

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# COM Outlook

*College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Summer 2007

Volume 8, Number 3

## Class of 2007 Takes Center Stage!



## Dean's Message



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

One of the basic concepts involved in the creation of the Health Professions Division (HPD) at Nova Southeastern University was the desire to bring all the health professions' colleges under one umbrella to promote interdisciplinary education. Over the years, the HPD has created numerous interdisciplinary opportunities for the students in the various health professions, including through our

college's coursework, clinical environment, and medical outreach programs—both national and international.

However, while the HPD and College of Osteopathic Medicine have made interdisciplinary education a priority, a concern of mine is the growing movement toward independence by many of the health professions. There are attempts being made by many of the leaders of the various health professions to have their individual disciplines develop a greater sense of independence and scope of practice for each of their practitioners. While there is validity for some of the changes, this continuous path toward additional independence for each professional will result in a health care system that allows greater voids in the knowledge base of what each practitioner is capable of doing. This, in turn, increases the likelihood of lower quality patient care, which is not an outcome anyone wishes to see.

That is why I am such a proponent of interdisciplinary education, which is a precept many schools fail to implement properly. The idea of just sharing coursework is not a suitable method to develop an interdisciplinary approach because today's health care environment is more complex and scientifically specific than at any time in history. In addition, the ability to care for patients has expanded to the point where there are now multiple areas of expertise required to meet the needs of the patient. Consequently, I feel the only viable future for health care delivery is true interdisciplinary care.

The example I like to use is a football team, which I feel represents the pinnacle of interdisciplinary teamwork. If each team member was well trained in his individual role, such as quarterback, tackle, running back, etc., and you had a team composed of the best athletes in the world all trained in only one of those positions, the team would lose every game because it did not incorporate an interdisciplinary approach. In football, the players learn their positions independently and then they are brought together through a quarterback/coach/manager amalgamation to learn to combine their skills as a team to achieve a shared goal, which is moving the ball down the field.

This is a model the health care field should mimic. Each professional has to learn his or her discipline extremely well but also be knowledgeable of the ability of the other professions and practitioners—and then come together in a team model where each of the team members' skills are best utilized. Incorporating this tactic will provide the most comprehensive care for patients because of the collective expertise of each practitioner in a team paradigm that no one person or discipline could ever hope to achieve.

Thankfully, this is occurring within the educational model we have at NSU's Health Professions Division. Although there is some overlap in the teaching component, when applicable, you don't create an interdisciplinary environment if students from the various disciplines only attend the same lectures because that only creates a common bank of knowledge. What we tried to do is integrate the specific knowledge and emphasis of each profession or discipline in the clinical environment and thus produce a greater interdisciplinary approach to patient care. This occurs by having the students work together from the beginning of their matriculation—partially in the classroom and partially in their early clinical experience—but more specifically as the clinical experiences develop. As a result, they learn from each other and assimilate what the other knows. They also gain an understanding of what the other professions contribute and how important each profession is in ensuring total patient care.

To accomplish this, we are now placing physician assistants and pharmacists in our medical clinic operations. NSU-COM also coordinates an array of local and international medical outreach programs where dentistry, optometry, nursing, pharmacy—and all the disciplines that comprise the Health Professions Division—as well as NSU's Center for Psychological Studies, participate on a continuum. In addition, we are trying to find ways to develop this approach in more clinical experiences, including at our affiliated hospitals. These are directions we are moving in that I feel are critical for the quality of care in the future.

What all this hopefully does is enhance overall patient care while at the same time increase the respect each individual health care professional has for another. It's a gradual evolution that cannot be done radically. Perceptions, biases, and entrenched philosophy—all these things take time to be overcome. That why I feel it's imperative that, instead of embracing separatism, the various health professions come together to form a symbiotic bond that will result in a synergistic improvement in patient care and safety. No football team could ever win with a separatist philosophy—and neither can the increasingly complex health care environment that exists today.

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





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

Without question, Nova Southeastern University's future—and the outlook for the Health Professions Division—just keeps getting brighter and brighter. The drive toward preeminence started three years ago when the university established some bold strategic planning and infrastructure goals, including the creation of a University Center, Academical Village, and collaborative research

building on the Davie campus.

The 366,000 square-foot University Center, which opened last year, has already become a critical university component because it provides a focal point for campus life and serves as a venue where NSU students, faculty, and staff—as well as the community—can enjoy concerts, sporting events, a wellness/fitness center, and convocations.

By the summer of 2008, the construction process for both the Academical Village and the 208,000 square-foot collaborative research building, which will be located immediately adjacent to the HPD parking garage, will kick into high gear. However, the campus' transformation will actually commence much earlier than that as roadway placements are reconfigured in the months leading up to the first construction phases at University Park Plaza, which is the future site of NSU's Academical Village. That will launch a whole series of events that will relate specifically to all our Health Professions Division programs, with the potential for constructing a new building between our current HPD lab/library edifice and the clinic building, which will add several hundred thousand square feet for our utility here at the Health Professions Division.

Under the current plan, which is still in the preliminary design stage, the existing NSU pharmacy will be relocated to the Academical Village site. As you can see, these enhancements effectively relate not only to the university but also very specifically to the Health Professions Division. As a result, we're all going to start seeing some significant construction going on around our campus that will add great value to the university and help with the redistribution of the Health Professions Division in terms of space utilization.

These positive changes will also dramatically benefit our students. The Health Professions Division is already renown for its classroom teaching as well as its clinical and simulation instruction, and there's no question that pedagogically, and from a curriculum perspective, we are blazing a trail with our many quality programs. But you need to have all the right components

to be participatory on a national level with a reputation that is equal to what we already know our quality is.

These forthcoming enhancements will also give us a greater opportunity to utilize the latest technological capabilities and maximize the already adroit manner in which we use the latest hardware and software from a simulation, classroom teaching, and clinical application viewpoint. In fact, we are already ahead of most hospital and traditional medical office systems when it comes to medical error issues, such as using digitalized and totally paperless recordkeeping, which includes everything from X rays to lab results.

In the midst of our current expansion efforts, the university is undergoing its mandatory 10-year SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) reaccreditation process. Although the full results of the SACS site visits won't be revealed until early 2008, I can say with certainty that it was a very positive experience. The SACS team was very impressed by the university and its infrastructure, particularly our design and desire for exemplary education and our Quality Enhancement Plan. It was a very positive activity not only for the actual process of becoming fully accredited for another 10 years but also for the university itself because we were able to gain some true insight and introspection regarding our own strategic planning and future direction.

To the students who are sitting in the classroom—the student doctors, student pharmacists, student optometrists, and student dentists—they may not recognize the educational revolution that is occurring because their focus is on soaking up all the information we present to them daily. I'm proud to say that we're stepping beyond where some of the professions are today, not in terms of clinical practice, but in the foundations we are building to help create a more-formidable clinical practice.

*Fred Lippman, Ed.D.*





## Health Professions Division

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

*Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A., Ed.D.*  
Provost/Executive Dean for Administration

## College of Osteopathic Medicine

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

*Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.*  
Vice Dean

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### **9 NSU-COM, Dental School Launch Collaborative Program**

In order to address the access to care issue and meet the needs of underserved populations, NSU-COM and the College of Dental Medicine have structured a curriculum that provides students with an opportunity to receive a D.M.D. (Doctor of Dental Medicine) and D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) degree.

### **20 Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health Provides Vital Services**

NSU's unwavering commitment to community service was exemplified again last March when 185 students and faculty/staff members from the Health Professions Division donated their time and expertise to the Sixth Annual AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health.

### **22 Graduation 2007: Fun the Focus During Senior Week**

A sense of celebration was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2007 to get reacquainted while participating in a host of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, an evening of comedy dinner theater at Laffing Matterz, and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa.

### **38 Brenda Mallett Outreaches to Impoverished Ghana Village**

Thanks to her charitable work with a "labor of love" called the Tafi Atome Clinic Project in Ghana, Africa, M.P.H. student Brenda Mallett is seeing life in a whole new way.

### **40 Ecuador Medical Mission Provides Unforgettable Experiences**

NSU-COM's annual Medical Mission to Ecuador proved to be yet another memorable experience for the 67 students, physicians, physician assistants, and volunteers who paid their own way to participate in the nine-day humanitarian outreach effort.

### **42 Research Fellowship Broadens Students' Horizons**

When research fellows Mete Akin and Katherine Quinones became the first students accepted into the college's Research Fellowship Program last year, they approached the opportunity with a great deal of enthusiasm—and a slight sense of trepidation.

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**N**ova Southeastern University provided planning efforts and expertise for the inaugural WPBT Channel 2 Elder Health Summit, which was held at the TV station's North Miami Beach studio. The summit, which focused on

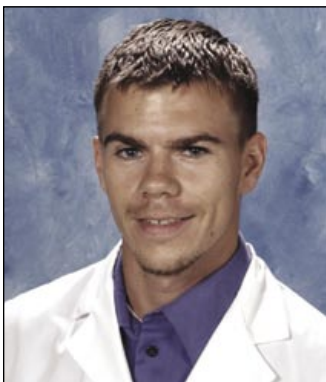
"Falls Prevention in Older Adults," was facilitated by Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, and Michelle Gagnon-Blodgett, Psy.D., HPD coordinator of geriatric clinical services. Drs. Pandya (left) and Gagnon-Blodgett worked closely with WPBT Channel 2 to plan and execute the event.

**T**he Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FSACOFP) was presented with the State Society of the Year Award at the ACOFP's 44th Annual Convention and Exhibition, which was held March 14-18 in Kissimmee, Florida. Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., FAAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME, serves as the current FSACOFP president.



**G**eorge L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief operating officer of Nova Southeastern University, was one of five high-profile individuals named as Broward County Leaders of the Year by the Leadership Broward Foundation. The honorees represent the county's legal, business, educational, medical, and charitable circles and will be

recognized at a November 16 ceremony at the Signature Grand banquet hall in Davie.



**M**2 student Joshua Green was the recent recipient of a \$1,000 Joe Vitale Memorial Scholarship Award from Broward Mensa for his 550-word essay that centered on the topic "Your Academic and Career Goals." Mensa is an international society whose sole requirement for membership is the ability to score among the top two percent of the general population on a standardized

IQ test. Broward Mensa is a local group within American Mensa, which is in turn a national group of Mensa International.



*Pictured (from left) are Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., and Dr. Mark Sandhouse at the AAO Convocation.*

**M**ark Sandhouse, D.O., associate professor of osteopathic manipulative medicine, and OPP fellow Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., along with several delegates from the NSU-COM Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy chapter, attended the 2007 American Academy of Osteopathy

Convocation, which was held March 21-27 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The national conference served as an opportunity for the attendees to learn and develop manipulation skills as practiced by the experts in the osteopathic medical field. In addition, Caban-Martinez coauthored and presented two research posters entitled "A Survey of Patient Medical Needs, Referring Health Professional, and Osteopathic Knowledge in an Osteopathic Outpatient Clinic" and "The Effect of Cranial Osteopathic Treatment on Visual Function."

## NSU-COM Students Showcase Altruism at Autism Walk

*By M2 Student Aaron Farmer*



**A**s the second year of medical school was coming to a close, most M2 students were thinking of one of two things—the upcoming boards or third-year rotations.

However, one group of motivated second-year students joined countless other volunteers at the Broward Walk Now for Autism Research, which was held April 21 at Nova Southeastern University's main campus. Throughout the morning, the M2 students, who were joined by two local high school volunteers and one M4 student, provided valuable information on nutrition and physical activity for children and ran the first-aid station for any minor incidents that might occur.

During the day, numerous activities took place such as hula-hoop contests, singing, and a special appearance by the Miami Heat cheerleaders and the Toys-R-Us mascot Jeffrey the Giraffe. The Broward Walk Now for Autism Research is an annual event, so if you are interested in volunteering next year, please go to [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) to find out how you can help.



Attendees at the check presentation included (from left) ACOFP President Emily Sutton, Jubilee Center Board Treasurer Joyce Burney, and ACOFP Treasurer Erin Hitchcock.

The student chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) recently raised \$1,100 from NSU Osteopathic Medicine shirt sales and donated the proceeds to The Jubilee Center of South Broward, Inc., which is a soup kitchen catering to needy individuals in the Hollywood area. The ACOFP, along with Sigma

Phi, served Thanksgiving dinner at the center last year and has launched a monthly program where medical students volunteer to serve lunch, pack hygiene packets, and prepare bagged meals.

## Student Trio Garners Burnell Research Award



Pictured (from left) are Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Rita Silverman, Dina Zaki, Ezmina Lalani, Jasmol Jayaprakash, and Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor and associate dean of education, planning, and research.

A deserving trio of second-year NSU-COM students—Jasmol Jayaprakash, Ezmina Lalani, and Dina Zaki—was presented with the Seventh Annual Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Award, which is presented to

NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science.

The three recipients, who will split the \$1,500 cash award and earn elective research credit on their transcripts, were honored for their research project entitled “The Safety and Efficacy of Bioidentical Hormones as Compared to Current Hormone Replacement Therapy to Treat Menopause.” Jayaprakash, Lalani, and Zaki conducted their research under the mentorship of Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, director of NSU’s Women’s Health Center, and Rita Silverman, M.P.S., NSU-COM director of clinical research.

The award was created in December 2000 when Dr. Burnell provided a \$50,000 endowment to the college for the purpose of recognizing student research. Following his death in 2005, Dr. Burnell’s will included a proviso that upped the endowment to \$125,000.



M4 student Shara Steiner Brody recently received the American Academy of Neurology Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology, which is awarded annually to a graduating medical student who exemplifies outstanding scientific achievement and clinical acumen in neurology or neuroscience and outstanding personal qualities of integrity, compassion, and leadership.

In addition, she presented her neurology clinical education research entitled “Implementation of the 2006 AAN Practice Guidelines as a Teaching Curriculum Improves Medical Student and Resident Evidence-Based Knowledge” in early May at the Academy of Neurology’s 59th Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.



In March, Howard Spector presented Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni with a check for \$10,000 that will be used to fund the David Spector Memorial Award, which was established in 2005 and is presented annually to a first- or second-year osteopathic medical

student who has participated in research pertaining to the prevention or treatment of substance abuse.

## Alvarez, Keller Receive Dr. Matthew Terry Scholarships



Roger Alvarez receives his scholarship award from Stanley Simpson, D.O., associate professor of family medicine.

