

PERSPECTIVES

COLLEGE OF HEALTH CARE SCIENCES

*Serving Our Communities
with Compassion*





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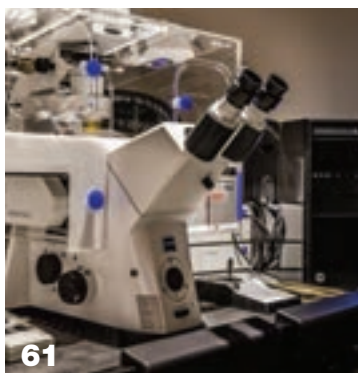
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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
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Table of Contents



DEPARTMENTS

- 2** Dean's Message
- 3** Chancellor's Communiqué
- 20** Student Affairs
- 22** Cape Corner
- 61** NSU News of Note

FEATURES

- 4** The CHCS Cares: Serving Our Communities with Compassion
- 6** Advisory Board Supports Student Success
- 11** CHCS Welcomes New Associate Dean
- 12** Healing After Hate
- 14** Fins Up in Honduras
- 16** Bird Steals Faculty Member's Heart
- 18** Inaugural Staff Retreat Enhances Engagement

COLLEGE OF HEALTH CARE SCIENCES

- 24** Anesthesiologist Assistant—Fort Lauderdale
- 26** Anesthesiologist Assistant—Tampa
- 28** Audiology—Fort Lauderdale
- 30** Cardiopulmonary Sciences—Palm Beach
- 32** Health and Human Performance—Fort Lauderdale
- 36** Health Science—Online and On-Site Programs
- 38** Medical Sonography—Fort Lauderdale
- 40** Occupational Therapy—Fort Lauderdale
- 42** Occupational Therapy—Tampa
- 44** Physical Therapy—Fort Lauderdale
- 46** Physical Therapy—Tampa
- 48** Physician Assistant—Fort Lauderdale
- 50** Physician Assistant—Fort Myers
- 52** Physician Assistant—Jacksonville
- 54** Physician Assistant—Orlando
- 58** Speech-Language Pathology—Fort Lauderdale

Dean's Message



"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."—Charles Dickens

Most professionals who work in health care do so because they genuinely want to help others. Of course, they are monetarily rewarded for the service they render; but, most will assert emphatically that their payment lies less in the dollars they receive and more in the inner satisfaction that comes from helping.

For some, such a statement may seem too idealistic, but I challenge skeptics to engage health care professionals about their vocations. The skeptics would be delighted by the litany of intangible benefits expounded by the professionals. Overwhelmingly, most are likely to remark that their lives are enriched by caring for others.

This edition of *Perspectives* highlights the value of service to others. In the College of Health Care Sciences, we believe it is our mission to enrich the lives of others by training health care professionals to exude an attitude of caring toward those they serve, while being exemplary in practice. Such service encompasses more than the required internship and externship experiences that are part of our programs' curricula. Service includes volunteering for worthy projects and seeking opportunities to serve those in need.

Notably, health care is about healing, caring, and helping. Consequently, the opportunities provided by our programs to cultivate such values are vitally important. As highlighted in this issue of *Perspectives*, the caring spirit of our students was best exemplified after the tragic events that occurred in June 2016 at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and in the many other community services they provide.

We in the college experience a great sense of satisfaction and pride when our students give of themselves as they choose to help others. Such unselfishness exemplifies NSU's core value of community.

As you peruse this publication, we encourage you—our students and alumni—to continue to be the health care leaders who embed service in your daily tasks and work to enrich the lives of others. It is important to remember that service is the greatest form of leadership.

Stanley H. Wilson, Ed.D., PT, CEAS
Dean, College of Health Care Sciences
Nova Southeastern University

PERSPECTIVES

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

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Chancellor's Communiqué



Recently, while I was listening to the university's president, George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., discuss NSU's Vision 2020 goals, he mentioned that, although the university is almost 53 years old, it has only been a merged institution since 1994, which occurred when Nova University merged with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences.

Because I have been affiliated with the university for more than three decades, Dr. Hanbury's comments made me reflect on the creative pioneers who helped establish Nova University in 1964, particularly Abraham S. Fischler, Ed.D., president emeritus. Thanks to these visionary leaders, a new educational paradigm—related to the presentation of curricula and professions—was unveiled.

As I've discussed previously, it was this forward-thinking approach to education that brought Morton Terry, D.O., the founder of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, together with Nova University—because he saw in it the same visionary attitudes and verve for the future he envisioned while creating Southeastern University of the Health Sciences.

Since the merger, NSU has continued to reach new heights of excellence, which is reflected by the fact that the university is classified as a research university with “high research activity” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Additionally, NSU is 1 of 50 universities nationwide to also be awarded Carnegie's Community Engagement Classification. On a similar note, the university recently reached a significant milestone when *U.S. News & World Report* ranked NSU number 214 in its 2017 National Universities Rankings.

In terms of the NSU Health Professions Division, I recently spent some time in the Speech-Language Pathology Program, which was integrated into the College of Health Care Sciences in July 2015 as part of the university's programmatic realignment process. This realignment, which involved repositioning five academic degree programs housed in other NSU colleges into the College of Health Care Sciences, has added new synergy to the Health Professions Division.

It is exciting to witness the Vision 2020 goals—which were adopted by the NSU Board of Trustees and supported by the deans and faculty and staff members—coming to fruition. NSU has clearly positioned itself as an educational exemplar of excellence. As a result, the university is leading the way for other academic institutions to follow.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Frederick Lippman".

Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
Chancellor, Health Professions Division
Nova Southeastern University

The CHCS Cares:

Serving Our Communities with Compassion

Students, alumni, and faculty and staff members at the College of Health Care Sciences (CHCS) are making a difference in our local communities. The CHCS cares, and the stories in this issue of *Perspectives* bring to life a few of the many ways it shows. Readers will likely be inspired and amazed by the compassion, dedication, and passion of the individuals and teams.

Last year, CHCS students contributed 1,719 hours of community service and impacted 2,541 people in their communities. Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” During their NSU journey, students are learning to become skilled professionals and engaged citizens.

Student-led projects included international medical outreach trips, domestic service experiences, health fairs, environmental cleanups, and health screenings for migrant workers. Other service-related projects included building a home through Habitat for Humanity; fund-raising for local, nonprofit organizations; and many more valuable endeavors benefiting children, animals, and the underserved.

This issue highlights a few of the ways students, alumni, and faculty and staff members are using their unique talents and passions to make a positive difference. The article “Fins Up in Honduras” describes how Andrew Geers, P.A., class of 2015, is achieving his vision to serve full time at a mission hospital in Honduras. After an experience in 2008, he felt a calling to serve in a greater capacity.

Each year, students and faculty members from multiple professions within the college venture out to Caribbean and South American countries to assist the people in those communities by providing health education and health services. In “Guatemala Mission Trip Proves Enlightening,” Ashley Sweat, PA-C, class of 2016, shares the journey of Orlando physician assistant students as they spend a week providing treatment and public health education in local schools and homes there.

“Healing After Hate: Occupational Therapy in the Context of Mass Tragedy” describes the experiences of Scott Buckingham, M.S.O.T., class of 2013, who worked with survivors of the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. While Buckingham was working to promote healing for the shooting victims, Orlando physician assistant students worked diligently to assist other health care providers by offering encouragement and support.

Second-year PA student Heidi Lamoreaux also organized her classmates and partnered with Elon University students to fill 40 gift baskets. Lamoreaux and her peers provided handwritten letters to each health care provider and included them in the baskets.



BY TERRY MORROW NELSON, PH.D., ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Audiology students have been lobbying their local congressmen to discuss various issues, such as the Veterans Hearing Aid Access and Assistance Act and the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit. “Audiology Students Lobby Congress on Capitol Hill” describes the experiences of students who traveled to Washington, D.C., and local congressional offices to advocate for the issues important to their profession.

While audiology students are advocating for issues at the civic level, physician assistant students in Jacksonville, Florida, are working to address community issues. In “Community FOCUS Hastings,” Kerry L. Whitaker, D.H.Sc., M.S.H.S., PA-C, DFAAPA, program director and assistant professor, discusses a new initiative the Jacksonville Physician Assistant Program is doing to serve Hastings—an underserved community also designated as a medical shortage area. The students and faculty members are working to leverage resources across stakeholder and professional groups to support children in the community and bring health equity to the neighborhood.

The article “9Muses and Occupational Therapy: NSU Teams Up with Group to Showcase Artwork” discusses the collaborative work of the NSU Student Occupational Therapy Association and the Mental Health Association of Southeast Florida in providing an artistic outlet that promotes ongoing healing and recovery for those labeled with mental illness. The works of art, which have been exhibited in the NSU Health Professions Division, have provided a forum for conversation among students and faculty and staff members about the artistic expressions and messages shared by the artists.

Finally, “Awakenings: Horses Enhance Awareness in Anesthesia Students” and “Bird Steals Faculty Member’s Heart” recount the experiences of students and faculty members caring for animals and unexpectedly receiving more in return than they gave. As Mary Anne Radmacher wrote, “As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.”

As the students, faculty and staff members, and alumni reach out into communities to be a light for others, the CHCS hopes others are inspired to join them, their peers, and their colleagues to make a positive difference in the community. ■



Advisory Board Supports

BY TERRY MORROW NELSON, PH.D., ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The CHCS Advisory Board has raised more than \$150,000 to support the education and development of emerging health care professionals within the College of Health Care Sciences. Through the generous, in-kind donations from hospitals and medical equipment companies, CHCS students are gaining hands-on experience using equipment and technologies that will help them transition into their careers.

The CHCS Advisory Board is designed to convene an interprofessional team of leaders that will support the college in fulfilling its mission and vision. The board members work to develop and lead initiatives to support the overall success of the college. Each leader uses his or her expertise, experience, and networks to assist the college in serving student and community needs.

Robert Wagner, M.M.Sc., RRT, CAA, who serves as board chair, said his work with the board gives him a chance to express his desire to work with others. “I volunteer because I have a passion for working with a diverse group of individuals from the community that is dedicated to student success. It is meaningful for me to build a bond between the NSU family and the community, so we all succeed together.”

Margaret (Maggie) Reilly, M.B.A., PT, founding chair, said her work with the board helps her support the programs. “I have been involved with teaching and taking students from NSU’s Physical Therapy Program,” she said. “I feel that NSU has a high-quality Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, and my work on the board can help to support that, as well as other programs, in the College of Health Care Sciences. I see how my work on the board directly supports students.”

As board leaders, Wagner and Reilly brought in substantial in-kind support to improve educational experiences inside the classroom, as well as direct donations to support student scholarships. At the 2016 annual board retreat, board members committed to increasing donations for student scholarships. In addition to in-kind donations, the board sought to raise \$35,000 for student scholarships in 2016.

To support a student scholarship at any level, there are a variety of ways to help the board help CHCS students. One favorite option is a Changing Lives Scholarship.

This unique opportunity allows donors to pledge \$1,000 annually for five years—\$38.47 per paycheck—and name a Changing Lives Scholarship through which 100 percent of the gift is awarded to a student. That means the funds are

Student Success

distributed in full each year to make an immediate difference in the life of a deserving student.

Participants develop the terms and criteria for the scholarship with staff members from the advancement team, in accordance with NSU's Changing Lives Scholarship guidelines. They can designate the NSU college, center, or program of their choice and can also specify that the funds benefit an NSU University School, undergraduate, or graduate student, as well as a doctoral candidate.

The participant may choose to establish a Changing Lives Scholarship by completing the form found at nova.edu/advancement/forms/changing-lives-scholarship-for-faculty-staff.pdf.

Other ways to give include

Payroll Deduction: Choosing to make regular, affordable gifts via payroll deduction is a convenient way to support a college or program. Access the form at nova.edu/advancement/forms/payroll_deductions.pdf. Print the form to sign it and follow the instructions.

Online: Make a secure gift online using a credit card at nova.edu/giving/ or by calling the Office of Advancement Services at (954) 262-2117. NSU accepts MasterCard, Visa, or American Express.

Check: Make checks payable to Nova Southeastern University and send them to Denise Goldson Rau, director of development, at NSU Health Professions Division, 3200 South University Drive, Room 1518A, Davie, Florida, 33328-2018. Include a note indicating the purpose of the gift and if it should go to a particular college, center, or program.

Gifts of Securities: NSU welcomes gifts of stocks and bonds; however, these gifts require special planning and consultation with a professional financial adviser and an NSU advancement staff member. People who wish to make a gift of stocks should contact Denise Goldson Rau at (954) 262-2163 or dgoldsonrau@nova.edu. Transfer instructions will be provided.

Please contact Denise Goldson Rau at (954) 262-2163 or dgoldsonrau@nova.edu for more information. ■

CHCS Advisory Board Member Bios



Robert Wagner, M.M.Sc., RRT, CAA (Chair)

Wagner, who serves as chair of the college's Department of Anesthesia, has been a health care provider for more than 30 years and has a long list of accomplishments as an

anesthesia provider and leader within the health care profession. He has been with NSU for 10 years and started the Master of Science in Anesthesia programs at the university's Fort Lauderdale/Davie and Tampa campuses. The programs train master's degree-level students to be anesthesiologist assistants (anesthetists).

Wagner's passion for obtaining corporate sponsorship over the years has led to the College of Health Care Sciences receiving a large number of medical equipment donations. He is committed to the goals and mission of the board and seeks to increase scholarship sponsorship for students.

