research he conducted along with Alina Perez, J.D., on "Elderly Drivers: Safety Needed of Florida's Roadways" at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public's Health and the Law in the 21st Century Conference, which was held June 13-15 in Atlanta, Georgia. In July,

the Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) recognized Caban's academic and research accomplishments among all Florida public health students by awarding him a \$500 scholarship. He also served as primary author of an article titled "Obesity in U.S. Workers: The National Health Interview Survey, 1986 to 2002" that appeared in the September 2005 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.



2005-06 Osteopathic Fellows
Pictured are the six students who were selected to participate in the 2005-06 predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice. They are (from left) Allison Bloom, Lena Weinman, Kari Bradham, Sean Goddard, Lauren Abratt, and Melchiorra Mangiaracina.



Zafar Mithavayani, M.A.

Zafar Mithavayani, M.A., who serves as administrative assistant in the Department of Internal Medicine, recently published a book titled *The Four Stages of Sacrifice: Brothel and Bar Commercial Sex Workers, HIV, and Abuse*. He is also in the process of completing his doctorate in organizational leadership at NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services.

AHEC News and Notes

- The NSU-COM Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program's state AHEC contract with the Florida Department of Health was approved for \$2,567,518 and covers the project year July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The program also received notification from HRSA that its Federal Model AHEC Renewal Application has been approved for the period of September 2005 through August 2006 with a funding total of approximately \$150,000.
- The HRSA Federal Florida Border HETC Program Competitive Application, in collaboration with three other Florida medical schools—University of Florida, University of South Florida, and University of Miami—has also been approved for about \$550,000 funding for the fiscal period of September 2005 through August 2008.
- AHEC's Annual Summer Health Career Camps had 101 high school student participants from a pool of approximately 450 applicants from over 40 schools located throughout the program's 19-county service area. Over 1,500 students have participated in the AHEC Health Career Camps since their inception in 1989.
- During the past few months, over 1,100 informational requests were processed through the Library Without Walls system. Over the past year, nearly 3,000 library and informational requests from primary care and public health safety-net sites located throughout South and Central Florida were received and processed.
- The program is in the process of developing and implementing a comprehensive AHEC Recruitment and Placement Initiative to significantly enhance provider recruitment services throughout its 19-county service region. Toward this end, the AHEC Program will be working with community health centers and health department sites, students, and graduates of affiliated health professions training programs, alumni associations, the National Health Service Corps, and the Florida Department of Health to identify and place primary health providers in medically underserved communities.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the American Osteopathic Association's 2005 Fact Sheet, there are currently 56,512 living D.O.s. In terms of those in active practice, 70.9 percent are male and 29.1 percent are female. In regard to overall student enrollment figures, NSU-COM ranked 6th out of the 20 osteopathic medical colleges with 769 current enrollees.



Kristophe J. Karami, M.S.

M4 student **Kristophe J. Karami, M.S.**, was recently selected to serve on the American Osteopathic Association's Committee of Scientific Affairs (CSA), where he will lead the charge to continue to encourage research efforts at the nation's 20 osteopathic medical schools. The CSA, which was established in 2002, advises on scientific aspects of osteopathic medicine and biomedical research that warrant public attention.

Dr. Elaine Wallace Performs "Miracle" OMM Treatment

By Stan Cohen, Ed.D.
Vice Provost, Health Professions Division



Elaine Wallace, D.O.

I would like to share a painful experience I had that concluded with a remarkable ending. Last January, I fell on my back, with my full weight hitting some very hard concrete. I was in terrible pain, and after trying several analgesics that did not bring me any relief, I decided to seek expert advice. X-rays showed several cracks in my lower tailbone; in fact, there was a distinct bend and twist of the coccyx, which I was told should be straight. I was also told that surgery was not advised and that the fractures would simply have to heal on their own. However, had the bones healed in the bent position, I probably would have developed an arthritic condition.

I was really depressed and could not sit without pain. In fact, even walking to my car was difficult. After five months with the same pain, I showed **Dr. Elaine Wallace** in our manipulation department my x-rays, and she said she thought she could help me. I believe what happened next was indeed a miracle. With a single procedure that took about 10 minutes, Dr. Wallace was able to straighten my bent coccyx, and for the first time since the accident, I was pain free.

I know Dr. Wallace really does not like being praised, but this time I couldn't resist. She is a blessing to me and all the other patients she has treated. In addition, she willingly shares her expertise with our students, who really appreciate her excellent instruction. She is truly a credit to the osteopathic profession.

M.P.H. Program Makes Major Impact at National Conference



A number of students, residents, and faculty from the college's Master of Public Health Program made presentations during the Florida Public Health Association Conference held July 26-29 in Sarasota. Overall, six NSU-COM research projects were accepted for oral and poster presentations at the symposium. Following are the individuals who participated in creating the presentations:

"Trends and Prognostic Factors for the Leading Cancer Sites in Southern Florida Between 1981 Through 2002"

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Youth Risk Behavior Factors Among High School Students in Broward County—Trends in Prevalence and Multivariate Analyses of Major Youth Risk Behavior Factors: 1991-2003"

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Palm Beach County, Florida, 1999-2004: Rates, Risk Factors"

Stuart Fox, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Jean Marie Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM

Jaleh Mirza, M.D.

Boubker Naouri, M.D., M.P.H.

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"An Analysis of the Influence of Ethnicity and Gender on Mortality Rates and Staging of Melanoma"

Alia Abdulla

Bob Cambridge

Melissa Green

Leyda Su Ham

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"The Effect of Health Insurance Status on the Stage at Which Lung Cancer Is Diagnosed"

Michael Mishkin

Chris Piromalli

Kathleen Schuster

Samantha Shelton-Hicks

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

"The Effects of Age and Ethnicity on Staging and Grading of Cervical Cancer"

Rebecca Begtrup

Allison Buel

Emily Gupton

Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

Military Training Provides Real-World Experience

By Bob Cambridge, M2

Many NSU-COM students are getting their education paid for by one of the branches of the military. In addition to the active duty obligation after graduation, there are short active duty tours (ADTs) that must be completed either during the summer or concurrently with clinical rotations. One of the ADTs required by the Air Force is a three-week course at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Last June, four current M2 students spent the better part of their summer learning about flight medicine and the unique medical situations found in the Air Force pilot population.

Second lieutenants John Hatfield, Tiffany Simpson, Emily Nakagawa, and Bob Cambridge took part in the training, which was held at Brooks City Base in San Antonio, Texas. The three-week course covered a range of topics from hyperbaric/hypobaric medicine, gravity-induced loss of consciousness (G-LOC), and spatial disorientation to recovering from a tailspin in an actual flight simulator. Instructors from field survival and public health programs, critical care air transport teams, and aerospace physiologists added to the curriculum.

For many, the highlight of the course was the centrifuge ride. All participants had to don a G-suit, learn antigravity straining maneuvers, and get strapped into the centrifuge for three rides, including a 30-second slow climb to 5 Gs that tested tolerance levels and whether or not people had learned the straining maneuvers.

The education gained at the school helped to provide real-world applications to some of the medical theory learned in the first year at NSU-COM. It also opened the students up to an entirely unique field of medicine—one that has no parallel in the civilian world. As one of the flight surgeon instructors pointed out, most patients put their lives in the hands of their doctor; flight surgeons put their lives in the hands of their patients—the pilots. Strap into an F-16 and start pulling Gs at supersonic speeds—and this will become



Pictured (from left) are John Hatfield, Tiffany Simpson, Emily Nakagawa, and Bob Cambridge.

Visit to the Gesundheit! Institute Proves Inspirational

By Heather Mikes, MI



“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

I never quite experienced the literal meaning of this saying until the day I found myself calling tile stores asking for the scrap pieces they usually throw out. In fact, not only did I end up collecting tile, but also glass pieces, stones, old sunglasses, broken mirrors, pot holders, sea glass, and ceramic plates. I know each of these objects may seem to be useless or unrelated to one another, but when I cemented my collection onto a wall at the Gesundheit! Institute (GI), the product was a magnificent harmony for the eye to behold.

Last summer, before starting medical school at NSU-COM, I was determined to do a service project that was both fun and medically orientated. What a more appropriate place to do it, I thought to myself, than at the Gesundheit! Institute, a free patient-hospital-in-the-making created by Patch Adams, M.D., and his friends. The very foundation of the institute is a health care delivery system based on love, laughter, and free access to all. So I fund-raised at the American Holistic Medical Association Conference, rounded up lots of unwanted items—hand-made, silly looking tile pieces—took my boyfriend and a good friend with me for help, and off we went to West Virginia.

Though our project only took us three tiresome days to complete, our experience at the Gesundheit! Institute became so much more involved. Every meal served at the institute is prepared from food grown on the land. Every meal is shared in community with the caretakers and other long-term volunteers. Dishwashing is viewed as a meditation—an opportunity to strike deep conversation and a way to thank the cook for an excellent meal. At the institute, music and singing are ingested just as often as food.

While we were there, we also tagged along with the GI group to a clowning “gig” at a local nursing home. I was so

amazed not only to see how comatose-looking residents perked up and hit balloons with such precision and delight, but moreover at the effects our clowning had brought to the nursing home that day. It was only by creating an atmosphere centered around community and service that we were able to encourage and support each other enough to leave our comfort zones and create an inviting space in which we could become “fools” capable of bringing laughter and smiles to people’s faces and hearts.

The experience blossomed into more than I could have ever imagined. Even after looking at the grandeur of the mosaiced wall, I still believe I received more than I gave. As a witness to the power and encouragement found within the community, I am inspired to contribute to my class and new school. I am also determined to keep “the fool” alive in myself, so that no matter what patients I may have in the future, I will always have the confidence and inner peace to look in their eyes and smile from my heart. The unexpected arrival of Dr. Patch Adams at the end of our mosaicing week completely solidified my newly reached enlightenment and inspired me to take my art to the next level by using my new medical school community and future patients as my artistic medium.

COMmunications

The college’s **Public Health Student Association** received a significant amount of publicity in the June-July issue of *The Nation’s Health* for the array of activities its members coordinated to commemorate National Public Health Week last April. *The Nation’s Health* is the official newspaper of the American Public Health Association and has a circulation base of over 40,000.

In August, M3 students **Nadine Chipon** and **Shanna Hampton** were each awarded a \$2,000 American Osteopathic Foundation Welch Scholars Grant, which provides monetary aid to osteopathic students entering their second, third, or fourth year of study at an AOA-accredited osteopathic medical school. The grants are awarded annually to students based on their academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and commitment to osteopathic medicine.

In August, **Rita Silverman**, M.P.S., director of clinical research, began work on a new clinical study funded through Eisai Pharmaceuticals involving “Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease in 12- to-16 Year Olds.” Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, will serve as the study’s principal investigator.

M4 student **Noelle Barrera** was recently selected to serve as the sole student member on the American Osteopathic Association’s Minority Health Advisory Committee.

Student Government Association Report



By Rob Zesut, M.P.H., SGA President

Greetings from the College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Government Association. It has been a very busy start to the new scholastic year, and we have some interesting news to share with you.

New SGA Officers

Turnover of the SGA offices took place on July 1, 2005, with the new cabinet consisting of Rob Zesut (president), Kathryn Rooth (vice president), and Ryan Toney (treasurer).

COSGP Meeting

The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) is an organization that represents all osteopathic medical students and consists of SGA leadership from every osteopathic medical school. This year, NSU-COM is on the Legislative Affairs Committee and was quite busy helping sort and evaluate the multiple resolutions that students had a stake in for the AOA House of Delegates.

NBOME Update

COMLEX is still in the process of being fully converted to a computerized format. The last step of this process is the COMLEX Step One. The first class to take this exam is the class of 2008, and it should be available in May 2006. This exam takes the place of the paper and pencil version that took two days and had 800 questions. The new version is going to be 400 questions and take only one day to complete. The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) has contracted with Thomson-Prometric to hold testing at individual centers throughout the country for ease and convenience.

Day of Compassion

October 19 was designated a Day of Compassion by all medical schools. It was done so in honor of the losses experienced by Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine and other osteopathic medical schools when Flight 5966 carrying several prominent physicians crashed on its way to Kirksville, Missouri, on October 19, 2004. The physicians were on their way to a conference on Compassion in Medicine, hence the "Day of Compassion." Our goal is to honor all those who show compassion and humanism and to inspire others to do the same.

Get Fit in '06

Our goal is to promote overall health and wellness to the students and faculty. As osteopathic students, we are trying to incorporate more than just learning in a classroom to our everyday lives. Currently, we have started an early morning running group and incorporated power walking, meditation information, and swimming instruction.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Several of the clubs along with the first- and second-year classes are making generous contributions, and a number of fundraising events are currently taking place to raise additional funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

D.O. Touch Initiative

This is the community service initiative that was started last year by the COSGP to honor all students enrolled in osteopathic medical schools who contribute 50 or more community service hours. The students achieving this award will receive special D.O. Touch pins. A national award is given to one campus with exceptional community service, with the 2004-2005 award being presented to Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

National Osteopathic Student Caucus

The caucus was an open invitation to all osteopathic medical students for open debate to unify a student voice for over 19 out of 300 resolutions that were to be presented at the AOA House of Delegates. The meeting also included leadership from COSGP, SOMA, AMOPS, UAAO, SNMA, AMSA, ACOFP, and ACP organizations to

further support the osteopathic student voice. Resolutions were amended or withdrawn based on student recommendations and then taken by student representatives to their respective state delegation meetings.