On March 14, Stacey Keller (M1) and Roger Alvarez (M2) joined an illustrious group of previous winners when they were selected as recipients of the 2007 Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied

by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment serves as a fitting tribute to students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.



## Everyone's a Winner at "Be Smart, Don't Start" Antismoking Contest

By M2 Jessica Wilson-Chan and M1 Nat Kittisarapong



Pictured (from left) are Kayla Ramirez, Catherine Cho, Mary Jo Hernandez, Erin Maloney, and Kristi D'Agati.

The Third Annual "Be Smart, Don't Start" Antismoking Poster Contest, which was established by former SGA president and M4 student Dana Block, was held on the NSU-HPD campus on April 11. The contest was created to complement AHEC's

Smoking Cessation Program, which annually brings together Broward County middle schools with NSU-COM students in a joint effort to reinforce the dangers of smoking and tobacco use to the county's young adult population.

Each fall, M1 students from NSU-COM spend a day visiting middle schools in Broward County to educate young students on the dangers of tobacco use in support of the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout. The middle school students are then asked to design an antismoking poster following the classroom presentation for entry into the contest.

Nearly 100 posters were submitted this year, many of which displayed a creative use of mixed media, clever messages, and high levels of artistic ability. The 30 finalists were invited to the awards banquet, with the top-three winners receiving trophies and other great prizes. The winners, who all hailed from Pioneer Middle School in Cooper City, were

- Grand Prize: *Kristi D'Agati*
- First Runner-Up: *Erin Maloney*
- Second Runner-Up: *Catherine Cho*
- Third Runner-Up: *Kayla Ramirez*
- Teacher's Prize for Student Participation: *Mary Jo Hernandez*

The AHEC Program, Pizza Loft, Tijuana Flats, Crispers, Panera, Office Depot, Quarterdeck, Buca di Beppo, Costco, and Lou Scalia's Pro Shops and Awards provided prizes and catering.

In addition, NSU-COM student volunteers spent countless hours coordinating, soliciting sponsors, and running the contest and banquet. Current SGA Treasurer Jessica Wilson-Chan coordinated the event with able assistance from Nat Kittisarapong, Xiomara Richardson, Roger Alvarez, Sean Horan, Danielle Freeman, Vernon Lawrence, Kylee Eagles, Andrew Hein, Paul Thompson, and Dave Magness.



The International Professionals Student Association (IPSA) coordinated its annual culture show this spring, which was held to benefit the Tafi Atome Project in Ghana that was

established through the efforts of Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP. IPSA President Long Nguyen planned and directed the event, while M2 student Terry Moy-Brown directed the fashion show portion. "It was a fun night featuring everything from Latin dancing to fashion to great food from all over the world," said Moy-Brown. "Best of all, it was for a great cause."

## Kaminski Earns Second David Spector Memorial Award



Donna Kaminski (second from left) receives congratulations from Raymond Ferrero III, J.D., assistant professor of family medicine, Howard Spector, and Nancy Fagin.

M2 student Donna Kaminski was a repeat recipient of the David Spector Memorial Award, which was presented in March at a special ceremony held in the HPD's Steele Auditorium.

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

Kaminski, who worked in a substance-abuse program before matriculating at NSU-COM, has maintained that interest by playing an active role in the steering committee that established the college's Addiction Medicine Interest Group. As president of the organization, Kaminski has created monthly journal and discussion activities for the 35 or so members.

## Dana Block Wins NSU Student of the Year Stuey

### Dr. Ross Zafonte Collects Alumnus of the Year Accolade



Dana Block receives her Student of the Year Award from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.

■ 4 student Dana Block and 1985 NSU-COM alumnus Ross Zafonte, D.O., were two of the big winners at the Eighth Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards, which were held on April 17 at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on campus. The Stueys serve as a celebration of NSU's best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and responsibility.

Block was honored as NSU Student of the Year, which marks the first time a College of Osteopathic Medicine matriculant has received this honor, while Dr. Zafonte was named as NSU's Alumnus of the Year. Earlier in 2007, Dr. Zafonte was the recipient of the NSU-COM Distinguished Alumni Award at the Ninth Annual NSU Celebration of Excellence event. The College of Osteopathic Medicine earned six overall nominations in the Student Life Achievement Award balloting, including acknowledgment in the following categories:

#### Executive of the Year

*Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.*  
Assistant Dean for  
Preclinical Education

#### Cocurricular Advisor of the Year

*Gary Hill, D.O.*  
Assistant Professor of  
Internal Medicine

#### Administrator of the Year

*Scott Colton*  
Director of  
Medical Communications

#### Student Government of the Year

NSU-COM SGA

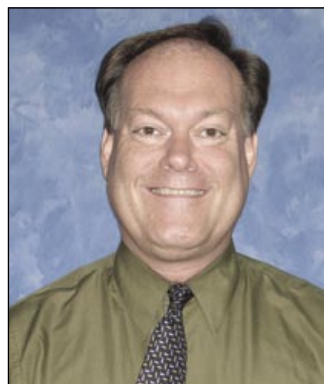


Dana Block

Scott Colton

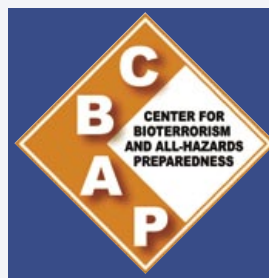
Dr. Wilkinson

Dr. Hill



■ The class of 2009 overwhelmingly chose David Boesler, D.O., associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice, as its recipient of the Golden Apple Award for the 2006-2007 academic year. He garnered the award by accumulating more votes than all other candidates combined—a testament to his students' appreciation of his dedication to their education. Dr. Boesler, who is considered a masterful lecturer as well as a consistently excellent lab professor, administered a COMLEX OPP review seminar that was of inestimable value to his students and provided ongoing support through regular emails containing board-style review questions.

## CBAP Set to Unveil Intermediate-Level Course



■ The college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) will soon be unveiling its Intermediate Course, which is defined by needs assessment and follows competency and best-practice standards. The course will be available to various

health professionals and workers such as physicians, dentists, podiatrists, nurses, pharmacists, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants. It also includes training that complies with the type indicated in the Homeland Security's National Response Plan. All courses build on an individual's ability, given his or her competency level, to

- recognize the effects of an all-hazards event
- appropriately treat individuals affected while protecting self
- participate appropriately, rapidly, and effectively in an interdisciplinary team response to save lives and prevent further harmful effects
- alert the system(s) to accurately inform the public and those affected and to obtain the needed assistance and resources necessary to respond

The course also will include content on conflict resolution since recent events involving disasters have clearly demonstrated the need for systemic understandings and approaches to conflict and the need for conflict management planning.

To learn more about the CBAP and its free courses, please call (954) 262-1688 or peruse its Web site at [www.nova.edu/allhazards](http://www.nova.edu/allhazards).





**T**hanks to the much-appreciated support she received from NSU-COM and its AHEC Program, M2 student Donna Kaminski was able to present three posters at the

18th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm held May 13-17 in Warsaw, Poland. Her posters dealt with the topics “Students Reaching Students: One Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Model Uses Medical Students to Reach Middle School-Aged Children,” “Medical Students Address Lack of Substance Use Curricula by Development of an Innovative, Low-Cost Model,” and “Hearing the Needs of HIV/HCV Co-Infected Individuals: One Program Develops Curriculum to Integrate Co-Infection Treatment Issues and Safer Injection Practices.”

**N**NSU-COM’s Department of Geriatrics joined forces with the Florida Geriatrics Society on April 21 to host a joint annual meeting on the NSU-HPD campus. Approximately 75 health professionals, including medical students, attended the event that featured topics such as “Anemia in the Elderly” and “Frailty in Older Individuals.” According to Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, “Response to the lectures was very positive, and it was an exciting opportunity for the participants to network since they are all involved in elder care.”



**I**n May, the Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education (PBCGME), which is a member of the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, held an

operating room practicum for its surgery residents. During the practicum, surgical attendings, residents, and operating room staff conducted mock surgeries, practiced setting up equipment, and reviewed safety procedures such as marking surgical sites. Skills were developed in preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative areas. The PBCGME is also launching emergency medicine training with four entering interns who will track into the center’s new emergency medicine residency program. In addition to emergency medicine, the PBCGME currently operates osteopathic residency programs in internal medicine, dermatology, pediatrics, and general surgery.

## NSU-COM, Dental School Launch D.O./D.M.D. Collaborative Program



In order to address the access to care issue and meet the needs of underserved populations, NSU-COM and the College of Dental Medicine have structured a curriculum that provides students with an opportunity to receive a D.M.D. (Doctor of Dental Medicine) and D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) degree. The D.O./D.M.D. Collaborative Degree Program is symbiotic with the missions of both schools, and in particular, the philosophy of an osteopathic physician. Graduates of this dual program will prepare health care practitioners to utilize a totally holistic approach to health care that will address preventive medicine and general dentistry, as well as access to care issues, and meet the needs of the underserved.

Once students complete this six-year program, they will be qualified for licensure in dentistry and for postgraduate one-year residencies that are required prior to medical licensure. Interested individuals can apply to the NSU medical or dental schools through their respective centralized application service (AACOMAS or AADSAS) and must be accepted by the college they applied to in order to be considered for the D.O./D.M.D. Collaborative Degree Program. Only a select number of motivated students who have attained the highest academic standards and embody the spirit of this collaborative initiative will be considered.

Upon acceptance, the D.O./D.M.D. Collaborative Degree Program Oversight Committee, consisting of faculty members from the College of Dental Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine, will advise and monitor program matriculants. Should a student elect not to continue in the collaborative program, he/she can only continue on a track to complete the degree program into which that individual was initially accepted. Similarly, if a student wishes to continue in the program in which he/she was not initially accepted, the matriculant must submit a new admission application to that program, which follows the standards and guidelines as stated in the specific NSU brochure and catalog.

NSU continues to be on the cutting edge of curriculum development when it comes to graduating future health care professionals, such as dentists and physicians, who can address access to care in the most holistic—and compassionate—manner possible.

## NSU/FOMA Health Fair Provides Essential Community Outreach



Pictured (from left) are health fair coordinators Bill McCoy (M3), Louis Riccardo (M1), Dr. Siano (health fair director), Lior Shamai, D.O., and Chinh Van, D.O.

Since its inception in 2001, the NSU/FOMA Community Health Fair has evolved into a highly anticipated multidisciplinary event that provides area residents with an opportunity to receive free health screenings and education about healthy eating and exercise from a host of Health Professions Division students and faculty members.

This year's health fair, which was held at the Tower Shops/Home Depot Plaza in Davie, proved to be yet another resounding success as physicians, pharmacists, optometrists, physical therapists, dentists, and other community health care providers staffed the booths and provided information on topics ranging from family medicine and pediatrics to public health. The attendees, which included a mix of children and adults, also benefited from vision, blood pressure, dental, and diabetes screenings.

"Visitors to the event were provided with a wonderful opportunity to speak to health professionals from a variety of disciplines—free of cost," said Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who serves as HPD executive dean for professional affairs. "We are very pleased that each year the event has grown in terms of the number of families who attend and in terms of the community partners we are able to attract."

"Dr. Morris and myself created this health fair when I was a second-year medical student at NSU-COM as part of an event for the FOMA Student District Society," said Christopher Siano, D.O., M.P.H., FAAP, who graduated from NSU-COM in 2003. "We wanted to give something back to our local community where we work and live everyday. It originally started out quite small, but it has developed into a multidisciplinary health fair providing health screenings for approximately 1,000 patients."

In addition to the health care components, including two onsite bloodmobiles, parents were able to visit the Davie Police Department booth and register their children to receive a safety ID. Firefighters from the Davie Fire Department were also on hand to greet children and give them a rare opportunity to talk with some true local heroes. The attendees were also entertained by a DJ who spun tunes throughout the day, a bounce house, and a Davie-style barbecue—all of which provided fun for the entire family.



Three students Melissa Hartman (left) and Melchiorra Mangiarcina each received a \$5,000 cash award and a commemorative plaque on May 30 as recipients of the Florida Hospital-East

Orlando Osteopathic Foundation Academic Scholarship Family Medicine Residency Program for demonstrating excellence in leadership and academics. The scholarship is awarded to third-year core medical students from NSU-COM based on criteria such as exemplary grade-point average, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and curriculum vitae.

## Five NSU-COM Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residents Pass Board Exams



Five NSU-COM/Palm Beach County Health Department Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program

D.O. graduates passed their AOA board exams for public health/community medicine that were held on March 10.

- *Joanna Drowos, D.O., M.P.H.*, completed the residency in 2006 and is presently completing a second residency in the field of family medicine.

- *Isaac Kwarteng, D.O., Ph.D., M.P.H.*, completed the residency in 2004 and is working in the field of public health at the Good Shepherd Family Health Center in Carthage, Texas.

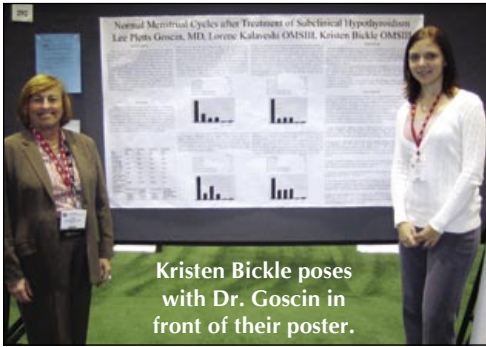
- *Susan Lan, D.O., M.P.H.*, a 2005 residency graduate, works as the center medical director at the Concentra Littleton Clinic in Littleton, Colorado, in the field of occupational medicine.

- *Melissa Overman, D.O., M.P.H.*, a 2006 residency graduate, is the center director for the Lantana/Lake Worth Health Center for the Palm Beach County Health Department.

- *Christopher Perkins, D.O., M.P.H.*, graduated from the residency program in 2003 and is currently working in the field of public health at the Good Shepherd Family Health Center in Carthage, Texas.

Drs. Drowos, Kwarteng, and Overman are also graduates of the NSU-COM Master of Public Health Program.





Kristen Bickle poses with Dr. Goscin in front of their poster.

**M**3 students Kristen Bickle and Kathryn Rooth presented poster projects at the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists' 16th Annual Meeting and Clinical Congress held April 11-15 in

Seattle, Washington. Bickle's project, which was coauthored by fellow M3 student Lorenc Kalaveshi and Lee Goscin, M.D., was entitled "Normal Menstrual Cycles After Treatment of Subclinical Hypothyroidism." Rooth's paper, which was also coauthored with Dr. Goscin, was titled "Delayed Progression of Diabetic Nephropathy by TZD, Metformin, and Ramipril."