Margaret (Maggie) Reilly, M.B.A., PT (Founding and Outgoing Chair)

Reilly, a physical therapist who graduated from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York, is the director of occupational and physical therapy at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. Her career highlights include practicing as a pediatric physical therapist in a variety of settings prior to taking on her current administrative role in 2000.

She received her M.B.A. from NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship in 2010 and assists with teaching in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at NSU's Tampa Campus. Reilly also serves as chair of the Health Care and Prevention Task Force for the Florida Developmental Disability Council.

Dawn Seay, B.A. (Vice Chair)

Seay serves as vice president of development for SOS Children's Villages—Florida, which is a residential foster care community in Broward County focused on keeping siblings together. She has more than 15 years of nonprofit fund-raising experience in health care and social services. Prior to joining SOS Children's Villages, she served as South Florida executive director for the American Diabetes Association.

She has developed several collaborative partnerships with other local community organizations, such as an initiative with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County designed to address obesity and advocate for healthy living for at-risk youth populations. Prior to joining the American Diabetes Association, Seay served as development director for the American Heart Association in Broward County. She is a graduate of Leadership Broward class XXIX and has a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida.



Peter Taylor, Ph.D. (Secretary)

Taylor, who serves as associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Health Care Sciences, is responsible for professional program accreditations, academic

program review, instructional support, and college publications. Before joining NSU, he served as assistant dean of academic affairs at the University of California—San Francisco and associate director of admissions at Northeastern University School of Law. He has held faculty positions at Santa Clara University, Virginia Tech, and Florida Memorial University.



Terry Morrow Nelson, Ph.D. (Financial Director)

Morrow Nelson, who earned a Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution, is the assistant dean of student affairs and an assistant professor in the College of Health

Care Sciences. She serves as president of the Partnership for Leadership and Transformation, as a Florida Supreme Court mediator, and as a certified Christian conciliator. She is the cofounder and former cochair of the South Florida Diversity Alliance and assisted in the development of the National Peace Academy. In 2013, she was appointed by the mayor to serve on the City of Sunrise Education Advisory Board.

Morrow Nelson is a member of the editorial review boards for the *Journal of Leadership Education*, *The Qualitative Report*, and *Peace and Conflict Studies*. During her 15 years in higher education, she has focused on bringing students and faculty and staff members together to identify opportunities for improvement and create collaborative initiatives that promote success and engagement. In 2013, she was named NSU's Executive of the Year and was awarded the NSU President's Excellence in Community Service Award in 2016.



Howard Layne, D.P.T., M.P.T.

Layne is the co-owner of Ortho-Sport, a physical therapy rehabilitation facility in Davie, Florida. A physical therapist since 1998, he earned a Doctor of Physical

Therapy degree from NSU and a degree in international business from Florida Atlantic University.

Before changing careers to become a physical therapist, Layne was a junior executive with Macy's for several years. He has worked as a physical therapist at the 2012 London Olympics for the men's and women's basketball competitions and holds certifications as a USA Triathlon coach, Kinesio Taping practitioner, and weight trainer. He also has additional training in orthotic fabrication.



John Carroll, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Carroll is a retired sheriff's office major and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, with more than 30 years of public service. He earned a Ph.D. in Public Administration at Florida Atlantic University in 2003 and

also has a Master of Public Administration, with a specialization in justice policy management.

He was appointed to the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) in 1984 and handled numerous operational and administrative positions throughout his career. As a manager, Carroll was responsible for the policy process, planning, applied research, and accreditation for the BSO. Additionally, he was one of the architects of the current NSU/BSO Program—a unique educational partnership to conduct research and develop future public safety leaders. His research and teaching interests include public administration from a range of perspectives, such as criminal justice, public policy, and organizational theory.



Franklin Renwick, M.B.A.

Renwick, who has joined forces with the Department of Justice in a classified position, earned his master's degree from NSU and is enrolled in the NSU Executive Leadership Certificate Program.

Throughout his career, he has held executive positions with two Fortune 100 companies—Target Corporation and Bank of America.

Renwick has received numerous sales awards and has provided clients with superior leadership during critical transition phases, including hiring professional staff, implementing budget reductions, and applying long-term strategic planning. He has also been involved in the community as an ambassador with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, March of Dimes, and Food for the Poor.

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CHCS Welcomes New Associate Dean



Hal C. Strough, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., ATC, joined the College of Health Care Sciences in October 2016 as its new associate dean. He previously served for eight years as the founding department chair of the master's degree program in athletic training at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota.

Before working in Minnesota, Strough served as program director and clinical coordinator for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Athletic Training Program for nine years. He also established the program and was instrumental in securing a nearly \$1-million renovation of the athletic training facilities.

Strough, who earned a Ph.D. from Purdue University and an Ed.S. and M.S. from Eastern Kentucky University, is a 30-year member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, as well as a member of the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association and Minnesota Athletic Trainers' Association (MATA). He is certified by the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) and serves as an exam item writer for the BOC.

He previously served as an instructor trainer for the American Heart Association, a site visitor for what was previously known as the Joint Review Commission on Athletic Training, and a member of the MATA's Continuing Education Committee.



Healing After Hate

BY SCOTT BUCKINGHAM, M.S.O.T.
2013 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ALUMNUS

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN THE CONTEXT OF A MASS TRAGEDY

As a member of the gay community in Orlando, Florida, I recently found myself in a unique position to be helpful in a situation that typically makes me feel helpless—domestic terrorism. Many survivors of the Pulse nightclub attack that took place in June 2016 were stabilized in acute care and discharged. Some, however, required rehabilitation beyond the acute-care setting.


I was about to meet a variety of unique individuals who would challenge my therapeutic use of self and broaden my understanding of what it means to be truly client-centered in nuanced ways. About a week after the shooting, I found myself poised to walk into a survivor's room and begin an evaluation.

Typically, I lead with exuberance and humor when meeting a patient for the first time. That day, I walked into a room so full of people, balloons, and stuffed animals that it altered the sound quality in the room. I found myself challenged with making conversation outside the domain of my practice—concerned I would say something wrong. I was a bit more formal than usual and cautious with my words.

As my patient spoke to me about his occupational pursuits, I couldn't help but relate in a profound way. He was about my age and wanted to return to many of the same activities I enjoy. Throughout his time at rehab, once he had mastered self-care skills, we spent our time working on dynamic balance tasks with modified Zumba, strengthening to increase activity tolerance, and community reentry outings to practice mobility skills in context. While treatments looked similar across patients, many of whom had similar injuries, they all had remarkably different affect regarding what had happened.

Ranging from acute post-traumatic stress disorder to no negative mood symptoms, every patient was different. The challenge became trying to structure their environment in a way that





facilitated optimum psychological well-being to maximize the efficacy of therapies.

This brings me to a point that stands out in my mind. The new north tower of Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC) has rooms facing north and south. The south-facing rooms look directly over the Pulse nightclub. When I went to evaluate a patient one morning, I realized the patient had a remarkably good view of the Pulse. Not surprisingly, the patient realized it as well.

Not putting the survivors in these rooms, to me, seemed like common sense. This entire experience was a learning curve for the entire interdisciplinary team, and served as yet another opportunity for growth on our part. Fortunately, the issue was quickly remedied. Aside from the therapies and the psychological support the survivors received, there were unique logistical considerations.

Many celebrities and survivors of other tragic events visited the hospital to provide support for the Pulse survivors on an almost daily basis. Combine these lengthy visits with 10 or 12 Pulse survivors in rehab at the same time, the three-hour-a-day rehab requirement, and 20-plus therapists' schedules. Suddenly, everything becomes a challenge.

Do you tell the Boston marathon survivor to get out of the room so you can start therapy on a Pulse victim? No, that's not the answer. There really isn't an answer. The sum of everything I've shared to this point is that we, as a team of survivors, therapists, nurses, and doctors, did the best we could in a situation that was new and unfamiliar to us. The survivors met their goals, crossed the rehab finish line, and were discharged to a community full of uncommon love and support.

I recently had the opportunity to take one of the survivors—my former patient and now friend—out to lunch to catch up. I told him I would be writing this article and asked him if he had anything he'd like for me to share about his experience. He simply said, "Getting shot feels like a hot smack."

Did his lack of wanting to elaborate perhaps speak to his desire to return to a new normal? I didn't press the issue. I had intended to pay the check when it came, only to find out someone had already taken care of it. The person, who wished to remain anonymous, requested that our waitress wish us good health.

Hateful acts precipitate many things, but the healing on all fronts and in all facets that follows showcases, in jarring contrast, the best qualities we as humans possess. ■



Fins Up in Ho

BY LAURA GUNDER-MCCLARY, D.H.SC., PA-C, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT—ORLANDO

CHCS Alumnus Realizes Medical Missionary Dream

Class of 2015 alumnus Andrew Geers, PA-C, and his wife, Alisa, are moving to Latin America to serve at a mission hospital called Hospital Loma de Luz on the rural northern coast of Honduras. Geers was first drawn to the medical missions' field in high school and was further shaped by a mission trip to Nicaragua he took with his wife in 2008.

After graduating from the University of Florida in 2009, Geers worked as a certified athletic trainer, gaining valuable health care experience. In 2013, he enrolled in the NSU Orlando Campus Physician Assistant Program to further his medical knowledge and have a greater impact on the health care needs of patients.

After graduating in the fall of 2015, he began working full time in an internal medicine practice in the Orlando area to help solidify his primary care education and training. While Geers was completing his education, his wife continued to work as a family nurse practitioner, serving uninsured and underserved patients in a community clinic in Orlando.

Left: Andrew Geers and his wife, Alisa Geers, A.R.N.P., stand at the front gate of Hospital Loma de Luz in Honduras.

nduras



The mission-minded couple is in the midst of selling their belongings and preparing to move to Honduras to realize the dream God planted in their hearts many years ago. Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, which is evidenced by the fact that more than half of the population lives in poverty and the per capita income is one of the lowest in the region.

The not-for-profit hospital, which opened in 2000, has seven full-time U.S. physicians, along with their families, volunteering their services. Patients are charged a small fee that accounts for 10 percent of the hospital's operating costs, but no one who requires care is turned away. The remaining 90 percent is raised through donations and grants. The Geers plan to volunteer at Hospital Loma de Luz while living on the hospital compound after completing six months of language school to become fluent in Spanish.

Geers is excited to use the knowledge and skills he learned as a physician assistant to care for the people of Honduras who would otherwise lack access to quality and timely health care. Those interested in obtaining information or following the Geers' journey can do so by visiting geersinhonduras.wordpress.com/. ■

Bird Steals Faculty Member's Heart

BY LORI DESORBO, M.M.SC., CAA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT—TAMPA

In addition to my job as an assistant professor for the Tampa Anesthesiologist Assistant Program and as a certified anesthesiologist assistant at the University of Florida in Gainesville, I volunteer for the Florida Parrot Rescue (FPR) as a foster parent for parrots in need of forever homes. The nonprofit FPR is a volunteer-run avian rescue dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and placement of companion parrots.

Since I began fostering Elvis, a body-bald, 22-year-old female Moluccan cockatoo, I noticed that the bird regularly fell from her perch, regardless of the perch's diameter or material. I also noted that she appeared constantly sleepy and unable to perch with any stability. In fact, Elvis would even fall if held by hand if I didn't hold her against me.

Throughout my first week with her, I witnessed Elvis make multiple, failed attempts to sleep. She would begin the typical, sleepy-eyed process of dozing off—sometimes raising a foot in the normal fashion—but would begin to tilt to her left, before abruptly waking as she lost balance. Sadly, she

would commonly fall to the bottom of her cage, the ground, or whatever else was waiting below. This cycle just repeated itself as I sympathetically watched it occur over and over.

I brainstormed with a few volunteers to find a remedy. I promptly padded the bottom of Elvis's cage and play

stand with towels to lessen the chance of injury and then wrapped the perches with various types of medical tape in an attempt to improve grip. The results seemed positive, albeit minimal. It soon became apparent there might be an issue with her feet and ability to lock them as she slept.

We all felt it imperative that Elvis be immediately vetted, so I made an appointment the next day. The exam results showed her bodily systems were within normal ranges, but her legs and feet were extremely weak. As a result, all the perches needed to be removed immediately.

Elvis, like most parrots, had absolutely no interest in crawling around the lower level on her cage's poop-grate, so when the perches were removed, she perched on the thin metal wire of her food-cup holder. Naturally, within a short period of time, she again began the endless process of dozing off and falling to the bottom of her cage. It became immediately obvious that I just couldn't leave the bird in an empty cage without perches and padding, so they were reinstalled in this confused cockatoo's home.

I reviewed Elvis's pre-FPR history and suspected her issues were most likely due to a domino effect of a poor diet composed solely of sugary fruit cups for more than 20 years. She had already been switched over to a healthy diet and was being given as much protein as she wanted. Some ingenious volunteers came up with the idea to suspend the grating at the food-cup level in order to



Left to right: Elvis in her monster sweater, Christmas outfit, and button shirt

create a raised floor for Elvis to comfortably stand on and walk across.

This replaced the perches with a wide surface mounted at a normal perch level so Elvis could easily stand or hold for stability, yet also allowed her to find a location in which she could lean on the

sides of her cage to allow sleep. After the modification was made, Elvis immediately found her way to the rear of the cage and fell asleep.

In addition to the sleep issues, I also tended to her constant picking of the large scab in the middle of her chest. I understood this scab to be the result of her self-plucking at about age six, but there was fresh blood visible daily. Luckily, I was familiar with parrots wearing sweaters to create a barrier between that destructive beak and their plucked bodies.

