

CAUGHT IN A CYCLONE  
PAGE 10

RECORD BREAKER  
PAGE 12

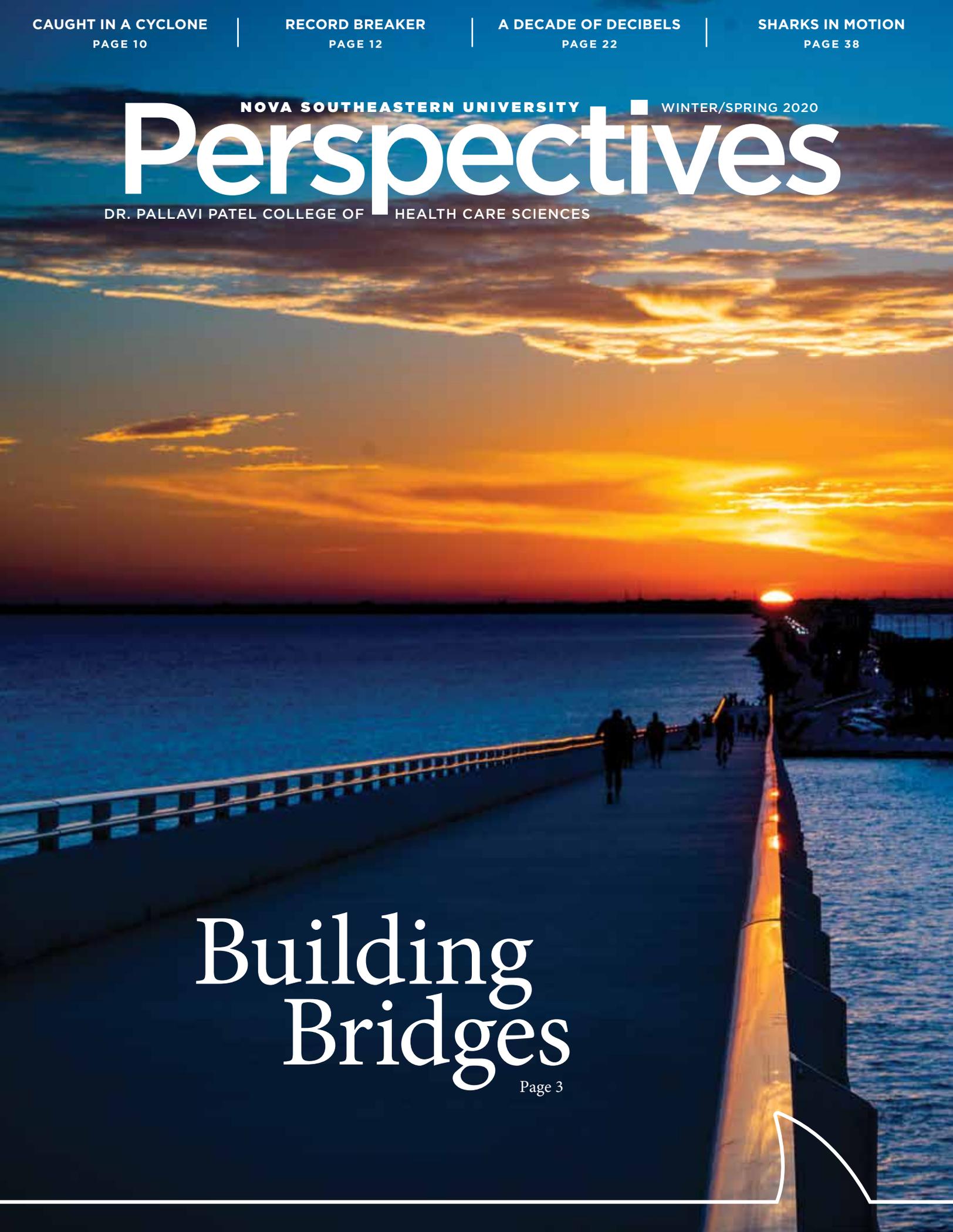
A DECADE OF DECIBELS  
PAGE 22

SHARKS IN MOTION  
PAGE 38

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY WINTER/SPRING 2020

# Perspectives

DR. PALLAVI PATEL COLLEGE OF HEALTH CARE SCIENCES



## Building Bridges

Page 3

# SHARKS DO MORE THAN SURVIVE. THEY THRIVE.



## **DR. PALLAVI PATEL COLLEGE OF HEALTH CARE SCIENCES**

### **DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS**

Anesthesiology

Audiology

Cardiopulmonary Sciences

Respiratory Therapy

**Health and Human Performance**

Athletic Training • Exercise and Sport Science

**Health Science**

Bachelor in Health Science • Cardiovascular Sonography

Doctor in Health Science • Doctor in Philosophy

Master in Health Science • Medical Sonography

M.H.S./D.H.S. in Health Science

Occupational Therapy

Physical Therapy

Physician Assistant

Speech-Language Pathology

The college invites alumni to share a class note or story idea.

The next submission deadline is March 28, 2020. Please include a high-resolution, original photo in a jpeg or tiff format.

Please update your contact information regularly by emailing us. We look forward to hearing from you. Contact us at [studentaffairschcs@nova.edu](mailto:studentaffairschcs@nova.edu).

**NSU**  
Florida

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

# TABLE of Contents



## FEATURES

- 3** Building Bridges
- 8** Summer Spotlight
- 10** Caught in a Cyclone
- 12** Record Breaker

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2** Dean's Message



- 16** Program News

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE • Physician Assistant—Orlando / 16

WIN-WIN • Physician Assistant—Orlando / 18

AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE • Speech-Language Pathology—Fort Lauderdale / 20

- 22** Student Perspectives

A DECADE OF DECIBELS • Audiology—Fort Lauderdale / 22

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP • Physical Therapy—Fort Lauderdale / 24



- 28** Faculty Perspectives

TUNNEL VISION • Physician Assistant—Fort Lauderdale / 28

PROFESSIONAL POSTERS • Health and Human Performance Exercise and Sports Sciences—Fort Lauderdale / 30

- 32** Event Perspectives

BREAKING BREAD • Student Affairs / 32

DESTINATION: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC • Physician Assistant—Jacksonville / 34

SHARKS IN MOTION • Doctor of Physical Therapy—Tampa Bay / 38



- 40** Chancellor's Message

*CORRECTION: In the "Daring to Care" article published in the summer 2019 issue of Perspectives, it should have been noted that Heidi Shaeffer, M.D., was valedictorian within her two college majors, but not her medical school class. We regret the error.*

*ON THE COVER: Courtney Campbell Causeway, connecting Tampa and Clearwater, Florida*

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*"The limits of the possible can only be defined by going beyond them into the impossible."*

—Arthur C. Clarke

One of the more reinvigorating aspects of life is moving into a new home. The newness tends to instill an attitude of anticipation and enthusiasm for what lies ahead.

Essentially, we look forward to decorating, establishing new friendships, and developing new perspectives.