**D**avid Lawrence, Jr., who served as publisher of the *Miami Herald* in the 1990s, was the recipient of the Fourth Annual NSU-COM Pediatrics Club Arnold Melnick Child Advocate Award, which is named in honor of Arnold Melnick, D.O., the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, for his lifelong commitment to child advocacy. Lawrence was honored

for serving as a key figure in passing a statewide constitutional amendment to provide high-quality pre-K availability for all four-year-olds. Pictured at the award ceremony are Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, David Lawrence, Jr., and M2 student David Jabs, Pediatrics Club president.



**O**PP fellow Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., was awarded third place in the Louisa Burns, D.O. Research Competition for his presentation on "The Effect of Cranial Osteopathic Treatment on Visual Function," which was conducted with Dr.

Mark Sandhouse. In addition, he was appointed as a student representative to the AAO Neuromuscular Medicine Certification Committee. Caban-Martinez also attended the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's Health Conference, which was held May 5-8 in New Orleans, Louisiana. During the conference, he received a Resident Research Award for the work he presented on "Improvement in Health Disparities in U.S. Workers' Cancer Screenings."

## NSU-HPD Hosts Healthy Aging Expo



**T**he Health Professions Division and its Senior Services Team hosted the Second Annual NSU Healthy Aging Expo on March 11, which was sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and WPBT Channel 2.

Approximately 350 people attended the free event, which provided information, lectures, health screenings, and raffle prizes.

The expo, under the leadership of Michelle Gagnon-Blodgett, Psy.D., HPD coordinator of geriatric clinical services, sought to educate attendees about aging-related health care resources, provide healthy-aging information, and promote a wellness approach to encourage optimal aging and quality of life. To assist with the event, many members of the NSU faculty, staff, and student body came out to participate. Colleges and programs represented included osteopathic medicine, optometry, allied health and nursing, dental medicine, pharmacy, medical sciences, and many others.

During the expo, Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, who serves as chair of NSU-COM's Department of Geriatrics, gave a lecture on sleep and sexuality for seniors, while Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., project manager of the college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, spoke about personal emergency preparedness.



**D**anielle Thomas, D.O., who is currently an intern in the Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency Program at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, was the recipient of the 2006-2007 Outstanding House Staff Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Thomas was honored for doing an exceptional job of teaching the NSU-COM third-year medical students who do their core rotations at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

## Students Share Selective Rotation Experiences



Barbara and Christopher Piromalli (middle) thoroughly enjoyed their time in India.

To enrich the NSU - COM educational experience, fourth-year students are allowed to participate in a one-month national or international selective rural/underserved

rotation. In 2007, a number of students elected to travel to international locales such as East Africa, Syria, Brazil, India, Africa, China, Amsterdam, Colombia, and Iran to satisfy their rural rotation requirements.

### Jamkhed, India

In March, M4 students Barbara and Christopher Piromalli traveled to a small town in India to conduct a memorable one-month rural selective clinical rotation at the Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamkhed. "We spent an amazing month working with Dr. Shobha Arole and learning how to practice rural medicine in a developing country," said Barbara, who worked alongside her husband at several village clinics and a village hospital. "We were able to assist with surgeries and share the philosophies and practices of osteopathic medicine. The health care providers were very excited about manipulation and incorporating it into their practices. Many of the patients we treated were able to benefit from OMM, and we were able to teach the physician, health care staff, and village health workers some OMM techniques during our stay."

### Bucaramanga, Colombia

By M4 Student Joanna Wahl

In April, I had the unique opportunity of doing my rural selective rotation in Bucaramanga, Colombia, which was very significant due to the fact that I was born in Colombia and had always wanted to have an educational experience there. I was assisted in this plan with the amazing help of UNAB (Universidad



Joanna Wahl (right) poses with intern Fanny Millan during her international rotation.

Autonoma de Bucaramanga), which facilitated all the details of my rotation and allowed me to work in one of its teaching hospitals named FOS-CAL (Fundacion Oftalmologica de Santander-Clinica Carlos Ardila Lulle).

It was an incredible experience in all aspects because I was able to learn and practice medical Spanish, and under the supervision of excellent attendings, I also was allowed to assist in the decisions of all patients. The interns took me under their wing and allowed me to handle the responsibilities I was comfortable with and capable of doing. I was able to experience how Colombian doctors utilize their resources for the most effective treatment possible despite the battles with national health care and insurance. I was also able to attend a symposium on thyroid disorder and various lectures on dermatology, HIV/AIDS, and the Colombian health care system.

The interns and students were extremely kind and welcoming to me, and I will never forget their patience as I became proficient in medical Spanish and their willingness to always help me learn something new every day. I hope that many other M4s will take the opportunity to go abroad to do a rural selective because it helps one to appreciate what we have here and also to become creative in solving problems with other methods that we may not have thought about.

## Zafonte Society Wins Inaugural COM CUP Challenge



When all figures were tabulated following the first COM CUP Challenge, which was held April 10 in front of the NSU Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology

Center, the Ross Zafonte, D.O., Academical Society emerged as the winner of the inaugural 10-society event.

With the implementation of academical societies last year, the COM CUP Challenge was created to assist with building a sense of community within each society. Throughout the year, COM CUP contests were sponsored by each society to earn points toward winning the COM CUP. The April 10 finale, which featured a barbecue and a live DJ spinning tunes, consisted of both academic and athletic events such as a trivia quiz, dodge ball, and tug of war. Another novel event component was the Pin the Mustache on the Dean contest, where blindfolded participants tried to place a mustache on several large photos of Dr. Silvagni.

The triumphant Zafonte Society's prize was a private party hosted at Dr. Silvagni's home and a chance to win a day trip on his boat.



## AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat Educates Attendees in Idyllic Locale



On June 8-10, a large contingent of physicians and their family members participated in the college's AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat, which was held at the Lago Mar Resort Hotel & Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The retreat, which helps extend academic resources to rural safety net sites within AHEC's 19-county service area, brings NSU-COM faculty members together with primary care physicians from various community health centers to provide continuing education on vital public health issues.

The retreat provides attendees with a relaxed, informal setting in which to earn continuing medical education credits and explore ways of addressing primary care workforce needs in medically needy communities throughout South and Central Florida. It also serves as a fitting way to express gratitude to the numerous statewide preceptors who take time out of their busy schedules to work with NSU-COM students during their mandatory three-month clinical rotations in rural medicine.

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

- "Physician's Role in the Care of Children with Chronic Disease" – Edward Packer, D.O.
- "Challenges and Opportunities: A Review of Correctional Medicine" – John May, M.D., Diane Rehtine, M.D., Paul Roberts, D.O., and David Thomas, M.D., J.D.
- "The Use of Simulation in Health Care Education" – Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., Loretta Graham, Ph.D., Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., Stanley Simpson, D.O., Wendy Thomson, R.N., and Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.
- "Florida Patient Safety Corporation" – Susan Moore and Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



## \$80,000 Raised at "Fore the Kids" Golf Classic



On May 4, the Third Annual Fort Lauderdale Country Club "Fore The Kids: Saving Lives" Charity Golf Classic raised \$80,000 for the cause of studying and reducing child drowning in South Florida. This represents a \$30,000 increase over last year's

event and an amazing \$68,000 jump from the first event in 2005.

More than 100 golfers participated in the tournament, and numerous volunteers from NSU and the Fort Lauderdale Country Club pitched in to lend a hand with the event. As a way of joining in Fleet Week fun and honoring America's servicemen and women, local businesses sponsored six sailors from the USS Kearsarge and four members of the U.S. Coast Guard stationed in Miami.

"The event serves as a beautiful example of public dedication and community celebration of exceptional accomplishments achieved by good Samaritans as well as future works we will perform together to reach our common goal of zero drowning deaths of children in South Florida," said Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy. "It does our hearts good to know that through the community's generosity and volunteerism, thousands of targeted vulnerable Broward and Miami-Dade families will be offered critically important prevention education of first-aid/choking/CPR instruction and water safety lessons."

## Academical Societies Introduce Excellence in Mentoring Program



**T**hirty outstanding students from the class of 2010 have been selected to participate in the inaugural 2007 Excellence in Mentoring Program (EMP) sponsored by NSU-COM's academical societies. M2 students Rami Heart and Katherine Lumpkin, former co-directors of the mentoring program, designed the mentoring project along with Dr. Bart Whitehead and Roxanne Bamond of student counseling to provide better peer support resources for NSU-COM students.

M1 students James Spendley and Corey Chartan will head the program for the 2007-2008 academic year. The program's mission is to provide much-needed emotional support for incoming students and develop the counseling and communication skills of these physicians in training. Peer mentors will attend a series of training sessions on topics such as "Stress Management," "How to Identify a Troubled Student," and "Medical Professionalism." This honor comes with a three-year commitment to maintain their mentoring relationships with the incoming class and to remain active in their academical societies. This commitment will be recognized with a commendation of Excellence in Mentoring on their official transcript. Residency programs will be assured that these students have a concern for colleagues as well as patients.

In addition to the second-year students selected, 10 students from the class of 2009 and 4 students from the class of 2008 have also been chosen. The EMP is a layered program that will provide support from first to fourth year with the hope that the NSU community will strengthen its connections across classes and provide resources specific to the issues of that medical school year. For instance, the third-year students will be trained in the ERAS residency application system and elective rotations.

Many students mention they would like someone to talk to as they work through the emotional, academic, and personal challenges of medical school. Students come to medical school with a wide variety of support systems in place. For example, some have families in the area and may not be in need of a mentor, while others are in need of someone to reach out to them and tell them they can make it through. It is the mission of the EMP to reach out to all students so they will know their mentor by name and always have a resource available to them from orientation through graduation—and beyond.

## Eye on AHEC

■ The Florida AHEC Network has been selected by the Florida Legislature to receive an additional appropriation of \$10 million to utilize its well recognized and extensive academic/community partnerships and experience in tobacco cessation and prevention programming to play a major role in the state's new Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Education Program. This program is being developed in accordance with the new constitutional amendment that was approved by Florida voters in 2006. As a result, NSU-COM's AHEC Program will be working with its medical school partners and the Florida Department of Health to bring tobacco prevention education to all of Florida's 67 counties.

■ Through its Tobacco Prevention/Cessation Project, nearly 50 additional NSU nursing students received training in this critical disease prevention area, bringing the total number of HPD students trained about tobacco cessation in the past year to nearly 800. The nursing students then provided tobacco prevention education to over 1,800 children in 14 public elementary schools in Broward County. To date, this AHEC initiative has trained over 2,300 osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, and nursing students in Broward, Palm Beach, and Seminole counties—as well as Puerto Rico—and has impacted over 100,000 schoolchildren.

## SGA Report

### Incoming officers

President: *Roger Alvarez (M2)*

Vice President: *Jessica Hilst (M1)*

Treasurer: *Srinivas Rajendran (M1)*

### Club of the Year

**C**ongratulations to the Student Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (SAOG). This year, there were several club nominations and a number of very active organizations. However, the SAOG stood above the rest, especially with its activities and involvement during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The club was involved in various fundraising events and invited breast cancer survivors to speak to the students. M2 student Jessica Fischetti is the club's president, and Dr. Daniel Barkus serves as faculty advisor.

### COSGP Final Meeting

**T**he Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) held its final meeting for the 2006-2007 school year, which took place following D.O. Day on the Hill in Washington, DC. The COSGP had several important speakers at the meetings, including representatives from AMSA, NBOME, and ERAS.

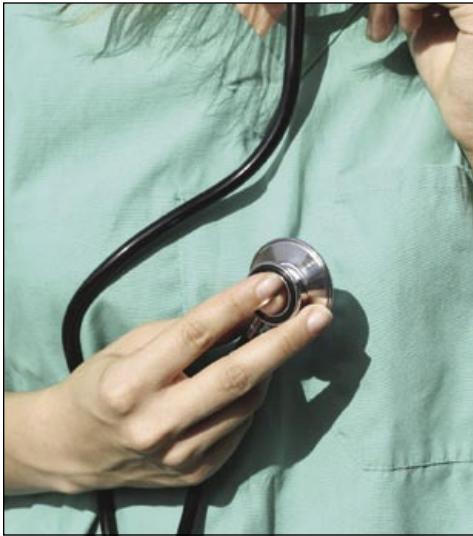
### Residency Seminar

**D**r. Joseph De Gaetano, along with fourth-year students and interns, spoke with students regarding the match and residency programs. An open panel was held for students to have the opportunity to ask questions, while a catered reception that followed the seminar allowed them to interact individually with the speakers.



## Preventive Medicine Residents Play Active Role at National Conference

By Jose de la Llana, M.D., and Robert Lovinger, M.D., FAAP, FACE,  
Research and Program Development Director, Palm Beach County Health Department



**A**t the annual conference of the American College of Preventive Medicine in Miami last February, the Palm Beach County Health Department, NSU-COM, and the Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program were well represented by

- Jean Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM, who serves as director of the Palm Beach County Health Department and chair of the NSU-COM Department of Preventive Medicine
- Robert Lovinger, M.D., research and program development director
- six current preventive medicine residents
- several recent graduates of the residency program

Dr. Malecki and Melissa Overman, D.O., M.P.H., a recent graduate of the program and the medical director of the Lantana/Lake Worth Health Center, gave presentations on the necessity of psychological preparedness for disaster response workers. With

the Florida Department of Health's 17,000 employees responding to natural disasters throughout the state, the duo emphasized that preparing for natural disasters involves not only physical preparations and planning but also psychological preparedness.

In regard to securing the nation's health against a pandemic flu outbreak, Dr. Malecki also presented the roles and functions of local government in preparing for a pandemic flu outbreak and the prevention of its spread.

Joanna Drowos, D.O., M.P.H., a graduate from NSU-COM and the Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program and a current resident in the family practice residency at Broward General Medical Center, took time out of her busy schedule to present a poster abstract of her research on provider opinions and practices in managing postpartum depression. Her research revealed certain trends, including the number of providers who reported they had never received training pertaining to postpartum depression. Dr. Drowos found significant relationships between certain variables, including provider gender and general beliefs about postpartum depression, as well as between specialty practiced and personal attitudes toward postpartum depression.