AOA House of Delegates

Rob Zesut and Kathryn Rooth served as the Florida student delegate and alternate delegate to the AOA House of Delegates (HOD) for their annual meeting. Each state and its representatives had to carefully study and evaluate their stance on over 300 resolutions. There were many debates that ultimately led to the adaptation of the official AOA stance on issues. One of the biggest points of contention was Resolution 300, which dealt with the combined match. This was a very large issue, with the student's stance being that there was not enough data to make an informed decision to be either pro-combined match or anti-combined match. The students—as a combined voice—went to their state osteopathic organizations and asked that Resolution 300 be passed with amendments, which were to research the issue with an unbiased study on the short and long-term aspects of such a match.

I am proud to state that the FOMA delegation stood behind the students and voted for such a resolution. The support and acknowledgement of the students was outstanding, and we thank them for their leadership. The resolution was heavily debated on the house floor, with the end result being a head-count passing of Resolution 300. This is a great example of how students can get involved nationally in their own education and the future of the osteopathic profession. For further information on the AOA-HOD, please go to www.do-online.com.

Club Week

Our Club Week was a great success. The SGA provided an opportunity for our 32 clubs, organizations, and interest groups to meet our new students and discuss what each club has to offer. Books, pins, shirts, and academic supplemental materials were among some of the materials offered for joining some clubs.



Robert Hasty, D.O.

Robert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, had his article titled “The Template Progress Note: A Timesaving Innovation” published in the July/August 2005 issue of *The Hospitalist*. The peer-reviewed publication is the official journal of the Society of Hospital Medicine. He also gave a lecture titled “Antithrombotic Update

2005” at the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) national meeting in October and was interviewed about internal medicine on the Health Professions Division’s *Dateline Health* cable television program. In September, Dr. Hasty served as the keynote speaker for the Florida Department of Health’s statewide teleconference called “Cholesterol Update 2005.”



Elaine Wallace, D.O.

Elaine Wallace, D.O., professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, was honored for her teaching excellence yet again by being listed in the latest edition of *Who’s Who Among American Teachers* for the third time. In September, Dr. Wallace spoke at the first international conference on osteopathic medicine, which

was held September 15-18 in Freiberg Germany, and presented a seminar on “Torque Unwinding,” which is a technique Dr. Wallace developed. Over the past six months, she also presented this technique to the Australian Osteopathic Association in Sydney and the Japanese Osteopathic Association in Tokyo. In addition, Dr. Wallace served as one of the editors of *Principles of Manual Sports Medicine*, which is the new sports medicine text for the osteopathic profession.



Howard L. Neer, D.O.

Howard L. Neer, D.O., FACOPF, associate dean of alumni affairs and professor of family medicine, gave the prestigious A.T. Still Memorial Lecture at the July 2005 American Osteopathic Association (AOA) House of Delegates meeting held in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Neer eloquently described Dr. Still’s struggles in founding the osteopathic medical profession and

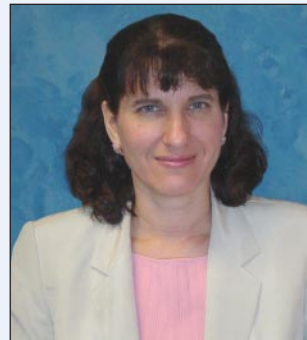
discussed his own journey through an era when D.O.s fought for equality in the medical arena. Over the past decade, Dr. Neer served as president of the AOA (1995-96) and as president of the American Osteopathic Foundation (1997-98).



Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.

Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, vice chancellor for professional affairs for the Health Professions Division, was reappointed as chairman of the AOA’s Council on Medical Education and as a member of the organization’s Bureau of Education. In addition, he presented two lectures for the American Osteopathic Academy of

Orthopedics symposium in Washington, D.C., on the topics “Shape Up or Ship Out: Due Process” and “Medical Practice and Risk Management.” He also discussed the issues of “Risk Management” and “Prevention of Medical Errors” at the Monroe County Osteopathic Medical Association meeting in Islamorada, Florida.



Elisa Ginter, D.O.

Elisa Ginter, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, was appointed as a committee member for the development of clinical cases at the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners testing center located in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. In this role, she provides input with the clinical case development for the OSCE testing that all

osteopathic students now need to participate in and pass to receive their osteopathic licensure at graduation. Dr. Ginter also joined Dr. Elaine Wallace and the college’s osteopathic fellows in Ecuador, where she gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Universidad de San Francisco medical teaching faculty in Quito on the history and philosophy of osteopathy, the requirements and education of osteopathic students, and the basic techniques and concepts of osteopathic manipulation.



Gary Hill, D.O.

Earlier this year, Gary Hill, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was appointed to the Minority Health and Cultural Competency Task Force of the American College of Osteopathic Internists. In this role, Dr. Hill and the other task force members developed a position statement advocating for improvements in health care disparities faced by

underrepresented minorities in the United States. The paper was submitted to the AOA House of Delegates last summer and received approval, meaning it will become policy for the entire osteopathic profession.

Faculty Focus



David Thomas, M.D., J.D.

David Thomas, M.D., J.D., professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, is currently serving as co-chief editor of the peer-reviewed medical journal *Infectious Disease in Corrections and Reports*. His busy agenda also included making a presentation on “The Ethics of Human Research” at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C.,

coauthoring several articles that were published in peer-reviewed journals on “Sending Students to Prison,” and serving as chairman of the Commission on Accreditation in Corrections. Dr. Thomas also participated on the Surgeon General’s Call to Action panel and served as a health care delivery consultant and evaluator for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.



Ronnie Martin, D.O.

Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of academic affairs and professor of family medicine, served on the Reference Committee for Education at the AOA House of Delegates meeting in July and was reappointed as chair of the AOA’s Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. He was also appointed to the AOA Task Force on CME and elected secretary of

the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Board of Directors. In addition, Dr. Martin lectured at several conferences on topics ranging from “Evaluation of Resident Competencies Utilizing Standardized Patients” to “Men’s Urinary Tract Problems” and “Diseases of the Colon: Diagnosis and Treatment.” In August, he added another administrative duty to his professional plate when he was charged with overseeing—in conjunction with Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni—the management of medical professional services at the Davie and North Miami Beach medical clinics.



Loretta Graham, Ph.D.

Loretta Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, partnered with Dr. Ronnie Martin to serve as co-presenters at the 16th Annual Osteopathic Medical Education Leadership Conference, which was held September 8-10 in Chicago, Illinois. During the symposium, Drs. Graham and Martin discussed the topic

“Utilizations of Standardized Patients and OSCE in Evaluating Resident Competencies.”



Naushira Pandya, M.D.

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor of internal medicine and chair of the Division of Geriatrics, participated in a panel discussion at the National Association of Directors of Nursing annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in June. The discussion centered on the new *Senior Care Source Interdisciplinary Report on*

Long-Term Care, which Dr. Pandya helped design. In addition, she chaired a three-day seminar for the American Medical Directors’ Clinical Practice Guideline Consensus Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, concerning the writing of guidelines for long-term care on anemia and health maintenance. Dr. Pandya was also interviewed and quoted in the August issue of *Caring for the Ages*, which is the official publication of the American Medical Directors Association, in an article titled “Communication Vital in Osteoporosis Care.”



Michael Patterson, Ph.D.

Michael M. Patterson, Ph.D., professor and assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, has been appointed to a three-year term on the American Osteopathic Association’s Council on Research, which oversees the AOA’s research grant programs and sets research priorities for the osteopathic profession. Dr. Patterson was also

elected to the Research Council of the International Federation of Manual Medicine, where he will serve as the council’s chair for basic science research. This group has formulated and published guidelines for various aspects of research in manipulative medicine worldwide and consists of members from several European countries, Australia, and the United States.



Jennie Q. Lou, M.D.

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., associate professor of public health, presented two posters at the 2005 Annual International Conference of Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, which was held in June in Orlando, Florida. In fact, her poster titled “Vitamin D Serum Levels and Multiple Sclerosis Progression: A Case Control Study” earned Dr.

Lou the prestigious Research Award for Best Poster Presentation in Research in Multiple Sclerosis. Her other poster was titled “Handwriting Pattern Analysis in Multiple Sclerosis Population.”



M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.

M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., professor of preventive medicine/public health and director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, and members of her research team had their article titled "High Rates of Club Drug Use and Risky Sexual Practices Among Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men in Miami, Florida" published in the August 2005

issue of *Substance Use & Misuse*.



Stanley Cohen, Ed.D.

Stanley Cohen, Ed.D., vice provost of the Health Professions Division, recently signed a publishing contract for his book titled *I'm a Tree, I Can Bend: Adapting Your Communication Style to Better Suit Your Students' Needs*. The tome identifies distinctly different teaching styles and diverse student learning styles and describes how to match the two so learning outcomes are improved.



Leonard Levy, D.P.M.

Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor of family medicine/public health and associate dean for education, planning, and research, served as co-editor of and contributing author to the second edition of the *Principles and Practice of Podiatric Medicine*. The book, which features eight articles penned by Dr. Levy, is a comprehensive guide to all essential principles of podiatric medical practice.



Edward Packer, D.O.

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was a featured speaker during the educational seminar presented in Palm Beach County by the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Center on Bioterrorism and Mass Destruction Preparedness to train school nurses and others responsible for the safety of

schoolchildren in Palm Beach County. He also organized and participated in the annual NSU Back-to-School Physicals program this past summer with able assistance from Pediatrics Club members.



Pablo Calzada, D.O.

Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., assistant professor and interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine, served as a presenter at the AOA Council Meeting on September 23 in Washington, D.C., where he discussed the topic "Mental Health Parity." In addition, he has been selected to participate as a program committee member for the Association of

Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators Annual Conference, which will be held in Savannah, Georgia, in April 2006. He also coauthored a poster titled "Leading Community Forums to Build Niche Practices in Psychological Health Care" that was presented at the American Psychological Association 113th Annual Convention last August in Washington, D.C.



Alina Perez, J.D.

Alina Perez, J.D., assistant professor of public health, was awarded the 2005-06 Health Policy Fellowship, which is a certificate program coordinated by the New York Institute of Technology/New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in collaboration with the AOA, AACOM, and AACOM's

member colleges. The program is designed to prepare individuals for leadership roles in the osteopathic profession and positions of influence in health policy. Ms. Perez also served as a speaker at the Florida Public Health Association annual meeting in July, where she discussed the topic "Working Together to Eliminate Health Disparities: An Academic Perspective."

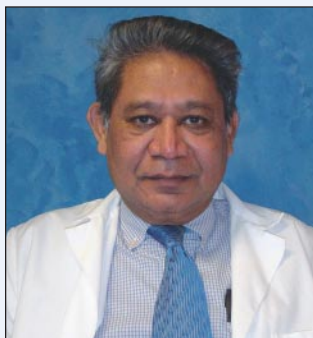
Faculty News and Notes

Hilda DeGaetano D.O., FAAP, FACOP, clinical associate professor of pediatrics, discussed the topic "Psychosocial Considerations in School-Aged Children During Disasters" at the September 10 Broward Leadership Training Program for the Broward County PTA, which was held on the NSU campus.

Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., M.B.A., associate professor of public health and HPD executive director of assessment, evaluation, and faculty development, was recently appointed by Chancellor Fred Lippman to serve as chair of the Health Professions Division Research Committee.

Joseph Stasio, D.O., who serves as director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, was recently promoted to the rank of associate professor of family medicine.

Robert Trenchel, D.O., M.P.H., clinical assistant professor and program director of the Preventive Medicine Residency Program, was recently appointed to the National Advisory Council of the National Health Service Corps.



Khin Tu, M.D.

Khin Tu, M.D., assistant professor of anatomy, traveled to England in June to present a talk on “Trends in the Teaching of Anatomy” at the Blackpool Medical Association symposium. He also visited the headquarters of the General Medical Council of Great Britain and discussed the two steps of the Professional Linguistics Assessment Board

exams that osteopathic graduates have to take to enable them to practice medicine in the United Kingdom, European Union, and countries of the British Commonwealth. In July, Dr. Tu presented a paper titled “The Role of the Cadaver in Problem-Based Learning” at the fourth joint meeting of the British and American Clinical Anatomists in New York. He also presented a paper titled “A Direct Anterior Approach to the Hip Joint” in August at an orthopedic meeting in Paris, France.



Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.

Joseph DeGaetano, D.O., FAAFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME, was named president-elect of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians at the organization’s July convention. In October, Dr. DeGaetano received yet another prestigious honor when he became

an ACOFP fellow. Dr. Ronnie Martin sponsored Dr. DeGaetano for this distinguished accolade.



Raul Cuadrado, Dr.P.H.

Raul Cuadrado, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., clinical professor of public health and dean emeritus of the College of Allied Health and Nursing, was appointed as a committee member of the Council of Advisors of the Gorgas Memorial Research Laboratories in Panama and named as an editorial board member of the new *Global Health Journal*. He was also named as

senior advisor and consultant to the Institute for the Reconstruction, Recovery, and Reconciliation of Haiti, Inc. (IRRRH, Inc.), which is a nongovernmental organization that is working with Governor Jeb Bush’s Haiti Advisory Group of the Florida-Haiti Initiative. IRRRH, Inc.’s membership is composed of several eminent academicians from various universities, as well as prominent professionals and individuals from various business sectors.



Robert Oller, D.O.

Robert Oller, D.O., chief executive officer of NSU’s Division of Clinical Operations, was acknowledged with a plaque during the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) Internship/Practicum Fair, which was held in the Alumni Hall Auditorium on NSU’s East Campus. Dr. Oller was honored for his outstanding contributions

and enduring support of SHSS’ community outreach and clinic services over the years.

