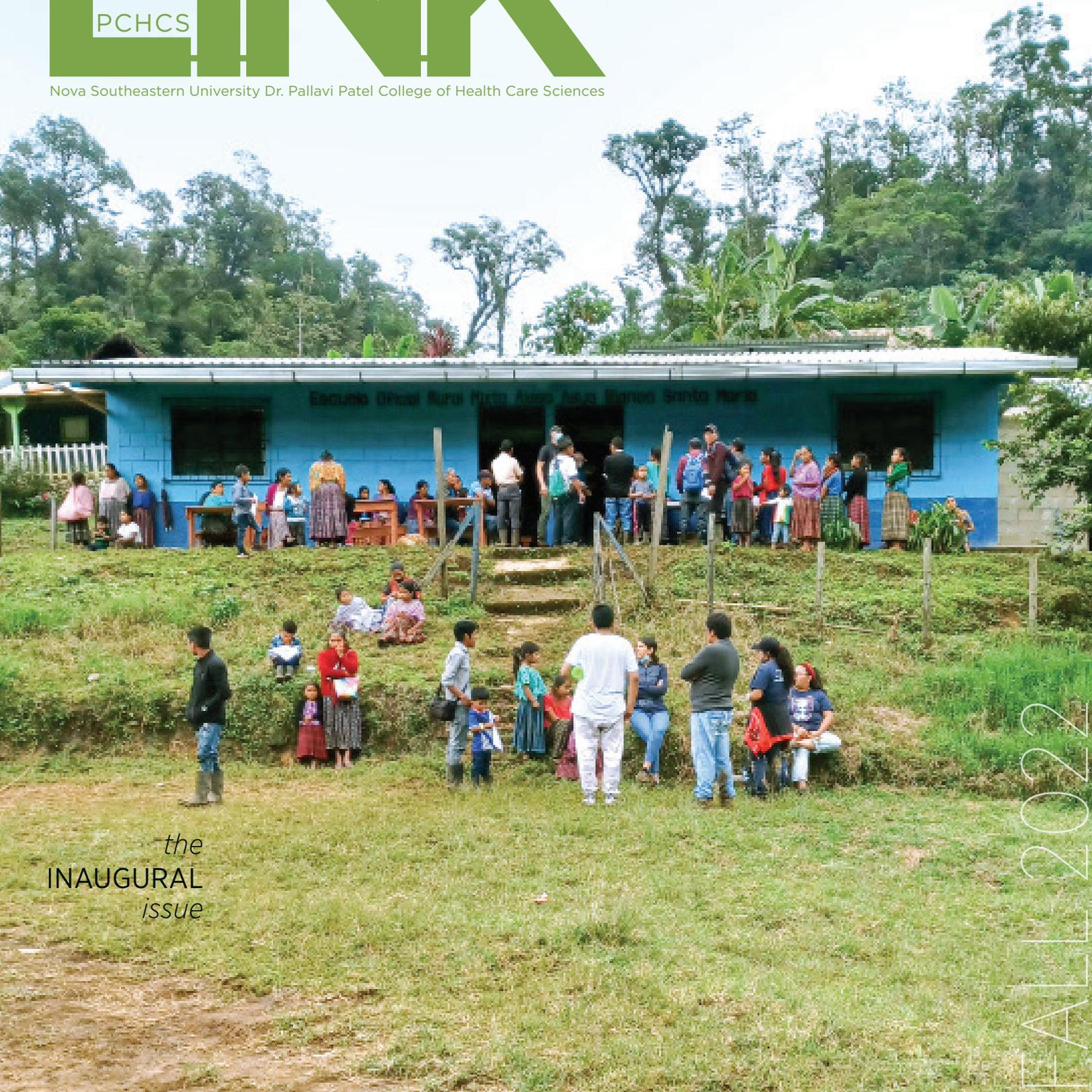


LINK

PCHCS

Nova Southeastern University Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences



the
INAUGURAL
issue

FALL 2022

WELCOME

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *PCHCS LINK*. We have redesigned our approach to sharing the most exciting initiatives occurring in the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences (PCHCS) and look forward to continuing to share highlights in this more concise, dynamic format.