Current residents and M.P.H. students Hossein Farsad, M.D., and Jose de la Llana, M.D., presented their poster abstract on the association of age, gender, and treatment outcome among patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the skin in Florida. Their study showed that patients undergoing radiation plus

adjuvant therapy are 2.61 times more likely to die than patients undergoing surgery plus adjuvant therapy.

Sherman Jew, D.O., presented his poster abstract on the factors associated with potentially inappropriate antibiotic use in the treatment of respiratory-tract conditions. His study showed that out of 9.6 million patient visits to osteopathic physicians for URTIs between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 2001, in the United States, 56.4 percent (5.41 million) were prescribed antibiotics. It also showed that among patients with concurrent medical conditions such as acute bronchitis, otitis media, pharyngitis, sinusitis, or asthma, patients requiring additional medications for their symptoms were more likely to be given antibiotics.

We are pleased to report that the programs included in the conference were of tremendous value, both scientifically and to our own future achievement in this important but underserved field of medicine.



# Looking Back...at Faculty Foibles (Fables?)



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

Every aspect of the development and growth of the College of Osteopathic Medicine produced its share of interesting emotions. Very often, when looked at through the microscope of time, many that appeared to be disturbing or even world shattering now blend into humorous anecdotes or pleasant nostalgia.

Take a few faculty stories.

During our very first semester, a group of female students came to my office to protest—complaining that a faculty member, while projecting chest X rays, slipped in a photograph of a bare-chested woman. (It was common in the 1980s, and before then, for lecturers to slip a pornographic slide into the middle of a lecture “to keep listeners awake” and “to heighten their interest.”)

I immediately summoned the lecturer to my office. I explained about feminine rights and sensitivity and equality. He said he understood and would comply. The very next lecture was followed by another student complaint. I sent for him again. “But I gave them equality,” he protested strongly. “I showed a bare-chested man at the same time.” Again, I made the school’s policy very clear. I don’t know whether he really understood, but it never happened again.

Moving a school from one building to another is always a major undertaking. Our first “home” was in the abandoned nursing home directly across the street from the Southeastern Medical Center (formerly Osteopathic General Hospital) on 168th Street in North Miami Beach. When the medical center moved out, we relocated into the empty hospital building.

However, just changing operations from one side of 168th Street to the other had our heads spinning with logistical problems. During this hectic time, as I was going across to a class, a faculty member beleaguered me with, “You know, the toilet in our department doesn’t work properly and needs to be fixed” in a continuous chant from the lobby, to the sidewalk, to the street. Ironically, in the old building, the department did not even have its own toilet. In the middle of the street, I stopped dead, frustrated and

angry, and replied, “I told you it would be fixed. I’m a cheap ‘one’ but not a stupid ‘one’”—or words to that effect. He finally gave up, and the toilet was fixed the next day.

Mort Terry and I were adamant about compulsory attendance for our students, and we insisted that instructors call roll. We learned that one teacher was not doing it, so I invited him to my office. I explained, “It doesn’t matter what your personal views are on attendance—in this school, instructors must call roll.” Reluctantly, he agreed.

The following session he walked into the lecture hall, took his place at the rostrum, cupped his hand aside his mouth, and shouted “Roll.” He then told the students he was following the dean’s instruction—he had “called roll.” Of course, I had to “explain” it to him. By the way, guess which class had the most absentees until he was forced to “call roll?”

Lest anyone get the idea that only faculty provided memorable moments, let me tell you about the tale Dr. Stan Cohen likes to tell about me (and with good reason). It was in the days when Dr. Terry and I scrutinized every expense voucher and every request for funds. Stan put in a requisition for a box of a dozen pencils (that’s how they come packed). I called him to my office. “Stan,” I asked, “why do you need this?” He replied, “Many times, I do work where I need pencils, and I don’t have any.”

My next question was, “How many pencils can you use at any one time?” Of course, he said, “One.” “Fine,” I ruled, “I’m ordering one pencil for you.” Stan and I still laugh at that incident, but it was part of our operational scheme to watch every penny—and maybe that’s why we could accumulate enough dollars to finance our great expansion and growth. But meanwhile, I think Stan has moved on to his second pencil.

It’s with great affection that I look back on some of these incidents—even though some were upsetting at the time. And I will always be appreciative of the wonderful role our faculty members have played in our development.



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





**S**tanley L. Simpson, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, who has been a member of the NBOME Level 2 Board Review Committee for the past eight years, attended a meeting in Chicago Illinois, in April to help review all new questions for the COMLEX Level 2 examination given to all third-year osteopathic medical students. He also attended a meeting regarding the COMLEX PE exam that was held in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, on March 30 and participated in the Second World Medical Conference in late April in Cancun, Mexico, where doctors from around the world discussed medical issues related to boxing and martial arts and made recommendations to the various commissions.



**D**eborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy, is involved with an important project called the "Broward and Miami-Dade County Drowning Prevention Campaign for Children Under Age Five Public Awareness Study" that is being funded through the Florida Department of Health. The study's purpose is to assess conceptual frameworks that families use to think about prevention. This includes awareness of drowning prevention practices and campaigns in Florida, barriers to preparedness, motivators for prevention practices, and what families are not doing and why.



**S**usan Ledbetter, D.O., assistant professor of geriatrics, has been asked to serve on the standard-setting panel for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE (performance evaluation/clinical skills examination component to the NBOME's Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination). She was also appointed to the ACOFP Task Force on Residency Program Development Committee.



**C**ecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., executive director of education, planning, and research and project manager of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP), appeared on the Health Professions Division's cable TV program *Dateline Health* along with Dr. James Howell to discuss the CBAP as well as preparedness issues for the consumer. She served on the Planning Committee for the NSU Glass Garden by Dale Chihuly that was unveiled on April 26 in the atrium of the Alvin Sherman Library and was invited to speak at the International Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences Annual Meeting in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where she lectured on "Emergency Preparedness: A New Reality for the American Public."



**S**teven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., who serves as associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director, was recently honored by the organizing committees of the Belle Glade and Clewiston community health fairs for his leadership and commitment to providing health services to the citizens of the Glades region.



**A**nthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP dist., recently received his designation as a distinguished fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP). The honor was presented during the organization's Annual Conclave of Fellows Awards Banquet that was held during the ACOFP 44th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Kissimmee, Florida, last March. The Distinguished Fellow Award honors exceptional members of the Conclave of Fellows and is presented to fellows who have exhibited exemplary service to the ACOFP by attendance, as well as support of the governance and committee structures both locally and nationally. Dr. Silvagni has been actively involved with the ACOFP since 1979 and is a past president of the Florida Society of the ACOFP. He was also named as 2007 Alumnus of the Year by his alma mater—Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.



**J**ames Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, was the recipient of the Palm Beach County Medical Society Heroes in Medicine Award in the "Professional Hero" category. The accolade, which was presented to Dr. Howell during an awards luncheon in April, served as a fitting way to honor him for his distinguished four-decade career as both an advocate and leader in the public health field.

**P**ablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., FAAFP, associate professor and assistant dean of clinical operations, was recently accorded the status of fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

**I**n March, Governor Charlie Crist appointed Michael A. Chizner, M.D., clinical professor of internal medicine, to the Florida Board of Medicine, which establishes licensing regulations, provides certification for physicians and physician assistants, and has the authority to impose penalties for licensing violations.

**S**amuel Snyder, D.O., FACOI, FASN, FACP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, presented the leadoff lecture on "Hypertension Update 2007" at the Western States Osteopathic Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, to an audience of about 450 physicians.

# Faculty Focus



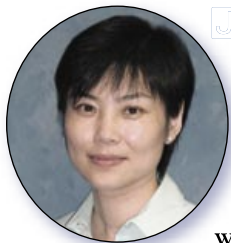
**M**orton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who serves as HPD executive dean for professional affairs, was a guest speaker at the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics 47th Annual Postgraduate Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia, where he discussed "Ways to Diminish Liability in Your Office." He also

presented a lecture for 50 residents in March on "Medical Jurisprudence" at the Broward Residency Meeting at University Park Plaza.



**N**aushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, presented lectures on "Weight Loss" and "Care of the Hospitalized Elderly" to NSU-COM's family medicine residents. In addition, she lectured to an advisory group in Chicago, Illinois, on "Diabetes in Long-Term

Care," discussed "Successful Aging" for the Senior Citizens Islamic Society, and presented three seminars at the American Medical Directors Association national meeting in Hollywood, Florida, on "Implementation of Clinical Practice Guidelines," "Case-Based Approach to Osteoporosis," and "Optimal Management of Diabetes in Long-Term Care."



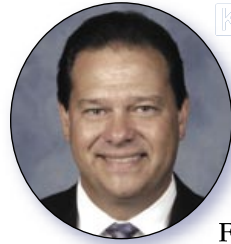
**J**ennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., professor of public health and director of biomedical informatics, was selected as a peer reviewer for the American Medical Association's journal *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. In addition, she was appointed to the Occupational Therapy

Standards Committee of the International Commission on Healthcare Professionals. In April, Dr. Lou made a presentation on "Exploring Health Care Access Needs in Underserved Rural Villages in Jamaica" at the Fourth Annual International Health Conference at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California. She also made a presentation in May on "Evaluation of Nursing-Specific Drug Information References for PDAs" at the American Medical Informatics Association Spring Conference in Orlando, Florida.



**R**obert Oller, D.O., who serves as CEO of NSU's Division of Clinical Operations, and Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP dist., were named as Heavy Hitters in Health Care in the March 30-April 5 issue of the *South Florida Business Journal*.

In addition, Dr. Oller served on the Program Planning Committee for the 16th annual conference on Diabetes Mellitus in the Primary Care Setting that was presented by the American Diabetes Association on March 16 at the Hyatt/James L. Knight Center in Miami, Florida.



**K**enneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of NSU's Women's Health Center, was a quoted expert in the article entitled "The Fertility Factor: Some Reproductive Alternatives" that was published in the February/March issue of *CitySmart Magazine*.

He was also featured on Miami's WPLG/Local 10 news telecast to discuss the Tafi Atome Clinic Project, which is coordinated through International Health Initiatives, Inc. The goal is to establish a health care center in the village of Tafi Atome, Ghana, which will provide primary care services to the underserved community and surrounding villages.



**R**obert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, and Dr. Kenneth Johnson served as National Women's Health Week presenters in May for the Motorola Women's Business Council at the company's corporate headquarters in Plantation, Florida. Dr. Johnson discussed breast cancer issues while

Dr. Hasty addressed the topic of heart disease in women.



**E**dward E. Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, made several presentations to Florida school nurses in Leon and Suwannee counties on "Dealing with the Psychosocial Aspects of Children During and Following Disasters" for the

college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness. He also participated in the COMLEX Level II Questions Review Committee meeting in Chicago, Illinois, and was a featured guest on the HPD cable TV program *Dateline Health*, where he discussed "Pediatric Access to Care."



**K**hin Tu, M.D., associate professor of anatomy, spent much of the month of May on a lecture tour in Burma and Thailand. While in Thailand, he visited Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University and lectured on the topics "Teaching of Anatomy in Some American Schools," "The Cadaver as the

Medical Student's First Patient," and "What Is an Osteopathic Physician?" He also took part in a panel discussion with experts from the World Health Organization on "Production of Plates and Screws from Cadaveric Bone" at the National Biomaterials Center. During his stay in Burma, Dr. Tu presented a lecture on "Minimally Invasive Total Knee Replacement" to orthopedic surgeons at the National Orthopedic Center.







Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., who serves as special assistant to the chancellor and AHEC special programs coordinator, was recognized in the *Who's Who Most Influential African Americans in South Florida* publication. Dr. Foster was also featured in the "Salute to Minorities" section that appeared in a recent issue of *South Florida Hospital News*.

## Faculty Farewells



Dr. Ginter

Five faculty members, who served as a valued part of the NSU-COM academic team for a combined 49 years, recently left the college to pursue other ventures—Camille Bentley, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP, Joseph Stasio, D.O., FACOFP, Loretta Graham, Ph.D., Joel Spalter, M.D., and Elisa Ginter, D.O. Drs. Bentley, Graham, and Stasio left NSU-COM to accept positions at the new Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Aurora, Colorado, while Dr. Spalter is embracing semiretirement in order to spend more time with his family. Dr. Ginter left the field of medical academia to accept a private-practice position in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

### Length of NSU-COM Service

- Dr. Stasio – 15 years
- Dr. Ginter – 10 years
- Dr. Bentley – 12 years
- Dr. Spalter – 6 years
- Dr. Graham – 6 years



Dr. Bentley    Dr. Stasio    Dr. Graham    Dr. Spalter

## Faculty Photo Gallery Senior Banquet



## NSU-HPD Provides Multifaceted Health Care Outreach



**N**SU's unwavering commitment to community service was exemplified again last March when 185 students and faculty/staff members from the Health Professions Division donated their time and expertise to the Sixth Annual AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which encompasses the Hendry/Glades Community Health Fair in Clewiston and the REACH (Rural Education and Awareness Community Health) Fair in Belle Glade.

The Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, which is also sponsored by the Palm Beach County Health Department, the Hendry County Health Department, the Everglades AHEC, the Glades PATCH (Planned Approach to Community Health), the Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, Henry Regional Medical Center, and other organizations, has a twofold objective:

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

"The Reach Fair is a great opportunity for students from all aspects of health care to learn about opportunities in a rural location while providing a valuable service to a community that really needs and appreciates it. I have really enjoyed participating in the REACH Fair for the past two years because it has shown me firsthand what it is like to provide health care to an underserved area while getting the satisfaction that what we are doing is really making a difference in someone's life. It's a win-win situation all around."

*David Jabs, Pediatrics Club President*

The two-day fair, which was held March 3 at Belle Glade Elementary School and March 4 on the grounds of Hendry Regional Medical Center, proved to be a resounding success thanks to the coordination efforts of the college's AHEC Program and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). In a major show of interdisciplinary support, 10 NSU Health Professions Division programs participated in the outreach effort and provided screenings and other services to over 1,200 attendees. Programs represented were audiology, dental medicine, medical sciences, nursing, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and public health.

The NSU-HPD health care team also had an army of assistance because more than 170 community organizations were on hand to provide essential outreach to the multitude of children and adults who comprise the large farm worker population in Belle Glade and surrounding communities. Attendees were able to benefit from an array of comprehensive physical exams and traditional health screenings such as blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, dental, body mass, bone density, hearing, and physical condition, as well as self-breast and testicular screening education/instruction that was provided through the College of Allied Health and Nursing.