NSU Serves as Broward’s Hub in Statewide High-Speed Data Network

Whether developing innovative biomaterials, probing elemental particles, or monitoring global reefs, more and more scientists rely on massive data vaults stored at universities and institutions around the world. In an historic move, researchers at 10 Florida universities—including Nova Southeastern University—have developed a network that is faster than any other education-based computer network in the Southeast and among the top in the United States.

The Florida LambdaRail (FLR) Network, which took over two years to develop, relies on so-called “dark fiber” or existing buried fiber optic cable that wasn’t yet “lit” or tapped for use and can move information at speeds of 10 gigabits per second. Overall, the FLR has space for thirty-two 10-gigabit networks—approximately 100 times more capacity than what was previously available to universities.

FLR is part of the National Lambda Rail (NLR), which is an initiative to create a national high-speed information infrastructure for research universities and technology companies. Similar regional optical networks are underway or completed in California, Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, New York, and other states. But the FLR is the only one fully created, funded, and controlled by a group of universities.

“NSU’s investment into FLR and the NLR allows university researchers and businesses in Broward, for the first time ever, to have secure global technology transfer with institutions of higher education and entrepreneurial business partners by tying their technology into our network,” said George Hanbury II, Ph.D., who serves as NSU’s executive vice president for administration.

Casual users at universities likely won’t notice the network’s massive speed and capacity. But its capabilities are key to scientists who are working on major research projects in dental medicine, oceanography, optometry/ophthalmology, pharmacy, psychology, and other disciplines. Besides NSU, the private and public universities in the Florida LambdaRail consortium are Florida Atlantic University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida International University, State University, the University of Central Florida, University of Florida, the University of Miami, the University of West Florida, and the University of North Florida.

Student Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (SAOG)



SAOG President
Kristin Garton

SAOG Vice President
Jennifer Reason

For the 40 or so individuals who comprise the college's Student Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (SAOG), membership certainly has its privileges. The close-knit club, which fosters enhanced interest among students considering a career in OB/GYN, offers members an opportunity to gain key insight into this medical specialty via a variety of activities.

"We primarily focus on coordinating educational meetings," said M2 student Kristin Garton, who serves as the current SAOG president. "We have monthly meetings where we invite local OB/GYNs and other speakers to address our members. Over the past year we've had a reiki master come in to talk about alternative medicine techniques in labor and delivery. We also had two students, who became pregnant while they were in medical school, discuss their completely different birthing experiences."

SAOG members also gleaned insight from Laura Dalton, D.O., FACOG, who represented the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Visiting Professor Program when she paid a visit to NSU-COM in February 2005. During her time with the SAOG officers and members, Dr. Dalton donated \$1,000 to the club, which was used to purchase several essential items, including a learning device that allows students to practice pelvic exams. "It is such an invasive exam, and you want to do it well without hurting someone," Garton explained. "It's a great learning tool because you can change the cervix size and get an idea of what each diameter feels like."

Although the club has always been involved in community activities through its participation in events such as the breast cancer fund-raising walk, Garton and the other SAOG officers are looking to increase their outreach efforts with the possible implementation of several new programs.

"We are working on a new project called Girl to Girl, which is an educational program for adolescent girls that aims to provide them with basic information about their reproductive health," said Garton of the program, which originated at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and has been developed at NSU-COM by 2005 alumnae Elizabeth Gonzalez, D.O. "We are also working with the college's National Osteopathic Women Physician Association/American Medical Women Association on coordinating a women's health fair on campus in October as part of our Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities."

Debunking myths and addressing truisms concerning the lives of OB-GYN practitioners is yet another beneficial SAOG aspect. "Many students are scared of pursuing the OB-GYN specialty because they've heard about the high cost of malpractice insurance and that delivering babies is not always the most convenient medical practice to be involved in," said M2 student Jennifer Reason, who serves as SAOG vice president. "The fact is that as an OB-GYN, you will have to deliver babies in the middle of the night occasionally even if you're in a megapractice. If you want to get into the OB-GYN field, you do it because you love it. It's a life commitment—a lifestyle you commit to."

According to Garton, one of the major misconceptions about OB-GYN practitioners is that they spend all their time doing pap smears and pelvic exams, which is clearly not the case. "These are things you do a lot of, obviously," she stressed. "But there are many other aspects of women's health that OB-GYNs deal with, especially for younger women who consider their OB-GYN to be their primary health care provider."

"Because so many women now go to OB-GYNs for their annual physicals, the OB-GYN field is starting to be perceived as part of primary care," she added. "That, to me, is one of the huge attractions of the field—that you are so involved in primary care. It's also become a very diverse subspecialty field where you can do a residency in areas such as reproductive endocrinology, gynecological oncology, or fertility. It's whatever your fancy is."

SAOG OFFICERS

President – Kristin Garton

Vice President – Jennifer Reason

Treasurer – Caralyn Kries-Floyd

Faculty Adviser – Daniel Barkus, D.O.



Everglades AHEC Health Career Camp Captivates Participants

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*

Since the NSU-COM Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program established its annual Summer Health Career Camps in 1989, over 1,500 high school students throughout Florida have benefited from an educational enterprise that recruits children from underserved rural/inner-city areas and provides them with an early introduction to health-related careers.

On June 18-25, the Everglades AHEC Center in West Palm Beach coordinated its annual weeklong Health Career Camp, which featured over 60 high school children and the participation of eight College of Osteopathic Medicine students and one from the Physician Assistant Program who served as camp counselors. During the AHEC-funded camp experience, the children and participating NSU students stayed in dorms

on the Davie campus and traveled by bus to various sites throughout the state—mixing educational endeavors with a healthy dose of fun.

“It taught me a lot, and I was able to spend a lot of time with the kids and explain to them the dos and don’ts of going to medical school,” said M3 student Peter Salerno, who spent every waking moment with the children. “I did my undergraduate study at NSU as well, so I really know the campus and what it’s like to be a full-time student here.”

During the action-packed week, the counselors escorted the camp participants to an array of educationally themed activities, including a trip to Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood to see the neonatal unit, a visit to Palm Beach County Fire

Everglades AHEC Health Career Camp



M2 student Kent Newsom (right) demonstrates how to take an accurate blood-pressure reading.

Rescue to get a close-up look at the Trauma Hawk air ambulance, and a tour of a firehouse in Indiantown. “The kids really enjoyed these experiences, especially the trip to the firehouse when the firemen set an old broken car on fire and let the kids use the fire hose and see what it’s like to work with the

Jaws of Life,” Salerno stated.

“They were so enthusiastic about everything they saw,” he added. “In fact, on the night we came back from one of our hospital visits, the kids were really charged up. So once we got back to NSU, some of the counselors put on a surgical suturing clinic using pigs’ feet to show them the suturing process.”

Of course, it wasn’t all work and no play for the camp participants, who also spent a day at the Wet ‘n Wild theme park in Orlando and an evening relishing a shopping excursion at the Coral Square Mall in Coral Springs. “We also took the kids to a country club in Boca Raton,” said M2 student Kent Newsom. “It was a formal affair, so the kids got to dance and enjoy a lavish dinner.”

During their last day on the NSU campus, the participants also had the chance to attend an open house in the Terry Building featuring representatives from the various Health Professions Division programs, who were on hand to discuss the particulars of each health care field. “For example, there were stations set up for physical therapy where the kids got to see what it was like to walk with a cane or use a four-legged walker,” Salerno explained. “In optometry, some of the kids were able to view pictures of what to look for in eye diseases, while in pharmacy, they got to go into the compounding labs



M3 student Peter Salerno assists a camper with her weight-training exercises.



M4 student Danny Hierholzer assists one of the camp participants during the suturing clinic.

and see what’s it’s like to fill and bottle prescriptions.”

“It was a very positive experience,” said Newsom of the weeklong camp. “Because the kids are handpicked by AHEC and must meet certain criteria, they are well behaved and well suited to the experience. Also, because they are interested in possibly pursuing a career in the health professions, they are eager to learn and listen to your experiences.”

According to M4 student Danny Hierholzer, who served as a camp counselor several times during his NSU-COM matriculation, the camp’s incredible success rate speaks volumes about its impact on the participating children. “These kids come to the camp for free, and the reason it continues to get funded year after year by the state of Florida is because over 80 percent of the kids who attend go on to become health care professionals. I have always been impressed with this statistic, and that is why I come back year after year.”

Health Career Camp Participants

Senior Counselors

Ivy Bell-Bazer (Everglades AHEC)
Nadine Chipon (M3)
Jaclyn David (M2)
Liz Davis (M3)
Danny Hierholzer (M4)
Julie Klucar (P.A. student)
Alex Luma (M2)
William McCoy (M2)
Kent Newsom (M2)
Joe Peters (Everglades AHEC)
Peter Salerno (M3)
Shelley Warshaw (Everglades AHEC)

Junior Counselors

Amelia Harjhoon
Dominique Marseille
Brandon Smith



Record Participation Highlights Medical Mission to Jamaica

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*

In what proved to be the largest and most successful NSU-COM Medical Mission to Jamaica yet, a massive 115-member health care contingent provided an array of services to a record 4,296 patients during the June 15-24, 2005, medical outreach effort.

“Our mission trip has gained a good reputation throughout its five-year history,” said Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., who serves as assistant professor of family medicine and coordinator of the annual Jamaica missions. “As a result, a lot of people are interested in participating, which is a plus for the overall mission because we attract a large number of volunteers and are able to provide health care services to a larger number of people.”

This year’s medical mission, which provided a range of interdisciplinary services at a record 15 sites, also contained its usual share of memorable cases—including one that made a significant impression on Dr. Anderson-Worts. “The case that stands out in my mind was a man who came in following a motor-vehicle accident,” she recalled. “Because he had suffered significant nerve damage, he couldn’t raise one of his arms on his own anymore. Consequently, he would have to raise the damaged limb with the other arm to move it past the point of

deficit. But once occupational and physical therapy personnel created a strap to automatically lift him past the point of deficit, the patient was thrilled to be able to perform the function freely.”

In addition to providing patient care to many of the area’s indigent residents, mission participants had an opportunity to earn continuing medical education credits as they enhanced their knowledge of topics ranging from anticoagulation therapy in surgery and asthma to hypertension and diabetes. “The most common diseases we treat in Jamaica are hypertension and diabetes,” Dr. Anderson-Worts stated. “In fact, we’re finding 20-year-olds with extremely high blood pressure and diabetes as opposed to years ago when we used to see it in more elderly patients.”

As a result, Dr. Anderson-Worts has stepped up the educational aspect of the Jamaica medical missions in an attempt to provide patients with as much information as possible about these two potentially fatal ailments. “We’ve focused on doing more educational outreach because we only visit the region once a year. As a result, we’re not able to cure a chronic disease or even make a big dent in it most of the time,” she explained.

Medical Mission to Jamaica

“What we are attempting to do is educate the patients on lifestyle modifications by providing them with informational pamphlets and having one-on-one conversations with them during their examinations.”

Because the Jamaica mission is now in its fifth year of operation, Dr. Anderson-Worts has learned how to streamline the planning process and target exactly what type of supplies and medications the patients will require. “As we’ve grown, we’ve learned,” she admitted. “We know what they need, so we know what to bring. The nice thing is that some of the patients have already seen doctors in Jamaica but simply can’t afford to buy the medications. They will then come to us with their pill bottles or a prescription they weren’t able to fill. Fortunately, we’re usually able to give the patients three-to-six months worth of medications.”

Although the return trip to Jamaica is nearly a year away, Dr. Anderson-Worts is already looking forward to implementing future enhancements. “My long-term goal is to set up a facility in a centralized area where we can train some of the people in the community to conduct year-round screenings and follow-up for hypertension and diabetes,” said Dr. Anderson-Worts, who already scoped out several possible locations during this year’s medical mission.

“We see a lot of repeat patients who come up to us and say things like, ‘Hey, remember us from last year?’ or ‘The medicine you gave us last year really worked.’ It’s so exciting and rewarding to see patients we had treated before who welcome us back with such enthusiasm and give us such positive feedback. Their smiles make all the hard work worthwhile.”



Patient Encounters

Osteopathic Medicine: 1,694
 Dental: 1,646
 Optometry: 563
 Physical Therapy: 241
 Occupational Therapy: 152
Total Patients: 4,296



Health Care Practitioners

Comfort Adewumi, D.O. Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.
 Dawn Brown-Cross, PT Clarence Clarke, D.O. Timothy Chen, D.D.S.
 Cindy Cork, D.O. Gonzalo Cortes, D.D.S. Edward Dove, D.D.S.
 Cherylyn Filpelli, Pharm.D. Joel Hauptman, D.D.S. Noel Henry, O.D.
 Allen Horowitz, D.D.S. Samara King, OTR/L Harry Lehrer, D.D.S.
 John May, M.D. Sandra Moro, OTR/L Ronald Oklin, D.D.S.
 Michelle Powell-Cole, D.O. Sherrol Reynolds, O.D.
 Daniel Richards, D.D.S. Elaine Roach (nutritionist)
 Rebecca Rosenthal, PT Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O. Julia Shipman, D.O.
 Ceresia Ward, Pharm.D. Andrea Watson, D.O.
 Lorienne Watson, OTR/L Antonia Zapantis, Pharm.D.