FACULTY MEMBERS WIN TEACHING AND RESEARCH AWARDS

In less than 20 years, the Exercise and Sport Science program has gone from *The Little Engine That Could* to a research and teaching powerhouse in the PCHCS. With eight outstanding faculty members representing a variety of academic backgrounds, the B.S. in Exercise and Sport Science program has rapidly expanded to become one of the most popular undergraduate majors at Nova Southeastern University.

Because of this growth, the Exercise and Sport Science program is highlighting the recent achievements of two of its faculty members—Tobin Silver, Ph.D., and Jose Antonio, Ph.D.



Tobin Silver with his Faculty Teaching Award

COVER IMAGE

a clinic site in Santa Maria; photo by Sara Ball, second-year PA student

Silver, who is a professor, earned the college's 2021–2022 Faculty Teaching Award. Silver's dedication to providing students real-world experiences and incorporating strong community relationships with organizations, such as the Florida Panthers and the Florida Marlins, made Silver a worthy award recipient. Silver's students appreciate how thought-provoking his lessons are in the EXSC 4220 Motor Learning and Performance course, where he uses simple items like pennies and bean bags to illustrate complex learning theories. He is also the program's go-to source for online teaching.

Antonio, an associate professor, earned the college's 2021–2022 Faculty Scholarship Award. Last year, he composed 18 peer-reviewed publications on topics related to supplements, body composition, and cognitive function. His collaborations with faculty members in neuroscience and psychology have provided students with unique research opportunities. These include helping test for certain blood proteins that are associated with sports-related concussions or helping measure bone density after creatine supplementation.

Additionally, Antonio's overall writing credentials in the Department of Health and Human Performance include more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and more than 1,000 consumer articles in the nutrition and fitness category. ■

Article by the Department of Health and Human Performance—Fort Lauderdale



Pictured (from left) are Jose Antonio; Cassandra Evans, M.S., adjunct faculty member; and Tony Ricci, Ed.D., assistant professor, who prove that research is indeed a team endeavor.

SPOTLIGHTS



Pictured (from left) are M.S. in Sports Science student Lily Truong; Pradeep Vanguri, Ph.D., associate professor; Jessica Pokryfke; and M.S. in Sports Science students Sigourney Kame and Erin Golden.

Pictured (from left) are Jennifer Asuaje and M.S. in Sports Science students Sigourney Kame and Erin Golden.

SOCCKER PHYSICALS PROVIDED TO INTER MIAMI CF ACADEMY

Students and faculty members from the Health and Human Performance—Fort Lauderdale program recently collaborated with the Inter Miami CF Academy soccer team to provide preseason physical assessments.

As part of the Master of Science (M.S.) in Sports Science program, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) graduate students worked with faculty members and alumni Jennifer Asuaje, M.S., LAT, ATC, and Jessica Pokryfke, M.S.A.T., LAT, ATC, to assist the academy's sports medicine team.

The students had an opportunity to complete hands-on physical assessments and screenings under the direction of Inter Miami CF staff members. "I was very grateful for the learning opportunities our sport science department gives all students to gain valuable hands-on experience and grow and learn more in this field of study," said Sigourney Kame, M.S. in Sports Science student.

Additionally, the participants were able to review the data and understand the applicability of testing to soccer and performance. The Inter Miami CF Academy sports medicine team includes athletic trainers, strength and conditioning coaches, and sports performance analysts who work with athletes ranging in age from 12 to 19.

“We learn as much from the NSU students as they do from us,” said Asuaje, head Major League Soccer next pro athletic trainer and lead development athletic trainer. **“They are ready to learn and have a great foundation of knowledge. As an alumna, it is a pleasure to spend time with NSU students, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.”**

Article by the Department of Health and Human Performance—Fort Lauderdale

TRANSITIONS

Archana Vatwani, D.P.T., M.B.A., PT, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, received the National Diversity Council's 2022 Healthcare Diversity Leader Award, which was presented in July at the National Healthcare DEI Conference. The award honors several professional attributes, including the creation of innovative diversity initiatives that establish and foster a more inclusive and equitable work environment in the healthcare industry and active involvement in community outreach programs.