"It is hard to describe the team effort that goes into conducting this type of weekend-long community outreach event," said Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., who serves as the college's IGC COM<sup>2</sup>Serve Program administrative director. "Each year, it has continued to expand in scope and grow in its impact, broadening the education and development of our student health care professionals, as well as deepening the level and quality of care that is delivered to the populations that we serve."

According to Steinkohl, such far-reaching success is "dependent upon the support we receive from Dr. Steven

"I was able to practice the technical skills that I've been learning in the classroom, visit a new area, and help those underserved individuals who are not able to have medical care on a regular basis. I also was able to work with my fellow health care students, such as P.A.s and nursing students, which gave me an understanding of their jobs, teachings, etc. It was a wonderful experience both professionally and socially."

*Alexandra Grace, AMSA President*



# Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health



Zucker, director of our AHEC Program, HPD interdisciplinary buy-in and collaboration from Dr. Silvagni and 10 other HPD programs, and extensive grassroots involvement in the planning and operations from the local health departments, hospitals, and a vital network of community organizations that are the heart and soul of the health fairs.

“After attending their first health fair planning meeting in Belle Glade, the student members of the AMSA Planning Committee at NSU-COM were amazed to see the extent of support and actual labor that is necessary from individuals and community organizations,” she added. “Students often don’t realize that these fairs are somehow advertised and promoted to target underserved populations throughout the Glades communities, that the physical plant somehow sets up in two communities, that food somehow gets donated, cooked, and served, or that 170 community-based organizations volunteer to provide vital services and education. The collaboration between NSU and the community is the magic ingredient that makes this possible.”

“I think my experiences at outreach events such as this were not only an instrumental part of my medical education, but illustrated to me the ever-growing need for physicians willing to serve in rural health care.”

*Gibson Gray, AMSA Vice President*



## NSU-HPD Faculty and Staff

MarLee Balka-Vause, PA-C	Camille Bentley, D.O.	Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., T.M.
Nancy Borja, Pharm.D.	Greg Burns, PA-C	Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.
Delia Celestine, M.P.H.	Richard Davis, Ed.D., PA-C	Margarette Davis, M.S.N., M.A.
Harvey Feldman, M.D.	Rosebud Foster, Ed.D.	Kathy Fuller, Pharm.D.
Michael Funk, M.P.H., PA-C	Lisa Hensel, Au.D.	James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.
Sonia Kay, Ph.D., OTR		Sheama Krishnagiri, Ph.D., M.A., OTR
Carlos Ladeira, PT	Harold Laubach, Ph.D.	Barbara MacDougall, M.S.N., ARNP
Jonette Owen, Au.D.	Cathy Peirce, Ph.D., OTR	Alina Perez, J.D., M.S.W.
Mara Sanchez, PA-C	Judith Schaffer, D.O.	Gustavo Saldias, M.P.H.
Eyad Shehadeh, D.D.S.		Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.
Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.		David Thomas, M.D., J.D.
Richard Vause, M.P.A.S., PA-C	Monica Warhaftig, D.O.	Mark Wescott, PA-C
Stanley Wilson, Ed.D., M.S., PT		Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

## NSU-HPD Students

### AUDIOLOGY

Nicole Ball	Stacia Barboza	Michelle Bruszer	Beasan Hamdan
Megan McCabe		Ashley Richie	Margaret Rogers
Tricia Sheehan		Sarah Wakefield	Bethany Wiseman

### DENTAL (RESIDENTS)

Marta Hossain, D.D.S.	Ana Maria Gallego, D.D.S.	Alberto Noguera, D.D.S.
Antonio Bezerra, D.D.S.		Juan Carlos Vclaso, D.D.S.

### NURSING

Kristin Aloï	Janel Baroni	Carolina Figueroa	Farida Law	Kelly Quinn
Adriana Rodriguez	Irina Rozenfeld	Chrissy Shakespeare	Vicki Tuy	Lina Wilches

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Marguerite Alvarez	Ashleigh Balsamo	Erica Baron	Erin Cazalot	
Heather Dazey	Katya Delgado	Tymar Goudey	Brooke Isaac	Carrie Keck
Elaina Lissett	Marisa Malin	Grace Price	Nicole Stevens	

### OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Roger Alvarez	Justin Arnold	Cecilia Artigas	Sean Branch	Victoria Chang
Cori Chase	Jill Collins	Jody Coonradt	Ana De Oliveira	Charles Digby
James Duerkes	Chloe Evans	Aaron Farmer	Alexandra Grace	Gibson Gray
Jordan Gularek		Clark Gunnerson	Shanna Hampton	Tiffany Heu
Scott Hewitt	Erin Hitchcock	Christina Ho	David Jabs	Scott Jeansonne
Stacey Keller	Kyle Knabb	Erica Lau	Lauren Lippincott	Katherine Lumpkin
David Magness	Trayton Mains		Heather Mikes	Faraaz Mushtaq
Travis Osterman	Alberto Panero	Jessica Pate	Venette Pierre	Libby Rhee
Doni Marie Rivas	Matt Ryan	Jennifer Sears	Matt Stringer	Maria Terres
Paul Thompson	Rachel Treuting	Marina Udowenko		Danielle Wallach
	Sandra Williams	Grayce Winters		Nick Zieleris

### PHARMACY

Robin Brackett	Thi Thuy Cai	Elizabeth Espinel	Carla Evans	
Vivienne Heitlage	Amanda Heer	Tami Houser	Radha Hussain	
Helene Jacobson	Nicole Lamb	Julie Nguyen	Michelle Nguyen	
Melissa Ortega	Shreya Parik	Devin Pelcher	Lauren Pikna	Ryan Ritchie
Kelly Sioris	Amanda Stallings	Cindy Thompson	Debra Woodall	

### PHYSICAL THERAPY

Robin Brackett	Thi Thuy Cai	Elizabeth Espinel	Carla Evans	Vivienne Heitlage
Amanda Heer	Tami Houser	Radha Hussain	Helene Jacobson	Nicole Lamb
Julie Nguyen	Michelle Nguyen	Melissa Ortega	Shreya Parik	Devin Pelcher
	Lauren Pikna	Ryan Ritchie	Kelly Sioris	
Amanda Stallings		Cindy Thompson	Debra Woodall	

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (DAVIE)

Hilene DeAmorim	Heather Gordon	Amanda Gray	Jessica Gross
William Krantz	John Manressa	Diana Maurer	Christina McShane
Kara Montminy	Hillary Oakley		Corinne Rathnam
Kara-Ann Valentine	Megan Wadas		Sherri Wessman

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (NAPLES)

Karen Cuevas	Denise Guzzardo	Jessica Jones
Leah Lehr	Amber Madrin	Michelle Robbins





NOVA  
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UNIVERSITY

# Graduation 2007

## Fun the Focus During Senior Week

A sense of celebration was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2007 to get reacquainted while participating in a host of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, an evening of comedy dinner theater at Laffing Matterz, and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 27 when 185 D.O. and 36 M.P.H. degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise. During the ceremony, hundreds of other proud HPD graduates received their long-awaited diplomas from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Former U.S. Senator Bob Graham delivered the commencement address.



# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## **Chancellor's Award – Osteopathic Medicine**

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

Recipient: **ShaRonda Shaw-Berrocal, D.O.**

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



## **Dean's Award – M.P.H. Program**

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

Recipient: **Samuel M. Cosmello, D.O.**

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



## **Morton & Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award**

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

Recipient: **Jason R. Foreman, D.O.**

Presenter: **Samuel Snyder, D.O.**



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

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

Recipient: **Joanna P. Wahl, D.O.**

Presenter: **Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.**

# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## **Chancellor's Award – M.P.H. Program**

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

Recipient: **Christopher Piromalli, D.O., M.P.H.**  
Presenter: **Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.**



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

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

Recipient: **Irene Kuizon, D.O.**  
Presenter: **Samuel Snyder, D.O.**



## **Alumni Association Award**

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

Recipient: **Ann L. Duskin, D.O.**  
Presenter: **Steven Cimerberg, D.O.**



## **Dean's Organizational Award**

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

Recipient: **Jill A. Ross, D.O.**  
Presenter: **Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D., M.A.**



# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## Dean's Community Award

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

Recipient: Dana M. Block, D.O.  
Presenter: Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.



## Dean's Award - M.P.H. Program

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

Recipient: Ileana Barreto-Pettit, M.P.H.  
Presenter: Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. & T.M.



## Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

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

Recipient: Samantha Shelton-Hicks, D.O.  
Presenter: Maureen Campbell, D.O.



## Clinical Service Award

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

Recipient: Jill A. Ross, D.O.  
Presenter: Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed

# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## Geriatrics Award

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

Recipient: **Paula Dilanchian, D.O.**  
Presenter: Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD



## Public Health Student Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

Recipient: **Camille Bentley, D.O., M.P.H.**  
Presenter: Alina Perez, J.D., M.S.W.



## Public Health Leadership Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated leadership in public health.

Recipient: **Christopher Siano, D.O., M.P.H.**  
Presenter: Jay Fleisher, Ph.D., M.S.



## Research Award – Public Health

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

Recipient: **Yuri Fieto, M.P.H.**  
Presenter: Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.



# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics

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

Recipient: **Paula Zozzaro-Smith, D.O.**  
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.



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

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

Recipient: **James M. Hunt, D.O.**  
Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.



## Government and Public Policy Award

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

Recipient: **Samantha Shelton-Hicks, D.O.**  
Presenter: James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.



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

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

Recipient: **Amber DeChambeau, D.O.**  
Presenter: Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.Ed.

# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## **Golden Apple Award (Osteopathic Medicine)**

*Presented by the class of 2007 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.*

Recipient: **Stefanie Rudolph**  
Presenter: Jill A. Ross, D.O.



## **Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service**

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

Recipient: **Damaris Mafut, D.O.**  
Presenter: Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.



## **National Health Service Corps Certificates**

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

Recipients: **Drs. Nicole Henry, Christopher S. Piromalli, ShaRonda Shaw-Berrocal and Paul A. Smith.**  
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.



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

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

Recipient: **Lynn Michael Waters, D.O.**  
Presenter: Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.



# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## **Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award**

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

Recipient: **Christopher S. Piromalli, D.O.**

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



## **Research Award (Osteopathic Medicine)**

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

Recipient: **Shanna E. Hampton, D.O.**

Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.



## **Golden Apple Award (Public Health)**

*Presented by the class of 2007 to an M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.*

Recipient: **Alina Perez, J.D.**

Presenter: Rebecca Begtrup, D.O., M.P.H.



## **Rose Community Service Award**

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

Recipient: **Sandra J. Williams, D.O.**

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

# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony



## Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

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

Recipient: **Holly Turner (not present)**

## SGA Clinical Preceptor of the Year

Presented to the clinical preceptor who exhibits exemplary dedication and compassion to both patients and students.

Recipient: **Ruth Lucci, M.D. (not present)**

## Sigma Sigma Phi Membership

Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity whose main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. To earn membership consideration, Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Following are the individuals who earned membership in NSU-COM's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter: Omar AlNouri, D.O.; Mani Madhav Batchu, D.O.; Dennis James Bernier, D.O.; Dana M. Block, D.O.; Donnell Khalid Bowen, D.O.; Ryan Jon Chauffe, D.O.; Nadine Chipon-Schoepp, D.O.; Elizabeth Heather Davis, D.O.; Amber N. DeChambeau, D.O.; Ann Laurette Duskin, D.O.; Rachel Erin Epstein, D.O.; David R.C. Fisher, D.O.; Nicole Daneel Henry, D.O.; Theresa Marie Hess, D.O.; James Monroe Hunt, D.O.; Jennifer Parsons, D.O.; Jill A. Ross, D.O.; Shivani G. Shah, D.O.; Samantha G. Shelton-Hicks, D.O.; Joanna Patricia Wahl, D.O.; Sandra J. Williams, D.O.; Roya Zolnoor, D.O.; and Paula Zozzaro-Smith, D.O.



## Psi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Membership in the Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. Following are the individuals who earned entry into the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society:



Daniel Cesar Barzana, D.O.  
Samuel Michael Cosmello, D.O.  
Amber N. DeChambeau, D.O.  
Jason Robert Foreman, D.O.  
Gwendolyn Janel Godfrey, D.O.  
Linda Chai Chu Kang, D.O.  
Jillian Faith Paprota, D.O.  
Barbara Jane Piromalli, D.O.  
Tracy Marie Quinn, D.O.  
Christine M. Rice, D.O.  
Brett Clayton Richardson, D.O.  
Cory Robet Rizzardi, D.O.  
Barbara Sewerin, D.O.  
Michael Stine, D.O.  
Maria N. Usberghi, D.O.  
Karen Valledor, D.O.  
Katrina Marie Vander Biezen, D.O.  
Mounir Makram Wassef, D.O.  
Paula Elena Zozzaro-Smith, D.O.



# Graduation 2007: Senior Awards Ceremony

## Commissioning Ceremony

The **Commissioning Ceremony** was established in 2005 to honor and showcase support for graduates who will be doing medical tours of duty in the armed services. Following are the 18 graduates who were recognized at the ceremony:

### United States Army

Captain Jennifer Blevins, D.O.    Captain Donnell Bowen, D.O.  
 Captain Steven Choi, D.O.    Captain Liv Fena, D.O.  
 Captain Shaun Martinho, D.O.    Captain Brian McGrath, D.O.  
 Captain Joe My, D.O.

### United States Navy

Lieutenant Amber DeChambeau, D.O.  
 Lieutenant Tim Donahue, D.O.  
 Lieutenant Brett Haake, D.O.

### United States Air Force

Captain Allison Buell, D.O.    Captain Kacey Cotoli, D.O.  
 Captain Theresa Hess, D.O.    Captain Joanna Isbell, D.O.  
 Captain Chris Manetta, D.O.    Captain Daron Olmsted, D.O.  
 Captain Jill Amy Ross, D.O.    Captain Matthew Sarb, D.O.



## SGA Clinical Preceptor of the Year

Presented to a student who has participated in cancer-related community service.

Recipient: **Peter Salerno, D.O.**

Presenters: Stanley and Marilyn Silverman



## Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates

Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2004 to May 2007.