Providentially, the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences (PCHCS) had the good fortune, thanks to the generosity of Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel, M.D.s, of gaining this experience when the new Tampa Bay Regional Campus officially opened in August 2019.

It was more than two years ago that the Patels embarked on an ambitious project to establish an additional site for the university's osteopathic medical school in Clearwater, Florida, in collaboration with Nova Southeastern University (NSU). The project also encompassed the relocation of NSU's five existing PCHCS Tampa programs to the new campus.

Today, the blended Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy, the blended Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy, the Master of Science in Anesthesia, the Bachelor of Science in Cardiovascular Sonography, and the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology are all enjoying the majestic educational structure of the Tampa Bay Regional Campus.

Although our students and faculty and staff members are enthralled with and excited by the cutting-edge amenities, they are even more excited by the possibilities that exist to initiate new ventures, establish new relationships, and become fully integrated into the new community. Fundamentally, the new facilities, as beautiful as they are, are only an enhancement of the fulfillment of the college's mission to train students to better serve the health care community in the Tampa Bay region and beyond.

There is a distinctiveness about the PCHCS, which prides itself on the quality of its educational programming and its sense of place and purpose as it enthusiastically exemplifies NSU's Core Values.

As you peruse this edition of *Perspectives*, the PCHCS administrators, students, and faculty and staff members would like to encourage you to visit the new campus. We do not intend to stay secluded on the campus, but look forward to meaningful engagement with the community.

For us, engagement is not just a passive aspirational pronouncement, but also an active and essential derivative of our professional choices. As we look to the future, we are prepared to adopt approaches that transform and advance the delivery of health care.

We will strive to continue to achieve results far beyond the mundane and conventional. Your participation and collaboration in this enterprise are welcomed and encouraged as we continue our march toward preeminence.

Stanley H. Wilson, Ed.D., PT, CEAS

Dean

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



# Building Bridges

**A PATH TO PROGRESS, CONNECTIONS, AND LEADERSHIP**

BY TERRY MORROW NELSON, PH.D., M.S.

The Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Tampa Bay Regional Campus welcomed its first students on August 19. More than just a stunning new campus, the 311,000-square-foot, waterfront facility—which features state-of-the-art equipment and a two-story fitness center—is a think tank and incubator for multidisciplinary learning and practice. Faculty members and students are creating exciting opportunities for interprofessional collaboration and lasting community partnerships across multiple professional programs.

*(continued on page 4)*

“I believe that NSU is the future of multidisciplinary medical education. Together, we will be able to capitalize on an opportunity that will be beneficial to millions of human lives—many right here in Florida, and so many others around the globe.”

—Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D.

*(continued from page 3)*

Samuel Yoders, Ph.D., director of the Cardiovascular Sonography Program, has already begun working with students to create inter-professional collaborations. “Trevor Smith was introduced to me by Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.S., M.P.H. & T.M., assistant dean of osteopathic preclinical education at NSU’s Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine,” Yoders said.

“Smith is the student team leader of an osteopathic medicine student outreach project that provides much-needed health care services to the people of Ghana,” he added. “We are exploring the ways in which the cardiovascular sonography students and faculty members may become involved and participate in this exciting outreach effort. I believe this is just one early example of many other exciting opportunities to come.”

Tampa Bay Regional Campus students can collaborate with peers and faculty members in programs that include anesthesiology assistant, cardiovascular sonography, nursing, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology.

“I am most excited about the possibilities for interprofessional education and interprofessional clinical practice, especially with the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program located at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus,” said Ricardo Carrasco, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, chair of the Tampa Bay Department of Occupational Therapy

Entry-Level and Doctor of Occupational Therapy programs.

## **Dedicated Labs**

NSU is committed to graduating students with the edge they need to succeed and lead within their chosen profession and community. “The Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.) program is thrilled to have a new home in Tampa Bay that has dedicated labs,” Carrasco added. “Four of the labs are permanently set up as clinics for children, youth, mental health, and adult rehabilitation, with each including activities of daily living units. This sets NSU’s O.T.D. program apart from other Florida OT educational programs. It serves as a model environment.”

All teaching labs and classrooms are equipped with the latest technology for the blended learning format through which the program delivers its curriculum to students from the Tampa Bay area and from throughout the United States and its territories.

## **Community Collaborations**

“Our beautiful, new campus affords us so many exciting opportunities, including the ability to collaborate with colleagues in osteopathic medicine, launch the Shark Motion Clinic in partnership with the Clearwater Free Clinic and the Judeo-Christian Health Clinic, and provide continuing education courses for physical therapists,” said Mary Blackinton, Ed.D., PT, director for Tampa