Alicia Fernandez-Fernandez, D.P.T., Ph.D., PT, a professor in the Department of Physical Therapy—Fort Lauderdale, was invited to serve as a member of the SENSE/SOOTHIE Data Safety Monitoring Board. She was selected based on her expertise in neonatal therapy. In this role, board members periodically review and evaluate the accumulated study data for participant safety; study conduct and progress; and make recommendations concerning the continuation, modification, or termination of the research trial.



NSU AUDIOLOGY JOINS PERSON-CENTERED HEARING NETWORK

The Person-Centered Hearing Network (PCHN) is a unique global collaboration facilitated by the IDA Institute—a nonprofit organization focused on improving hearing health care globally. NSU Audiology recently joined this network and is collaborating on several projects.

The PCHN consists of 32 like-minded organizations around the world that brings together IDA partners in a unique collaboration between leading professional associations, consumer organizations, universities, research institutes, and hearing care providers in the field.

One initiative the IDA Institute sponsored was a student-led conference on October 10 titled PCC (Person-Centered Care) Around the Globe: Student Perspectives. Students from six of the PCHN academic partners presented, including Aston University and the University of Southampton (United Kingdom), the University of Cape Town and the University of Pretoria (Africa), and Rush University and Nova Southeastern University (United States). The NSU presentation was titled “Cultural Humility in the Clinic.” ■



Pictured (from left) are the audiology students who presented at the conference: Victor Garcia, B.S.; Manpreet Sandhu, B.S.; Queenie Tabag, B.S.; Cat Regan, B.S.; and Melissa Lorquet, B.S.

Article by the Department of Audiology



HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION ON DISPLAY AT SHARK MOTION CLINIC



Students work on gait training with a client.

Since 2013, the physical therapy (PT) faculty members and students at Nova Southeastern University's (NSU's) Tampa Bay Regional Campus have provided pro bono PT services to patients in the Tampa Bay community through the Shark Motion Clinic. Each year, they provide quality outpatient care to hundreds of uninsured and underinsured patients in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties through the Judeo Christian and Clearwater Free clinics.

Students gain valuable experience that increases their preparation for full-time clinical rotations, while faculty members give back to the local community as they mentor students and foster their growth. Additionally, the Tampa Bay community receives much-needed

PT services for those who may not have access otherwise, while NSU benefits from increased visibility in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

"We are lucky to have this opportunity to serve our community and learn under the supervision of our very knowledgeable professors," said Madonna Rushdy, a class of 2023 Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) student.

Class of 2023 D.P.T. student Joy Murphy, who served as the Shark Motion student director, expressed similar sentiments. "I benefited greatly from Shark Motion, learning many lessons I would have not learned otherwise," she explained.

As a student PT, I became an effective listener, increased my critical-thinking skills, and cultivated many PT profession core values. As the student director, I now turn problems into opportunities and focus on solutions to problems," she added.

"Most rewarding was seeing how physical therapy changed the quality of life of people in need," Murphy said. "It made me love the profession even more."

The Shark Motion Clinic is a win-win for the community, faculty members, students, and NSU. Through this program, NSU students touch the lives of many in need and engage the mission of the American Physical Therapy Association to build a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society. ■



Pictured (from left) are fourth-year D.P.T. students Evi Lara, Elmer Van Butselaar, and Lindsay Harrison at the Shark Motion Clinic.

Article by the Department of Physical Therapy Doctoral Program—Tampa Bay

PCHCS AND KPCOM OFFER STUDENTS A NEW CONCENTRATION OPTION



NSU's Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences (PCHCS) and Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) have teamed up to offer a Master of Health Science (M.H.Sc.) in health informatics concentration for M.H.Sc. students.

Health informatics uses data and knowledge for clinical care, scientific inquiry, decision-making, and problem-solving to improve health, safety, and effectiveness of those working and being cared for within the health care delivery system. Some of the areas health informatics professionals practice in within the health care delivery ecosystem include health information specialist, clinical information analyst, health information consultant, EHR implementation manager, health information technology project manager, and chief medical information officer.