I carefully created and fitted a shirt to Elvis to combat picking and plucking. Because Elvis quickly learned how to chew through the shirt, I began using patches to defeat her efforts. A second benefit of the shirt was insulation that kept her warm and decreased the energy required to warm herself.

Within a few short weeks, this sweet cockatoo had gone through a seemingly miraculous transformation. In addition to sleeping, perching, and growing feathers, the strength greatly increased in her beak and feet. Elvis continues to grow stronger with each passing day, and her improvement in health is certainly demonstrated in her personality. Elvis stole my heart, so I adopted her a few months later.

If you want to learn more or are interested in adopting a bird, please go to the Florida Parrot Rescue website at floridaparrotrescue.com. ■

Inaugural Staff Retreat Enhances Engagement

BY CHRISTINE KIRCHER, B.S., DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, AND CHRYSTAL RANDLE, M.S., DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYEE SERVICES

On May 13, 2016, the college held its inaugural staff retreat. All employees were invited to spend the day participating in team-building exercises, exploring the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, and learning about the many changes and advancements happening within the CHCS and NSU. Through the cooperation of the CHCS administration, the college was able to select a day when many staff members from all the NSU Florida campuses were able to attend, with more than 40 of the 57 staff members participating.

The day began with introductions and brief announcements and was quickly followed by a presentation geared toward team building by Maureen Simunek-Appelt, M.B.A., human resources manager for the Division of Clinical Operations. The participants were then broken into groups of six and given a written label, with each label providing a statement indicating how they were to be treated.

Each group was tasked with planning the next staff retreat, but individuals had to treat each other based on his or her label. This was

an excellent way for everyone to learn how it feels to be treated a certain way due to generalizations or prejudices.

There were several changes of venue to allow the staff members to see the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus and explore new areas. To facilitate this endeavor, organizers started a scavenger hunt in which the participants were placed into three groups and given clues to find unique and useful locations throughout the campus.

The staff members enjoyed seeing the campus and exploring various areas, such as the Healing and Medicinal Garden, the Alvin Sherman Library, the Don Taft University Center, the NSU Bookstore, the Horvitz Administration Building, Gold Circle Lake, the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship at the Carl DeSantis Building, and the Terry Administration Building.

They ate lunch at the University Center Food Court, which proved interesting, because it took place during the NSU undergraduate graduation festivities. The area was

crowded, but the experience gave staff members a chance to see what the real hustle and bustle of NSU can be like.

In the afternoon, everyone met in the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, where the CHCS dean, Stanley H. Wilson, Ed.D., PT, CEAS, spoke to the staff and provided informational updates. The attendees also had an opportunity to ask questions, which allowed for a flow of ideas and suggestions.

Following several additional scavenger hunts, the attendees returned to the Terry Building and broke into groups again. Each person was asked to write down a problem or two that he or she was facing and pass them around the group, letting each member provide advice on how to handle the issues. This served as an excellent opportunity to provide vital feedback to each other.

The retreat centered on team building, and as the day ended, there was amazing evidence of existing relationships strengthened and new ones formed. ■



Left, front row, from left: Vjara Cook, Xiomy Santiago, Janet Shaw, Jonathon May, and Diane Gaston. Back row, from left: Danielle Sattelberger, Gorvens Sene, Laura Hanson, Brian Montero, and Brenda Miles

*Below, back row, from left: Jonathan Gusmano, Aaron Gordon, Chennel Williams, Barbara Morrison, and Latoya Hanna. Front row, from left: Carey Courson, Alissa Pullom, Jo Ann Rogers, Melly Iglesias, Karla Qui-
nones, Shirley Robles, Melissa Lawton, Tiffani Oviasogie, and Tennille Tomlinson*



Above, back row, from left: Laurene Bowe, LeAnn Clairday, Deidra Love Ross, Robert McCalla, Deborah Ferguson, and Nelsia King. Front row, from left: Jennifer Pirrung, Fabiana Pamphile-Cover, Shantell Cooper, Karyn Williams, Yolanda Perkins, Brenda Van Hoose, and Christina Alves



*Right, from left: Janet Shaw, Christine Kircher, Marcia Mc-
Neil, Barbara Morrison, Melly Iglesias, and Deidra Love Ross*



Student Affairs

Student Leaders Form New Government

BY JONATHON MAY, M.A., DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

During the 2016 summer semester, CHCS student leaders met every other week to draft a new Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution that would establish a singular student government in the college. The new SGA represents the college's 29 diverse academic programs by giving voice to the needs of the students.

In the past, each academic program had a student government that represented that program's needs, but acted individually. While this system generally worked, it did not allow for additional collaborating and sharing of student government funds among the various SGAs. Brad Williams, Ed.D., NSU vice president for student affairs, convened a task force that included all CHCS student government presidents, student affairs staff members, and regional campus staff members.

The task force met three times to reimagine the partnership between the Fort Lauderdale/Davie and regional campus student governments. In these meetings, the regional campus student leaders expressed their desire to receive funding and support that would match what students were receiving at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie

Campus. They also wanted equal representation in regard to college-wide decisions and planning.

Following the discussions, Williams charged the student government presidents with establishing a new form of government that would create more equity between the various campuses and allow them to share governance. At the same time, he challenged them to accomplish this without receiving additional SGA funding.

Throughout 2016, the CHCS student government presidents formed a Constitution Review Committee, which met every two weeks to brainstorm and envision a new model of student government. In the new model, it was agreed that the Fort Lauderdale/Davie and regional campus groups would each receive \$7,500 annually, with any remaining funds being placed into a general college SGA fund.

Each new program association will be able to request additional funding based on its proposals. This change has given all program associations the ability to serve their communities equitably. The Council of Presidents was developed to preside over the new college SGA, with each of the 19 presidents having a vote in matters affecting the budget and related decisions. ■





CHCS Enters the World of Social Media

BY RACHEL DECKER, M.ED., GRADUATE ASSISTANT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

The CHCS Office of Student Affairs is reaching students in a new way via its Facebook group, which was established in January 2016. The office historically communicated with students through email, but it has recognized the need to interact with students in new ways and through their preferred mediums. The Office of Student Affairs chose Facebook due to the variety of methods of information dissemination and opportunities for reciprocal communication with students.

After consulting with the NSU Division of Public Relations and Marketing Communications, student affairs decided to create a Facebook group rather than a page, so group members would be notified when information was posted. Another Facebook group benefit is the polling feature, which allows a group administrator to poll all group members about a particular topic.

Since the group's creation, membership has grown to more than 600 students and faculty and staff members. Consequently, student affairs can advertise easily to all CHCS students at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie and regional campuses. The student program associations and other student organizations are invited to post fliers and announcements—an opportunity that can also be extended to academic departments and campus partners.

The group can be accessed at facebook.com/groups/novasoutheasternchcs. To post to the CHCS Facebook group, please email studentaffairschcs@nova.edu. ■

CAPE Corner

Second Annual CAPE Induction Ceremony

BY SANDEE DUNBAR, D.P.A., OTR/L, FAOTA, CHAIR OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT, ASSISTANT DEAN OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CAPE COORDINATOR; ROBERT MCCALLA, M.S., MANAGER, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND BERNADETTE ST. SAUVEUR, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, DEAN'S OFFICE

The second annual Center for Academic and Professional Excellence (CAPE) Induction Ceremony was held on August 19, 2016. During the ceremony, 23 faculty and staff members were inducted, which included graduates from the Academy for Career Enrichment, the Hybrid Transformation Institute, the Leadership and Management Academy, and the Research Academy.

Michael Simonson, Ph.D., department chair and associate professor of the NSU Instructional Design and Technology Program, provided an energetic and inspiring keynote address on significant points of academic leadership. The following people also provided meaningful examples of how the CAPE courses have benefited them and how they have applied the information in their academic roles.

- Alicia Bolden, M.P.A.S., PA-C, assistant professor, Physician Assistant Program, Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus
- Frederick DiCarlo, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, assistant professor and director of academic and faculty support, Speech-Language Pathology Program, Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus
- Iris M. Reynolds, administrative assistant, Physician Assistant Program, Orlando Campus

Sonia Kay, Ph.D., OTR/L, assistant professor and CAPE Executive Council chair, shared information about the council's numerous activities and discussed the progress made within the last academic year. This included the development of two new committees and a strategic

plan, as well as the initiation of the Academy for Career Enrichment for staff members.

The latter initiative has provided an opportunity for staff members to engage in formal professional development activities. In fact, some staff members now collaborate with the instructors within the courses and enjoy this type of learning.

The first CAPE course started in 2011, and CAPE was formally developed and implemented in 2012. There are now 107 graduates of the various academies. This number is expected to grow as CAPE provides additional courses in 2017. These will include a two-course series on conflict resolution with Brianna Kent, Ph.D., department chair of health sciences and director of the Doctor of Health Science Program.

Organizers thanked the staff members who helped make the Center for Academic and Professional Excellence an important part of the College of Health Care Sciences. Organizers also appreciated the collaboration with the dean's office to provide the college awards section of the ceremony.

Participation in CAPE activities benefits numerous faculty and staff members within the CHCS and the College of Nursing, as well as the NSU community at large. Stanley H. Wilson, Ed.D., PT, CEAS, CHCS dean, and Rick Davis, Ed.D., PA-C, executive associate dean for professional and extramural health affairs for the Health Professions Division, are realizing their vision of the program in many different ways. ■



CAPE Induction Ceremony group photo

ACADEMY FOR CAREER ENRICHMENT

Kirsten Asselta	Physician Assistant
Sarah Braithwood, B.A.	Physician Assistant
Carey Courson	Occupational Therapy
Yumelys Iglesias	Physical Therapy
Marciann Pagan	Physician Assistant
Karla Quinones	Occupational Therapy
Shirley Robles, M.B.A., M.A.C.C.	Physician Assistant
Iris M. Reynolds	Physician Assistant
Xiomara Santiago	Anesthesiologist Assistant

HYBRID TRANSFORMATION (TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY)

Alicia Bolden, M.P.A.S., PA-C	Physician Assistant
Diana Cherkiss, M.M.S., PAC	Physician Assistant
Teresita Lemus, Ed.D.	Natural Sciences
Lynda Ross, D.P.T., D.H.S., PT	Physical Therapy
Pradeep Vanguri, Ph.D., ATC	Athletic Training

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Mariana D'Amico, Ed.D., OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA	Occupational Therapy
Jermaine Leclerc, M.H.Sc., AA-C	Anesthesiologist Assistant
Lea Kaploun, Ph.D., CCC-SLP	Speech-Language Pathology
Jennifer Stahl, M.Ed.	NSU University School
Elizabeth Swann, Ph.D., ATC, LAT	Health and Human Performance
Pradeep Vanguri, Ph.D., ATC	Athletic Training

RESEARCH

Frederick DiCarlo, Ed.D., CCC-SLP	Speech-Language Pathology
Hélène Fisher, SLP.D., CCC	Speech-Language Pathology
Lea Kaploun, Ph.D., CCC-SLP	Speech-Language Pathology



Michael Simonson, Ph.D., department chair, instructional design and technology, and CAPE induction keynote speaker

Anesthesiologist Assistant

FORT LAUDERDALE

Awakenings: Horses Enhance Awareness in Anesthesia Students

BY SHELLEY GREEN, PH.D., LMFT, PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY THERAPY

For six weeks in the summer of 2016, students in NSU's anesthesiologist assistant (AA) programs honed their skills and enhanced their professionalism in a barn rather than in the lab or classroom. This unique training experience, which was created and offered by the staff members of Stable Place in Davie, Florida, and the NSU Department of Family Therapy, offered AA students the opportunity to learn experientially.

Through structured activities with horses, students learned how to develop and refine their self-confidence, assertiveness, leadership skills, and awareness of their immediate context, which are valuable skills that will benefit them in their future careers.

Valerie Judd, executive director of Stable Place—a local non-profit offering equine-assisted clinical services, education, and training—and I developed the program and curriculum and trained the staff members involved in the delivery. Ellen Rondino, M.S., manager of clinical operations for the Department of Anesthesia and a master's degree student in the Family Therapy Program, also was instrumental in launching the collaboration that led to the innovative pilot project.

Rob Wagner, M.M.Sc., CAA, chair, Department of Anesthesia, and Jermaine Leclerc, M.H.Sc., M.H.S.A., CAA, program director and assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesia at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, provided the enthusiasm and administrative support that allowed the program to thrive. ■



From left: Class of 2017 students Jackie Neagos, Stephanie Wood, and Johnny Olson with Paris during a clinical day at the barn

SIX-WEEK PROGRAM GIVES STUDENT INVALUABLE LESSONS

Iman Norwood, AA student, class of 2017, describes her experience participating in the program.

Having no previous experience with horses, I was unsure of what to expect on the first day. All I knew was that we had to communicate with these large, muscular animals with body language and nonverbal communication. I was very apprehensive and fearful. I was uncertain of the nature of horses, how fast they could react, or if they would kick, run away suddenly, or bite. As a military veteran, I am very accustomed to thorough instructions followed by demonstration.

This was not the case with horses, as we were instructed that there was no right or wrong. We would just have to figure out how to interact on our own. As we went along introducing ourselves to the horses, I stopped at the stall of one beautiful, yet somewhat frightening, horse. I wasn't looking in his direction since his back was turned to me, and I was distracted looking at another horse.

When I turned to look at the horse I had been ignoring, I didn't notice he had gracefully walked right up to me. In fact, we were literally nose to nose. He was staring me directly in the eyes, seemingly looking into my soul. This was the first lesson among many that would translate into the hospital setting—to always be aware of your surroundings.