### Recipients

**Ann Duskin, D.O., James Hunt, D.O., Danelle Kutner, D.O., Jennifer Parsons, D.O., Barbara Piromalli, D.O., and Christopher Piromalli, D.O.**

### Presenter

Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

## Outstanding Senior Awards

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

### Osteopathic Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates

Samuel Michael Cosmello, D.O., Amber N. DeChambeau, D.O., Linda Chia Chu Kang, D.O., Brett Clayton Richardson, D.O., Katrina Marie Vander-Biezen, D.O., and Paula Elena Zozzaro-Smith, D.O.

### Osteopathic Recipients of Honors Certificates

Daniel Cesar Barzana, D.O., Jason Robert Forman, D.O., Gwendolyn Janel Godfrey, D.O., Jillian Faith Paprota, D.O., Barbara Jane Piromalli, D.O., Tracy Marie Quinn, D.O., Christine M. Rice, D.O., Cory Robert Rizzardi, D.O., Barbara Sewerin, D.O., Michael Stein, D.O., Marie N. Usberghi, D.O., Karen Valledor, D.O., Mounir Makram Wassef, D.O.

### Public Health Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates

Ileana Barreto-Pettit, M.P.H.

Samantha Shelton-Hicks, D.O., M.P.H.

### Public Health Recipients of Honors Certificates

Hosein Farsad, M.P.H., and Leyda Su Ham, D.O., M.P.H.

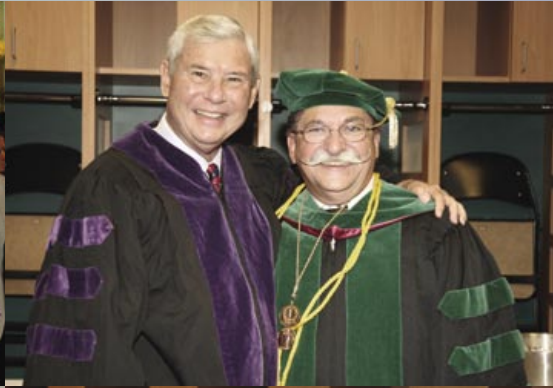


# Senior Week Fun Photo Retrospective





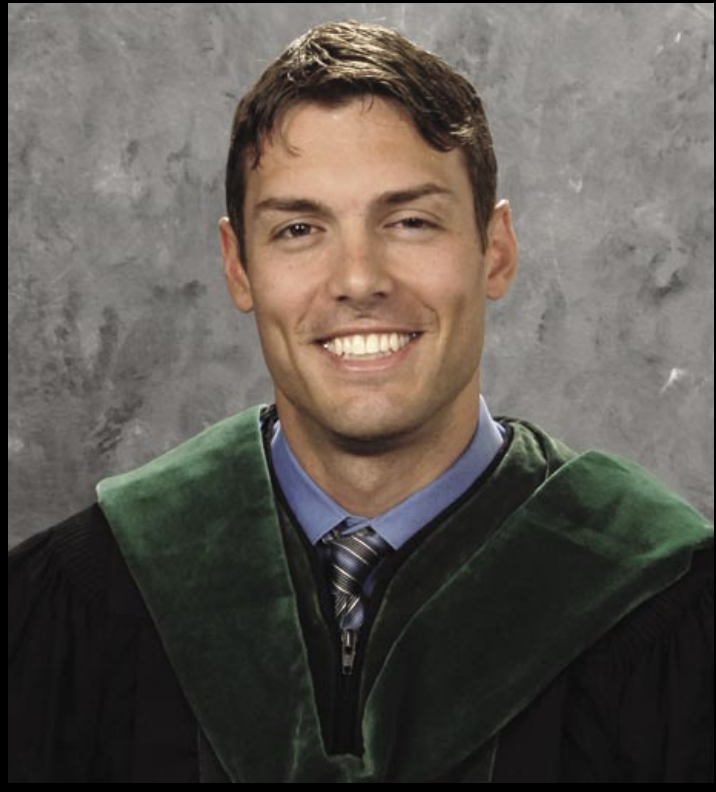
# Senior Week Fun Photo Retrospective





# Student Snapshot: Samuel Cosmello (Valedictorian)

## Getting to Know... Samuel Cosmello Class of 2007



### Why did you decide to matriculate at NSU-COM?

Prior to medical school, I was working as a pharmacist in Fort Myers, Florida. Many of the physicians, as well as other health care professionals I was in continual contact with, trained at NSU, which has a well-known reputation for producing quality, well-respected physicians.

### Had you ever heard of osteopathic medicine before applying to medical school?

Yes, because my primary care physician is an osteopathic physician. Most of the larger specialty groups in my area have at least one D.O. on staff.

### Why did you decide to pursue a career as a physician?

I have always dreamed of being a physician. Physicians are given a sacred trust to provide care, compassion, and guidance to people at their most vulnerable hour. The impact a physician can have on a patient's life is remarkable. I knew that, as a physician, I could truly impact the lives of others in a positive manner as well as have the opportunity

to intellectually challenge myself on a daily basis.

### What has been the most enjoyable aspect of your NSU-COM matriculation?

The realization that my dream of becoming a physician is now a reality.

### What has been the least enjoyable aspect of your NSU-COM matriculation?

The long hours of studying are a necessary evil to mold a medical student into a competent physician. This is not a game. We are dealing with other people's lives, and they deserve the best we can give.

### How does it make you feel to know you are the class valedictorian?

I feel fortunate that my diligence has brought me academic success. However, a high GPA does not make someone a great physician. I have many gifted colleagues who have done exceedingly well, and I am proud to be graduating with them.

### What do you think are the secrets to your obvious academic success?

Taking my studies seriously, but not taking myself too seriously. The amount of medical knowledge a medical student must learn is a daunting task, and it starts on day one. If you build a strong academic base and make a commitment to build on that foundation on a daily basis, then it is much easier to be successful.





# Student Snapshot: Samuel Cosmello (Valedictorian)



I can recall Dr. Gary Hill asking a student about his weekend. The student responded by saying, "I studied pathology, but the information I studied was not on today's exam." Dr. Hill then asked the student, "Did you learn something about medicine from the material you read?" "Yes," the student responded. "Then it was a productive weekend," Dr. Hill replied.

Medicine is not a finite entity; continual education is necessary. The key is to derive a sense of satisfaction and pleasure in knowing that with every additional amount of medical knowledge you acquire, at least one more patient may benefit from your diligence.



## What advice would you give to future NSU-COM students about coping with the stresses and challenges that come with attending medical school?

I would advise a new student to have high expectations, but to realize that those lofty goals cannot always be met. We all have good days and bad ones. We all have strengths and weaknesses. At the end of a long day, you must realize that all you can give is your best effort. Tomorrow's a new day and a new opportunity.

If you succeed in gaining entrance into medical school, then your best effort will guide you through the hardships on your path to becoming a physician. Don't lose sight of the larger picture.

## What is your favorite way to unwind after a hard day of studying?

A nice long jog or a trip to the gym always alleviates the daily pressures.

## My peers would be surprised to know this about me:

Yes...I do more than study.

## The funniest thing that ever happened to me:

There are too many to count. I find myself doing something utterly ridiculous on a daily basis. If you cannot laugh, then where is the joy in life?

## Now that I am graduating, I plan to pursue a career in:

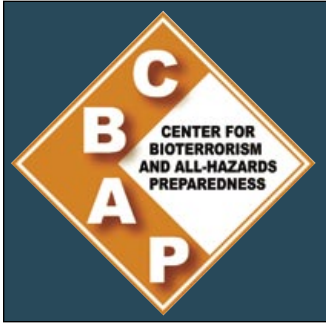
Radiology

## Three words that best describe me:

- Diligence
- Determination
- Compassion



## CBAP Offers Free Training to Help Prevent Future Virginia Tech-Like Terror



The tragic events that occurred on April 16, when a mentally disturbed Virginia Tech

student went on a killing rampage that claimed 33 lives, stunned the nation for both its scope and savagery. But they also served as a serious wakeup call for a country that has never witnessed carnage of this scale at a college or university before.

While killing sprees like the one that took place at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999 and in other cities over the past decade have become an all-too-frequent happening in the United States, the nation's universities and colleges have long been considered bastions of freedom and safety where learning is conducted in a relatively open, all-access environment. Sadly, that may no longer be the case.

"I remember making a presentation in another state to a group of college and university administrators well before the Virginia Tech tragedy, and one of them commented, 'Well, colleges and universities don't deal with the same sort of problems that go on in the public school system,'" said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., who serves as project manager of NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP). "But we were just kidding ourselves. As the Virginia Tech massacres showed, colleges and universities are extremely vulnerable. Consequently, it's not a question of if it's going to happen again, it's when."

Enter the CBAP. In its role as a national center focused on providing free interdisciplinary training, information dissemination, and technical assistance related to all-hazards preparedness, the CBAP is positioned to help colleges and universities nationwide implement a plan to help minimize the threat of such a scenario from happening again. "We are really focusing on customized training because as new issues present themselves, people want specialized training, like pharmacists who want guidance on how to deal with mass stockpiling and disseminating drugs and vaccines during a pandemic flu outbreak or something similar," she explained.

Fortunately, Dr. Rokusek and the CBAP team already have a curricular aspect in place that deals with college and university preparedness issues to help plan for—and hopefully avert—a massacre as appalling as the one that occurred at Virginia Tech. "The biggest incidents colleges and universities used to deal with were bomb threats, but now it's the threat of someone snapping emotionally and killing a bunch of people," she explained. "What we're trying to do through the center is take our approach to customized preparedness training for colleges and universities and share it with those around the country interested in having our team come to their campus and give anywhere from a one- to four-hour live program, free of charge.

"In my role as a professor and dean for many years, I never thought we'd have to be talking about emergency preparedness in the curriculum for everyone involved in the higher education system, but the reality now is that we must," added Dr. Rokusek,

who previously served as dean of the College of Education at Winona State University. "We have to talk about and deal with this issue because there are so many safety concerns that need to be addressed prior to a crisis, such as

- What would we do if a particular office were threatened?
- Where would we hide if a shooter managed to get into the building?
- Would our doors lock from the inside?
- Are the windows shatterproof?
- Do we keep our doors locked at all times to protect ourselves?
- Is there a loudspeaker in the building, and does the system work?
- What information should be disseminated?
- What do the students, faculty members, and staff members do if there's a university lockdown?"

According to Dr. Rokusek, "The key for all colleges and universities is to make sure they have a crisis plan and provide training and ongoing assessment of the plan. Just like we have HIPAA training or sexual harassment training, I think we're going to have to implement this kind of crisis training as well so if something similar to what happened at Virginia Tech does occur, everyone on campus will know what to do."

To learn more about the CBAP and its programs, please call (954) 262-1688 or visit its Web site at [www.nova.edu/allhazards](http://www.nova.edu/allhazards).



## NSU-COM/ Broward General Medical Center Dermatology Residency Program

Starting as a preceptorship residency in 1989 with just one resident, the NSU-COM/Broward General Medical Center (NSU-COM/BGMC) Dermatology Residency has evolved into a program with 21 graduates to date. Currently, nine residents are enrolled in the program, including three first-, second-, and third-year residents.

The residents see a large patient volume and have exposure to a wide variety of pathology due to the program's location, which encompasses Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood, Florida. The program's proximity to and affiliation with Broward General allow it to offer its residents a wide range of dermatology electives. "Broward General is a very strong county hospital, and as our main teaching hospital, it offers a variety of challenging cases," said Stanley Skopit, D.O., FAOCD, who has served as program director since 1989. "Two years ago, the program added an in-house Mohs division within its clinical setting, enabling residents to get a full week of Mohs surgery training every ninth week."

When not attending the office clinic setting, the residents run both the dermatology clinic at Nova Southeastern University and an indigent adult and pediatric dermatology clinic at the Broward Family Health Center under the direction of Brian Portnoy, D.O., FAOCD. Dr. Portnoy, who is the assistant program director, was the first official NSU-COM/BGMC graduate after its transition from a preceptorship to a residency program in 1994.



Pictured (from left) are: Drs. Brian Feinstein, second-year resident; Chris Buckley, first-year resident; Merrick Elias, third-year resident; Asfa Akhtar, third-year resident; Stanley Skopit; Kristen Aloupis, second-year resident; David Bonney, second-year resident; Allison Schwedelson, first-year resident; Marcus Goodman, first-year resident; and Tracy Favreau, third-year and chief resident.

Residents are able to attend weekly grand rounds at Cedars Medical Center/University of Miami in conjunction with spending time with Francisco Kerdel, M.D., FAAD, who serves as director of dermatology at Cedars. This arrangement has been instrumental in enhancing the knowledge of the NSU dermatology residents for the past two years. Residents also attend weekly dermatopathology lectures presented by Angelo Poulos, M.D., who is president and senior dermatopathologist at Global Pathology Laboratory Services.

On a monthly basis, the NSU-COM/BGMC dermatology residents attend formal journal club meetings under Dr. Skopit's supervision. They also host a joint quarterly journal club meeting with the Wellington Regional Medical Center program under the directorship of Bradley Glick, D.O. In addition, there are the formal monthly lectures on general dermatology, which the residents present to interns and residents of other specialties both at Broward General and NSU. They also serve the public by offering regular skin cancer screening health fairs through NSU and Broward General.

To enhance their clinical skills, NSU-COM/BGMC dermatology residents attend the Bullous Disease Clinic at the University of Miami courtesy of Carlos Nousari, M.D., who is a professor in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Miami. They also regularly attend Broward Dermatology Society meetings, where they have the opportunity to hear lectures from prominent dermatologists. In the past, residents also have presented interesting cases in a grand-rounds setting at these meetings.

In terms of future goals, Dr. Skopit would like to see the NSU-COM/BGMC Dermatology Residency Program continue to grow academically stronger. To that end, he would like to work with other program directors throughout the country to link all of the AOCD residency programs to ensure that they are on par with each other academically. "In the future, I would like to see the residents conduct a major, interactive grand rounds once a quarter via satellite communications," he concluded.

Over the years, many NSU-COM/BGMC dermatology residents have won the Koprince Award, which is presented to the top lecture/presentation at the annual or midyear American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) meeting. Recently, third-year resident Asfa Akhtar, D.O., won the Intendis Pharmaceutical Grant for research, and two former residents have been selected for a Mohs Micrographic Surgical Fellowship at prestigious institutions throughout the country. In addition, several of the residents have had articles published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology*.