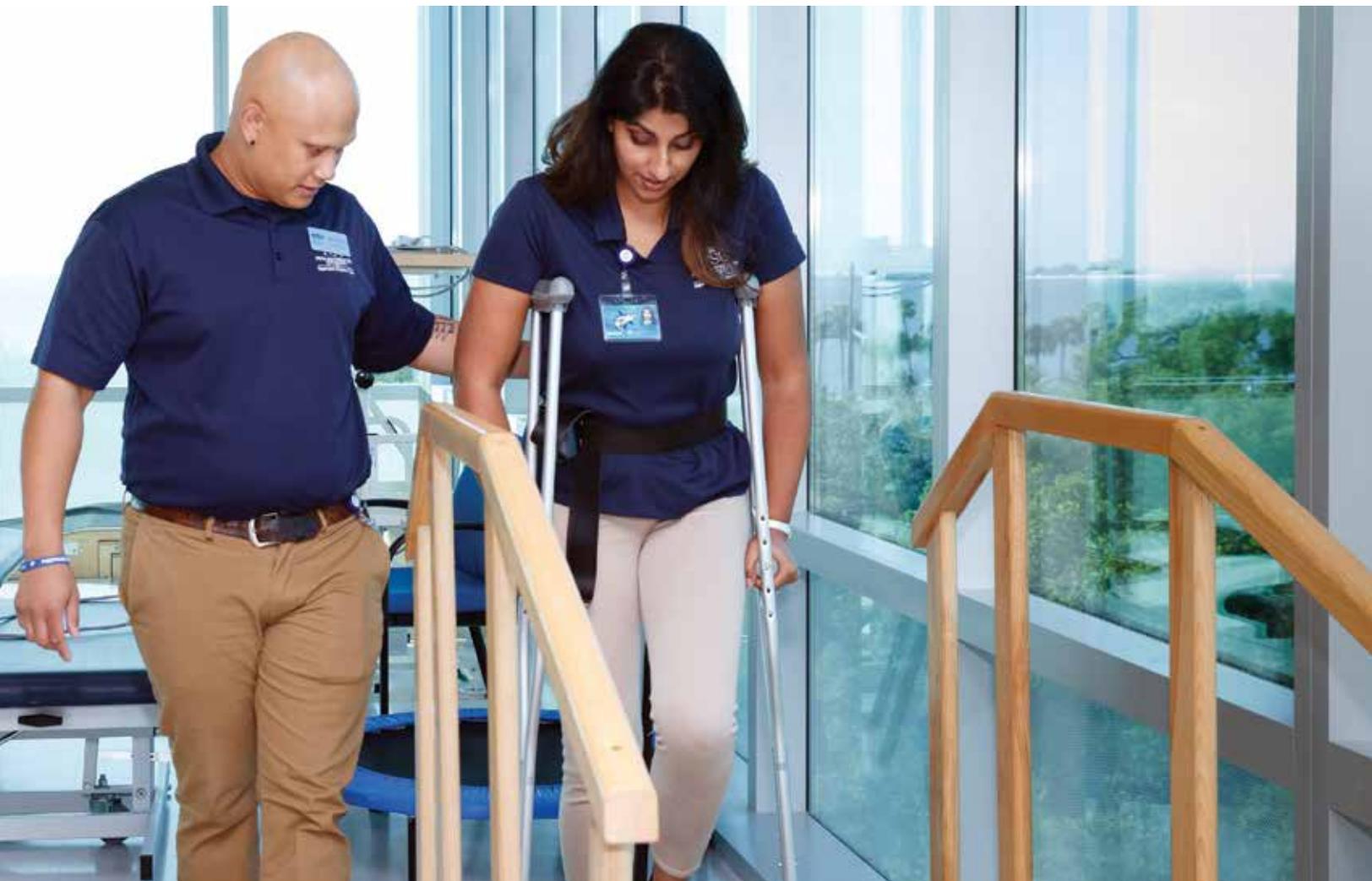
*(continued on page 6)*



*Left: D.O. student Trevor Smith of the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine and Samuel Yoders, Ph.D., program director of the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences Cardiovascular Sonography Program—Tampa Bay Regional Campus, after their successful initial meeting to explore interprofessional education and clinical collaboration possibilities between the two colleges.*

*Below: Doctor of Occupational Therapy student Diana Shabat ('19) pulls a textured rope to activate a platform swing in the Children and Youth Laboratory at NSU's Tampa Bay Regional Campus. This lets her learn how children with sensory processing disorders feel when facing movement challenges in day-to-day activities.*





*Shane Fandinola (left), second-year PT student, teaches classmate Billie Choudary how to use crutches when ascending stairs.*

*(continued from page 4)*

Bay's hybrid physical therapy program. "Our six-bed simulation lab is the perfect environment to prepare physical therapy students for working in acute-care environments."

Quality professional training and excellent experiences beyond the classroom are a hallmark of a student's education at NSU's Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences. In his dean's message, Stanley H. Wilson, Ed.D., PT, CEAS, shared his excitement about "the possibilities that exist to initiate new ventures, establish new relationships, and become fully integrated into the community. Fundamentally, the new facilities, as beautiful as they are, are only an enhancement of the fulfillment of the college's mission to train students to better serve the health care community in the Tampa Bay region and beyond," he said.

## Shared Vision

NSU has a vision to transform the future of how health care leaders are educated, while simultaneously providing easier access to high-quality services for patients. Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D., and his wife, Dr. Pallavi Patel, M.D., share this vision—so much so that they provided the largest transformational gifts in NSU's history. The Patels have partnered with NSU to build a bridge that transforms learning and serves diverse communities in the Tampa Bay area and beyond.

The Patels have contributed philanthropic gifts totaling \$80 million and provided \$150 million in real estate and facility investments. Because of their generosity, NSU has renamed three colleges in their honor and been able to expand its ability to prepare

health care professionals who can work collaboratively across professions, providing the highest quality health care to their patients.

On March 7, 2018, more than 300 people joined NSU officials and representatives of the Patel Family Foundation as they broke ground on the new campus located at 3400 Gulf to Bay Boulevard. “I feel it is more important than ever to advance the current state of health care,” said Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D. “It is rare for someone to have the opportunity to impact the world in this way, and, as an immigrant, I am honored to make a difference in people’s lives around the world.

“I believe that NSU is the future of multidisciplinary medical education,” he added. “Together, we will be able to capitalize on an opportunity that will be beneficial to millions of human lives—many right here in Florida, and so many others around the globe.”

In recognition of the expected impact the partnership between the Patels and NSU will have on the

Tampa Bay community, the Clearwater City Council issued a resolution to change the name of Damascus Road to Dr. Kiran C. Patel Boulevard. The road runs alongside the new NSU Tampa Bay Regional Campus.

“Dr. Kiran C. Patel and his wife, Dr. Pallavi Patel, have always believed that education is important, and that access to health care should be provided,” said Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos. “We are honored that they have chosen to bring this beautiful, new campus to Clearwater, where it will impact thousands of students, future doctors, and patients now and for many years to come.”

For more information about all NSU programs offered at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus, visit [nova.edu/tampabay/index.html](http://nova.edu/tampabay/index.html). □

*Terry Morrow Nelson is the assistant dean of student affairs at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.*



*In one of its two fully functional operating rooms, Tampa Bay Anesthesiologist Assistant Program faculty member Michael Provost, M.H.Sc., CAA, on the right, teaches perioperative patient management using high-fidelity simulation.*

# Summer Spotlight



*Ramon Ramirez attends a Miami Dolphins game.*

## Athletic Training Students Work with the Fighting Irish and Miami Dolphins

BY PRADEEP R. VANGURI, PH.D., LAT, ATC

While summer may be a time to relax, two NSU athletic training students participated in summer internships that will help further their career aspirations. Angel Stone was selected to work with the University of Notre Dame's Athletic Training Department in South Bend, Indiana, and Ramon Ramirez was selected as the summer intern with the National Football League's (NFL's) Miami Dolphins football team in Davie, Florida.

### Notre Dame University

For Stone, traveling to Notre Dame provided a unique opportunity to work with its athletic training staff, as well as with other interns from across the country. "I was given the opportunity to work alongside other athletic training students from different programs to assist with youth sports summer camps," Stone said. "This was a great experience that allowed me to gain confidence in my clinical skills, as well as network with athletic trainers from another university."

Working as a member of an athletic training staff creates a team environment and exposes students to the variety of injuries they may face in their careers. "Although it was long days and a lot of work, it was so much fun and gave me a glimpse of what my future might look like," said Stone, who aspires to become an athletic trainer in the secondary school setting, as well as a certified paramedic.

### Miami Dolphins Football

Working with the NFL's Miami Dolphins provided Ramirez an opportunity to help with off-season training in early June. Because of his hard work and dedication, the invitation for him to continue working with the Dolphins was extended through July and August for the preseason training.