The program will provide potential health care leaders with the necessary skills, abilities, and competencies to realize their goals in health informatics. Leadership opportunities abound in a broad array of environments through the full spectrum of health care. These include education, the implementation of policy and technology, and the delivery of health care. ■

ALABAMA ALUM A CARDIOVASCULAR SONOGRAPHY SUCCESS STORY

Whitney Dodson, M.H.Sc., a class of 2014 alum from the inaugural graduating class of the Cardiovascular Sonography program at Nova Southeastern University's (NSU's) Tampa Bay Regional Campus, credits the program's challenging and rigorous curriculum for helping her become the fulfilled and success professional she is today.



"The classroom courses provided me with the knowledge to successfully pass the credentialing exams," said Dodson, who supervises the Echo and Vascular Lab of Cardiology, P.C.—a large cardiovascular care center associated with the Princeton Baptist Medical Center of the Baptist Health System in Birmingham, Alabama. "The extensive, hands-on ultrasound training in the labs helped me attain the skills needed to be successful in my clinical externships and in my future career."

Before coming to NSU, Dodson earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at the University of Louisville, where she was also a member of the national champion Ladybirds dance team. During her time at NSU, she earned a bachelor's degree in health science, where she specialized in cardiovascular sonography, before enrolling in and graduating from the Master of Health Science program.

Dodson, whose husband also works in the health care profession as a medical dosimetrist at the University of Alabama Birmingham Medical Center, is a proud NSU Shark for several reasons. "I would not be where I am today if it was not for the excellent curriculum, high standards, and the dedication of the cardiovascular sonography faculty and staff members," explained Dodson, who is the busy mother of two young children. "I want to especially thank Dr. Cathie Scholl, who was a special guide and mentor to me throughout my time in the program—and as I started my new career." ■

CON AMOR LIVING TO SERVE

by Sara Ball, second-year PA student

In August, 10 second-year physician assistant (PA) students from the Orlando Campus participated in a medical outreach trip that provided health care services to indigenous communities in the mountains of San Cristobal, Guatemala. The trip was hosted by the Hands of Esperanza and AVIS Guatemala organizations.

We treated more than 400 patients and provided school supplies. Outside the clinic, we played soccer, colored pictures, and listened to their stories. We also installed 12 indoor stoves, as well as water-filtration systems, in a number of family homes.

The patients we saw were grateful for our help, though it seemed our offerings were small and temporary. These medical outreach trips do not just alleviate physical suffering; they help remote people feel seen and know they are important. Hands of Esperanza and AVIS Guatemala showed us where they are building a surgical clinic for these communities. Soon, the relief we bring will be more permanent.

Although the work was tiring, we were constantly supported by the tireless Guatemalan people with whom we served.



Pictured (from left) are second-year PA students Andrea Rossetti and Marli Ehrlich, who pose with Rudy Gonzalez, B.S., executive director and an agronomist engineer from AVIS Guatemala, at the surgical clinic building site.

photo by Sara Ball, second-year PA student

There were Spanish-English translators from a high school in Guatemala City, as well as translators from within the indigenous communities, to help with native languages. Their incredible teamwork allowed us to provide quality care to those in need.

We were also supported by our own community, families, and friends. We raised more than \$8,000, as loved ones also donated medications and other supplies to augment what we could purchase. Others shopped online and had the items delivered to us at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus. As a unified team, we carried more than 15,000 medications and 24,000 supplies up the Guatemalan mountains.

As we enter our clinical rotations, we are 10 students who are prepared in a special way to encounter patients. We have seen how we can help the poor—and what a gift the poor are to us. We will carry with us always the people of Guatemala, who were our first real patients.

Before we returned to Florida, Hands of Esperanza asked us, “What would you like inscribed on the brick being laid in the new surgical clinic to honor your contributions?” We said, “Con amor—Orlando NSU physician assistant class of 2023.” ■



group photo in San Juan, Puerto Rico

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