For the past two years, the program has submitted an educational poster to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), which was accepted for display at the AAD national convention. One poster reviewed the history of osteopathic dermatology, while the other focused on case report and literature review of metastatic basal-cell carcinoma.





# M.P.H. Student Brenda Mallett Outreaches to Impoverished Ghana Village

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**O**ver the past 14 years, Brenda Mallett has had the opportunity to live the ultimate jet-set lifestyle as an international flight attendant for Continental Airlines. However, after more than a decade of seeing the grandeur and grimness that exist in the world, Mallett made a decision that has irrefutably altered her career course.

"I have always had this love of travel, but in the past few years I've really developed my love of public health and seeing how it can change people's lives," said Mallett, who acted on her newfound passion by pursuing a master of public health degree at NSU-COM, which she will complete later this year. "However, I never dreamed I would have such a wonderful opportunity to take my love of traveling and go to a third-world country like Ghana to work on some of the many public health issues that exist there."

The genesis of Mallett's Ghana odyssey occurred while she was working on her elective M.P.H. community health program course. "During a conversation with Dr. Cyril Blavo, who serves as director of the M.P.H. Program,

we started discussing where I could implement this program," she explained. "Dr. Blavo told me about the Tafi Atome Clinic Project in Ghana, Africa, which is an area he had visited in December 2005 in his role as president of International Health Initiatives (IHI), Inc.

"Dr. Blavo has been my mentor, and he's definitely the catalyst that got me involved with the project," she added. "Tafi Atome, which has about 1,250 inhabitants, is an extremely impoverished area in Ghana that has virtually no access to medical care. The community reached out, which started the wheels turning. That's why I decided to jump on this as my community health project and implement it on a global scale."

The Tafi Atome Clinic Project, which Mallett calls "our labor of love," is a joint effort with IHI, which has agreed to sponsor the program and help deal with the numerous administrative and legal issues that crop up, such as filing the correct paperwork. In addition, several South Florida community organizations such as Love Outreach Ministries in Hollywood have already gotten involved with



# Tafi Atome Clinic Project

the worthy cause.

"When I went over to Ghana in December 2006 for nine days, I met with representatives from Love Outreach Ministries, who had come to be part of the clinic's official groundbreaking ceremony," said Mallett, who hopes to pursue a D.O. degree at NSU-COM in the near future. "Love Outreach also adopted a local orphanage as well as three schools and agreed to supply books and other educational materials."

Although Mallett enjoyed her Tafi Atome experience so much that she eagerly revisited the region in April 2007, her initial response upon seeing the village was to return to the airport and hop on the next plane back to South Florida. "During my first two days there, I woke up every morning trying to figure out a good enough excuse to have to be brought back to the airport because I was so shocked at what I was seeing," admitted Mallett, who spent her nine-day stay living in a host family's austere home. "I've done medical missions in Guatemala and been to underprivileged areas of Peru, but I had never seen a place as poor as this. I realized on the second day, after I woke up saying, 'I've got to get out of here,' that it was all the more reason for me to stay."

Mallett overcame her initial apprehension by pouring her heart into the Tafi Atome Clinic Project, which actually involves completing work on a rudimentary structure that was constructed — but never completed — more than a decade ago. "There was a British woman who visited the area and helped get the building started," she said. "Unfortunately, the funding eventually ran out, so the uncompleted clinic has been sitting vacant and unused for years. There is currently a freestanding block building that has some walls and a roof, but there's no front door so it's open to the elements. Basically, it's just a concrete building with no electricity and no plumbing."

One of the first things Mallett did once she became more acclimated to her surroundings was coordinate a meeting with the "elders" or leaders of the community to discuss what she and the other associated volunteers were planning to do. "The elders consist of 10 or 15 of the oldest gentleman in the community as well as the chief of the village and are the decision makers for the community. It is important that we work as a team, so I wanted to make sure they were aware of, and approved of, every aspect of our clinic plans," explained Mallett, who didn't have to overcome a significant communications barrier since English is the primary language in Ghana.

"I explained what we were looking at doing, which is helping to finish five rooms of the clinic that would provide a dispensary, doctor's office, immunization room, patient-viewing room, and a supply room," she added. "We don't want to just go in there, finish the structure, and walk away. It's important for us to have a buy-in from the community. We want them to help us construct it and take ownership in it because at some point we want it to be self-sustaining so we can walk away and say, 'We were glad we were able to help you, but this is your clinic.'"

To help complete the clinic, Mallett is hoping to raise

\$50,000—a percentage of which she has already collected. "The money will go toward completing the clinic," said Mallett, who also visited neighboring villages to assess their health care needs. "Fortunately, there are nurses in the area we could recruit to come to the clinic several times a week once it is completed. Ghana has just gone to socialized medicine, so hopefully the government will be paying for health care provision. We're hoping to see if we can sponsor someone to go to nursing school that will eventually work in the clinic. We're going to have to wait and see how it all unfolds, but our goal is to have it be a self-sustaining clinic."

"We've already had two contractors submit bids so we can get a fair estimate for plumbing, wiring, and other electrical costs, and people within the community are being hired to work for the contractor," she added. "We're trying to utilize as many local suppliers and contractors as possible as doing this will provide an added benefit of stimulating the local economy."

During her return to the region in April, Mallett spent a day checking on the clinic's progress and coordinating a series of basic first-aid classes. "The village's chief spoke almost perfect English and was quite passionate about getting education and health care into his community," she said. "My goal when I returned was to train a few of the villagers about how to do basic things such as clean and wrap wounds or knowing when to apply pressure and elevate a wounded limb to promote proper healing."

Although Mallett is volunteering her time to this self-professed "labor of love" and is paying her own way to travel to Ghana, the personal rewards she has received have far outweighed the monetary costs. "When you see the smiles on the people's faces, it makes all the difference in the world," she concluded. "How fabulous would it be to be able to open a clinic, provide services, and then maybe go back in a couple of years and actually treat the villagers after I receive my D.O. degree? It would be wonderful for me to come full circle like that."



Brenda Mallett (far left) at the groundbreaking ceremony.





# Medical Mission to Ecuador Provides Unforgettable Educational Experience

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**N**SU-COM's annual Medical Mission to Ecuador, which took place March 31 through April 8, proved to be yet another memorable experience for the 67 students, physicians, physician assistants, and volunteers who paid their own way to participate in the nine-day humanitarian outreach effort. The medical expedition, which was a joint effort coordinated by NSU's DOCARE student chapter, visited the Ecuadorian regions of Quito, Baeza, Tena, and the Amazon rainforest.

During its stay, the health care contingent set up makeshift clinics at various schools to provide stations for services such as triage, general medicine, pediatrics, dermatology, and obstetrics and gynecology. "We saw approximately 1,500 patients during the five clinical days we spent in Ecuador," said M2 student Maria Terneus, who also serves as president of the college's DOCARE student chapter. "We had an incredible team that worked extremely hard. At the end of our endeavor, we learned so much and

took home so many fond memories of our experiences with the patients we were fortunate enough to serve."

Because of the medical mission's exotic location, the students were confronted with a range of cases and scenarios they would rarely encounter in the United States. One such case involved an extremely depressed 20-year-old male who was suffering from Marfan syndrome, which is an incurable genetic condition that affects a person's connective tissue. The primary purpose of connective tissue is to hold the body together and provide a framework for growth and development. However, in an individual afflicted with the condition, the connective tissue is defective and does not develop normally.

"People who have Marfan syndrome are usually extremely tall and thin. In fact, many people think Abraham Lincoln was afflicted with this," explained Terneus, who also participated in last year's medical mission. "The man we met had never received a diagnosis before, even though he had visited with local doctors. Not surprisingly, because he looked different



than everyone else, he was always depressed and had suicidal thoughts. Fortunately, two psychiatrists accompanied us on this trip, so one of them sat down with the patient and started counseling him and educating him about the condition.”

Terneus personally dealt with another interesting case involving a woman who paid a visit to one of the clinic sites with five children and a baby in tow. “We were interviewing the woman about her children, and when I inquired about the baby’s health, I asked her in Spanish how old the infant was. She said the word eight, so I asked, ‘Eight months?’ She said no, so I replied, ‘Eight weeks?’ What she was actually trying to say was the baby had been born at 8:00 that morning—and it was now only 10:00 a.m. It was amazing because you could still see the egghead shape of the baby’s skull that was caused by the vaginal delivery.”

Fortunately, it wasn’t all work and no play for the participating students, who selflessly gave up their spring break to participate in the medical outreach effort. During their stay in Ecuador, many of the participants took advantage of an opportunity to go tubing down the Amazon River and visit an animal rehabilitation center called AmaZOOnico. In addition, the villagers in the Quijos community actually staged a show for the medical mission participants that included a festive display of ribbon dances, a ballet by the children, and mime performances at the local cultural center.

Plans are already underway for the 2008 Medical Mission to Ecuador, which will include a side trip to meet with Ecuador’s president and minister of health that is being organized by the mission’s director, Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc., who serves as professor and chair of the college’s Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice. During this special meeting, Dr. Wallace and the medical students from previous missions plan to convene with the dignitaries to discuss the possibility of extending practicing rights to osteopathic physicians in Ecuador.



## Medical Practitioners

<i>Jordan Baum, M.D.</i>	<i>John Connell, M.D.</i>	<i>Tejas Desai, D.O.</i>
<i>Mike Funk, P.A.</i>	<i>Michael Henry, M.D.</i>	<i>David Horowitz, D.O.</i>
<i>Tom Jones, P.A.</i>	<i>William Kirby, D.O.</i>	<i>Nita Kumar, M.D.</i>
<i>Joelle Macklin, P.A.</i>	<i>Nader Tony Nakhla, D.O.</i>	
<i>Naushira Pandya, M.D.</i>	<i>Ramon Ramirez-Melendez, M.D.</i>	
<i>Rosana Rodriguez, P.A.</i>	<i>Elaine Wallace, D.O.</i>	

## NSU-HPD Students

<i>Carolina Alvarez (P.A.)</i>	<i>Wendy Ballenger (M2)</i>	<i>Jenna Baum (M1)</i>
<i>Tammy Boots (M2)</i>	<i>Jessica Branstetter (P.A.)</i>	<i>Lauren Brown (M1)</i>
<i>Jorge Cabrera, Jr. (M1)</i>	<i>Gabrielle Carella (P.A.)</i>	<i>Mary Chrisochos (M1)</i>
<i>Joshua Cohen (M2)</i>	<i>Jessica Connell (M1)</i>	<i>Jason Cox (M2)</i>
<i>Kyle Curtis (M2)</i>	<i>Erin Dowd (M2)</i>	<i>James Duerkes (M2)</i>
<i>Jessica Fernandez (M2)</i>	<i>Michelle Fish (M2)</i>	<i>Dara Freeman (M2)</i>
<i>Andrew Gaugler (M2)</i>	<i>Amanda Gray (P.A.)</i>	<i>Joshua Green (M1)</i>
<i>Michelle Henry (M1)</i>	<i>Jasmol Jayaprakash (M2)</i>	<i>Donna Kaminski (M2)</i>
<i>Kalif Kendig (M1)</i>	<i>Ruchi Kumar (M2)</i>	<i>Sandy Lau (M1)</i>
<i>Jessica Leon (M2)</i>	<i>Katherine Lumpkin (M2)</i>	<i>Laura Martin (M1)</i>
<i>Teresa McDill (M1)</i>	<i>Sweta Mehta (M1)</i>	<i>Nolan Mott (M2)</i>
<i>Long Nguyen (M2)</i>	<i>Peter Obesso (M2)</i>	<i>Julia O’Malley (P.A.)</i>
<i>Matei Popa-Radu (M2)</i>	<i>Elicia Roos (M1)</i>	<i>Nicole Taft (P.A.)</i>
<i>Maria Terneus (M2)</i>	<i>Lina Toro (P.A.)</i>	<i>John Zetty (M1)</i>

## OPP Fellows

<i>Amil Badoolah</i>	<i>Alberto Caban-Martinez</i>	<i>Stephen Fromang</i>
<i>Renee Marchioni</i>	<i>Elena Timoshkin</i>	

## Community Volunteers

<i>Logan Henry</i>	<i>Alex Lumpkin, Ph.D.</i>	<i>KK Kanesh Pandya</i>
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## Research Fellowship Broadens Horizons for Mete Akin and Katherine Quinones

**W**hen research fellows Mete Akin and Katherine Quinones became the first students accepted into the college's Research Fellowship Program last year, they approached the opportunity with a great deal of enthusiasm—and a slight sense of trepidation.

"Honestly, I didn't know what to expect going in," said Akin, who had amassed four years of research experience prior to and after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "I thought it might be a cold, calculated research group, but it's been just the opposite."

Patterned after its successful and highly competitive fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice (OPP), the research fellowship provides a full year of structured training and experience in conceptualizing, conducting, and disseminating research for selected NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine students between their M2 and M3 years.

In addition to their fellowship year, program participants receive tuition



Pictured (from left) are NSU-COM Research Fellowship pioneers Mete Akin, Katherine Quinones, and Dr. Isa Fernandez.

remission for their M3 and M4 years. "This exciting new fellowship greatly advances research efforts at NSU-COM," said M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., who serves as director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program and the Research Fellowship Program. "In today's competitive environment, it enhances students' career opportunities by providing them with additional options."



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

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

The fellows also are afforded an opportunity to participate in the writing and submission of at least one scholarly manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal and at least one abstract submission for presentation at a scientific meeting.

"During the first few months, Dr. Fernandez took us through every aspect of the research process, such as grant preparation and preparing Institutional Review Board forms,"

explained Akin. "She also gave us an opportunity to work with data she had already collected on previous projects as well as the freedom to generate papers from it. I then learned how to form my own research questions, do data analysis, write up a paper, and present a poster for a particular topic."

During the second half of their fellowship year, Akin and Quinones were allowed to establish and implement their own research projects, which has proven to be an immeasurably valuable—and enjoyable—experience. "I'm currently working with Dr. Eric Shamus on an OPP research-related project on the effect of high heels on women's posture and weight distribution," said Quinones, who received her undergraduate degree from Florida International University in Miami. "I'm hoping to get 50 to 75 participants involved in the study, so that's what I'm putting all my energy toward."

While Quinones is busy with her project, Akin has been equally as industrious on his, which involves polling NSU-COM medical students in each of the four years to assess their health-related behaviors by having them fill out surveys that will be analyzed for statistical data and other research outcomes.