Dental Students

Hoang Thanh Bui Greg Camp Michael Costabile Eric Crum
 Jennifer Henkin Susana Junco Melissa Kirkman Kelly Maixner
 Karen McKenzie Thuy Ngo Maria Nguyen Thuy Nguyen-Tran
 Sameen Singh Jennifer Van Mike Caparas Adam Carson
 Kristin Cavanah Micheele Couto Janice DeFelice Eric Genenbacher
 Luis Guerrero Carol Hilborn Kyle Jepsen Daisy Le William Pena
 Teresa Perez Sofia Rizzo Renier Suarez Kim Van James Wealleans

Medical Students

Rosa Artola Carl Atallah Olphabine Athouriste Donnell Bowen
 Doris Chan Nicole Coleman Heather Glaude Meena Makhijani
 Renee Marchioni Nisha Mathews Gayatri Menon Mezeda Meze
 Hayley Moak Rhea Ramlal Prema Ramsahai Monica Rider
 Lisa Rubiano Michele Shumpert Kelly Signorelli Stacy Stibb
 Faiza Zubair

Occupational Therapy Students

Kristin McCandless Brandee Swan Marty Welsh

Optometry Students

Marlyne Alcinor Jessica Hayward Layna Orise
 Shaun Rawana Neil Sullivan Kerri-Ann Thomas

Pharmacy Students

Kenisha Carr Richelle Garcia Beejel Patel
 Soraida Rivera Kinjal Shah Orly Anconina

Physical Therapy Students

Nikki Belchic Amy Dupree Paula Kim Raylene Thomas

Volunteers

Alden Anderson Millicent Anderson Nadia Anderson
 Christy Chang Blaise Dacosta Dawn Dacosta Kevin Famin
 Dorothy Goodison Averil Harris Charles Hilborn Nicole Kellier
 Evener Liberal Lashonda Linton Hyacinth McKenzie
 Pauline O’keefe Ryan Shipman





Jacob Warren, Cesar A. DeFuentes, and Luis Alzamora play an integral role in the research boom occurring at the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Behavioral Health Promotion Program Adds Luster to NSU-COM Research Culture

*By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications*

Over the past several years, the College of Osteopathic Medicine has placed increasing emphasis on building a multifaceted research infrastructure within its hallowed halls. In March 2005, that effort was substantially enhanced when M. Isabel (Isa) Fernandez, Ph.D., and her eminent research team brought their ample expertise—and diversified portfolio of NIH-funded research studies—to the NSU-COM campus.

Dr. Fernandez, who left a tenured position at the University of Miami School of Medicine to accept her current position at NSU-COM, serves as director of the college's new Behavioral Health Promotion Program. The recruitment of Dr. Fernandez and her experienced research team, as well as the transfer of her research grants totaling \$1.7 million, has added considerable cachet to the college's research standing. In addition to focusing on her current research studies, Dr. Fernandez will be directing a multi-pronged effort to develop and assist faculty members who may be interested in cultivating their own research ventures.

Research + Faculty = Nationwide Esteem

"One of the things I would really like to accomplish here at NSU is assisting in the building of the overall research enterprise," said Dr. Fernandez, who was previously involved in HIV prevention research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, and the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. "Part of our mission is to identify and develop a cadre of interested faculty members and assist them to improve their methodological and grantsmanship skills in order to more effectively compete for extramural research funds in their different disciplines."

To accomplish this goal, Dr. Fernandez has established a research seminar series to help lay the groundwork for faculty members interested in pursuing the research arena. "As part of this seminar series, we will discuss different funding mechanisms and help faculty to identify a promising research question and potential funding source" she stated. "Once that's accomplished, we will help faculty develop the idea into a

Behavioral Health Promotion Program

product that ideally would be ready for submission to a funding agency. Through this process, we will also identify whether pilot data or further refinement of the application is needed prior to submission. It's also important to note that as we increase the research skills of the faculty, those skills can then be transferred to medical students and become integral components of their training."

Although only a select group of faculty may currently harbor an interest in research, Dr. Fernandez is quick to point out that building a strong research culture at NSU-COM will produce ancillary benefits for the entire NSU-COM academic team as well as the university as a whole. "If you look at the academic standings of the most prestigious schools, they excel in the three pillars of academia, which are teaching, service, and research," Dr. Fernandez explained. "The component at NSU that needed to be enhanced was research. Now that this process has begun, the prestige of our college will continue to grow, resulting in increased competition among high-quality students looking to gain acceptance into our program and enhanced faculty recruitment processes. Basically, everyone benefits."

Because the Behavioral Health Promotion Program had already established itself as a respected leader in rigorous empirical research at the University of Miami, Dr. Fernandez and her team were able to hit the ground running once they arrived on the NSU campus. "Fortunately, the move to NSU from the University of Miami was only 30 miles north, so we were blessed to be able to bring the majority of the team here with us," she stated. "We have a very energetic, dedicated, well-integrated team; in fact, many of our new neighbors at the college have come to us to say we have brought laughter and enthusiasm to the floor."

Behavioral Health Program Targets HIV Prevention

Dr. Fernandez and her team have also brought that energy and enthusiasm to the numerous research projects they are concurrently involved with at the college, including several that focus on sexually transmitted diseases among Hispanic males, with a particular focus on men who have sex with men. "Our goal is to use science to help address pressing social issues through the development of research and theory-based intervention to assist individuals who are at high risk of getting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV," she said. "Our aim is to convince them to get tested, to help them understand the things they're doing in their lives that are putting them at risk of getting these infections, and to help them develop strategies to reduce their risk."

"The movement in today's world is to go way beyond what's between the naval and the knee," Dr. Fernandez added. "Many of the earlier interventions revolved around the theme 'use condoms, use condoms!' However, as we've learned over the



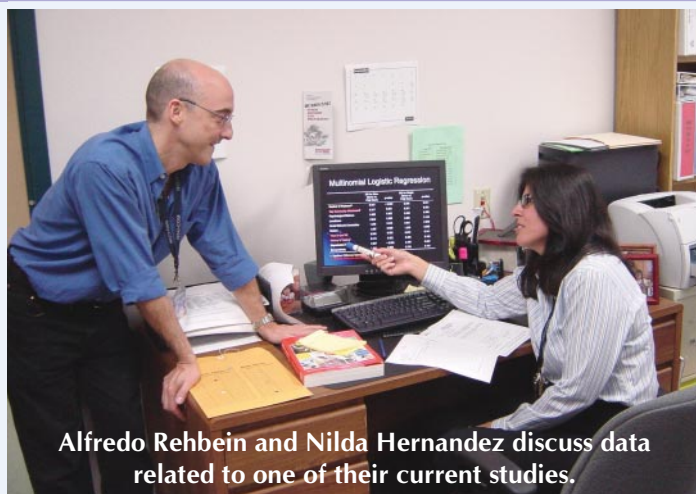
Dr. Isa Fernandez and Dr. Stephen Bowen spend much of their time analyzing research data.

years, information alone is not sufficient to get people to change their behaviors. What we believe as individuals, as scientists, and as a program is that these are complex behaviors. Sexuality is a very big issue that's just not compartmentalized. So if you're going to change behaviors, the interventions have to be holistic, culturally and socially based, and relevant to the people involved."

Dr. Fernandez and her husband G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., who serves as deputy director of the research team, each have several decades of experience working with HIV-related programs, stretching back to the early 1980s when the HIV outbreak first created a worldwide wave of public concern. "Isa was collaborating in prevention research, participating in the America Responds to AIDS campaign as Hispanic spokesperson, and mentoring community organizations working to prevent HIV locally and nationally. I was working on early diagnosis and intervention for people with HIV and trying to get a system of HIV outpatient care in place in the country," said Dr. Bowen, who was the first director of the Ryan White CARE (Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency) Act at the Health Resources and Services Administration in Washington, D.C. "Isa and I both believe that prevention and early intervention go together and collaborated to get such programs funded by CDC and HRSA at community health centers in heavily impacted minority communities in Miami, Newark, and New York."

In their current research portfolio, Dr. Fernandez and her team are conducting an innovative study titled "HIV and Hispanic Men—Impact of Drugs and Culture" that is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. "There has been a rise in the number of HIV cases being reported among gay men nationally and in South Florida," she explained. "Not

Behavioral Health Promotion Program



Alfredo Rehbein and Nilda Hernandez discuss data related to one of their current studies.

surprisingly, researchers have been questioning why there's been a resurgence in the HIV epidemic because for years, at least among gay men, it seemed to be pretty stable."

So what has been the stimulus behind the increasing number of HIV cases that are popping up across the nation? According to Dr. Fernandez, several behavioral factors are driving the rise in reported HIV cases. "One issue has been an increase in the use of club drugs, particularly those that are stimulants, such as crystal methamphetamines, and also ecstasy," she stated. "Use of these and other club drugs such as cocaine, ketamine, and GHB is associated with risky sexual behaviors such as multiple partners and unprotected intercourse. We've also been seeing phenomena such as AIDS burnout, where people are just tired of dealing with the whole HIV issue. There's also a new generation of younger gay men who simply haven't experienced the comprehensive devastation of the disease and the death of many of their friends that occurred to previous generations in the 1980s and early 1990s. Consequently the relevance of protecting themselves and having safer sex is not as high. Young gay men today see handsome, healthy-looking gay men living with HIV who are on highly effective anti-retro viral therapy. So the attitude is, 'If I get HIV, I'll just go on drug therapy.'"

Internet Research Reaps Wondrous Rewards

Thanks to the massive popularity of the Internet, socialization methods have also changed dramatically over the past 10 years. Consequently, education and early intervention methods have had to evolve to keep up with the times. "One thing that has become patently obvious is the use of the Internet," Dr. Fernandez stated. "In the world of gay men, the Internet has become an accessible venue where they can go into select chat rooms, rapidly screen profiles, engage in online dialogue, and set up sexual encounters. So when we were developing this study, our idea was to use the Internet to find men to participate in our studies."

After months of arduous planning that included meeting with focus groups, setting up a community advisory board, and

creating IRB-approved scripts and materials, one big question still loomed over the project: Would they be able to convince cyber chatters to participate in the study? "During our meetings with the focus groups, they suggested that what we needed to do was go into the chat rooms and really engage people—just like we do when we recruit people face-to-face—by introducing ourselves and telling them a little bit about what we're doing," Dr. Fernandez explained. "You've only got a split second to engage a person, so we developed an engagement dialogue that was approved by the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB) and posted nonsexual 3-D pictures on our profiles to catch their attention."

The staff of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, which has a secondary office in the South Beach region of Miami Beach, eventually approached 1,700 potential volunteers on the Internet, including about 500 who actually met the program's eligibility criteria. To everyone's surprise and relief, 294 men who met the criteria showed up at the South Beach office to complete an audio computer-assisted self-interview about a variety of factors including drug use and sexual behavior. In fact, when the research team compared its Internet recruitment efforts to its face-to-face enrollment endeavors, the Internet route proved to be the more successful of the two.

The collected data, which is currently being supplemented with in-depth qualitative interviews from some of the volunteer participants, is being used to build a model that will help the research team develop an appropriate intervention strategy. "We're bringing back men who were or currently are what we call 'party and players' and asking them to share their personal stories about their lives and the role drugs play during their sexual encounters," Dr. Fernandez explained. "Our goal is to develop an intervention to help these men reduce club-drug use and unprotected sex and to conduct a small pilot to test its efficacy. If the results are promising, we will then submit a grant proposal to conduct a larger randomized control trial of the intervention we develop."

With the recent infusion of research activity at NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division, Dr. Fernandez envisions a day when Nova Southeastern University will earn its rightful place in the pantheon of other prestigious universities that have earned renown for their meticulous research efforts. "I'd like to see this as a fluid process," said Dr. Fernandez, who has been appointed along with Dr. Bowen to the both the Health Professions Division's and the university's research committees. "As our institution moves down this research path, different strategies will emerge. If we can identify and nurture a cadre of promising research faculty within our college, I think that's a definite step in the right direction. I want to create pathways to promote NSU's growth and development in the research arena, and I want to begin at home in our college."

Behavioral Health Promotion Program

Current and Pending Grants and Subcontracts

Title: HIV and Hispanic Men—Impact of Drugs and Culture

Award Dates: 9/26/02 to 6/26/07

Funding Agency: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Total Award: \$1,587,078

Award Transferred to NSU: \$876,387

The goals of this study are to compare the effectiveness and estimate the cost of Internet versus face-to-face recruitment and gather quantitative and qualitative data on drug use and sexual risk to develop a model and outline the key conceptual components of a culturally appropriate intervention to reduce drug use and risky sex among Hispanic men at-risk.

Title: Promoting Early Detection of HIV Among Hispanic MSM

Award Dates: 9/26/02 to 6/26/06

Funding Agency: National Institute of Mental Health

Total Cost: \$1,564,120

Award Transferred to NSU: \$446,450

The goal of this study is to develop and test a persuasive, theoretical derived message to encourage Hispanic men at high risk of HIV infection to get tested.

Title: Leadership Group for Adolescent Medicine Trials Network

Award Dates: 3/1/01 to 2/28/06

Funding Agency: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/subcontract with the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Total Cost: \$675,000

Current Year Award: \$91,948

The Adolescent Trials Network (ATN) is a multi-institute, multi-agency supported research initiative whose mission is to foster the HIV primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention agenda for the nation.

Title: ATN 020: Identity Development among Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Youth

Award Dates: 10/1/04 to 2/28/06

Funding Agency: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development through a subcontract with the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Total Cost: \$187,900

Award Transferred to NSU: \$132,541

The goal of this study is to examine identity development among gay, bisexual, and questioning (GBQ) HIV negative adolescents and young adult males and its relationship to HIV risk and protective behaviors. Its intent is to explore how the developing identities (gay, ethnic, masculine, and general adolescent ego identity) impact sexual and substance use behaviors of GBQ adolescents and young adult males.