As the weeks progressed, we spent more time with the horses, performing exercises that included physical exams, grooming, and having them follow commands (such as moving forward and backward and getting up on a tire). I soon realized I was getting more comfortable with them. I learned quickly that, like our patients, all horses were not the same. Some needed love and affection to get them to follow commands, while others needed you to be a little stern.

Some horses were stubborn at times, while others were nervous wrecks. However, the horses would eventually comply if we, the

Iman Norwood with China



students, altered our approach and changed our nonverbal communication. Through learning about the horses and how they communicated, we were, in fact, learning more about ourselves. We were learning how others perceived us. Perception is important in the field of medicine, because as we work with preceptors, patients, and other health care professionals, they will constantly be formulating impressions of us based on our actions and not necessarily on what we say.

Once I completed one of the most important finals of my student career, I found it necessary to go straight to the barn, because it had become such a peaceful place. As I looked back over the previous weeks, I saw that my equine training put me at ease and helped me to refocus on being aware of my body language. By the last day, I had no fear with the horses—only a stronger connection to the horses, to my classmates, and most importantly, with myself.

If I had one word to describe the horses, it would be majestic, which is defined as “impressive or beautiful in a dignified or inspiring way.” This definition sums up my six-week experience. I was inspired to be confident, deliberate, and assertive. I was taught to not be aggressive, but to show compassion, to be vigilant, and to enjoy what I do. These lessons will translate to my training in the hospital setting and to my future as a certified anesthesiologist assistant. ■

Anesthesiologist Assistant

TAMPA



Julia Chung prepares to administer anesthesia drugs.

The Classroom vs. the Operating Room

BY LORI DESORBO, M.M.SC., CAA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

The Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA) Program provides faculty members with a unique teaching experience. The certified anesthesiologist assistants (CAA) who work in the program provide lectures in a classroom setting and in simulation labs to prepare the students for their clinical rotations. They also have the opportunity to work and spend their day in an operating room participating in the care of patients undergoing various procedures while also instructing the same students educated in the program.

Teaching in the classroom is very different than teaching in the operating room, and there is no formal preparation for becoming a clinical preceptor. The clinical preceptor duty to the students on that day is to provide them with the best learning environment possible, as well as provide the best care possible to the patients. It is a difficult task, but the faculty members do it with great pride.

Being an anesthesiologist assistant professor is very similar to being a professor in any other program when talking about classroom education. Professors give lectures, create PowerPoint presentations, assign reading, answer questions, and grade quizzes and exams. There are many discussions in the classroom and in the labs on possible anesthetic scenarios encountered in the operating room, including the infinite number of ways to handle these scenarios.

Anesthesia is not black and white, and the experience of professors plays an immense role in these discussions. All of the AA faculty members possess at least five years of clinical experience before they become a professor and continue to work in a hospital setting as a CAA.

Lori Desorbo, left, assistant professor, and Julia Chung, anesthesiologist assistant student, prepare to perform a craniotomy.



Being an effective clinical preceptor is mostly about keeping a balance between all the elements involved. Clinical preceptors are still educators, but first and foremost, they have a responsibility to the patient's care and safety. An anesthesiologist assistant professor has that same responsibility to the patient, with an added responsibility to the AA student, making the balancing act a bit more challenging.

Everything the students are responsible to learn and know in the classroom and lab must carry over to the clinical aspects of anesthesia. Many students have a great wealth of knowledge, but have trouble transitioning that knowledge into action in the operating room. The professors know the students they work with in the operating room, which is an advantage over a clinical preceptor who does not work in the program.

The AA clinical preceptors are obligated to balance between teaching and providing quality health care to the patients. As preceptors, there is a delicate balance between giving the student enough autonomy to learn and develop, while still being a responsible practitioner.

Educating students in the classroom and operating room, while also being responsible for the patients, includes negative and/or positive feedback as well. Evaluating a student's performance is a very important part of the job. All behaviors and decisions made by the student in the operating room need to be discussed face-to-face at the end of the day or at the end of the case.

Additionally, the preceptor must complete a formal evaluation. Filling out this evaluation truthfully is another responsibility of the clinical preceptor. An AA professor identifies the ramifications of evaluations not being filled out with truth in mind. Many preceptors want to spare the feelings of the student, which will only hurt the student in the end. By writing a truthful evaluation, the program can work with the students

to get them focused on the areas they need to work on to be successful.

The anesthetic decisions made by the clinical preceptor during the case should also be conveyed to the students so they understand the rationale for these practices. These evaluations and conversations will help tie-together classroom, lab, and textbook skills with real-world operating room skills.

Working as a CAA in a teaching institution opens eyes to how much knowledge one lacks given the variety of procedures and illnesses that might arise. Education helps keep people humble when practicing medicine, because they learn something new during every single case. Clinical preceptors and professors need to demonstrate a desire to educate and share knowledge and be enthusiastic, respectful, fair-minded, and willing to work with a diverse group of people.

Preceptors also need to have the ability to remember what it was like to be a student. Being a clinical preceptor for AA students gives preceptors the chance to influence someone's future practice as an anesthesiologist assistant, which is an amazing opportunity for the student and for the profession. ■

Audiology

FORT LAUDERDALE

Audiology Students Lobby Congress on Capitol Hill

BY ERICA B. FRIEDLAND, AU.D., DEPARTMENT CHAIR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



NSU audiology students and faculty members pose with American Academy of Audiology lobbyists.

NSU's Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) has an active chapter that advocates for the audiology profession. Fourth-year student Kelly Sharpe, who was the first government relations chair, created the position and initiated advocacy trips for the college's SAA chapter. This was accomplished through involvement in the local community, letter-writing campaigns, and travel to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

"My main vision of SAA advocacy was to spread the word on who we are as a field," Sharpe said. "We do so much more than a standard hearing test. I am working very hard to obtain my professional degree, and I wanted all SAA members to feel the same way I did."

Second-year student Kasia Baginski said it was refreshing to see so many students participating. "The SAA

encourages advocating through strength in numbers," she said. "This is evident with the number of students who participate in advocacy events. I was grateful to participate in a local advocacy trip to visit U.S. Senator Marco Rubio."

During the trip, students met with Rubio's staff members to discuss legislation and bills involving audiology and hearing-related health care issues. "Advocating at Marco Rubio's office was a great experience," said second-year student Nathalie Gil. "Representing our field face-to-face with Senator Rubio's staff members really allowed me to see why educating our community and local government is so important. The issues are apparent and obvious to us, but staffers did not realize how our issues directly affect their constituents."

For the second year, SAA students and faculty members traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate on Capitol Hill. The students spent hours preparing for their briefing with Kate Thomas and Marilyn Richmond, government relations staff members for the American Academy of Audiology.

The students met with key congressional office representatives to express support for the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act (S. 315, H.R. 1882) and their opposition and concerns regarding the Veterans Hearing Aid Access and Assistance Act (S. 564), Veteran's Access to Hearing Health Act of 2015 (H.R. 353), and Medicare Audiology Services Enhancement Act (H.R. 116).

“The advocacy trip went above and beyond my expectations. I think it can be intimidating to students to think about going to Capitol Hill and speaking to staffers, but it wasn’t as scary as I thought,” said third-year student Ashley Radcliffe. “It was a chance to have conversations with people about what we do and where we want to see our field go in the future. Most people aren’t familiar with audiology, so it’s our job to educate them. Overall,

it made me realize how important it is to be active about legislation in our field.”

Thankfully, the hard work paid off. On September 12, 2016, Congress amended the Veterans Mobility Act of 2015 (H.R. 3471), which served as an important first step to ensure veterans receive a higher standard of care by requiring hearing aid dispensers be supervised by an audiologist. ■

Comparing Performance Between Hearing Aids and Personal Sound Amplification Products

BY LACHELLE LAZARUS, AU.D., CLASS OF 2016



Lachelle Lazarus, Au.D., a recent NSU graduate, is working as a licensed clinical audiologist at the Yale Hearing and Balance Center in New Haven, Connecticut.

Patients with sensorineural hearing loss, especially in the high frequencies, commonly report difficulty understanding speech in the presence of background noise. For these patients, it is typical to recommend hearing aids; however, patients often resist using them. Many patients often try over-the-counter amplifiers, otherwise known as personal sound amplification products (PSAP). The technology of PSAPs is advancing, but the differences in performance between approved hearing aids and PSAPs are unclear.

If PSAP function is comparable to hearing aid technology, the value of these PSAPs may be greater than that of hearing aids for patients with minimal hearing loss. In this study, researchers compared electroacoustic analysis of PSAPs to hearing aids. Researchers chose three PSAPs and four hearing aids for evaluation. The hearing aids varied by technology level—two premium, one affordable, and one basic—and were programmed for a minimal, high-frequency

hearing loss. Researchers compared the magnitude of noise reduction using front-to-back ratios and omnidirectional vs. fixed-directional microphones between hearing aids and PSAPs.

Omni to fixed-directional microphone testing revealed one PSAP to have a greater magnitude of noise reduction in its omnidirectional setting in comparison to the hearing aids. None of the hearing aids was significantly different from the other. Signal-to-noise ratio testing revealed the same PSAP to be most similar to three of the four hearing aids tested. The remaining two PSAPs were only comparable in performance to the basic technology hearing aid.

Overall, the performance of one PSAP is comparable to several of the hearing aids tested, suggesting this could be a viable option for those patients with minimal, high-frequency hearing loss who are reluctant to purchase hearing aids. ■

Cardiopulmonary Sciences

PALM BEACH

Respiratory Therapy Adjunct Faculty Spotlights



William Phillips, D.H.Sc.

William Phillips, D.H.Sc., an adjunct faculty member in the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy postprofessional online program, serves as the director of respiratory care services, neurodiagnostics, noninvasive cardiology, and pulmonary diagnostic labs and sleep disorders at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Phillips, who is a registered respiratory therapist with two daughters, aspired to complete a terminal degree and found that the Doctor of Health Science Program at NSU's College of Health Care Sciences was a perfect fit for him and his family. After earning his D.H.Sc. degree in 2005, he pursued a faculty role with Nova Southeastern University.

Phillips was the first child in his family to attend college. In fact, his parents only attained eighth-grade educations in rural Mississippi. Consequently, he cannot adequately express how it feels to be a part of the CHCS faculty. He thinks his educational accomplishments belong to not only him, but also to his parents, who pushed him to do his best and achieve much more in life than they were able to offer.

As NSU continues to expand its distance-learning programs, he hopes to remain an integral part of delivering education to working individuals such as himself. As an adjunct faculty member and an alumnus, he is thankful to be a part of the mission and vision of NSU and give back to the institution that gave to him.



Darren Hoffberger, D.O.

Darren Hoffberger, D.O., who was raised in South Florida, showed an interest in the medical field from childhood. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1994 and then returned to Florida to attend NSU's College of Osteopathic medicine, earning his D.O. degree in 1998.

The next several years were busy for Hoffberger, who completed his internal medicine residency training at Botsford Hospital in Michigan. He later relocated to Tampa, Florida, where he completed advanced fellowship training at the University of South Florida in the subspecialty areas of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine.

After fulfilling his fellowship requirements, Hoffberger returned to South Florida to accept a position at a private practice in Deerfield Beach with the Pulmonary and Sleep Specialists of Florida group. He also provides leadership at Broward Health North as the medical director of both the Department of

Respiratory Medicine and the Broward Health Sleep Disorders Center.

Hoffberger heads the specialty unit that provides care to patients who suffer from conditions related to ventilator-dependent respiratory failure and was recently elected for a second term as chief of staff at Broward Health North. He also serves as chair of the Broward Health Unified Medical Staff and Joint Conference Committee.

Hoffberger's dedication to teaching and improving the quality of care in the respiratory medicine field led him to assist in the establishment of NSU's Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy Program. He currently serves as the program's medical director and participates on the advisory board.

In addition to coaching soccer for his daughters' teams, Hoffberger and his family members volunteer with the SOS Children's Village and Broward Meals on Wheels, where he also serves on the board of directors. ■

Health and Human Performance

FORT LAUDERDALE

Exercise and Sport Science Students Assess Professional Hockey Hopefuls



From left: Tommy Powers; Kourtney Kostzer; Winter Rodriguez; Tobin Silver; Brittany Calaluca; Samuel Castillo; Eddie Reyes, Florida Panthers' strength and conditioning specialist; Dan Ogle; and Corey Peacock

A group of exercise and sport science students were able to put their skills to the test in the big leagues in the summer of 2016. For the third straight year, Tommy Powers, CSCS, PES, CES, head strength and conditioning coach for the Florida Panthers hockey team, invited NSU students and their faculty mentors to assist with physiological and functional testing at the team's development camp.

The participants, which included faculty mentors Corey Peacock, Ph.D., CSCS, CISSN, CPT, and Tobin Silver, Ph.D., CSCS, also had the opportunity to test some of

the veteran players. Powers and his staff members use an approach where athletes rotate through stations, such as body composition, functional movement patterns (e.g., overhead squat), vertical jump, and muscular endurance (e.g., side-plank hold).

The testing process is imperative to identify areas for improvement from both a performance and injury-risk perspective. "It was a great experience," said student participant Samuel Castillo. "It helped me get repetitions under my belt for functional testing as well as my evaluation and goniometry skills." ■

Internship Leads to Job for Disabled Veteran and Alumnus

BY MONIQUE MOKHA, PH.D., ATC, CSCS, PROFESSOR AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Class of 2016 alumnus Miguel Mercado-Betancourt, B.S., a certified personal trainer and disabled veteran, works full time for Onnit, which is one of the fastest-growing fitness companies in the world. Mercado-Betancourt first earned an internship at the Austin, Texas, site while completing his exercise and sport science degree requirements.