The internship is only offered to a select group of athletic training students each year, which explains why Ramirez was so appreciative as he helped with treatments and rehabilitation programs, field setup, and first aid during practices and games. "I learned how to be a professional, how to use many modalities you don't see every day, and how to work as a team with other athletic trainers," he said. "It was definitely fun and a great learning experience I will always remember." □

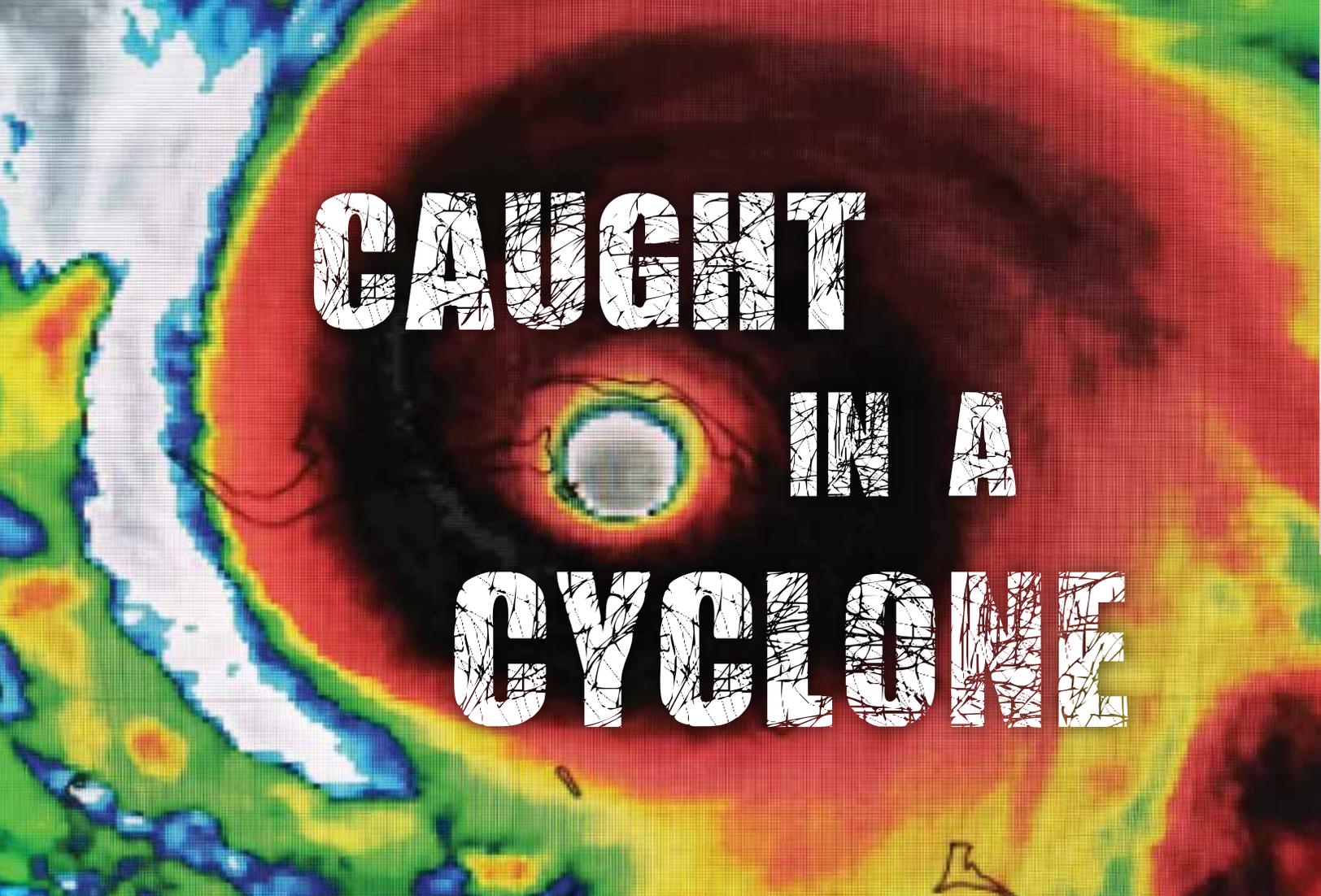


Angel Stone at the University of Notre Dame

**"This was a great experience that allowed me to gain confidence in my clinical skills, as well as network with athletic trainers from another university."**

—ANGEL STONE

*Pradeep R. Vanguri is the program director and an associate professor in the Health and Human Performance Athletic Training M.S. Program at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.*



# CAUGHT IN A CYCLONE

## A STUDENT RECOUNTS HER BRUSH IN THE BAHAMAS WITH HURRICANE DORIAN

BY LONETTE SPENCE, D.H.SC., RVT

On August 29, a state of emergency was declared, and Florida citizens were warned they were in the potential path of a destructive hurricane. The residents who lived in the expected areas of impact began preparing for Hurricane Dorian.

Preparation included purchasing water, food, gas, generators, and other essential items deemed pertinent for survival during a storm. Some residents decided to take refuge by leaving Florida, retreating to safe areas until the cyclone subsided.

In the summer of 2018, second-year medical sonography student Tekara Capron and her three-year-old son, Makai, moved from the Bahamas to Pembroke Pines, Florida, to reside with her aunt while she attends school. Before the news of the impending storm, Capron and her son planned to go home to visit their family over the Labor Day weekend.

### **Braving it in the Bahamas**

Before she and Makai left for the Bahamas, Tekara was alarmed to see how crazy things were in

Florida as people prepared for the storm, but she was happy to go home where they would be safe. After getting settled in the Bahamas with her family, she realized the hurricane had changed direction and was now headed for the Bahamas.

Capron, who is from Grand Bahama, thought about heading back to Florida, but leaving the Bahamas would be an arduous task. Consequently, she decided that she and her son would stay and hunker down in the Bahamas with their family at her mother's home.



*Clockwise from top left: Makai Capron demonstrates the water level from flooding caused by Hurricane Dorian. Makai wrings saltwater out of his clothing. Makai and his mother, Tekara Capron, celebrate Independence Day in Florida two months before facing a cyclone in the Bahamas.*

On the eve of September 1, Hurricane Dorian ravaged the Abaco and Grand Bahama islands as a Category 5 tropical cyclone. The winds that accompanied the storm were more than 185 miles per hour, which led to a calamitous loss of lives and property. It is estimated that 70,000+ residents in the areas impacted by the storm are homeless, while property damage estimates exceed \$7 billion.

Thankfully, Capron’s mother’s home stayed intact during the storm, but water flooded the house, and most of the dwelling’s contents were destroyed due to water infringement. Makai’s clothing and toys were some of the things that had to be discarded, but Capron and her family are thankful they all survived.

### Sailing Stateside

Several days later, Capron faced another challenge. She and Makai needed to return to Florida by the beginning of September so she could continue obtaining hours at her clinical externship site. Due to storm damage, the airports were closed, so her immediate task involved acquiring another form of transportation.

On September 6, Capron and her son waited in line for more than 11 hours with about 1,500 people in hopes of gaining access to a cruise ship that was going to Palm Beach, Florida. She was relieved when they stepped onto the ship, mainly because they were among the last people allowed to board. When the ship set sail, 400 people were left at the dock due to improper documentation of residency, proof of identification, and other issues.