Title: Targeted Social Network HIV Prevention Intervention

Award Dates: 10/1/04 to 6/26/06

Funding Agency: National Institute of Mental Health through a subcontract with the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for AIDS Intervention Research

New Award to NSU: \$157,338

The goal of this multi-site study is to conduct a randomized trial to evaluate the outcomes of a social network intervention young MSM (YMSM) and young high-risk heterosexual adults (YHAs) located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Miami, Florida. Dr. Fernandez will direct the study activities in Miami.

Pending

Title: Drugs and HIV During Young Hispanic Men's Identity Explorations—A Stage I Study

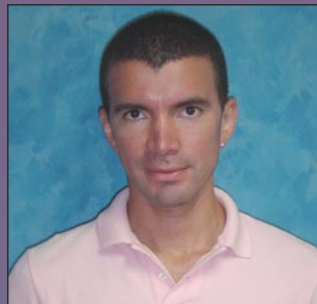
Award Dates: 3/01/06 to 2/29/10

Funding Agency: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Total Cost Requested: \$2,179,399

Status: Submitted to NIDA in September 2005. To be reviewed in November 2005.

Behavioral Health Promotion Program Personnel



Luis Alzamora
Research Assistant



G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Director



Cesar A. DeFuentes
Research Associate III



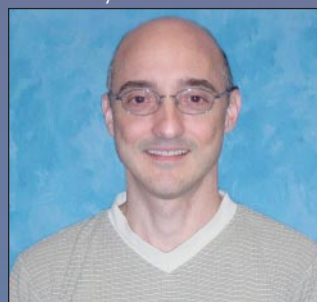
M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.
Director



Nilda Hernandez
Data System Administrator



Gladys E. Ibanez, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor



Alfredo Rehbein, M.B.A.
Senior Research Associate II



Nicolas Trillos
Research Associate II



Leah M. Varga, M.A.
Senior Research Associate III



Jacob Warren
Research Associate II

Postgraduate Precision: OSCE Program Expands to Incorporate CEME Residents

By *Scott Colton*
Director of Medical Communications



Jennifer Roberson, Dr. Loretta Graham, and Dr. Edward Packer discuss an OSCE case.

Over the past three years, objective structured clinical exams (OSCEs), which assess a student's ability to perform precise and compassionate patient examinations, have become an integral part of the college's curriculum. However, in May 2005, NSU-COM took its OSCE curriculum a step further by offering it to the 26 affiliated residency programs that comprise the 18-member Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education.

"Our motivating factor for wanting to implement OSCEs in our affiliated residency programs was due to the establishment by the American Osteopathic Association of the seven core competencies that all our residency programs must address to maintain their accreditation," said Joseph DeGaetano, D.O., FAAFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME. "We also felt it was important to better assess the caliber of education the residents in these residency programs are receiving by implementing OSCEs, or standardized patient exams, which are considered to be one of the gold-standard methods by which to evaluate the seven core competencies our residents must be trained in."

Because the seven core competencies are being incorporated over a three-year continuum, the college chose to address three specific areas in relation to the residency OSCEs conducted this year: osteopathic principles and practice, medical knowledge, and interpersonal/communication skills. "In truth,

we really focused on OMM and interpersonal skills because medical knowledge is assessed in many other ways already within the residency programs," Dr. DeGaetano explained. "We offered all 26 of our affiliated residency programs the opportunity to impose an OSCE upon them. Of those 26 different programs, 9 took us up on the offer."

- Internal Medicine Residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center/ Miami Heart Institute
- Emergency Medicine Residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center
- Family Medicine Residency at Palmetto General Hospital
- Family Medicine Residency at Broward General Medical Center
- Family Medicine Residency at Florida Hospital-East Orlando
- Family Medicine Residency at Columbia Hospital West Palm Beach
- Pediatric Residency at Miami Children's Hospital
- Pediatric Residency at Palms West Hospital
- Preventive Medicine Residency at Palm Beach County Health Department

From May through July, nine different testing sessions comprising seven cases (four pediatric and three adult) were conducted in the college's Simulation Lab for 112 anxiety-ridden residents. However, as Dr. DeGaetano is quick to point out, "Testing was simply the end product. It required over a year's worth of preplanning to get to the point where we were able to deliver the OSCEs," he stated. "When you develop an OSCE, you need to have a panel of experts that reviews the diseases you're going to test the residents on during the exams."

Because it was such a prodigious undertaking, the Resident OSCE Planning Committee met multiple times over at an eight-month period prior to the actual exams to develop the cases, fine-tune the checklists, and perfect the osteopathic manipulative medicine components. "We had an expert committee that comprised myself, Dr. Loretta Graham, Dr. Ronnie Martin, Dr. Barbara Arcos, Dr. Edward Packer, Dr. Daniel Shaw, Dr. Mark Sandhouse, and Jennifer Roberson," Dr. DeGaetano said. "We also met with representatives from each of the nine participating residency programs because we wanted their input regarding case development and how many individual cases they wanted their residents to be exposed to. Based on the feedback we received, we decided to go with a two-case OSCE with the exception of Miami Children's Hospital, where we did a four-case OSCE."

OSCE Program Incorporates CEME Residents

To ensure the highest standard of excellence and uniformity, the massive planning effort also included comprehensive training sessions for the faculty members who would be assessing the osteopathic aspect of the residents participating in the OSCEs. “The majority of our clinical faculty from NSU-COM participated in these OSCEs,” Dr. DeGaetano explained. “As a result, we had to train 19 faculty from the disciplines of family medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, and internal medicine to be competent in their osteopathic manipulative treatment skills since we all have varying degrees of proficiency in this area.”

According to Loretta Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, the residency OSCEs produced an unexpected—but welcome—ancillary benefit. “One of the things this did for all of us was bring a renewed awareness to the art and value of osteopathic principles and practice,” she stated. “Many faculty members felt they needed to brush up on these very important skills in order to validly and reliably evaluate the residents’ skills.”

Dr. Graham, who was responsible for overseeing the training of the 15 pediatric and 24 adult standardized patients who participated in the residency OSCEs, also emerged from the experience with an unexpected nugget of wisdom. “Many of the pediatric patients we used were actors from the Fort Lauderdale Children’s Theatre,” she stated. “I never wanted to use children in the past because I thought they would be too unpredictable to work with, but that was a faulty assumption. These children, once they were trained, were excellent in their portrayal of our cases.”

Once the actual OSCEs began in May, first- and second-year residents were presented with two cases consisting of different disease states, during which they were evaluated on a range of components such as their ability to

- interview a patient to gather appropriate history and do an appropriate physical exam
- generate an appropriate differential diagnosis and treatment plan for the presented disease state
- do an osteopathic structural exam and treatment based on the disease they had encountered
- conduct a thorough and compassionate patient exam

“This is a true competency exam,” said Dr. Graham of the OSCE process. “It’s not given to provide the residents with a grade. One of the more progressive things our panel of experts did was establish an acceptable level of performance on all the assessed skill categories. Each resident’s skills were compared to that measuring stick. This method of scoring gives each resident as well as the residency director a picture of the areas of skill strength as well as the areas of skill weakness.”



Daniel Dodson, D.O., who is conducting his postgraduate training in the Palms West Hospital Residency Program in West Palm Beach, Florida, performs an exam on a pediatric standardized patient.

Not surprisingly, there was a significant amount of pretest anxiety in evidence among the residents—partly because most had never participated in an OSCE before and partly due to the fact that it’s not an exam they can study for in advance. “Some of the residents brought their OMM reviews with them, thinking they could study outside the examining rooms before their OSCEs. But that’s not how an OSCE works,” Dr. Graham explained. “It’s an evaluation tool to show them how well they are doing right now. It provides them with a baseline that describes their performance today. In addition, because the sessions are videotaped, they offer the residents an opportunity to conduct a self-assessment.”

To ensure continued improvement is occurring, the residents who participated in the inaugural postgraduate OSCEs will return to the NSU-COM campus again next year to take part in follow-up exams. “The only way people improve is through feedback and evaluation,” Dr. DeGaetano stated. “That’s how this type of assessment is best utilized, to show that there is improvement as the residents move from year to year of their training. Fortunately, I think most of the residents had an awakening with regard to the value of this type of an examination.”





Dr. Arnold Melnick
(right) and the late Dr.
Morton Terry in 1995.

No Regrets: Dr. Arnold Melnick Reflects on a Life Rife with Accomplishment

By Scott Colton

Director of Medical Communications

In the seven years since Arnold Melnick, D.O., retired from his position as executive vice chancellor and provost of NSU's Health Professions Division, the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine has hardly become a retiring figure. In fact, the 85-year-old osteopathic icon, who remains a paternal presence on the NSU campus, is just as busy as ever writing books, publishing articles, and serving as executive editor of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics newsletter.

During his 60-plus-year career as a respected pediatrician, writer, and university administrator, Dr. Melnick proudly fought the winning battle to push osteopathic medicine out of the murky medical background and into the medical limelight it deservedly shares with its allopathic counterpart. However, as a child growing up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

in the 1920s, it's doubtful even he could have foreseen becoming a renowned trailblazer who would help reshape the country's osteopathic landscape.

Pediatric Proclivity Has Childhood Genesis

Unlike many children, who amuse their parents by announcing a different career intention on an almost-weekly basis, Dr. Melnick was resolute in his determination to become a pediatrician by the time he reached the precocious age of five. "Because of the family contact I had with my uncle, who was a pediatrician, I suddenly announced one day that I also wanted to be a pediatrician," said Dr. Melnick, who called Philadelphia home until 1980. "After I made such a grand pronouncement, I guess I couldn't escape from it after that."

Once he earned his bachelor's degree from Temple University

No Regrets: Dr. Arnold Melnick

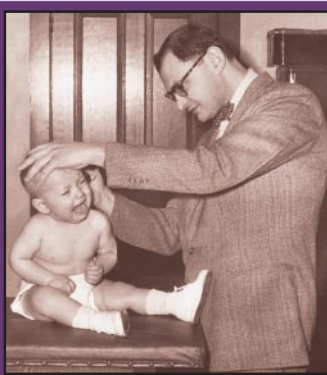
in 1941, Dr. Melnick decided to attend Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) after he was introduced to the profession through a friend of his father, who was a salesman and a grocer. “When I graduated from PCOM, I knew exactly what I wanted to do, which was work in child psychiatry,” he explained. “However, there was only one pediatric residency available in the osteopathic profession at that time, which was based in California, and there wasn’t any kind of training available in child psychology.”

In 1946, Dr. Melnick opened up his own pediatric practice with the help of a senior surgeon who graciously invited the novice physician to use his office space, which was located in his home. “This doctor was a good friend of mine because we had served at the hospital together,” explained Dr. Melnick, who maintained his pediatric practice until 1976. “He asked me to come into his office and didn’t charge me a dime until I started making money. In fact, he refused to take money from me for the first 18 months. I don’t think today even good friends would do that.”

While he was busy building up his practice and working as an associate pediatrician at PCOM hospitals, Dr. Melnick decided to expand his expertise by pursuing a master’s degree in psychology at Temple University, which he received in 1953. However, Dr. Melnick’s attention wasn’t totally focused on his burgeoning career. In 1945, he married the love of his life, Anita, who he met through the machinations of a close buddy. “My best friend went to a fraternity picnic, and while he was there he met this very attractive young lady,” he explained. “During their conversation, she revealed she was moving to north Philadelphia—to the same street I lived on.”

Taking advantage of this cosmic case of kismet, his friend procured Anita’s phone number and passed it on to Dr. Melnick, who quickly gave her a call. Fast-forward 60 years and the Arnold and Anita Melnick union—which produced son Sandy, a psychiatrist practicing in Philadelphia—remains as rock solid as ever. “My wife has been a tremendous asset to me in every way,” he stated proudly. “I’m a very fortunate man because she’s been my love and best friend for over 60 years.”

Dr. Terry Connection Leads to Career Rebirth
Over the next 30 years, Dr. Melnick became one of Philadelphia’s most respected pediatricians,



earning election to the board of directors of several area hospitals and serving as president of a host of organizations that included the

- Eastern Association of Osteopathic Pediatricians
- Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
- American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
- Association of Osteopathic Publications
- American Medical Writers Association

However, by 1976, thoughts of retirement began creeping into Dr. Melnick’s mind. “One of the precipitating factors was that I was always driving back from the hospital at 2:00 a.m. My hospital was a 45-minute drive each way, and I did it every day, sometimes twice a day,” said Dr. Melnick, who has written 9 books and over 100 published articles. “One night I said to myself, ‘Arnold, what are you doing? What more are you going to see after all these years of intensive practice? And what more satisfaction can you possibly obtain?’ I had a very fulfilling practice, which I loved, but I felt it was the right time to retire. I talked to Anita, who’s extremely supportive of anything I do, so after our conversation I decided to leave practice.”

During the next few years, Dr. Melnick indulged his journalistic penchant by writing for an array of medical magazines and serving in various editorial capacities for industry publications such as the *American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians Newsletter*, the *Osteopathic Reporter*, and the *Journal of American Medical Writers Association*. Then, one night in 1979, a visit from an old friend named Dr. Morton Terry changed the course of Dr. Melnick’s life—effectively putting an end to his self-imposed retirement.