The company embraces total human optimization, which is a concept fitting of Mercado-Betancourt, who spent six years on active duty under the Department of Defense as part of a maritime antiterrorism force protection unit serving the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Navy.

Mercado-Betancourt was drawn to exercise and sport science after he completed his military service and reflected on how so many illnesses could be prevented through simple lifestyle changes. While attending a personal training institute in Winter Park, Florida, in 2013, an instructor encouraged Mercado-Betancourt to pursue a degree in exercise and sport science.

Not long after he began his degree pursuit at NSU, Mercado-Betancourt forged a relationship with Corey Peacock, Ph.D., CSCS, CISSN, CPT, and Tobin Silver, Ph.D., CSCS—the professors who facilitated the Onnit internship that led to a job. “Not bad for a 41-year-old disabled vet with learning disabilities,” Mercado-Betancourt proclaimed. ■

Miguel Mercado-Betancourt, right, conducts a personal training session during his internship.

Health and Human Performance

FORT LAUDERDALE

Student Club Assists at Cleanup Event

BY PRADEEP VANGURI, PH.D., LAT, ATC, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ATHLETIC TRAINING

During the summer of 2016, members of the NSU Athletic Training Student Organization (ATSO) volunteered their time with the Boys & Girls Club of Broward County at its annual Club Cleanup Event. The Carver Ranches Club in West Park, Florida, a countywide club that maintains one of the highest memberships among the 12 clubs in the county, was the lucky recipient of the ATSO's volunteer efforts.

The Club Cleanup Event provided an opportunity for volunteers to help with the various cleaning, organizing, and painting activities needed around the facility in preparation for the 2016–2017 school year. Dayna Shull, the college's ATSO president, and Jason McMullen, ATSO secretary, served as volunteer coordinators for the day and helped keep community volunteers organized and on-task throughout the day.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community while also meeting some great new people who share the desire to help others," McMullen said. "It was amazing to see how much a group of caring individuals were able to accomplish as a team, and how much it would mean to the kids who attend the club." ■



From left: Brenda Fulmore, Carver Ranches Club director; Jason McMullen; Pradeep Vanguri, Carver Ranches Club Advisory Council president; and Dayna Shull



Pradeep Vanguri (kneeling, second from left) poses with preceptor workshop participants from Broward County.

Athletic Training Program Hosts Preceptor Workshop

On July 30, the Athletic Training Program hosted its annual preceptor workshop involving athletic trainers from various clinical settings across Broward County. Megan Colas, Ph.D., LAT, ATC, NREMT, athletic training clinical director, and Pradeep Vanguri, Ph.D., LAT, ATC, athletic training program director, coordinated the workshop, which provided educational content for athletic trainers who serve as clinical preceptors for the NSU Athletic Training Program.

This workshop included presentations on “Youth Sports Safety” and the “Athletic Training Location and Services (ATLAS)” database by Dustin Gatens, M.S., LAT, ATC, NSU head athletic trainer for research and development. Brian Cross, D.O., chief of orthopedic surgery at Broward Health Sports Medicine, also discussed the topic “Pediatric Hip Trauma Assessment.” This unique meeting, hosted by NSU, is the only meeting of its kind in Broward County to bring together athletic trainers from

various disciplines across the county for clinical education.

“The role of the preceptor in the Athletic Training Program is invaluable and helps bridge the gap between didactic knowledge and clinical practice,” Gatens said. “Serving throughout Broward County, NSU Athletic Training Program preceptors provide an environment for NSU athletic training students to fulfill the NSU Core Value of community engagement.” ■

Health Science

ONLINE AND ON-SITE PROGRAMS

Celebrating the Accomplishments of an Innovative Health Educator

BY BRIANNA BLACK KENT, PH.D., DEPARTMENT CHAIR OF HEALTH SCIENCE AND DIRECTOR OF THE PH.D. IN HEALTH SCIENCE, AND MAUREEN O'HARA, D.H.SC., PA-C, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DOCTOR AND MASTER OF HEALTH SCIENCE PROGRAMS



From left: Sandrine Gaillard-Kenney, Patricia E. Kelly, and Stanley H. Wilson at Kelly's retirement party, which was hosted by the Department of Health Science

After 12 years of innovative leadership, Patricia E. Kelly, Ed.D., PA-C, retired from her role as director of the Doctor of Health Science Program. She began her CHCS academic career in 2003 as an adjunct professor in the program, then served as chair of the Department of Health Science from 2005 to 2007, where she assisted in launching

the anesthesiologist assistant and vascular sonography programs.

In Kelly's first year as program director, the Doctor of Health Science student body included 40 students and 4 alumni. Stanley H. Wilson, Ed.D., PT, CEAS, who serves as CHCS dean, noted that Kelly "created a culture of academic excellence that resulted in many of her graduates achieving major career accomplishments." Kelly also received praise from William Kohlhepp, D.H.Sc., PA-C, dean of the Quinnipiac University School of Health Sciences in North Haven, Connecticut, who described Kelly "as the impetus for me to start my doctorate in the NSU Doctor of Health Science Program."

Under Kelly's leadership, 250 students are enrolled in the Doctor of Health Science Program, while program graduates are serving in leadership positions in clinical practice, academia, hospital administration, and public health. "Dr. Kelly developed the Doctor of Health Science degree from a small NSU program to a degree that is now one of the most respected doctoral degrees in the country," said 2016 alumnus Jim Burkett, EMT-P, PA-C.

For the students participating in the online Doctor of Health Science academic environment, Kelly built a strong community of learners who prospered beyond graduation. Sandrine Gaillard-Kenney, Ed.D., assistant dean of CHCS undergraduate studies, shared that Kelly's accomplishments could not be captured only by numbers of students or growth of the program's reputation. "Pat realized what few online administrators achieve," Gaillard-Kenney said. "She became a mentor to her students, which can be the most meaningful impact a faculty member and director can have on students."

Kelly, who is enjoying her retirement, lives with her 12-year-old Welsh terrier on Michigan's Upper Peninsula on a 12-acre spread of land in the middle of a densely wooded parcel. ■



Renata Rosenqvist is shown at the ADHA 2016 Annual Session in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Health Science Department Implements Innovative Marketing Strategy

Many people who work in academia have attended professional conferences and conventions where exhibitors hand out pens, candies, and other samples that market their institutions and programs. In June 2016, the CHCS Department of Health Science launched an innovative marketing tool with the introduction of a health science tote bag.

Renata Rosenqvist, J.D., program manager, in collaboration with Brandee Evans, NSU Health Professions Division graphic designer, created the artwork for the tote bag. Through creative images, the tote advertises the four online and two on-site Department of Health Science academic programs. The tote displays the beautiful landscapes of the Health Professions Division

complex on the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus and Fort Lauderdale's beach.

While recruiting at the American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) 2016 Annual Session in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Rosenqvist and Peter Holub, Ph.D., D.P.M., associate professor, distributed 200 tote bags to conference attendees. The attendees were seen carrying them throughout the conference, and they even brought friends and colleagues to the NSU booth to obtain the colorful totes and learn more about the college's health science programs.

"This is the most beautiful tote bag I have ever seen," one conference attendee said as she left the health science booth. ■

Medical Sonography

FORT LAUDERDALE

Trio Gives Presentations at Chicago Symposium

The College of Health Care Sciences was well represented at the Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU) 39th Annual Conference held in August in Chicago, Illinois. During the symposium, a faculty member, an alumna, and a student made presentations.

Patricia Vargas, D.H.Sc., RVT, assistant professor and clinical coordinator of the Medical Sonography Program, presented on the topic “Improved Ocular Blood Flow in the Central Retinal Artery During a Randomized Controlled Trial of Electro-Stimulation Therapies for Retinitis Pigmentosa.” The randomized controlled study was an interprofessional research project conducted with medical sonography assistant professors Jorge Han, M.D., RDMS, RDCS, RVT, and Deborah Mendelsohn, M.S., RDMS, RDCS, RVT, and College of Optometry faculty member Ava Bittner, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO, who served as the study’s principal investigator.

The study was a three-arm, double-blind, randomized, controlled trial, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the NSU President’s Faculty Research and Development Grant Program. Because there is no current treatment for retinitis pigmentosa (RP) patients, this clinical trial attempted to provide management or treatment options for patients with RP.

The study’s objective was to slow down the progression of the visual disability by treating the patients with



Kayla Wieseckel

transcorneal electrical stimulation and acupuncture treatments. Medical sonography’s role measured the ocular blood flow pre and post treatments. Blood-flow velocities were reliable and correlated to the amount of sight the patient maintained. During the conference, Vargas received the Excellence in Oral Clinical Presentation Award for her aforementioned presentation.



Patricia Vargas

Class of 2016 alumna and former SVU student board representative Vanessa Gomes presented her project, “Next Generation Task Force (NGTF): A Report of the Findings”—a detailed report that analyzed the expectations, ambitions, preferences, learning habits, and engagement modes of younger and potential SVU members.

The report created a deep understanding of what new sonographers valued in a professional membership to

improve the services and promote long-term SVU membership. The presentation’s objective was to ensure quality education, products, services, and a thriving professional community, which current SVU members rely on to advance their careers. The long-term sustainability of the SVU rests in its ability to attract, engage, and retain young professionals as members.

Kayla Wieseckel, M.H.Sc., RPHS, RVT, a 2015 medical sonography alumna, presented her project, “What I Wish I Knew: A Technologist’s Perspective,” which is a summary of collective experiences and perspectives

of multiple sonographers

around the country. Because the transition from a student to a new and young professional can feel daunting, Wieseckel provided a basic survival guide.

Her presentation covered a variety of topics, including perspectives of different career paths, negotiating tactics, résumé styles, interviewing, applying for jobs, securing a new job, and the transition from student to young professional. ■

Occupational Therapy

FORT LAUDERDALE

9Muses and Occupational Therapy: NSU TEAMS UP WITH GROUP TO SHOWCASE ARTWORK

BY CAROL LAMBDIN-PATTAVINA, DR.O.T., OTR/L, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



As people walk through the atrium just outside the Steele Auditorium at NSU's Health Professions Division, they may have noticed that the walls are a bit brighter with the addition of the 9Muses art exhibit. This exhibit is the culmination of a collaboration between the NSU Department of Occupational Therapy, the Student Occupational Therapy Association, and 9Muses, which is a program of the Mental Health Association of Southeast Florida.

9Muses was developed in 1996 to provide support and promote recovery through the arts for individuals

labeled with mental illness. The program has grown exponentially over the years and now has a fully operational frame shop and art studio, which offers classes in various art media, including drawing, acrylics, watercolor, ceramics, writing, drama, dance, jewelry making, and poetry. 9Muses hosts social events, such as a monthly Creative Café, during which members share their talents via art performances, exhibitions, recovery workshops, and support groups.

9Muses partners with local organizations, such as hospitals and businesses, to provide rotating art exhibits. The organization benefits by beautifying its environment, while the artists benefit by having studio space to show their pieces and potentially sell them.

NSU was proud to become the first college or university to exhibit with 9Muses. For many years, occupational therapy students rotated at 9Muses for their Level I mental health fieldwork placement. Students learn about the importance of mental health and how consumers navigate the system of care and combat stigma to lead satisfyingly engaged and occupational lives.



Opposite Page: Fall Trees by Angelo Lombardo

Left: Arizona Sunset by Angelo Lombardo

Below: Winter Sunrise by Angelo Lombardo

It was not until recently, however, that the notion to utilize NSU as a sort of blank canvas for the project emerged. The Student Occupational Therapy Association graciously committed to continually sponsor the exhibit and looks forward to the next rotation of artwork on campus.

This partnership is an advocacy opportunity on many levels. Literature indicates that individuals labeled with a severe and persistent mental illness live as many as 25 fewer years than their counterparts. They are at greater risk for obesity, smoking, and poor dietary intake and frequently suffer preventable illnesses, such as cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, diabetes, and cancer.

These physical conditions are often the result of social and economic injustices that lead to occupational deprivation, lack of access to adequate and affordable treatment, and social isolation resulting from stigma. With these medical conditions in mind,

the opportunity to lease artwork from 9Muses served as an impactful way to bridge the gap between physical and mental illness among students and faculty members from various health care colleges in the Health Professions Division. In this case, art offers a nonthreatening avenue to demystify mental illness and to dialogue about the artist—the person—rather than the illness.

Both the physical and social landscape of the atrium outside the Steele Auditorium has changed dramatically since the installation. Walls that were once barren are now suddenly alive with color and spirit. Students and faculty members who would typically rush from one building to the next, seemingly blind to their surroundings, now often stop to talk about the artwork. ■



Occupational Therapy

TAMPA

Distinguished Student Earns Significant Honor

BY RICARDO C. CARRASCO, PH.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF THERAPY/ENTRY-LEVEL AND DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM, AND SHEILA M. LONGPRÉ, M.O.T., OTR/L, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The American Occupational Therapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Foundation developed the Summer Institute of Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy to serve three purposes. One intent is to identify potential scientists in entry-level education programs. The second is to have the opportunity to connect future scientists in an entry-level program with mentors in the field of occupational therapy, while the third is to develop a peer network.

Class of 2017 student Bryce Carsone was selected from a national pool of occupational therapy students to join the first cohort of 20 scholars during the inaugural Summer Institute of Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy. The summer 2016 scholarship included a one-day institute and a two-day research summit, both of which were held in May 2016. As a recipient, Carsone and the other scholars had the opportunity to interact with scientists in the field of occupational therapy, receive exposure to current occupational therapy research, engage with mentors, and develop research networks.