Upon arriving in Florida, Capron and Makai received an outpouring of love. People offered them provisions—including food, water, clothing, and transportation to their destinations. At that time, Capron was able to resume her externship.

When Makai returned to school, he was again greeted by overwhelming affection, as classmates showered him with extended hugs and kisses and stated how much they had missed him. Capron recorded the children embracing Makai and later uploaded the video to Instagram, where it went viral. She indicated on Instagram that she and her family had lost all their material things in the cyclone. But she stressed that their lives being spared was the only important thing that mattered. □

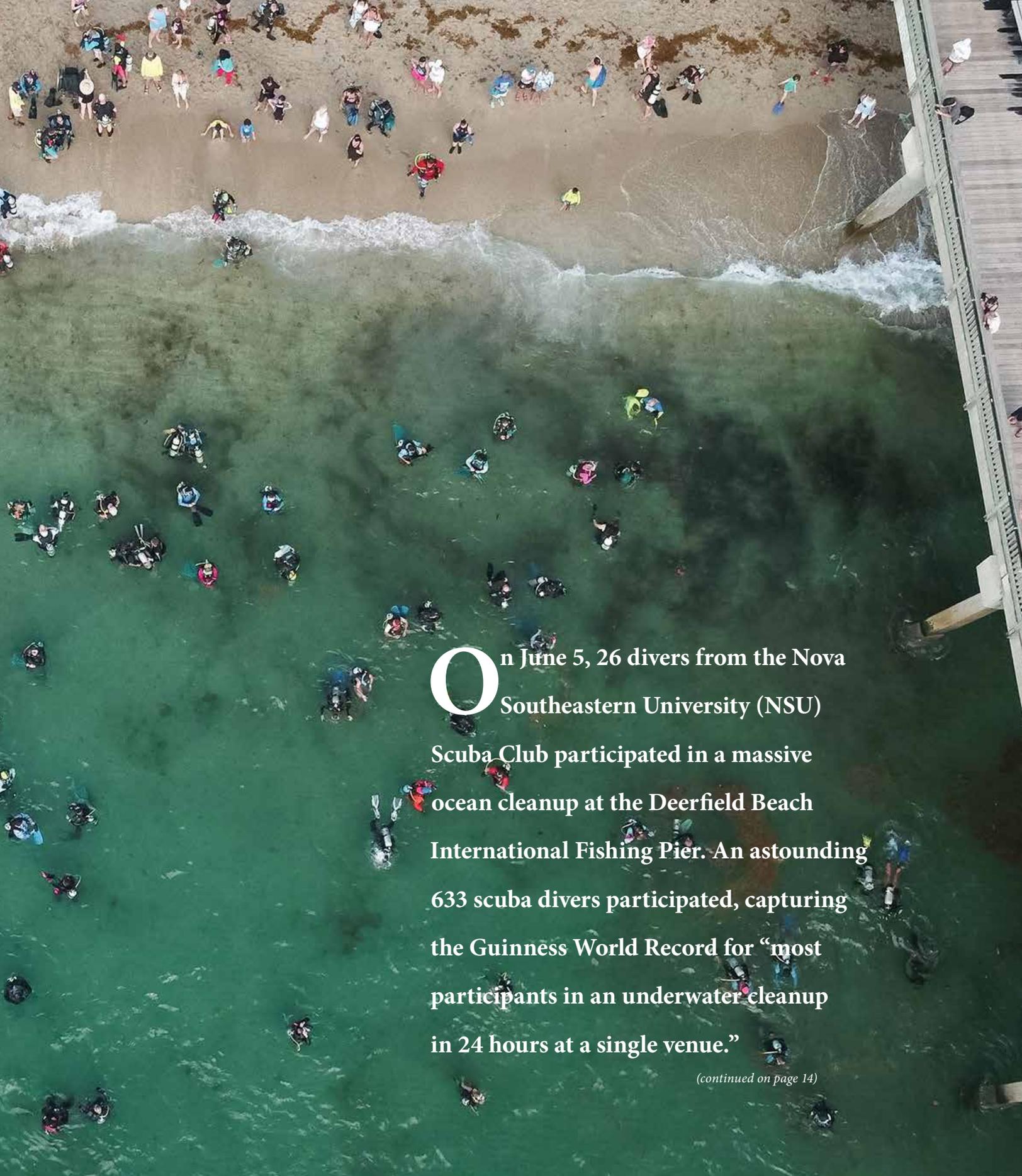
*Lonette Spence is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Science Medical Sonography Program—Fort Lauderdale.*

An aerial photograph of a beach cleanup. The top of the image shows a sandy beach with many people walking. Below the beach, the ocean is a vibrant green color. Numerous divers in black wetsuits and masks are scattered throughout the water, some near the shore and others further out. The text 'RECORD BREAKER' is overlaid in large, bold, white letters across the middle of the image.

# RECORD BREAKER

**NSU PARTICIPATES IN WORLD'S LARGEST  
UNDERWATER CLEANUP**

BY PAMELA JAFFEY, M.D., FCAP



**O**n June 5, 26 divers from the Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Scuba Club participated in a massive ocean cleanup at the Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier. An astounding 633 scuba divers participated, capturing the Guinness World Record for “most participants in an underwater cleanup in 24 hours at a single venue.”

*(continued on page 14)*

*Aerial view of divers participating in the record-breaking ocean cleanup at the Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier.  
(Photo courtesy of Snap Photography & Cinema)*



*(continued from page 13)*

Divers came from Europe, South America, and across the United States to further the cause of ocean preservation. The official head count was made at the scene by Guinness adjudicator Michael Empric, who used a handheld device and only included divers who remained underwater for at least 15 minutes.

### **The Haul**

The Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier attracts thousands of international and local fishermen each year. Every year, the local Dixie Divers scuba company organizes an ocean cleanup to retrieve the fishing gear and trash that accumulate. The yield was particularly impressive in 2019—9,000 items of

marine debris, including 3,200 pounds of fishing equipment.

Four class of 2020 NSU physician assistant (PA) students—India Bane, Stephanie Sowa, Jessica Sutfin, and Samantha Webking—from the college’s Fort Lauderdale program participated in the ocean cleanup, along with 22 other members of the NSU Scuba Club.

“I found PVC pipes, as well as plastic bags, bottles, containers, and wrap,” said Bane of the tremendous amount of plastic waste found. Sowa, who previously worked as a marine biologist, spoke of the danger of plastic in the ocean.

“The effect on marine life is terrible,” Sowa explained. “Sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, and the bags are found

in their stomachs. Plastic straws also get caught in the noses of sea turtles. The plastic causes the turtles to feel satiated, so they do not eat and starve to death.”

Sowa elaborated further on the hazards of the retrieved waste. “Fishing lines and gear can be ingested by fish and sea turtles,” she said. “If marine life eats fishing line and becomes sick, and then humans eat marine life that is polluted, they are also in danger.” She described how swimmers can be cut by sharp bottles and fishing hooks, and how they can be exposed to bacteria on objects.