“I first met Mort Terry in 1942 when we were in the same entering class at PCOM, and we soon became lifelong friends,” said Dr. Melnick, who actually coordinated Dr. Terry’s wedding ceremony to wife Geraldine in 1948. “It was one of those friendships where we sometimes didn’t see each other for over a year, but when we met up again, we picked up in the middle of the sentence where we last left off. So when he came up to Philadelphia to visit me, I expected nothing more than an evening of friendly conversation.”

Instead, Dr. Terry revealed his bold plans to establish an osteopathic medical college in North Miami Beach, Florida. “We talked about several

No Regrets: Dr. Arnold Melnick

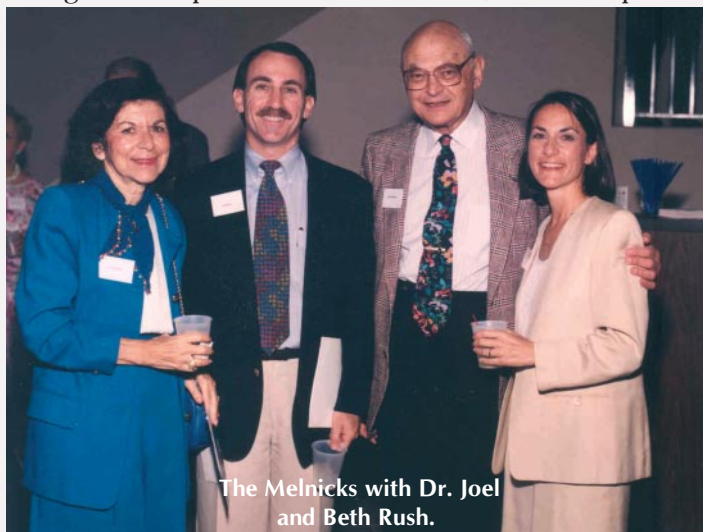


things that evening, including his decision to be the college's dean," said Dr. Melnick, who was about to receive a most unexpected offer. "When I told him I thought he should become president instead of dean of the college, it was at that moment that he suddenly offered me the dean's position."

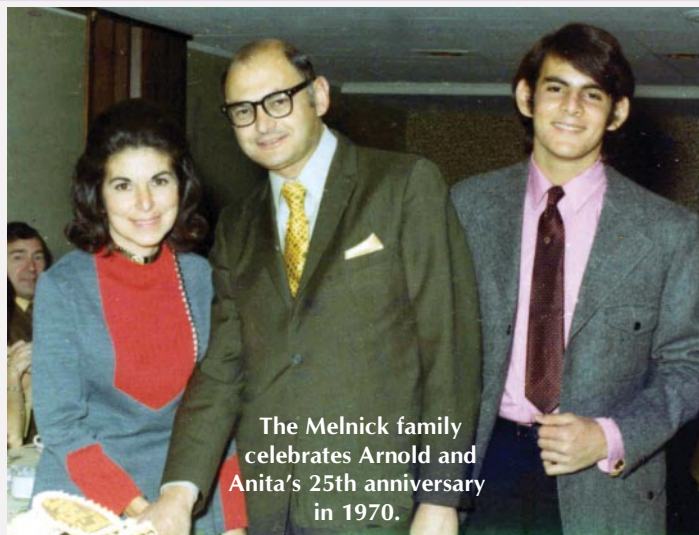
During the next three months, Dr. Melnick understandably weighed his options carefully before making such a life-altering decision. "Anita and I had previously talked about trying a month in Florida and perhaps eventually spending the winters here because I disliked cold weather," he explained. "My two big decisions were, do I want leave Philadelphia, and the other was do I want to work? I know I'm not a part-time worker in anything I do, so I finally gave Mort the okay, with the proviso that I would do whatever was necessary for just two years because I really just wanted to take it easy. Of course, those two years turned into 18 years and a lot of rewarding work."

Terry-Melnick Tandem Creates Lasting Legacy

After Dr. Melnick relocated to South Florida on June 6, 1980, he and Dr. Terry—with the assistance of a finance officer and a lone secretary—began the task of launching Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), which accepted its



The Melnicks with Dr. Joel and Beth Rush.

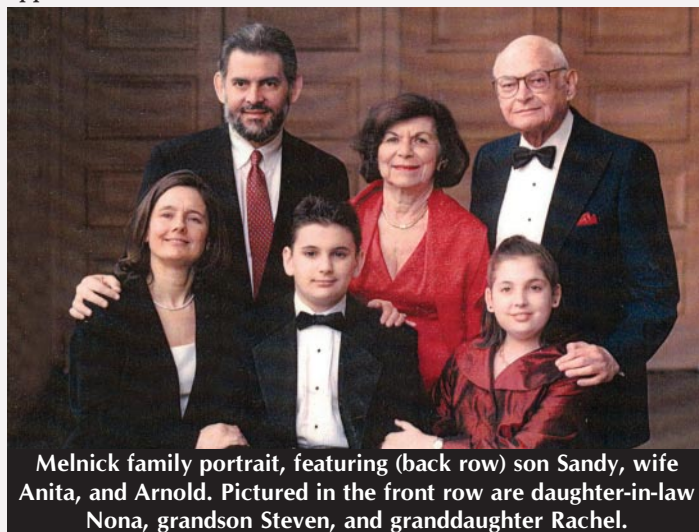


The Melnick family celebrates Arnold and Anita's 25th anniversary in 1970.

inaugural class in the fall of 1981. "The average time it traditionally takes to start a medical school is 5-to-10 years, but we did it in one year, which is a phenomenal achievement. In fact, no new school we started ever took more than 18 months from conception to matriculation of the first class."

Because they possessed risk-taking personalities and were at the latter stages of their respective careers, Drs. Melnick and Terry frequently defied conventional wisdom to obtain the results they desired during SECOM's infancy. "The American Osteopathic Association had recommended we start by accepting only 15 students in the first class," said Dr. Melnick, who received the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

"The traditional theory in the medical profession, which is always slow and deliberate, was to start with 15 students and slowly build up your numbers over the years. But Mort and I decided we were going to do it our way by accepting 40 students in the first year and then increase to 60 the second year, 80 in the third year, and 100 in the fourth. It was our baby, and it wasn't as if we were going to be looking for another job someplace if our approach failed. We had to make this work for us—and we did."



Melnick family portrait, featuring (back row) son Sandy, wife Anita, and Arnold. Pictured in the front row are daughter-in-law Nona, grandson Steven, and granddaughter Rachel.

No Regrets: Dr. Arnold Melnick



The Melnicks at a black-tie affair with August C. Paoli, who is a member of the NSU Board of Trustees.

Although Dr. Terry served as president and Dr. Melnick as dean, there was significant overlap in their responsibilities, which resulted in a spectacularly successful partnership. “I can describe it best in Mort’s words,” he explained. “One night, Mort said to me, ‘I’m not the president and you’re not the dean. I’m the president and the dean and you’re the president and the dean.’ We were literally partners. Of course, he had the final say on everything, and I respected that. But he gave me tremendous leeway to do what was necessary to get the job done.”

By the late 1980s, the creation of the College of Pharmacy and the College of Optometry in conjunction with the existing SECOM led to the State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities according the three colleges university status, prompting the adoption of a new name: Southeastern University of the Health Sciences. As a result, in 1988, Dr. Melnick was given a new title—executive vice president and provost—as well as increased job responsibilities as additional schools were added throughout the next decade.

“My duties included supervising the existing schools, starting new schools, putting the concept together, picking a dean, and supervising the overall process,” he stated. “The finances were run by Mort Terry and Arnold Melnick, and if you needed a second pencil, you didn’t have to write a requisition or look at a budget, you simply came in and said, ‘I need a pencil.’ We had great control over the money, which is what enabled us to create additional schools.”

When Southeastern University of the Health Sciences merged with Nova University in 1994, Dr. Melnick didn’t skip a beat, becoming executive vice chancellor and provost of the newly created Health Professions Division at Nova Southeastern University. However, as he neared the age of 80 in 1998, Dr. Melnick officially retired from his HPD post, although he continued to serve on the NSU Board of Trustees until 2004.

“I’ve had one of those unusual lives because I have almost no regrets,” said Dr. Melnick, who received the AOA’s Distinguished Service Certificate in 2002. “I’m especially proud

of the work I did here. When my wife is with me and we drive up and go past the Health Professions Division buildings, it’s not unusual for her to say to me—and this is her viewpoint—‘You built all that.’ Well I didn’t, but Mort Terry and I built all that. Of course, we had a lot of help from the people we worked with, from the cleaning people and cafeteria workers all the way up through the faculty and administration.”

When reminded of his original plan to work with Dr. Terry for just two years in the early 1980s before reentering retirement, Dr. Melnick smiled and replied, “It was always challenging, interesting, and fascinating, so I didn’t even think of retiring once I got involved. That’s why I kept on going—and I’m glad I did.”

Honors

- 1957 - Distinguished Service Award, American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
- 1968 - Distinguished Service Award, Shallcross School
- 1974 - Writing Award, Medical Economics Magazine
- 1976 - Distinguished Service Award, Delaware Valley Medical Center
- 1977 - Distinguished Service Award, American Medical Writers Association
- 1979 - Distinguished Service Award, POMA
- 1988 - Pediatrician/Educator of the Year, ACOP
- 1988 - Distinguished Service Award, Everglades AHEC
- 1989 - SECOM Distinguished Service Award
- 1991 - Distinguished Service Award, National AHEC Directors Association
- 1995 - Distinguished Service Award, Florida Optometric Association
- 1996 - Distinguished Service Award, Florida Statewide AHEC Program
- 2001 - Lifetime Achievement Award, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
- 2001 - Award of Merit, Alumni Association, PCOM
- 2002 - Distinguished Service Certificate, America Osteopathic Association

Fellowships

- American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
- American Medical Writers Association
- American Public Health Association
- Pennsylvania Public Health Association

“Firsts” in Rapprochement to Allopathic Medicine

- First D.O. appointed to faculty of University of Pennsylvania
- First D.O. president of Philadelphia Society for Adolescent Medicine
- First D.O. officer of Philadelphia Pediatric Society
- First D.O. article published in pediatric journal—*Clinical Pediatrics*
- First D.O. on an editorial board—*Clinical Pediatrics*
- First D.O. elected to membership on the American Public Health Association
- First D.O. fellow of the American Public Health Association
- First D.O. elected as a fellow of the Pennsylvania Public Health Association

Did You Know?

Over the years, Dr. Melnick also participated in numerous sideline ventures, including many that dovetailed nicely with his passion for pediatrics and his love of the written word. Some of these extracurricular ventures included the establishment of a babysitting training service, a public relations agency for health, and a medical meeting coordination organization called Atlantic PostGraduate Assembly. He also co-created a slick monthly journal called *Maternal and Child Health*, which became the official publication of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians. “I didn’t make a lot of money from my ventures,” he admitted. “But I had a lot of fun.”



Childhood Tragedy Spurs Rita Mukherjee to Pursue Medical Career

By Scott Colton

Director of Medical Communications

Tragedy often strikes at the most unexpected times, which is exactly what happened to M2 student Rita Mukherjee when she was a child living in West Bengal, India, in the 1970s. At the tender age of 10, Mukherjee's world was shaken to its core when her father S.B. Mukherjee, a successful engineer, died suddenly from a coronary thrombosis.

The loss of her beloved father, who had never revealed his history of heart problems to his wife and four daughters, was a devastating blow to the young girl who idolized her dad. But it also ignited a previously hidden passion to pursue a medical career. "I've never seen a person so energetic and so full of life," said Mukherjee, who immigrated to the United States in 1994. "He was very colorful; in fact, there was never a dull moment with him. When he died, that was my first experience with disease and medical science. He simply drove to work one day and never came back."

Unfortunately, within a matter of weeks, Mukherjee, her mother, and her three older sisters found themselves contending with a perplexing array of financial and family issues that threatened to shatter their formerly serene and stable lives. "Our lives were completely changed," admitted Mukherjee, who was the recipient of a Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student

Research Award in April 2005. "We used to live in a very posh neighborhood, but then we had to move to the other side of town. And my mother, who was a housewife, had to take two jobs to support the family."

Her mother's transformation from meek housewife to take-charge matriarch came as a pleasant surprise to Mukherjee, who considers her mom to be one of her primary role models. "My mother had always been a very submissive character, and I never thought she had any strength," she explained. "But when my father died, most of our very conservative family members turned against us. They told my mother things like, 'Let the girls get married because they don't need to go to school anymore.' They didn't want my mother to work, but she took a stand and said, 'I am going to work, and all my children are going to college.'"

Medical Pursuits Lead Mukherjee to America

After receiving her master's degree in biochemistry from Visvabharati University, which is a branch of Calcutta University, Mukherjee knew she had reached a significant career crossroad. Although she had spent her life in India, she realized that to truly fulfill her destiny, she needed to go abroad to complete the final phase of her educational journey. "By the time I

Student Profile: Rita Mukherjee

graduated from the master's program, everybody said the next step was for me to go for my Ph.D. in Calcutta," she stated. "But I decided not to do it and come to the United States even though I had no family here. I knew there may always be some degree of social discrimination against women, so it didn't matter how well I would eventually do in India—I may always be discriminated against there as a woman."

Once she successfully passed her GRE/TOEFL exams that are required of international students and went through the time-honored tradition of applying to numerous schools, Mukherjee decided to go to George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C. However, there was just one tiny problem: She couldn't gain acceptance into the university's medical school. "Because I was an international student and it was a private school, I wasn't eligible for any loans or financial aid because I had no credit history and knew nobody in this country. Fortunately, my father had an old friend who let me stay with him and his wife for about six months."