"We've both learned a lot, especially about everything you have to do before you actually do the research. It's been beneficial because you get involved in the whole process," Quinones explained. "What I really enjoyed, however, was the freedom of thought I was allowed to have. I found that to be quite refreshing since I was so accustomed to going to class and being told what we had to learn. It was really nice to have to come up with something on my own."



## NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

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 Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)  
 John Geake, D.O. ('93)  
 Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)  
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)  
 Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
 Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)  
 Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
 Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)  
 Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)

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**Howard L. Neer, D.O.**  
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**Lynne Cawley, M.S.**  
 Director, Alumni Affairs

### Living Tribute Honorees

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

### Distinguished Service

2007 – Mary Smith Allegro

### Celebration of Excellence

#### Distinguished Alumni

1999 – Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)  
 2000 – James Turner, D.O. ('88)  
 2001 – Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
 2003 – Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)  
 2004 – Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
 2005 – Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
 2006 – Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 2007 – Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)

## NSU-COM Third Annual Golf Tournament

*May 17, 2007—Grand Oaks Golf Club in Davie, Florida*



The Office of Alumni Affairs and Office of Student and Administrative Services cosponsored the Third Annual NSU-COM Golf Tournament on May 17 at Grand Oaks Golf Club in Davie, Florida, which attracted a record 72 players. “The event was a huge success this year,” said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. “We did several things differently this year to help ensure the tournament’s success, such as opening it up to the university community and playing it at Grand Oaks, which is a great and challenging golf course.”

This year, teams representing the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Shepard Broad Law Center, H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, and College of Pharmacy participated in the scramble event. Each golfer received a goody bag, an NSU-COM golf shirt, and dinner. In addition, prizes were awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place teams, as well as to the winners of the longest drive (Carol Templin) and closest to the pin (Clinton Taylor) contests.

### First Place

*College of Osteopathic Medicine*  
 Lynne Cawley, Paul Cawley,  
 Jamie Ottaviani, and Ed Shannon

### Second Place

*Huizenga School of Business/Entrepreneurship*  
 Patrick Drinson, Lamont Humber,  
 Chris Minters, and Clinton Taylor

### Third Place

*Shepard Broad Law Center*  
 Johnny Burris, Michael Flynn,  
 Jan Peterson, and Mike Richmond

## Alumni in the News

**B**ridget A. Bellingar, D.O., FACOFP, ('86) received her fellow designation on March 16 at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Annual Conclave of Fellows Award Banquet, which was held during the association's 44th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Kissimmee, Florida. The honorary designation of fellow is bestowed upon those candidates who have contributed outstanding national and local service through teaching, authorship, research, or professional leadership. They have also contributed outstanding service in their professional career and family practice duties in their community and civic activities. Dr. Bellingar, who is in private family practice in Largo, Florida, is the immediate past president of the ACOFP Florida State Society and the current president of the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society.

**R**obert G. Blackburn, D.O., FACOFP ('86) was recently named a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. Dr. Blackburn, who is currently in private family practice with All American Medical Associates and First American Family Medical Associates in Spring Hill, Florida, is a past president and current board member of the Florida Society of the ACOFP and serves as first vice president and district president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.

**L**auren Cianciaruso, D.O. ('99) recently completed a rewarding two-year appointment as assistant professor of family medicine at West Virginia University and began her new role as medical director for the Loudoun Community Health Center in Leesburg, Virginia.

**T**yler Cymet, D.O. ('88) is the current president of the Baltimore City Medical Society Foundation and also serves as a Maryland Medical Association board member. In March, *Runner's World Magazine* reviewed the results of a study Dr. Cymet did on long-distance running and osteoarthritis.

**A**ndrew S. Gross, D.O., FACOFP ('93) was recently named a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. Dr. Gross is currently in private family practice as president and medical director of the Andrew S. Gross, D.O., Family and Senior Care Center in Seminole, Florida. He also is the current president elect of the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society and represents his district as a Florida Osteopathic Medical Association trustee.

**R**obert A. Kominiarek, D.O., FACOFP ('95) was recently named a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. Dr. Kominiarek is currently in private family practice as owner and director of Preble County Family Practice and After Hours Care in Eaton, Ohio.

**M**ichael Pritchett, D.O. ('02) had one of his photographs published in the April 2007 issue of *Digital Camera World*.



**J**oel I. Silverman, D.O., FACP ('94) has been named chief of staff at North Broward Medical Center in Deerfield Beach, Florida. Dr. Silverman, who is board certified in internal medicine, also serves as president of Adult Medicine of Broward and Palm Beach Counties. He has also expanded his teaching responsibilities beyond residents and medical students by becoming an active faculty member at the American Heritage School in Plantation, where he teaches pathology and genetics to its honors' seniors. This unique program has been acclaimed for being the first of its kind in the nation.

**W**illiam H. Stager, D.O., M.S., FAAMA, FAAO, FACOFP ('89), who serves as an NSU-COM clinical associate professor of family medicine, received the FOMA Presidential Achievement Award at the FOMA Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in February. Dr. Stager, who is in private practice in West Palm Beach, Florida, was also named a fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy (FAAO) at the AAO Convocation in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in March. He currently serves as the 2006-2008 president of the Florida Academy of Osteopathy, 2006-2008 president of FOMA District 9, and 2005-2007 vice president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

**A**li Tabrizchi, D.O. ('01), who completed her internal medicine residency at Georgetown University Hospital in 2004 and then conducted a cardiology fellowship at Midwestern University-CCOM at St. James Heart and Vascular Institute, has been accepted into the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at Stony Brook University and Winthrop University Hospital.



**Scott Colton**

As *COM Outlook's* editor-in-chief, I am always seeking ways to enhance the publication's content. One of the ways I hope to accomplish this is by providing increased coverage of the college's alumni base. If you have published a book, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position, please contact me at (954) 262-5147 or submit the information and/or photos via email to [scottc@nsu.nova.edu](mailto: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. For example, the college has received a number of donation cards with credit-card pledges where no name is listed. The Office of Alumni Affairs cannot process the credit-card donation without a name indicated, so if you have not received a letter of thanks from NSU-COM but know you have made a credit-card contribution, please contact Ms. Cawley at the aforementioned phone number.

## 2007 Donors

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

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

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

Dr. George Linsey

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

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

\*Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

\*Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

\*Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

### 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

\*Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)

\*Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)

\*Dr. William Sjovall II ('96)

### Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

\*Drs. Seth and Mary Baker (88)

\*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

\*Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)

Dr. Diana Graves ('86)

\*Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)

\*Dr. David Heller ('85)

\*Dr. William Holt ('86)

\*Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

\*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)

\*Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

### Friends (up to \$99)

Mary Allegro

(in memory of Joseph Thomas Kondos)

\*Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

\*Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)

\*Dr. Michael Friedman ('94)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

\*Dr. Earle Hayes ('02)

Dr. Jim Huang ('01)

\*Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)

\*Dr. Arnold Melnick

\*in honor of 2007 Distinguished Service Award  
honoree Mary Smith Allegro

## Cumulative List (1999-2007)

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

Dr. George Linsey

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

### Heritage Circle

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

*Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)*

(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)

*Dr. Albert Whitehead*

(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)

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

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. Charles Chase ('89)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)

Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)

Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

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

Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)

Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

Dr. James Beretta ('88)

Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

## 500 Club (continued)

Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)  
Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)  
Dr. Bruce David ('88)  
Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)  
Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)  
Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)  
Dr. Brad Glick ('89)  
Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)  
Dr. John Gordon ('92)  
Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)  
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)  
Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)  
Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)  
Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)  
Dr. James T. Howell  
Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)  
Dr. Robert Klein ('91)  
Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)  
Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin  
Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)  
Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)  
Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)  
Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)  
Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)  
Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)  
Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)  
Dr. Michael Ross ('88)  
Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)  
Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)  
Ms. Lorraine Snyder  
Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)/Dr. Robyn Zelnick ('87)  
Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)  
Drs. Ron Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)  
Drs. James ('88) and Sherry Turner ('07)  
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)

## 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)  
Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)  
Dr. Bridget Bellingar ('86)  
Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)  
Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)  
Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo  
Dr. Edgar Bolton  
Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)  
Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)  
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)  
Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)  
Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)  
Dr. Alan David ('92)  
Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)

Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)  
Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)  
Dr. Diana Graves ('86)  
Dr. A. Alvin Greber  
Dr. Thomas Green ('98)  
Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)  
Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)  
Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)  
Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)  
Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)  
Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)  
NSU-COM Class of 1994  
Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)  
Dr. Edward Packer  
Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)  
Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)  
Mr. John Potomski  
Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)  
Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)  
Dr. Steven Sager ('90)  
Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)  
Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)  
Dr. William Sjovall II ('96)  
Dr. William H. Stager ('89)  
Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)  
Ms. Louise Todaro  
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)  
Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)  
Dr. Ira Weiner  
Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)  
Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

## Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)  
Dr. Comfort O. Adewumi ('00)  
Dr. Barnet Alpert  
Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)  
Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)  
Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)  
Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi  
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)  
Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)  
Dr. Daniel Barkus  
Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)  
Dr. Paul Bates ('86)  
Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)  
Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)  
Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)  
Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)  
Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)  
Dr. Juanita Brown ('91)  
Dr. Douglas Bushell ('98)  
Dr. George Campbell ('99)

Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)  
Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)  
Dr. James Caschette  
Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)  
Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)  
Dr. David Cislo ('88)  
Dr. Jules Cohen  
Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)  
Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98)  
Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90)  
Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)  
Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87)  
Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)  
Dr. George Elias ('99)  
Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)  
Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)  
Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)  
Dr. Gary Gary  
Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)  
Ms. Marcia Groverman  
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. Eric Hegybeli ('95)  
Dr. David Heller ('85)  
Dr. David C. Hellman ('88)  
Dr. Richard Herman ('89)  
Dr. Marc Herschelmann ('91)  
Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87)  
Dr. William Holt ('86)  
Dr. Myron Howell  
Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)  
Dr. Lawrence Jacobson  
Dr. Thelma Jamison  
Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)  
Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and Yoyen Lau ('93)  
Donna Kaplan  
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)  
Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)  
Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)  
Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)  
Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)  
Dr. Robin Kesselmann ('85)  
Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95)  
Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)  
Dr. Mi Kim ('90)  
Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)  
Dr. Mark Khirsandi ('99)



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Dr. Stephen Krathen  
 Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)  
 Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)  
 Dr. Michael Landman ('88)  
 Dr. Kim Lark ('94)  
 Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)  
 Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)  
 Dr. Soling Li ('00)  
 Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)  
 Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)  
 Dr. Albert Lopez ('92)  
 Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)  
 Dr. Jason Lue ('99)  
 Dr. Sonal Majmundar ('94)  
 Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)  
 Dr. Cindy Marika ('87)  
 Dr. Clyde Meckstroth ('85)  
 Dr. Arnold Melnick  
 Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96)  
 Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)  
 Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97)  
 Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92)  
 Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)  
 Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)  
 Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)  
 Dr. Merideth Norris  
 Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87)  
 Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)  
 Dr. Aeyal Oren ('99)  
 Mr. Alexander Packman  
 Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)  
 Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)  
 Dr. Ramsey Pevsner ('03)  
 Dr. David Rabaja ('94)  
 Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)  
 Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)  
 Dr. Michael Rasansky ('06)  
 Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)  
 Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94)  
 Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92)  
 Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)  
 Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)  
 Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)  
 Dr. Allan Rubin  
 Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)  
 Dr. David Saltzman  
 Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)  
 Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)  
 Dr. Melvin Sarnow  
 Dr. Theodore Schock ('87)  
 Dr. Sandra Schwemmer  
 Dr. Robert Sculthorpe  
 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. 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. Dafna Trites ('94)  
 Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)  
 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. Paul Winner  
 Dr. Scott Yagger ('89)  
 Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)

## Dean's Alumni Advisory Council Provides Invaluable Input and Insight



*Pictured (from left) are Drs. Gregory James, Earle Pescatore, Tyler Cymet, and Howard Neer, Lynne Cawley, and Drs. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Glenn Moran at an April meeting held at the Renaissance Hotel in Plantation, Florida.*

The Dean's Alumni Advisory Council, which was established in 2000, is a volunteer body composed of NSU-COM administrators as well as alumni leaders throughout the country who meet quarterly to discuss the college's programs and curriculum while also assessing future plans. "The alumni members provide input from their perspectives on how the college and its programs are perceived within their communities and catchment areas," said Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., FACOFP dist., who has served as NSU-COM dean since 1998. To keep them abreast of imperative issues between meetings, the advisory council members are sent regular updates relating to strategic planning as well as possible policy, programmatic, or curricular changes. They also work closely with the NSU-COM Alumni Association and serve as, "expert networkers we can utilize in getting information out to the collective alumni, establishing alumni dinners nationwide, and assisting with donation campaigns," said Dr. Silvagni. "They also assist our admissions department with recruiting potential students and provide keen insight as to the direction we should perhaps pursue based on trends occurring in medicine and medical education."

### Dean's Alumni Advisory Council

*Lynne Cawley, M.Sc. (alumni affairs)*  
*Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)*  
*Johneta Goodwin (administrative operations)*  
*Gregory James, D.O. ('88)*  
*Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)*  
*Howard Neer, D.O., (alumni affairs)*  
*Earle Pescatore, D.O. ('89)*  
*John Presutti, D.O. ('93)*  
*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D. (dean)*  
*Susan Yahia, D.O. ('91)*

### NSU Email Account

NSU alumni can maintain an NSU email account for a \$50 annual fee. Twenty-five dollars of that fee are used to maintain your email account, while the other \$25—which are tax deductible—come back to NSU-COM as a donation. To obtain a request form and receive more information, go to [www.nova.edu](http://www.nova.edu) and proceed to the Alumni Relations Web page.

# Roger Alvarez Named Student D.O. of the Year



Roger Alvarez receives his Student D.O. of the Year Award from Nat Kittisarapong (SGA secretary), Jessica Wilson-Chan (SGA treasurer), and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.

In March, M2 student Roger Alvarez, who currently serves as Student Government Association (SGA) vice president, was selected as Student D.O. of the Year by his NSU-COM peers. Over the past two years, Alvarez has gained a reputation for being both a popular and productive student who is always seeking ways to provide enhanced educational opportunities for his fellow matriculants.

“Roger Alvarez exemplifies the kind of student we all wish we would be,” said SGA President Kathryn Rooth. “He always goes above and beyond to help others and is a terrific leader. Roger deserves to be recognized as Student D.O. of the Year for his noble character, his passion for medicine, and for being one of the most effective motivators I have ever met in my life.”

The NSU-COM Student D.O. of the Year Award was established in 1994 to acknowledge students’ commitment to their school, their community, and the osteopathic profession.



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