### **The Shared Passion**

Webking spoke warmly of the teamwork among the divers and



Opposite page: The Guinness World Record Award for “most participants in an underwater cleanup in 24 hours at a single venue” was earned. (Photo courtesy of Snap Photography & Cinema)

Left (left to right): Class of 2020 PA students India Bane, Samantha Webking, Stephanie Sowa, and Jessica Sutfin participated in the ocean cleanup.

Below: A small sample of the fishing gear and trash recovered during the record-breaking ocean cleanup is shown. (Photo courtesy of Snap Photography & Cinema)

their shared passion. “Everyone was in great spirits and genuinely excited to be a part of such a full-hearted act,” she said. “Anytime a diver was short on equipment, or needed help with gear, there was no hesitation from those around to lend a hand in any way they could. Even underwater, people were waving to one another and working together to gather debris.”

In addition to removing debris, Sutfin said she enjoyed having the chance to see puffer fish, angelfish, tarpon, and a nurse shark during the underwater cleanup. “I would not have had this amazing experience without the wonderful opportunities offered at NSU,” she said.

### A Well-Rounded Education

“Outside of the great PA education I am receiving, I have been able to obtain both my open-water and advanced open-water scuba-diving certifications,” Sutfin added. “My friends and I plan to continue to make an impact



on the world with activities outside of the classroom and as health care professionals.”

Bane expressed her appreciation for the encouragement offered by the PA faculty members to pursue outside interests that were meaningful to her, which led her to utilize her scuba training to enrich her school experience. “Being able to incorporate scuba with helping the environment, and having classmates join in as well, is very gratifying,” she said. “It also shows how diverse, but also cohesive, I feel our class is.”

Sowa summed it up by saying, “We benefit from a clean ocean, because it makes our beach-going experience better. The cleanup brought awareness that local, less-famous beaches need attention as well. It also showed that everyone can help clean up the ocean by picking up trash every time they visit, whether it be outside the water on the sand or inside the water as a diver.” □

*Pamela Jaffey is an associate professor in the Department of Physician Assistant—Fort Lauderdale.*



# LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

## Senior PA Students Perform Under Pressure in a Mass-Casualty Simulation

BY STACY J. LAACK, M.S., PA-C

The words “We are en route to your facility with a 27-year-old, unrestrained, male driver with multiple injuries” blast over the radio as 15 senior physician assistant (PA) students are busy exploring their surroundings in a simulated emergency department, unaware of the chaos that is about to ensue.

Four students rush to the stretcher as the patient is rolled in by emergency medical services (EMS) students. He is covered in blood and being ventilated with a bag-valve mask. The paramedic student gives a report as another call comes across the radio: “Theme

park bus rollover—multiple patients en route to your facility. Repeat, bus rollover mass casualty with multiple patients inbound.”

Concern spreads across the room as two more stretchers come in, one with a mother crying in pain with her one-year-old child in tow, the other with a leg deformity. Patient number one deteriorates quickly as two more patients arrive.

Then it happens: Teams form, and NSU PA Orlando students work with the EMS students, nurses, a pharmacist, and other PAs to provide the necessary care. One



The PA Orlando class of 2019 mass-casualty simulation took place in July at the First Response Training Group simulation facility.

by one, patients are medicated, imaged, and treated. Procedures are performed, bedside ultrasound is used, specialists are consulted, and patients are saved.

### 100 Percent Survival

This simulated, interdisciplinary, mass-casualty event, which occurred in July, resulted in a 100 percent survival rate thanks to the outstanding performance of the students, who were days away from becoming graduate PAs.

John “Robbie” Gerke, M.M.S., PA-C, clinical director of the PA Orlando Program, had the vision to organize a mass-casualty simulation, punctuating the range of skills and knowledge acquired during the students’ 27 months in the program.

The First Response Training Group has an amazing, state-of-the-art facility it uses to train all medical personnel. The group was generous enough to allow the PA Orlando program to use it for this inaugural mass-casualty simulation.

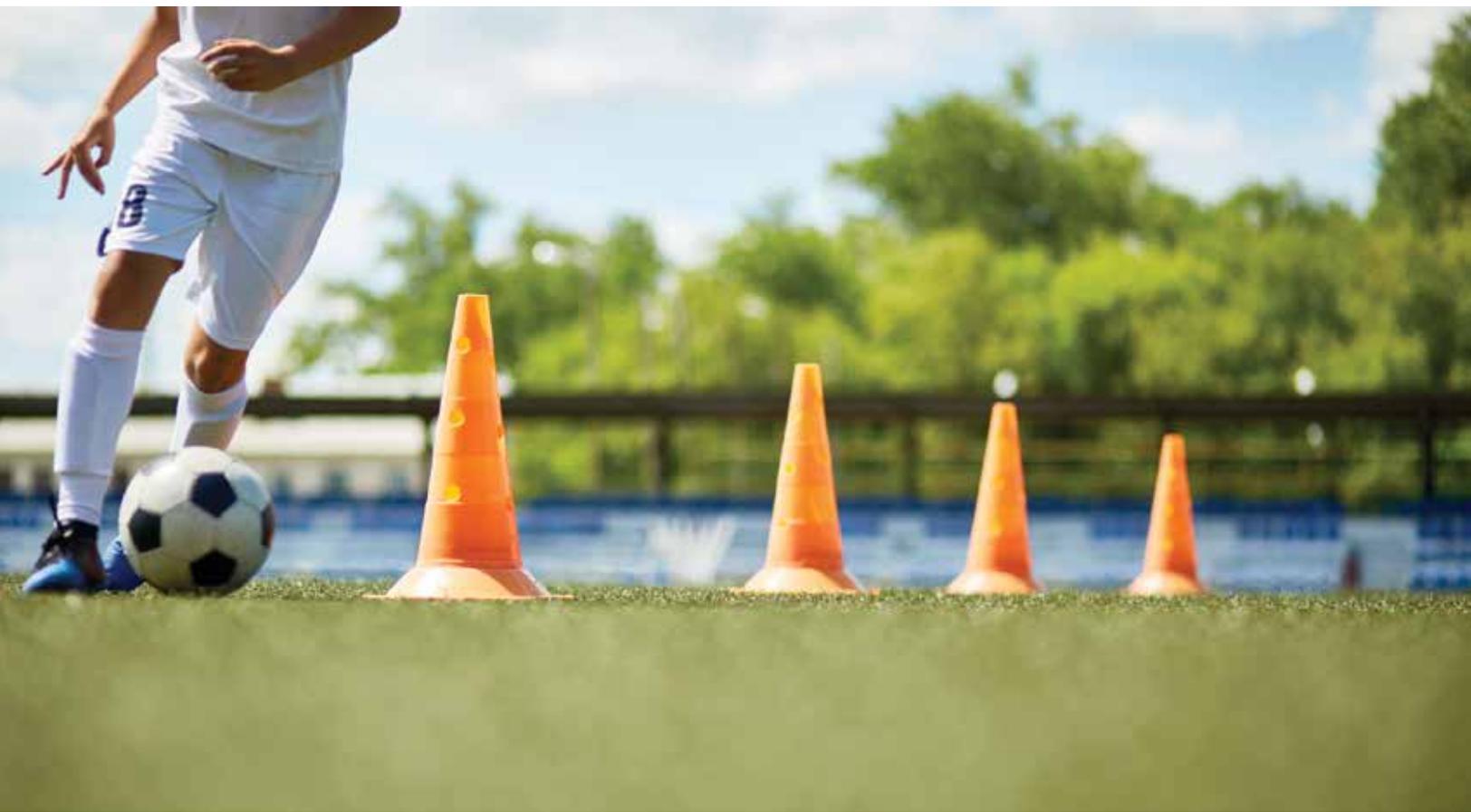
Student feedback was positive, as many realized their own growth over the years, cementing confidence