During the one-day institute, students were matched with research mentors and introduced to the following topics: research possibilities within occupational therapy science, methods and items to consider when evaluating potential doctoral programs, and career opportunities as a future scientist. Following completion of the summer institute, the inaugural cohort of



students attended a two-day research summit, where they talked with scientists in the field of occupational therapy, were exposed to current research in occupational therapy, and engaged with their mentors to develop research networks.

“The summer research institute was an incredible experience,” Carsone said. “I was honored to meet an inspiring group of peers who continue to motivate me to pursue my dreams. The institute provided me with detailed insight into what it takes to earn a Ph.D., and I feel confident in my future plans now more than ever. I cannot thank those involved enough for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.” ■

OT Program Achieves Explosive Growth

BY SHEILA M. LONGPRÉ, M.O.T., OTR/L, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Building an academic program from the ground up can be extremely exciting. The Tampa Campus Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2016. When established, the program was recognized as the seventh accredited, entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program in the nation. Since then, the program has experienced a nearly 200 percent growth in student enrollment from the first cohort to the fifth.

One unique program aspect is its use of a blended model of delivery. Students complete approximately 70 percent of their didactic learning from a distance and the other 30 percent during intensive, four-day, on-campus institute experiences once a month.

The program has seen many changes over the years. This includes the development of student programs, such as the Student Occupational Therapy Association and the occupational therapy honor society chapter Pi Theta Epsilon Beta Delta Tampa. Another noteworthy achievement was the establishment of the peer-reviewed journal *OCCUPATION*, which serves as a publication platform for communicating ideas regarding the meaning and significance of human occupation and health and a medium of inquiry for students, faculty members, and other practitioners.

Professors in the program remain active within the profession by collaborating with other leaders in the field of occupational therapy. Over the years, faculty members have presented annually at the Florida Occupational Therapy Association and nationally at the American

Occupational Therapy Association. Some faculty members also had the opportunity to present at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists conference in Japan.

The program has successfully graduated two cohorts, and students also have accepted occupational therapy positions that range from entry to management level. Under the guidance of their professors, multiple students have published articles for state, national, and international journals.

Additionally, students continue to give back to their local communities, as well as the Tampa community, by offering educational opportunities. For example, CarFit focuses on enhancing the safe fit of personal vehicles operated by older adults. Students trained as CarFit Certified Technicians evaluate the fit of the vehicle to the individual and provide additional education and resources if needed.

National School Backpack Awareness Day, celebrated annually in September, allows occupational therapy students and professionals to educate children on safe maximum backpack weight to prevent injury. During Senior Safety and Falls Prevention Day, students complete screenings for balance, vision, and home modification to prevent falls and provide safety tips to prevent falls in the home environment.

Occupational therapy faculty members and students have set the bar high for future students choosing to pursue their academic education through NSU's Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. ■

Physical Therapy

FORT LAUDERDALE

Understanding the Relationship Between Movement Competency and Health Status

Physical therapists provide a unique perspective on efficient human movement based on their knowledge and expertise in mobility and locomotion. The human movement system is identified as the anatomic structures and physiologic functions that interact to move the body or its component parts.

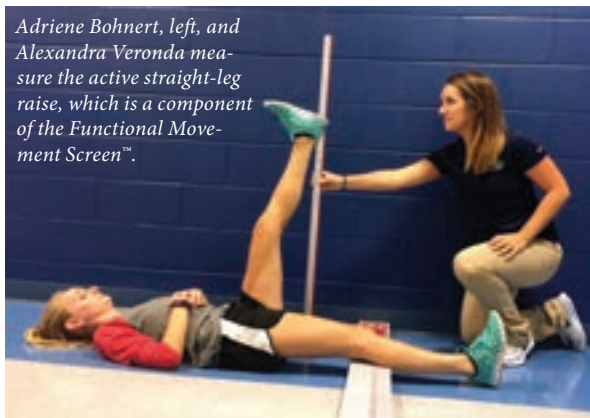
These statements, provided recently by the American Physical Therapy Association, help to define who physical therapists are as health care practitioners.

Components of human movement, such as muscle strength, flexibility, aerobic capacity, and cognitive-behavioral functioning, have been linked to injury and illness. However, examining the relationship between full-body movement patterns and overall health requires further exploration.

One tool that measures the function of the human movement system is the Functional Movement Screen™. This tool has been studied extensively for its use in identifying injury risk in athletic populations.

Peter Sprague, D.P.T., OCS, PT, associate professor, and class of 2018 students Adriene Bohnert, Alyssa Finn, and Alexandra Veronda are investigating the utility of the Functional Movement Screen™ as a measurement tool for the human movement system as it relates to age and

Adriene Bohnert, left, and Alexandra Veronda measure the active straight-leg raise, which is a component of the Functional Movement Screen™.



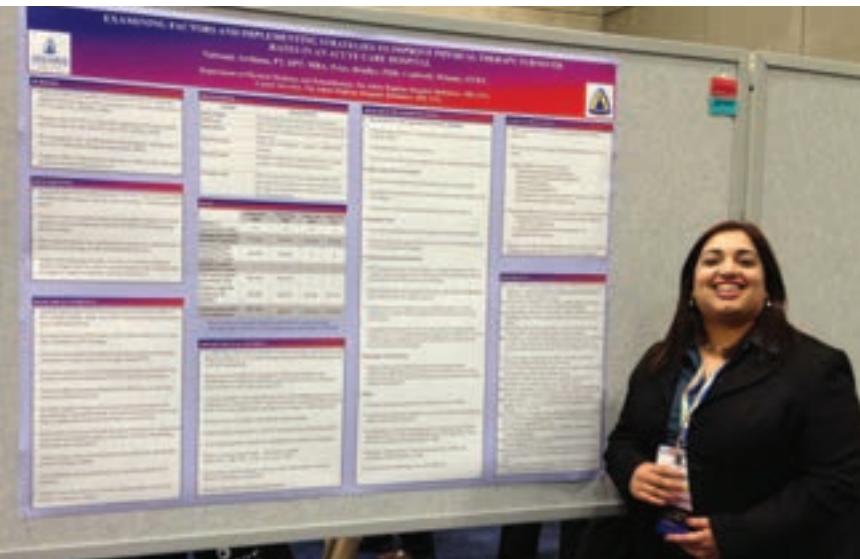
health status in nonathletic populations. They seek to identify normal scores across the life span and understand how a person's health influences the ability to move.

"The idea behind this is to understand how age and health status affect a person's ability to move,"

said Sprague. "Age alone is not a precursor for a lack of movement competency and compromised independent mobility. The health of the movement system is certainly influenced by diseases and disorders. Defining this relationship is the first step in investigating if the movement system can actually influence someone's health status.

"The benefits of exercise are well defined," Sprague added. "However, exercise is only a component of movement, because it does not ensure adequate movement quality later in life. Attention to people's behaviors within their environments may complement traditional exercise programs in helping to achieve a higher functioning individual with less comorbidities at all stages of life."

Nine sports medicine societies worldwide recently released a position statement calling for the investigation of physical activity as it relates to the prevention and management of chronic disease. This study is an effort in that direction. ■



Archana Vatwani presents her research on "PT for Patients with LVADs" at a national conference in National Harbor, Maryland.

Improving Patient Outcomes with Newly Implanted Ventricular Assistive Devices

BY SHARI RONE-ADAMS, D.B.A., M.H.S.A., PT, CHAIR, PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Archana Vatwani, D.P.T., M.B.A., PT, who joined the physical therapy faculty in May 2016 as an assistant professor, was hired to manage the curriculum's cardio-respiratory content. She previously worked at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where she focused on areas such as adult acute care, cardiopulmonary, and ICU settings. Her research interests include patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), left ventricular assistive devices (LVADs), and management issues within an acute-care hospital.

Vatwani's recent research, which she conducted at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, involved physical therapy interventions for patients with LVADs. The LVAD is a mechanical pump used to support heart function and blood flow in people who have weakened hearts. The external device consists of a battery in a carrying case that weighs approximately four pounds.

The idea for the research came from the acute care cardiac physical therapists identifying a need to treat the LVAD patient population differently as compared to other cardiac surgery patients. The concern in this population was the predisposing deconditioning, additional weight, and positioning of the LVAD for functional mobility—along with maintaining precautions—and limited discharge options to rehabilitation facilities.

Patients often had an increased hospital stay to maximize functional mobility prior to discharge. The study started as a quality-improvement initiative to cater to newly implanted LVAD patients, with a goal of implementing formal balance assessment and standardized balance interventions during their hospital stay. The goal was to determine if balance deficits are present in this patient population and to assess the effectiveness of a catered rehabilitation program on balance, functional mobility, and length of stay.

The physical therapists established a specific physical therapy program to be provided twice a week during the patients' hospital stay, in addition to their regular therapy plan. The study results indicated that newly implanted LVAD patients did present with a high risk of falls, and that the rehabilitation program improved balance and overall function. This research highlighted the challenges faced by these patients and the importance of intensive acute-care physical therapy to lessen their impairments and improve function.

This study is one of the first to focus on balance impairment in acute patients with newly implanted LVADs. Researchers presented their findings at two national physical therapy conferences, and their findings are under review for publication. ■

Physical Therapy

TAMPA

A Road Less Traveled: D.P.T. Graduate Accepted into Orthopedic Residency

BY MARY BLACKINTON, ED.D., PT, GCS, CEEAA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY HYBRID PROGRAM

In May 2016, Tatianna Barrett, D.P.T., was 1 of 34 Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) Program graduates, and is the only Tampa graduate thus far, to be accepted into a prestigious orthopedic clinical residency program.

Residencies provide structured mentoring and learning experiences in a specialized area of practice post licensure. Residents are licensed physical therapists hired by a credentialed residency clinic at a reduced salary. The lower salary is the trade-off for having individual expert mentoring while engaging in a comprehensive educational curriculum. Upon completion, graduates are eligible to sit for the Specialist Certification Examination.

In the following question-and-answer segment, Barrett discusses why she chose the road less traveled.

Q: What led you to apply to the Florida Hospital Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Orthopedic Residency Program?

A: One reason I applied was for the mentoring experience. I had the privilege to work with some of these mentors while I was a PT technician at Florida Hospital. As a result, I have the utmost confidence that I will be learning a variety of manual therapy techniques and skills, utilizing evidenced-based practice interventions, enhancing critical thinking and clinical skills, and doing so while emphasizing patient-centered care.

I am also very eager to shadow physicians and orthopedic specialists; participate in journal clubs, case presentations, and research projects; and study the overall material this specific residency program offers. I think the experience will prepare me for future

roles in mentoring students myself or becoming a faculty member.

Q: Can you explain the application process to an accredited residency program?

A: I actually started the application process months before graduating. It began with an online centralized application (RF-PTCAS) system. This first step was time consuming, including submitting transcripts, obtaining references, and answering essay questions. I was then selected to have an interview with someone from the human resources department who asked clinical and ethical questions.

One week later, I had a 45-minute interview with the program director, three mentors, and the clinic manager. I was asked clinical scenario questions, discussed my long-term goals, and explained why this program would be a good fit for my future endeavors. By the following week, I was offered employment and a residency spot.

Q: What happens after residency?

A: After completing this program, I'll have the knowledge and experience needed to pursue my long-term career goal of working in dance medicine physical therapy. I also plan to attend a dance medicine hybrid certification program based in New York. I aspire to collaborate with pre-professional and professional dance schools, conservatories, and companies in Central Florida to treat new and chronic injuries and educate young and professional dancers about the importance of primary prevention. My story will then come full circle, as I became interested in the PT profession as a ballet dancer myself. ■

Paving the Road to Scholarship, Grants, and Publications

BY MARY BLACKINTON, ED.D., PT, GCS, CEEAA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY HYBRID PROGRAM

During the past year, faculty members in the Tampa Doctor of Physical Therapy Program doubled their number of scholarly publications and presentations. This is no small feat, because academics must balance the three-legged stool of teaching, scholarship, and service. For the Tampa team, this stool was uneven initially, because faculty members spent the first four years creating and delivering the hybrid curriculum.

What changed? In part, completing the curriculum in its entirety provided the faculty members with more time to pursue scholarship. The program also has a champion research coordinator, Kathleen Rockefeller, Sc.D., M.P.H., PT, who reminds everyone about presentation deadlines and grant opportunities and consults as needed. The program is also focused on the scholarship of teaching and learning as related to hybrid instruction.

Below are some examples of how the faculty members are moving in the “write” direction.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Mary Blackinton**, Ed.D., PT, GCS, CEEAA, served as a copresenter on the topic “Brave New World: A Case for Variance Reduction in Instruction” at the 2016 Education Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, on October 8.
- **Robin Galley**, D.P.T., OCS, presented a lecture, “Skating on Thin ICE: Clinical Performance of Students with Minimal ICE Prior to Terminal Clinical Internships,” at the 2016 Education Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, on October 8.
- **Tim Miller**, D.P.T., GCS, presented his coauthored research project, “Making it Real: Can Simulation Improve Physical and Occupational Therapy Student Confidence and Skills for Inpatient Environments?” on October 9 at the 2016 Education Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Miller coauthored the project with **Mary Blackinton**, Ed.D., PT, GCS,

CEEAA; **Dennis McCarthy**, Ph.D., OTR/L; and **Dixie Pennington**, B.S., EMET.