Her dreams of becoming a physician may have been placed on the backburner for the time being, but nothing was going to dissuade Mukherjee from realizing her academic dreams. "I discovered the university had a program called biotechnology management, which was wonderful because the Maryland/D.C. area has so many biotechnology companies. It worked out wonderfully, and I got into GWU's master's program for engineering management at the School of Engineering and Applied Science in 1994. Since they couldn't give me any financial assistance, they offered me a job at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research working 20 hours a week."

The next few years proved to be the most exciting and fulfilling of her life as she juggled work and classroom responsibilities in a city known for its nonstop mix of political intrigue and excitement. "I was living on campus, which was within walking distance of the White House, so I was able to see President Clinton's inauguration ceremony in 1997. In fact, President and Mrs. Clinton came to speak at GWU, which was a major thrill"

Marriage Leads to New Life in Michigan

In 1997, during her final year at George Washington University, Mukherjee met the man who would soon become her husband at a mutual friend's party. Three months later—and four months prior to her graduation—she and Dr. Aniket Bhattacharya, who currently serves as a faculty member in the physics department at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida, tied the knot. Graduation from GWU soon followed, with Mukherjee receiving a Tau Beta Pi award in conjunction with her lofty 3.6 grade-point average.

It should have been the best of times for Mukherjee, who was now working on AIDS research projects with two biochemistry companies and the National Institutes of Health as part of her



Mukherjee shares a festive moment with Dianna and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni at the 2004 NSU-COM Osteoblast.

cooperative work experience. However, by the time she earned her master's degree in engineering management with a biotechnology major in 1997, Mukherjee had reached yet another critical crossroad. "Getting married was a major turning point in my career because I knew I was going to work for one of the biotechnology companies in Washington once I graduated," she explained. "However, because my husband was working at Michigan State University as a research assistant professor, I made the decision to move there to be with him."

Putting love ahead of her own career ambitions may have been a noble sacrifice, but it did little to allay her feelings of isolation and unhappiness. "All of a sudden I'm in a little town called Lansing, Michigan, that doesn't have any major work opportunities for me because there was not even one biochemical company in the area," she explained. "I had a horrible time adjusting to being a wife in a strange city. Fortunately, because I graduated from an engineering school, I applied for a management position at nearby General Motors and became a systems analyst for them. I worked there for three years, but every day I knew I was getting further and further away from what I really wanted to do. But I loved my husband and wasn't going to leave him to further my own career."

Heartbreak Leads to NSU-COM Fulfillment

In 2000, Mukherjee's life took a decidedly southern turn after her husband accepted a position at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando. As was the case when she relocated to Michigan, Mukherjee had no problem finding a job. Unfortunately, her new position proved to be yet another detour

Student Profile: Rita Mukherjee



Mukherjee says her mother, Purnima, is one of her primary role models.

from her medical ambitions. “The problem was that every time I moved, I got a job unrelated to my passion, so my dream of going to medical school kept getting pushed aside,” she explained. “As soon as we moved to Florida, I got a job at the software company PeopleSoft Inc. working as a systems analyst in UCF’s financial aid division.”

A few years later, tragedy again intervened in Mukherjee’s life when a joyful occurrence suddenly turned dire. “I became pregnant in 2002 and was very happy. But in my third month I developed severe stomach cramps and was rushed to the hospital,” she stated. “It turned out I had an ectopic pregnancy, and I was devastated by the news. I remember just lying there and feeling so sad because I was going to lose the baby. I was also frightened because if the fallopian tube had burst, I could have died from an internal hemorrhage.”

As is the case with many people, the proverb “it’s always darkest before the dawn” definitely applied to Mukherjee, who found unexpected salvation in the form of Patricia Bell, D.O., who performed the delicate surgery. “Dr. Bell changed my life because she came in and held my hand and said, ‘Rita, you are a fighter. You came to this country and made your way. If you came this far, you’ll be fine.’ She instilled so much confidence in me. And that’s all I wanted to do—change people’s lives, give them hope, and let them know that nothing is impossible.”

Dr. Bell’s compassion may have served as the perfect tonic to make Mukherjee realize she was indeed squandering her vast potential as a future physician. Unfortunately, the agonizing loss of her unborn child plunged Mukherjee into a seemingly bottomless malaise that threatened to encompass her being. “I thought my life had ended,” she admitted. “I quit my job and sat around feeling sorry for myself because I knew my last hope of ever having a child was gone. I had no friends or family here to support me, and everything just sort of hit me. I had never failed in my life—and this time I had.”

After allowing his wife to grieve for a suitable period of time, Dr. Bhattacharya gave Mukherjee a recuperative pep talk that helped shake her out of her depression—and forge her medical future. “My husband said, ‘Enough of your jobs and distractions. This time you are going to medical school.’ My husband is an angel, so when he said, ‘I don’t want to hear any excuses because it doesn’t matter what it takes—you need to do this,’ I listened.”

Because there were no medical schools located in the Orlando area, Mukherjee knew she would have to matriculate hundreds of miles away from her soul mate if she earned acceptance to NSU-COM, which was her preferred choice. Not surprisingly, Dr. Bhattacharya wholeheartedly agreed to support his wife by making a selfless sacrifice. “He said, ‘I don’t mind driving. I will come and see you every weekend, and when you get a chance you can come to Orlando.’ So that’s what we’re doing right now,” stated Mukherjee, who was accepted to NSU-COM in early 2004. “My husband comes here every weekend and cooks for me. And when he leaves, he makes sure my refrigerator is always loaded. He does practically everything, including the cleaning.”

NSU Experience Exceeds Expectations

Since she began matriculating at NSU-COM in August 2004, Mukherjee has immersed herself in a range of extracurricular activities that includes conducting research, participating in medical missions, and forming a fund-raising-based student organization called Genesis. “NSU has been wonderful for me because it has opened so many opportunities,” said Mukherjee, who participated in the college’s medical mission to Peru last March. “In addition, my classmates are wonderful people who are so positive and supportive. They inspire me in so many ways.”

Because her NSU-COM experience has been so fulfilling on so many levels, Mukherjee plans to help promote the profession



Mukherjee discusses a research project with K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., who is a professor of biochemistry.

Student Profile: Rita Mukherjee



Mukherjee with her husband, Dr. Aniket Bhattacharya.

on an international level once she graduates in 2008. "I want to go into family practice and organize medical mission trips to places like India and Africa once I receive my D.O. degree," she explained. "But the major thing I want to do is promote the osteopathic profession throughout the world, especially in India and other British colonies where they really need help. People may not be able to afford expensive treatment, but they could definitely benefit from osteopathic manipulative medicine. I plan on going to India every year once I graduate to try to make osteopathic medicine become a licensed profession in my birth country. In fact, I will not be surprised if NSU has a sister campus in India one day."

Although she came to the United States over a decade ago with nothing more than a dream to sustain her, Mukherjee has prospered thanks to her intrinsic fortitude—and a little help from some benevolent individuals. "I have always met great people in my life," she said. "I came to this country and didn't know a soul, but I met many caring people who went out of their way to help me. That's why I want to help others. When I asked some of my mentors and friends how I could ever pay them back for all their kindness and inspiration, they said to just do the same thing for someone else. So my goal is to always give back to society and continue the tradition of 'paying it forward.'"



Mukherjee assists with a surgical procedure during the College of Osteopathic Medicine's 2005 Medical Mission to Peru.

Altruistic Attitude Epitomizes Mukherjee

When Mukherjee was visiting her family last December in India, her Christmas vacation happened to coincide with the devastating tsunami that killed over 200,000 people in areas such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and her home country. Instead of spending her vacation relaxing and spending time with her loved ones, Mukherjee accompanied a journalist friend to a village at the southern side of India called Koddalur. Over the next four days, she volunteered at a relief station and did whatever task was necessary, including distributing food, money, and other supplies and assisting the onsite physicians whenever possible.

In 2000, Mukherjee showcased her selflessness once again by taking an active role in helping one of her sisters establish and fund a small elementary school in India for the area's lower caste children who are either orphans or the offspring of prostitutes. The school, which includes a separate five-bed hospital, can house 40 students at any given time and provides the children with basic reading and writing skills. Over the past five years, Mukherjee has sent a monthly stipend to keep the school operational. She also plans on coordinating an on-campus fund-raiser to help secure additional monies for the educational enterprise.

Over the past five years, Mukherjee's benevolence has helped provide educational opportunities for countless numbers of disadvantaged children in India.



Ecuador, Amazon Rainforest Enthrall NSU-COM Medical Team



Despite an unexpected encounter with a bevy of bats and an uncomfortable bout of altitude sickness that afflicted many of the 15 participants, the college's excursion to Ecuador and the Amazon Rainforest, which took place June 17-25, 2005, was an unqualified success on all fronts.

The trip, which served as part medical mission and part osteopathic globalization effort, was a small-scale effort compared to the college's other mission trips to places such as Guatemala and Jamaica, which feature multidisciplinary participation from the other Health Professions Division colleges and programs. This medical expedition, which was established and coordinated by Elaine Wallace, D.O., centered on the twofold goal of establishing another international site for future medical missions and initiating a symbiotic relationship with the Universidad de San Francisco in Quito.

During its stay in Quito, the NSU-COM medical team spent several days volunteering its services at a local hospital, where copious and much-appreciated amounts of osteopathic manipulative medicine were administered to the patients. OMM also played a major role during the team's visit to the Universidad de San Francisco, which included a PowerPoint presentation by Elisa Ginter, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, to the university's medical teaching faculty on

- the history and philosophy of osteopathy
- the requirements and education of osteopathic students
- the basic techniques and concepts of OMM

Following Dr. Ginter's lecture, Dr. Wallace, who serves as chair of the college's Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, gave a presentation on counterstrain that was followed by an informative demonstration. "After Dr. Wallace's demonstration, all of us—the D.O.s and the fellows—paired up with their medical doctors and performed counterstrain and

other OMT techniques on each of them," said Dr. Ginter, who participates in many of the college's international medical missions. "In the future, Dr. Wallace hopes to set up an exchange program and give additional educational seminars to the medical students and faculty at the Universidad de San Francisco in osteopathic techniques to further the understanding of osteopathy in Ecuador and hopefully further the acceptance of osteopathy as a licensed profession there."

In yet another attempt to help globalize osteopathic medicine and create strong alliances outside the United States, Dr. Wallace and other members of the NSU-COM contingent had an opportunity to meet with the First Lady of Ecuador, Ximena Bohorquez de Gutierrez, M.D., as well as the country's minister of health. The medical team also had the chance to spend three days working in a local health clinic in Baeza located in the cloud forest section of the Amazon Rainforest. "It almost looked like you could touch the clouds because they were so low," said Lauritz "Larry" Jensen, D.A., who serves as the college's director of preclinical education. "The scenery of Ecuador—especially the high Amazon—was some of the most spectacular I have seen in Central and South America.

"Dr. Wallace, who conceived and organized this medical mission, definitely accomplished her goal, which was to educate not only the local physicians but the San Francisco University faculty members about the principles of osteopathy," added Dr. Jensen. "It was a very successful venture on the part of the school and has paved the way for us to conduct additional Ecuador-based missions in the near future."



Participants

Medical Personnel

Robert Dwyer, D.D.S.
Elisa Ginter, D.O.
Lauritz Jensen, D.A.
William Morris, D.O.
Joel Spalter, M.D.
Elaine Wallace, D.O.

OPP Fellows

Allison Bloom
Danelle Kutner
Melchiorra Mangiaracina
Patrick Moran
Jennifer Parsons

M3 Students

Jill Scarlett
Lena Weinman

Others

Matt Katsolis
Leah Saporito

Alumni Association Executive Committee

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Dr. Orlando Garcia ('94)
 Dr. John Geake ('93)
 Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)
 Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)
 Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
 Dr. Daniel McBath ('90)
 Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)
 Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)

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Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)
 Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)
 Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)
 Dr. Ronald Tolchin ('89)

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Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)
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Treasurer

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Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro
 2003 - Dr. Arthur Snyder
 2004 - Dr. Lori Dribin
 2005 - Dr. Edye Groseclose

Celebration of Excellence

Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Dr. Archie H. McLean ('88)
 2000 - Dr. James Turner ('88)
 2001 - Dr. Daniel McBath ('90)
 2002 - No Ceremony
 2003 - Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
 2004 - Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
 2005 - Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Alumni in the News

Reza Behrouz, D.O. ('01) was named chief resident in the Department of Neurology at the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa for the 2005-06 academic year. The university includes Tampa General Hospital, the James A. Haley VA Medical Center, and the Moffitt Cancer and Research Institute.

Bridget Bellinger, D.O. ('86) was recently elected president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. She was also named as a member of the national ACOFP's Procedures and Excellence Committee.

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88) was elected president of the Baltimore City Medical Society, which comprises a group of about 1,100 M.D.s. He also received the Physician of the Year Award from the Maryland Association of Osteopathic Physicians.

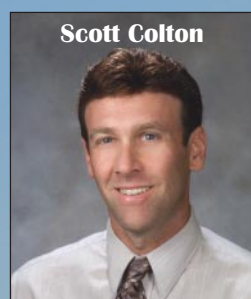
Quinn Holzheimer, D.O. ('03) was recently appointed chief resident in emergency medicine for 2005-06 at the University of South Florida/Tampa General Hospital.

James Jen-Je Hsiao, D.O. ('01) was selected to participate in a 2006 fellowship in neuroradiology/interventional neuroradiology at the University of Texas in Dallas, which is one of the few facilities in the country where advanced neurovascular interventional radiology procedures are performed. Dr. Hsiao was the only D.O. to be selected for this very competitive position.