This simulated, interdisciplinary, mass-casualty event, which occurred in July, resulted in a 100 percent survival rate thanks to the outstanding performance of the students, who were days away from becoming graduate PAs.

in their skills and ability to treat patients. The immersive training situation also provided a nice bookend to the ER simulation the students experience during their winter semester, when they are about 10 months into the program.

The activity generated excitement, with students eager to begin rotations and continue their education. The mass-casualty simulation put everything students learn in the PA program to the test—and the inaugural class passed with flying colors. □

*Stacy J. Laack is an academic director in the Department of Physician Assistant—Orlando.*



# WIN-WIN

PA ORLANDO  
STUDENTS  
HELP YOUNG  
ATHLETES

BY JOHN "ROBBIE" GERKE, M.M.S., PA-C

Every summer, hundreds of student athletes in the greater Orlando area prepare for the fall sports season. Along with the uniforms, protective gear, equipment, and waivers, most of these students also need to complete a sports physical. The exam, which is more than just a simple "well visit" to their medical providers, gives a comprehensive assessment to ensure the student athletes are healthy enough to participate safely in their favorite sports.

In addition to the costs of the uniforms and equipment, the physicals can range from \$20 to more than \$100. Frequently, this added cost can be prohibitive—preventing would-be athletes

from having a chance to play. Fortunately, there are medical providers in the community willing to offer their services.

### Free Physicals

As a part of this initiative, an annual event at Jones High School in Orlando, Florida, combines these providers with dozens of medical, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner students from the area to meet the demand. The best part? It's free.

The Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Orlando Physician Assistant (PA) Program jumped at the opportunity to help, as hundreds of student athletes and their families showed up to take advantage of the event sponsored by the Be a Player organization. Nearly 30 first- and second-year PA students participated in the July event organized by Stacy Laack, M.S., PA-C, academic director in the Department of Physician Assistant—Orlando.

### Free Experience

For many of the first-year students, it was their first real chance to perform on a live patient. For the second-year students, it was another day of clinic life. First-year students were paired with second-year students, who were, in turn, supervised by faculty members and other licensed medical providers as head-to-toe exams were performed.

For those patients with heart murmurs or other potentially heart-related symptoms, an electrocardiogram machine was on-site to check their heart rhythms and determine if further action was needed. By the event's end, nearly 500 student athletes had been served. NSU Sharks were able to collaborate with students from Florida State University and AdventHealth University. Together, they made a winning team. □

*John "Robbie" Gerke is a clinical director in the Department of Physician Assistant—Orlando.*



*Class of 2019, 2020, and 2021 PA Orlando students provide sports physicals at Jones High School.*



# An Enriching Experience

## STUDENTS EXPRESS ENTHUSIASM FOR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

BY ELIZABETH ROBERTS, PH.D., CCC-SLP

There has been increased interest among Nova Southeastern University (NSU) students about the American Sign Language (ASL) classes offered by the B.S. in Speech-Language and Communication Disorders Program within the Department of Speech-Language Pathology.

The program is directed by Melissa Edrich, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, director, and the Levels 1 and 2 classes are being taught by Riva Markowitz, an ASL educator and adjunct instructor at NSU. Undergraduate students from various NSU disciplines have shown such enthusiasm for her classes that, at their request, a Level 3 class will be offered soon.

Markowitz, who has an extensive and laudable history as an ASL educator, has received multiple awards for her teaching, including the 2012 Western High School Teacher of the Year honor, the 2008 Broward College Adjunct Professor of the Year award, and the 1999 Florida Educators of the Hearing-Impaired Teacher of the Year accolade.

Her students said she creates a welcoming environment and provides encouragement as they learn ASL and practice communicating through its use in her classes. Markowitz also encourages students to participate in activities offered within the deaf community to gain more experience in the use of ASL by interacting with the community, while also learning about deaf culture.

One of Markowitz's students, Jaylynnne Thomas, a speech-language pathology (SLP) major, has taken the two ASL courses and is looking forward to taking

the third. Thomas gave a glowing report of her experience in Markowitz's classes and her participation in activities within the deaf community. She was excited to share that she has since used ASL in her work with autistic children.

Nonverbal children may be taught to communicate using signs, as it enables them to express their needs long before they may be able to use spoken words. Thomas is enthusiastic about the possibility of working with the deaf population and shared that she has applied to a school for the deaf to participate in a fellowship next year.

### Shared Enthusiasm

Joy Oni, an SLP major looking forward to the Level 3 course, plans to work with children in the schools. She foresees using ASL with autistic children and hopes to one day teach ASL to children of her own. She cited Markowitz's skill and enthusiasm for teaching ASL and creating a warm, comfortable classroom environment in which to practice use of the language.

Oni has already participated in several events within the deaf community, such as the 5K Run, Walk, and Roll sponsored by The Schott Communities. She said she loved learning about deaf culture and added that members of the deaf community are willing to share and offer information about characteristics of their group.

Edrich and Markowitz expressed appreciation for the widespread student interest and faculty members' ability to expand the program to meet growing demand. □



From left, back row: Riva Markowitz, Joy Oni, Jaylynn Thomas, Ashley Stroh, Britten Massey, Jada Angus, and Avery Ruiz; middle row: Aisha Gaziani, Elissa Tricoche, Kathy Yanes Perez, Gabrielola Barone, and Tianna Harris; and front row: Annabelle Ade, Alyssa Antuna, Isabella Gomez, and Kelsey Bruce are all signing “I love you.”

## Student Testimonials

**Kathy Yanes Perez** plans to be a pediatric psychologist who specializes in working with children who are on the autism spectrum. “Not only am I learning the language, but I am also learning about the deaf community, their culture, and history,” she said. “I feel as though my participation in this class has expanded my worldview to a whole new world I never had any previous connection to.”

**Aisha Gaziani**, an SLP major, explained that taking the class enabled her to become more aware of ASL and deaf culture. “It’s been really fun and interesting,” she said.