- **Kathleen Rockefeller**, Sc.D., M.P.H., PT, participated in planning and presenting an all-day seminar on “Creative Use of Mobility Equipment to Improve Outcomes in Function and Safety” at the American Physical Therapy Association’s Combined Sections Meeting on February 17, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Mary Blackinton**, Ed.D., PT, GCS, CEEAA, coauthored the study, “Identification of Balance Deficits in People with Parkinson’s Disease: Is the Sensory Organization Test Enough?” which was published in the *International Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*.
- **Joann Gallichio**, D.Sc., PT, NCS, coauthored an article, “Concordance and Discordance Between Measured and Perceived Balance and the Effect on Gait Speed and Falls Following Stroke,” in *Clinical Rehabilitation*.
- **Kathleen Rockefeller**, Sc.D., M.P.H., PT, authored an article, “Appraising Evidence About Safe Patient Handling and Mobility,” which was published in the *American Journal of Safe Patient Handling & Mobility*.
- **Lynda Ross**, D.H.S., D.P.T., PT, coauthored an article, “Test-Retest and Interrater Reliability of the Video Head Impulse Test in the Pediatric Population,” which was published in the June 2016 issue of *Otology and Neurotology*.

GRANTS

- **Keiba Shaw**, D.P.T., Ed.D., PT, was the recipient of a 2016 NSU President’s Faculty Research and Development Grant for her project, “Walk ‘N Roll: A Pilot Physical Activity Program for People with a Disability.” The \$15,000 grant will assess the impact of using walking monitors on people with disabilities. ■

Physician Assistant

FORT LAUDERDALE



Stanley H. Wilson, Ed.D., PT, CEAS, who serves as CHCS dean, presents Alicia Bolden with a certificate of completion during the third Center for Academic and Professional Induction Ceremony.

From left: Alicia Bolden and class of 2017 PA students Aaron Carlton, Laurin Pacheco, Shelly Kocsuta, Megan Ginter, Jennifer Neely, Rachel Kelly, Ritesh Patel, Stephanie Oberweger, and Jeimy Glaze

Faculty Member Makes Significant Contributions

BY PAMELA JAFFEY, M.D., FCAP, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Since joining the CHCS faculty in 2013, Alicia Bolden, M.P.A.S., PA-C, assistant professor, has amassed an array of achievements. For example, she quickly made her presence known as a mentor to the NSU physician assistant team that participated in the annual Florida Academy of Physician Assistants Student Challenge Bowl team.

Bolden's superb coaching was instrumental to the success of the NSU team, which, in 2014,

became the first NSU team of first-year PA students to win since the event started in 2007. In 2015, NSU became the first team to win in consecutive years. Bolden subsequently played an important role in establishing hybrid teaching in the PA department.

Her significant motivation to strive for teaching excellence is reflected by the accomplishment of being one of only three faculty members who have taken three courses in the

college's Center for Academic and Professional Excellence program. Her efforts have clearly paid off, resulting in her recent promotion to academic director and associate program director in the PA department.

Bolden, who attained her Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree at the University of Florida in 2005, has also been successful in scholarly pursuits. As an active team member on a federal grant titled "Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Joint Graduate Degree Project Designed for PA-M.P.H.," she played a crucial role in establishing the concurrent PA-M.P.H. program in NSU's PA department.

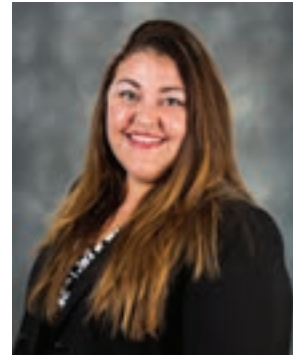
She also actively recruits students into the program and serves as a faculty mentor for the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Program based in NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was instrumental in making necessary curriculum changes to allow the students to meet the educational goals of both the PA and M.P.H. programs as well.

Bolden's primary passions are inclusion and diversity. She has expressed this passion through multiple projects, such as serving as a coinvestigator on a grant sponsored by the CHCS titled "Awareness Among Underrepresented Minority Youths." Her role entailed educating minority students at the T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society fourth annual Healthcare and Science Stars of Tomorrow Career Symposium about the PA profession and collecting data on the perceptions the students had about the role of health care professionals.

She also serves as a member of the Inclusion and Diversity Council of Project Access, which is an outreach recruitment program whose primary goal is to increase the number of minority physician assistants in an effort to eliminate health care disparities. Additionally, Bolden is involved in many ongoing projects, both locally and nationally, that encourage middle school, high school, and undergraduate students from underrepresented minority groups to consider the PA profession as a career.

Over the past several years, Bolden has established a wonderful rapport with the students and faculty and staff members. The students find her to be a charismatic leader and have joined her on various community service endeavors. In August 2016, she supervised 20 PA students from both the Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville, Florida, PA departments on a very successful medical outreach trip to Panama—an experience Bolden described as "humbling and rewarding."

When she was asked to reflect on her many accomplishments, Bolden said, "I am who I am today because others believed in me. I am now trying to pay it forward." ■



PA Department Welcomes New Faculty Member

Watfa Krayssa, M.M.S., PA-C, who joined the PA department in May 2016 as an assistant professor, spent the previous nine years working in the clinical practice fields of general and vascular surgery and wound care in Fort Lauderdale.

Krayssa graduated from Barry University with a Bachelor of Science degree and is a proud 2007 alumna of the NSU Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Program. She is an active member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, and the American Academy of Surgical Physician Assistants.

During her previous clinical employment, Krayssa enjoyed serving as a preceptor to a large number of NSU physician assistant students during their surgical rotations. In fact, the experience of educating and positively impacting future physician assistants served as the impetus for her to return to her alma mater in a faculty position.

Physician Assistant

FORT MYERS



Class of 2016 Graduates Accepted into Prestigious Residency Programs

BY JANET SPARKER, M.S., PA-C, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Three class of 2016 graduates—Matt Parsons, M.M.S., PA-C; Daniel Amoh, M.M.S., PA-C; and Alora Oliver, M.M.S., PA-C—were accepted into prestigious U.S. residency programs, joining two prior NSU alumnae who were accepted into physician assistant residency programs in recent years.

Parsons is in the midst of completing a 12-month, Dartmouth-Hitchcock postgraduate physician assistant otolaryngology residency in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Amoh is doing his postgraduate training in the Norwalk Hospital/Yale Physician Assistant Surgical Residency Program—an intensive

12-month program conducted jointly by the surgical departments at Norwalk Hospital and Yale School of Medicine in Norwalk, Connecticut. Oliver is completing her 12-month residency as a full-time employee of the Florida Emergency Physician Allied Health Training Program at Florida Hospital in Orlando.

Class of 2015 alumna Danielle DePierro, M.M.S., PA-C, was accepted into a pediatrics urgent care training program sponsored by the Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte, North Carolina. DePierro currently sees patients of all ages at Allergy Asthma & Immunology Relief in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Class of 2011 alumna Tatiana Marvin-Zucco, M.M.S., PA-C, was the inaugural graduate from the Fort Myers Physician Assistant Program to be accepted into a residency program. She works in a surgical practice in Plainfield, Illinois, and completed her surgical residency training in 2012 at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. The Johns Hopkins surgical residency program has been accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant since March 2008.

Competition for admission to accredited, postgraduate training programs is intense, but the rewards are substantial. Fellowship programs provide graduate physician assistants with an opportunity to see more patients and learn more quickly than they would as new employees.

Residency programs are designed to provide experiences that expand upon skills not learned in PA school and improve clinical judgment skills. Physician assistants receive salaries while they are in training, although the salary may be lower than a PA working in the specialty area. However, employment opportunities and salaries may be enhanced for individuals who have put in the extra effort to fine-tune their skills through formalized educational experiences rather than through on-the-job experience. ■



Staff Member Receives Employee Excellence Award

Jo Ann Rogers, A.S., academic support coordinator for the Fort Myers Physician Assistant Program, received the Distinguished Staff Employee Award of Excellence at the CHCS Awards ceremony held August 19, 2016. Rogers, who has been an invaluable program employee for 10 years, continually goes out of her way to make sure student and faculty needs are taken care of in a timely manner.

She received her Associate of Science degree in Business Management from Indiana University and is a certified pharmacy technician who previously held positions as a trial secretary for the State Attorney's Office, a fiscal specialist for Collier County government, and as a substitute teacher for the Collier County Public Schools.

Physician Assistant

JACKSONVILLE

Community FOCUS Hastings: A Legacy of Community Service Begins

BY KERRY L. WHITAKER, D.H.SC., M.S.H.S., PA-C, DFAAPA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Each year, students from the Jacksonville Physician Assistant (PA) Program go abroad for a medical mission to developing countries. Unfortunately, not all students were able to participate in the international mission trips.

Medical missionary work is a worthy cause, which is why it was important to the Jacksonville PA students to recognize that there are many medically underserved populations in local communities who can benefit from a medical mission at home. Additionally, beginning with the PA class of 2017, the PA program had four students who began work on a concurrent Master of Public Health degree.

Anna Pfaff, class of 2017 president, was one of these concurrent degree students. As a concurrently enrolled student in the NSU Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant and Master of Public Health programs, she noticed that the need for emphasis on population health and preventive medicine is becoming apparent.

As a result, discussions emerged regarding the possibility of a medical mission at home and how it would look. Questions began to surface, such as what area of Florida would we focus on? What services could, or would, we provide? How could we guarantee follow-up for the

participants if they had a positive screening exam? Who would be our supervising medical provider?

These discussions led to a decision to focus on Saint Johns County in Hastings, Florida. Research demonstrated that Saint Johns County has been ranked as the healthiest county in Florida since 2011, but there was a large discrepancy between the north and south regions of the county, despite the population being spread almost evenly (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2016).



The community partner thank-you board, which was posted in the Hastings Public Library, served as a way to acknowledge the contributions of the various community partners that participated in the Hastings Community FOCUS event.

First-year physician assistant students Anna Pfaff, left, and Matthew Collins



According to the Healthy Families Florida and Children's Home Society of Florida St. Johns Biennial Service Review (2016), the average household income in the northern region of the county is \$84,137, but only \$48,999 in the southern part. More specifically, the Hastings area has a median household income of \$25,000 to \$26,000 (Saint Johns County Department of Health, 2014). The Saint Johns County Department of Health cites the southwest region, which is the Hastings area, as underserved. This explains why the 32145 ZIP code is federally designated as a medical shortage area (Saint Johns County Department of Health, 2014).

As a way to aid in abating this discrepancy, the NSU physician assistant class of 2017 student government collaborated with the Saint Johns County Department of Health to hold an inaugural health fair focusing on family health to address current medical issues as well as preventive medicine. The event was a medical health fair known as Community FOCUS Hastings, where the acronym FOCUS carried the meaning of Family Oriented Care for the Underserved.

Through community collaborations, the PA Program was directed to a group of Hastings-area businesses and civic organizations that called themselves Team Up Hastings. This group sponsored an annual back-to-school bash to provide underserved children with free school supplies. The NSU PA Program partnered with

Team Up Hastings to provide a home medical mission, providing medical screenings and services.

On August 6, 2016, more than 45 community partners, several silent donors, and more than 125 volunteers came together to distribute 434 back-to-school kits to deserving children ranging from prekindergarten to high school. During the following weeks leading up to September 12, approximately 50 additional kits were distributed to deserving children.

The group also distributed more than 800 new pairs of socks and an equal number of new underwear to the children during the event. The group donated new underwear and socks to the South Woods Elementary School to distribute throughout the year as needed as well.

Additionally, the group performed 28 school physicals and 30 dental exams, while giving 22 vaccinations and donating 21 units of blood. Similarly, they performed more than 30 hearing and vision exams, resulting in 2 vouchers for free glasses given to participants in need courtesy of the Hastings Rotary Club. The group also conducted a number of rapid HIV tests during the event.

Finally, there was an increased amount of foot traffic recorded through the Hastings Public Library—the event location—with more than 1,869 people traveling through the library. The event also afforded the venue a valuable opportunity to educate the community on health issues and disease prevention and begin surveying community members in preparation for a community health assessment.

The event's FOCUS was to provide back-to-school supplies to the children and begin to bring health equity to the Hastings area. What was achieved turned out to be a community working as a team, donating time, talent, and gifts to give back to the community. ■

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Physician Assistant

ORLANDO



PA students provide care at the Agua Blanca village in San Cristobal, Guatemala.

Guatemala Mission Trip Proves Enlightening

BY ASHLEY SWEAT, PA-C, CLASS OF 2016 ALUMNA AND MISSION TRIP LEADER

While it was initially daunting, the students' doubts were quickly eased when they received smiles from each patient during their days in the clinic.

After a year of planning, fund-raising, and seemingly endless meetings amidst a difficult year of graduate school, NSU Orlando physician assistant students embarked on a life-changing mission trip to Guatemala during the week of August 7–15. For the second consecutive year, NSU students spent a week trekking through the mountains of Guatemala to administer medical care to the indigenous Poqomchi' population.

Each day began at sunrise with an arduous, hour-long hike to an unconventional location where the clinic would be set up. These locations ranged from rural schools to villagers' homes—all nestled in the breathtaking mountainous scenery. To the students, practicing medicine at these remote sites was challenging. While it was initially daunting, the students' doubts were quickly eased when they received smiles from each patient during their days in the clinic.

During the mission trip, the students gained firsthand experience with diagnosing and treating common

ailments such as pneumonia, dermatitis, ear infections, and much more. While it is essential to provide medical care to patients in developing countries, it is equally, if not more, important to offer sustainable solutions to prevent future medical ailments.