Mark Kranis, D.O. ('02) was named chief resident for 2006-07 in the Department of Internal Medicine at St. Vincent Hospital/Worcester Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Laura E. Michael, D.O., FCAP ('93) was recently named medical director of Gastrocor, a division of Bostwick Laboratories located in Orlando, Florida. After completing a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Florida and a specialty year in gastrointestinal/liver pathology in 1998-99, she spent six years as an associate pathologist at Citrus Memorial Hospital. Dr. Michael is the only D.O. pathologist in the corporation, which has offices in Virginia, Florida, Arizona, and London. She also served as program director for the American College of Osteopathic Pathology symposium, which was held October 24-26 in conjunction with the 110th Annual AOA Convention/Scientific Seminar in Orlando, Florida.

Submission of Alumni News Items



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 entertaining and educational as possible for our readership. One of the ways I hope to accomplish this objective is by providing expanded coverage of the myriad individuals who comprise NSU-COM's distinguished alumni base. If you've published a book, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position, *COM Outlook* wants to know. In addition, if you know of an illustrious fellow graduate who deserves to be featured in a future Alumni Spotlight, please contact me at (954) 262-5147 or submit the information via email to scottc@nsu.nova.edu.

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter.

2005 DONORS

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

Dr. George Linsey

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

Dr. John Geake ('93)

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

**Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

**Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Andrew Gross ('93)

(in memory of Greg Klaus)

* and # Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

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*Dr. Albert Whitehead

**Dr. Michael Williams ('00)

* and # Dr. Steven Zucker

** in memory of Helen Maxine Martin*

*** in honor of 2005 Living Tribute Award honoree Dr. Edye Groseclose*

in memory of Dorothy Lightbourn

^ in memory of Dr. Robert Klein

Cumulative List (1999-2005)

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+)

Dr. John Geake ('93)

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

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Dr. Carlos Levy

Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin

Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)

Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)
Ms. Lorraine Snyder
Drs. Ron Tolchin('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)
Dr. James ('88) and Sherry Turner
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)
Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
Dr. Edgar Bolton
Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)
Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo
Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)
Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)
Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)
Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)
Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)
Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)
Dr. A. Alvin Greber
Dr. Thomas Green ('98)
Dr. Andrew Gross ('93)
Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)
Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)
Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)
NSU-COM Class of 1994
Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)
Dr. Edward Packer
Mr. John Potomski
Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)
Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)
Dr. Michael Ross ('88)
Dr. Steven Sager ('90)
Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)
Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)
Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)
Ms. Louise Todaro
Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
Dr. Ira Weiner
Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Kelly Adams ('88)
Dr. Barnet Alpert
Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)
Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)
Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)
Dr. Shoab M. Ayubi
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)
Dr. Daniel Barkus
Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)

Dr. Paul Bates ('86)
Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)
Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)
Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)
Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)
Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)
Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)
Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)
Dr. Juanita Brown ('91)
Dr. Douglas Bushell ('98)
Dr. George Campbell ('99)
Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
Dr. James Caschette
Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)
Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)
Dr. David Cisko ('88)
Dr. Jules Cohen
Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)
Dr. and Mrs. Gaston Dana ('92)
Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90)
Dr. Alan David ('92)
Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)
Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87)
Dr. George Elias ('99)
Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)
Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)
Dr. Gary Gary
Dr. Diana Johnstone Graves ('86)
Ms. Marcia Groverman
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock ('86)
Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)
Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)
Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)
Dr. Edward Hartwig
Dr. William Hayes ('89)
Dr. David C. Hellman ('88)
Dr. Richard Herman ('89)
Dr. Marc Herschelmann ('91)
Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87)
Dr. Myron Howell
Dr. Lawrence Jacobson
Dr. Thelma Jamison
Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)
Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93)/Yoyen Lau ('93)
Donna Kaplan
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)
Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)

Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)
Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)
Dr. Mi Kim ('90)
Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)
Dr. Stephen Krathen
Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)
Dr. Michael Landman ('88)
Dr. Kim Lark ('94)
Dr. Soling Li ('00)
Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)
Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)
Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)
Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)
Dr. Albert Lopez ('92)
Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)
Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)
Dr. Cindy Marika ('87)
Dr. Clyde Meckstroth ('85)
Dr. Arnold Melnick
Dr. Sonal Majmundar ('94)
Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)
Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)
Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92)
Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)
Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)
Dr. Merideth Norris
Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87)
Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)
Mr. Alexander Packman
Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)
Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)
Dr. Ramsey Pevsner ('03)
Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)
Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)
Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)
Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)
Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94)
Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92)
Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)
Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)
Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)
Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)
Dr. Allan Rubin
Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)
Dr. David Saltzman
Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)
Dr. Melvin Sarnow
Dr. Sandra Schwemmer
Dr. Robert Sculthorpe

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Century Club (continued)

Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)
Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)
Dr. John Shover
Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni
Mr. Stanley Silverman
Dr. Rita Sivils ('92)
Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94)
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder
Dr. Margaret Starr
Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)
Dr. Mark Stich ('87)
Dr. Colene Stout
Dr. James Sullivan ('87)
Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan ('88)
Dr. Richard J. Susi
Dr. James H. Taylor
Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)
Dr. Richard Thacker ('92)
Dr. David Thomas
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)
Dr. Claudine Ward ('02)
Dr. Douglas P. Webster
Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93)
Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)
Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86)
Dr. Margaret Wilkinson
Dr. John E. Williams ('96)
Dr. Michael Williams ('00)
Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)
Dr. Paul Winner
Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)
Dr. Ross Zafonte

Corporate/Organizational

Abbott Laboratories
AstraZeneca, Inc.
Biovail Pharmaceuticals
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.
Schering Sales Corporation

Annual Alumni Fund Drive Commences

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine has grown in size and reputation, and the achievements and success of our alumni are reflective of the quality education individuals receive at NSU-COM. Whether you have kept in close contact or have lost touch with the College of Osteopathic Medicine over the years, there is no better time than the present to get reacquainted with your alma mater.

Over the next several weeks, you will be receiving information about our **Alumni Association Annual Fund Drive**. NSU-COM provided you with the foundation on which you have built your professional success. The comprehensive education you received, which included first-rate clinical training and countless opportunities to participate in medical missions and health fairs, helped prepare you for your life as a physician. In addition, our superb faculty members continue to dedicate their lives to training young men and women to become the best health care professionals in their field.

If you have made a gift to the Annual Fund in the past, thank you for your support. If you haven't made a gift recently, please take the time to give back to the profession and support future generations of osteopathic physicians. Any gift—large or small—can make a major difference in the lives of those coming after you. Thank you for your support and commitment to NSU-COM.

Alumni Reunion Set for February 2006

It's time to mark your calendars and make your reservations for the **10th Annual NSU-COM Alumni Reunion and CME Program**, which will take place February 10-12, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Resort in Fort Lauderdale, with the CME seminars taking place on the NSU campus. This year, we will be honoring the 20-year class of 1986 and the 10-year class of 1996.

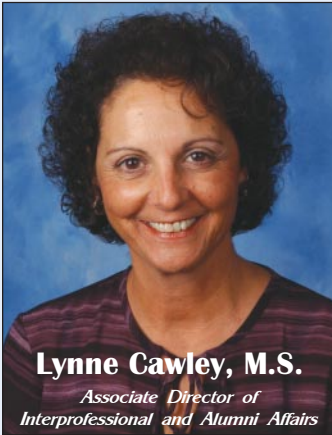
In keeping with the tradition of the program, there will be a reception for family and friends on Friday, February 10 at the Tavern on the Green at the Hyatt Pier 66. This is an intimate opportunity to catch up with those classmates you haven't seen over the years.

Saturday and Sunday's CME seminars will allow you to earn eight hours of CME credit, with lectures by your peers such as John Geake, D.O., Robert Hasty, D.O., and Elizabeth Hancock, D.O., to name just a few. During the reception and banquet on Saturday evening in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hyatt Pier 66, we will be honoring the classes of 1986 and 1996, celebrating the contributions of this year's Living Tribute Award recipient, and enjoying great food and dancing. The aforementioned activities are offered to the alumni free of charge.

To make your reservations at the Hyatt Pier 66, please call the resort directly at (954) 525-6666. For additional hotels in the greater Fort Lauderdale area, please visit our Web site at www.nova.edu/cwis/visit.nsu/index.html. Please note that the Best Western across from the NSU campus is no longer in business.

Look for the 10th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Program brochure in the mail in the months to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Cawley, associate director of interprofessional and alumni affairs, at (954) 262-1029 or via email at cawley@nsu.nova.edu. We hope to see you there!

Staff Snapshot: Lynne Cawley, M.S.



Lynne Cawley, M.S.

*Associate Director of
Interprofessional and Alumni Affairs*

Date of Hire: March 8, 1989

Family Facts: Married to Paul “Murphy” Cawley for 24 years. We met in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where we were both educators in the Lancaster School District. I was born in a small town called Freedom in western Pennsylvania and have a younger sister, Tina, who’s married with two children ages 19 and 16. My mom still lives

in the house I grew up in. Paul and I have no kids or pets and live in Boca Raton.

Official NSU-COM responsibilities: I work with Dr. Howard Neer in handling matters relating to alumni affairs. I attend conferences our alumni attend and help plan events for them. Our goal is to encourage strong participation in the NSU-COM Alumni Association, and we also involve our current students to get them involved in the activities of the alumni office, which encourages them to participate once they graduate. I also work with our dean, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, on articulation agreements with other colleges and universities.

Reasons I enjoy working at NSU-COM: Without a doubt—the people. I have been so fortunate to work here for 16 years. I have met and worked with so many wonderful people that remain my friends and supporters. I’ve also had the opportunity to work with students both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, which has been most rewarding. I remain in contact with many of them, get invited to their weddings, and receive announcements of the birth of their children and so on. You know you’ve been around a long time when you see them with their children. It’s a nice way of saying I’m getting older!

What did you do professionally before joining NSU-COM? When I first graduated from Pennsylvania’s Slippery Rock University in the early 1970s, I wanted to save the world. My degrees are in physical education, and I taught for a number of years in the inner city, working with students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. After Paul and I met, we decided we wanted to move to a warmer climate, and we ended up in Rock Hill, South Carolina. I worked as a graduate assistant for two years at Winthrop University, finishing up my master’s degree in physical education. I worked as an adjunct faculty member at Winthrop University for an additional year and then was hired at Columbia College, a private women’s college in Columbia, South Carolina, which is where I became interested in college admissions. After several years in Columbia, we decided to move further south so we could play golf 12 months out of the year instead of 10. I was fortunate to obtain a position at Nova University as an admissions’ counselor. We

were really small back then, and because I had so many contacts from Pennsylvania to Florida, I became the recruiter for out-of-state admissions. After several years and promotions at the undergraduate school, along with the merger with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, I moved to admissions in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. I briefly held a position in central administration before coming back to the College of Osteopathic Medicine—this time in alumni affairs.

Greatest achievement in life: I believe I’m living my greatest achievement in life. Being born in a small town and coming from a strict Italian family, I was the first to go to college. The women in my family all got married and had children—college was not an option. I was really fortunate that a few of my high school teachers recognized my athletic ability. I never looked at it that way because I just enjoyed playing sports. I never thought I would make a career out of sports, especially since it was pre Title XI and there weren’t many athletic opportunities at that time for women. With help and guidance I not only figured out a way to go to college but also worked my way through.

My coworkers would be surprised to know this about me: Most people who know me probably wouldn’t be surprised about anything because I wear my heart on my sleeve. However, in addition to my love of sports, I played the clarinet in high school. I was first chair my senior year and was also a member of the Jadran Tamburitizan group. It’s a group of young people who play instruments, sing, and perform traditional folk dances from Croatia, Russia, and other European countries. I was the only Italian in the group.



The most frightening thing that ever happened to me:

That would have been when we found out Paul had to have open-heart surgery. It all happened so quickly—I had no time to think about the severity of it all. He was having tests done and before I knew it, he was being prepped for surgery. On the same day, my mother was in a severe car accident in Pennsylvania. It was a very frightening time for me. I thought I could easily lose the two people I loved the most, but both situations had happy endings.

When I retire I plan to: Continue doing the things I like to do such as playing golf, working out, and spending time with Paul traveling to different places to play golf. I would also like to become involved in Special Olympics, which would allow me to teach sports again and be active in a group that I support.

Three words that best describe me: Athletic, funny, caring.

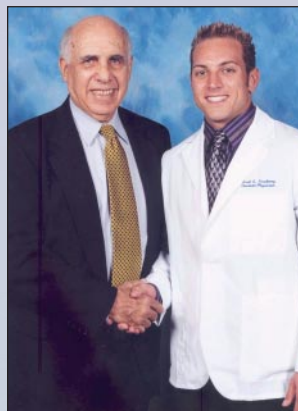
White Coat Ceremony Welcomes Future D.O.s



On August 7, 2005, the class of 2009 was officially welcomed into the osteopathic fold at the annual White Coat Ceremony, which was held at the Signature Grand in Davie and on the Health Professions Division campus. For the 236 students comprising the class of 2009, the White Coat Ceremony served as an auspicious experience that officially marked their entry into the medical profession.

In the presence of family, guests, and faculty members, the students were welcomed into the medical community by leaders of the osteopathic profession and ceremonially "cloaked" with their white coat. By establishing this meaningful ritual at the beginning of medical school, the intent is to make students aware of their responsibilities from the first day of training

and convey the message that doctors should "care" as well as "cure." In the accompanying photos, Lawrence Jacobson, D.O., NSU-COM vice dean, shares a greeting with M1 Students Tameka Jackson and Mark Newberry.



Health Professions Division
College of Osteopathic Medicine
3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale-Davie, FL 33328-2018