Many of the health problems endemic to this population stem from drinking contaminated water or inhaling smoke from the open flames in homes burning around the clock for cooking and warmth. Newly installed stoves allow for smoke to be routed outside of the home through a metal chimney. Water filtration systems are efficient, consisting of two, five-gallon buckets and a small filter to sanitize the collected rainwater.

The Orlando PA students were able to install 20 stoves and water filtration systems in villagers' homes. Additionally, students provided public health education pertaining to personal hygiene, dental care, water sanitation, and sexual health. These topics were presented to large groups of people, who gathered while receiving medical care or obtaining important preventive health information.

For most of the Orlando PA students, this was their first mission trip. For several others, this was the first time they had left the United States. But by week's end, all the students agreed this would not be their last mission trip. Being able to treat more than 350 patients in an area with limited resources and even less medical care was an impactful experience not soon forgotten. ■



Physician Assistant

ORLANDO

Students Make Care Packages for Pulse EMS Providers

BY MIRIAM SANTO, CLASS OF 2017 STUDENT

On June 12, 2016, Orlando, Florida, was rocked when a shooter attacked the Pulse nightclub. Nearby, at Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC), health care workers were helping patients. The events that unfolded that night forever changed the people working to care for the victims and their families.

“A few days after the shooting, I read a Facebook post from a resident physician who was working in the emergency department that night,” said Heidi Lamoreaux, a second-year physician assistant (PA) student at NSU’s Orlando Campus. “He was recounting the tragedy and the effect it had on him and his coworkers. He included a picture of his blood-soaked shoes from the victims of that night. It hit me how deeply affected the health care community was—a community of which my classmates and I are studying to become a part.”

Days later, Lorilee Butler, D.H.Sc., PA-C, program director for the Orlando PA Program, received an email from Elon University in North Carolina asking about how it could help the health care workers at ORMC. She approached the 2017 physician assistant class and asked for volunteers to coordinate with Elon University. Lamoreaux immediately volunteered.

“I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of. It was something I could do tangibly to help,” Lamoreaux said. “We don’t often think about how tragedies like this affect the providers.” She told Butler she wanted to create care packages for the health care workers and shared a few ideas. Lamoreaux then contacted the PA program at Elon University and implemented her idea.

Over the next several weeks, Lamoreaux coordinated efforts with her classmates and Elon University to

gather items for 40 baskets. Students contacted local and national corporations requesting donations, including various types of gift cards, granola bars, new socks, water bottles, lotions, and other comfort items. Many students included handwritten letters of gratitude to the ORMC staff members.

On July 21, Lamoreaux and students from the class of 2017 delivered the care packages to the ORMC Volunteer Services office. The volunteer office expressed gratitude on behalf of the hospital staff members on duty that night and was especially grateful for the attention and personal details included.

In the wake of the Pulse tragedy, the College of Health Care Sciences is proud to have students like Lamoreaux, who exemplifies the NSU Core Values of service and community. ■



From left: NSU student volunteers Meera Lexman and Kendyl Diederich, ORMC Volunteer Services staff members Shari Bryant and Hayley Brown, and NSU student volunteers Brian Cardona, Tamara Bateh, and Heidi Lamoreaux

Speech-Language Pathology

FORT LAUDERDALE



Hand in Hand: *Finding Support During Recovery*

BY LEA KAPLOUN, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR; RACHEL WILLIAMS, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR; JOCELYN SLATER, M.S., PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR; AND FRED DICARLO, ED.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Several participants in the Parkinson's communication group hold up visual reminders to those sitting across from them to use a loud voice and to speak slowly.

"Two are better than one, for if they fall, one will lift up his friend."—Ecclesiastes, v. 9–10

The road to recovery from communication disorders can be traumatic, not only for the person with the disorder, but also for his or her loved ones. When it comes to learning strategies to implement more effective communication skills, coping emotionally with the effects of disorder, or anticipating disease progression or stabilization, the journey can be isolating and frightening.

Often, a person who presents with aphasia after a stroke finds that friends have disappeared. The support system may shrink to a few family members, and even well-meaning family members may not understand what the person with aphasia is experiencing the way another person with aphasia would. People with Parkinson's disease, who struggle to make themselves heard despite worsening dysarthria, find it increasingly difficult to communicate with family, so they may stop trying.

The woman who supports her husband through his recovery from a stroke suffers silently, because, while she can communicate, she lives with the stress of aphasia daily. The teenager who struggles to get words out but can't because he stutters may feel overwhelming panic and frustration.

Those who are impacted may receive individual therapy at the NSU Speech-Language Pathology Clinic, but the need for support may not be fully addressed. That's where group work comes in, which is provided for free at the clinic.

The Speech-Language Pathology Clinic offers group therapy sessions to learn communication skills for people with Parkinson's disease and people with aphasia, as well as group support for caregivers of adults with acquired communication disorders and people who stutter. Graduate students run the sessions, which are supervised by certified speech-language pathologists as part of the clinical practicum in the master's program in speech-language pathology.

During the weekly Parkinson's communication group, on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m., participants practice vocal exercises and engage in fun activities that challenge them to use loud speech and address some of the cognitive changes they report. Strategies based on evidence-based practice and principles of motor learning help participants find their voice. Whether singing *New York, New York* along with Frank Sinatra or improvising during a role-play activity for ordering dinner from their favorite restaurant, the members laugh while they learn. They see that they are not alone in facing Parkinson's disease, and they provide support to people with similar challenges.

The caregiver support group meets monthly on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. During these meetings, the graduate student clinicians are sometimes joined by an intern from the Department of Psychology. With the facilitation of the graduate students, the family members discuss issues that have come up recently, and they support each other with suggestions for handling situations based on their experience.

Longtime attendees welcome new members with sage advice or a hand outstretched in friendship. Tears sometimes flow, but they're not always tears of sadness. Participants enjoy mental and physical group exercises to reduce stress, problem solving to reduce

Speech-Language Pathology

FORT LAUDERDALE (CONT.)



Fred DiCarlo, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, left, assistant professor and clinical supervisor, engages aphasia group participants and spouses with Onyx—a Great Dane service dog.

communication breakdowns, and guest lectures from professionals who support families with medical needs. One participant recently said, “You’re making me feel good about myself.”

The clinic offers two aphasia treatment groups based on the client’s level of communication ability. Each group meets weekly, with one group meeting on Mondays from 11:00 a.m. until noon and the other on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. until noon. The treatment groups offer the clients and their loved ones an opportunity to communicate with each other within a supportive environment. Evidence-based treatment focuses on improving word finding, social communication, cognition, and expressive and receptive skills for activities of daily living.

The National Stuttering Association Broward County Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The

group encourages individuals who stutter to join other adults, teens, and children who stutter—as well as their family, friends, and speech-language pathologists—to learn more about stuttering and explore new ways to cope.

At each meeting, a speech-language pathologist can answer questions and provide helpful resources. During recent monthly meetings, children and teens met other youngsters who stutter and felt less alone. Similarly, parents of children who stutter have found kindred spirits in other parents who are going through comparable experiences, and speech-language pathologists have gained information in order to expand their repertoire of speech-therapy strategies.

The benefits that participants in the groups derive are immeasurable. Aside from the clinical practice that takes place in some of the groups with guidance from graduate students, group members experience universality in dealing with communication disorders. They also feel the hope that comes from observing the strength of a person further along the path of coping, learn about themselves, and support others in the process, creating and deepening bonds with other members that facilitate healing.

For more information, call the Speech-Language Pathology Clinic at (954) 262-7726. ■

NSU News of Note

Center for Collaborative Research Commemorates Grand Opening



On September 21, NSU officially opened its much-anticipated Center for Collaborative Research (CCR)—one of the largest and most advanced research facilities in Florida.

During the ceremony, the university announced a financial gift from AutoNation to name the NSU AutoNation Institute for Breast and Solid Tumor Cancer Research, located within the CCR. The institute is focused on developing and advancing improved methods of prevention and treatment to ultimately eradicate cancer. The gift to name

Right: Richard Jove heads up the NSU Cell Therapy Institute.

Below, from left: George L. Hanbury II; Ryan Hunter-Reay; Alice Jackson, philanthropist; and Marc Cannon, chief marketing officer and senior vice president, AutoNation (photo credit: Downtown Photo)



the NSU AutoNation Institute brings the company's cumulative giving to the university to more than \$10 million.

Indianapolis 500 champion Ryan Hunter-Reay joined the festivities to unveil the new AutoNation/Hunter-Reay Research Lab within the institute. Hunter-Reay is helping support cancer research at NSU through his nonprofit organization—Racing for Cancer, Inc.

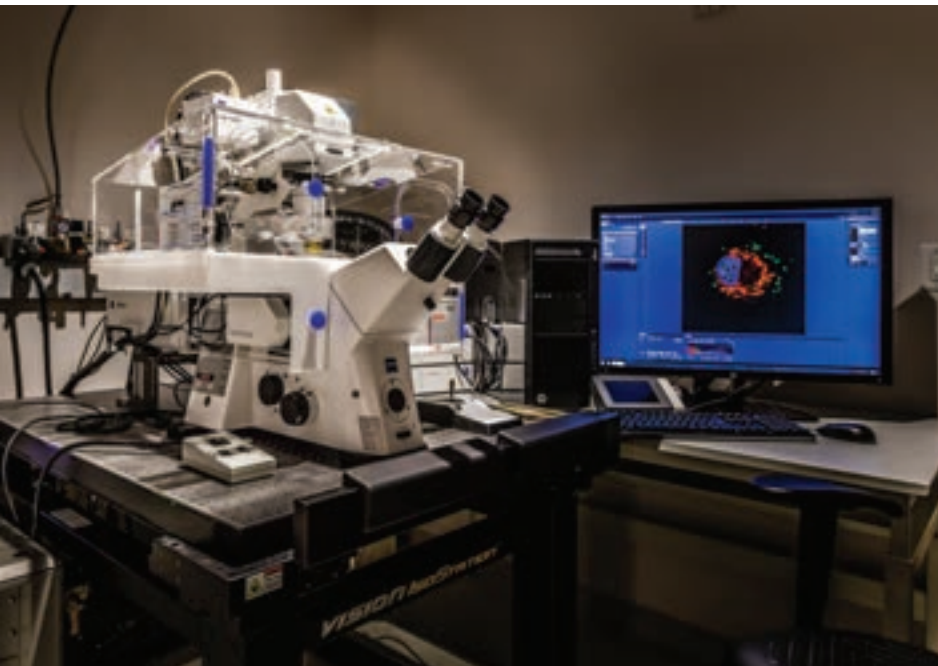
Located adjacent to the university's Health Professions Division complex on NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, the 215,000-square-foot, 6-story CCR is equipped with wet and dry labs. Other features include cutting-edge research equipment, such as access to a

high-performance computing environment, and resources, such as Florida LambdaRail—a high-speed broadband service delivery network with connectivity throughout the nation.

"NSU is a knowledge-based industry with a \$3.2 billion economic impact in the state of Florida," said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer. "The CCR is purposely designed for researchers, students, and industry to come together, pool resources, and develop effective and innovative solutions in health care, bioinformatics, technol-

ogy, cybersecurity, and business. This is a key part of achieving a larger vision to further integrate higher education research, business, and health care for the benefit of the residents of Broward County, South Florida, and beyond."

In May 2016, HCA East Florida received state approval to build a hospital on NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. Once the hospital is completed, it will be within walking distance from the CCR and NSU's Health Professions Division complex, providing additional opportunities to further integrate research and clinical trials.



Left: The confocal microscope is equipped with three lasers, a transmitted light detector, and full incubation.

Below: Jean Latimer, who leads the NSU AutoNation Institute for Breast and Solid Tumor Cancer Research, discusses an experiment with lab technician Stefanie Sveiven in the AutoNation/Hunter-Reay Research Lab.

“With access to HCA’s vast resources for clinical trials, and opportunities to partner with private ventures, our university is poised to become a national and international hub for startups and established technology companies, resulting in high-paying jobs and innovative discoveries,” said H. Thomas Temple, M.D., NSU’s senior vice president for translational research and economic development.

To efficiently address key issues facing humanity, NSU has established several research institutes and centers using a multidisciplinary, interprofessional approach. The CCR is the hub for this research, conducted at locations throughout the university and at its regional campuses. The established NSU institutes include

- NSU AutoNation Institute for Breast and Solid Tumor Cancer Research
- NSU Cell Therapy Institute—a partnership with researchers from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden
- NSU Emil Buehler Research Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- NSU Institute for Natural and Ocean Sciences Research
- NSU Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine
- NSU Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research



In addition, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) occupies the first floor of the CCR. The USGS and NSU partner on research involving hydrology, water resources, and greater Everglades restoration efforts.

All CCR occupants benefit from its core facilities, including the Genomics Core Facility for sequencing human genes associated with disease; the Flow Cytometry Core Facility for isolating special cell types, such as immune and stem cells; the Cell Therapy Core Facility for developing immunotherapies and regenerative medicines; and the Imaging Core Facility, which features advanced digital microscopy capabilities. ■

NSU News of Note



NSU Earns Noteworthy Worldwide Ranking

The *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings identified NSU as 1 of 20 universities in the world, and just 1 of 9 universities in the United States, that could “challenge the elite universities” and become globally renowned by the year 2030. Firetail, a higher education strategy consulting firm, identified these 20 institutions out of 346 originally considered. The elite 20 were selected because they have an opportunity to become a new generation of “challenger” universities that will quickly rise in rankings globally during the next 10 to 20 years. The rise will be due, in part, because of the institutions’ long-term visions and short-term execution strategies, as well as their understanding of the changing world and their roles in it. ■

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