**Ashley Stroh**, an SLP major, said she has been interested in ASL since the fourth grade when her teacher taught them the alphabet in ASL, but she never had the opportunity to learn it before. “This course has been fun,” she said.

**Isabella Gomez**, a psychology major who is deaf/hard-of-hearing, said the class allowed her to learn ASL and to gain a deeper understanding of the deaf culture. “The more individuals who learn ASL, the more we can accommodate deaf individuals in the real world and [let them] know that their language is just as unique as every other language,” she said.

*Elizabeth Roberts is an associate professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology—Fort Lauderdale*

## A Decade of Decibels

### Students Help Hundreds of Special Olympics Athletes Hear Better

BY CORINNE PYNE, B.S., AND TASHA TAKESHITA, B.A.

Access to appropriate health care is drastically lacking for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) in comparison to the general population. Further, individuals with ID are between 25 to 75 percent more likely to have health issues, such as hearing loss, in comparison to others their same age.

The scarcity of appropriate services for individuals with ID became evident to Eunice Kennedy Shriver when she was unable to obtain dental care for her sister. Shriver, who may be best known for founding the Special Olympics (SO), initiated the Healthy Athlete's program more than 20 years ago as a regular part of the SO athletic events.

For the past 10 years, Nova Southeastern University's audiology department has played a major role in the success of the Healthy Hearing program for Special Olympics of Florida (SOFL). Audiology faculty member Jackie Davie, Ph.D., CCC-A, brought her passion for helping individuals with ID to NSU in 2009.

Davie had worked with SO of Pennsylvania prior to joining the NSU family. Once she moved to Florida, she developed a working relationship with the Healthy Athletes and Healthy Hearing programs, and that relationship is still going strong today.

#### **New Postgame Tradition**

Initially, Davie would bring a group of NSU audiology students to the biannual State Games in Orlando, Florida. However, there was an issue. Even though many of the SO athletes were identified as needing additional services at the screenings, they lacked the resources when they returned home to receive the care they required.

Special Olympics International (SOI) created an initiative, Healthy Communities, to help these

athletes and other individuals with ID after the games ended. SOFL was one of the first to receive a Healthy Community grant in 2012. The Healthy Community is a place for SO athletes and individuals with ID to receive specialized care and intervention.

Since its inception, Davie and several other NSU faculty members and students have fit 39 athletes and individuals with ID with amplification, at no cost to the athletes, in addition to running the Healthy Hearing clinic at the Hollywood Healthy Community Center and completing hearing screenings at area centers such as Goodwill Industries.

Involvement with the biannual SOFL State Games continues. Students and professionals typically provide 500 to 800 athletes with various health care services over the course of two days. Volunteering at this event allows students to learn how to interact and care for patients with ID in a fast-paced environment.

#### **Calling the Right Play**

It has been a great revelation for the students to learn that not all general methods and approaches in health care will work for all patients. Most importantly, the students have learned the important lesson of adapting to the patients' needs.

The audiology students, who are looking forward to the SOFL State Games and the local screening events, have had nothing but good things to report back.

Many students said the SOFL State Games is where they get the most experience with specialized techniques like cerumen (earwax) management. Students can refine their cerumen management skills using multiple methods and techniques for wax removal. Students report they often feel more comfortable and confident with this skill after having this experience.



Top: Jackie Davie performs an otoscopy.

Above: Second-year student Jessica Rubin tests pure tone audiometry.



Above: Kasey Williams, Au.D., class of 2018, conducts an otoacoustic emissions screening.



Left: Katharine Fitzharris, Au.D., Ph.D., M.S., assistant professor, performs a cerumen management assessment.

NSU audiology students are always eager to volunteer for SO events. Students from the audiology department understand the importance of service to the community and plan to continue to make a difference for these athletes beyond graduation. Many students have expressed the intent to become clinical coordinators for the games, following their faculty members' example. The department's students are proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization and will continue their work for decades to come.

SOFL has given the NSU Department of Audiology an award for its service, in addition to two awards Davie has personally received for her years of service to the Healthy Hearing program. Giving back to the community is, and will remain, one of the audiology department's top priorities. □

*Corinne Pyne and Tasha Takeshita are third-year Au.D. students in the Department of Audiology—Fort Lauderdale.*

## STUDENT REFLECTIONS

“Participating in the Special Olympics allowed me to refine my diagnostic skills and gain confidence working with patients of different ability levels. It was a great experience, and I loved hearing such amazing stories from all the athletes and their families.”

—Corinne Pyne

“My first experience with the Special Olympics was a life changer, which I believe has made me a better person and will hopefully make me a superb audiologist. After seeing the smiles on the athletes' faces and the gratitude they expressed, my experience with the Special Olympics will forever be engraved on my life. I hope to continue working with this population in the future.”

—Tasha Takeshita

# INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP



*From left: Class of 2019 D.P.T. graduates Brittany Inerfeld, Courtney Cave, Jenna Rosenfield, and Michael Jones at the Rehabilitation Clinic in Umbertide, Italy.*

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## DOCTORAL STUDENTS TAKE ON ITALY

BY BRITTANY INERFELD, D.P.T.; JENNA ROSENFELD, D.P.T.;  
MICHAEL JONES, D.P.T.; AND COURTNEY CAVE, D.P.T.

As four class of 2019 Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) students, we took on the challenge of completing one of NSU's 10-week clinical education experiences in Italy. It is petrifying reporting to a clinician in another country, where rules and regulations may differ, other languages are used to communicate, and cultural differences can make us nervous. To our delight, we were welcomed with open arms by all clinicians and each patient.

We were able to adapt very well, but that doesn't mean it was all smooth sailing. We had to overcome some large obstacles during this clinical placement. One of the largest hurdles was the language barrier, but our clinical instructors quickly gave us a crash course in medical Italian.

### Week 1 Whirlwind

The first week seemed like a hectic boot camp where we were learning how to communicate basic instructions for exercise and hoping the patients would be able to understand us. It seemed like a whirlwind and was very frustrating, but by the second week, we were surprised at how much we retained, and how we were able to take patients through treatment sessions with less assistance from our clinical instructors. Week by week, the communication barrier seemed to fade, and by the end, we found ourselves almost able to converse casually with patients.

### A Different Pace

Another challenge was the slower pace at which rehabilitation progresses in Italy. In the United States, the overarching theme seems to be to return function to patients as quickly as possible. However, this approach is very aggressive compared to the approach taken in Italy.

At the inpatient rehabilitation facility, therapists practiced very tediously and systematically with patients, waiting for them to be able to perform a task with near-perfect movement strategies prior

**Studying abroad offers great adventures, numerous successes, and unimaginable insight into life as students immerse themselves into international culture and the Italian health care system.**

to advancing to the next step. Postoperative protocols were also different, such as prolonged periods of non-weight bearing and a much slower return to independent function.

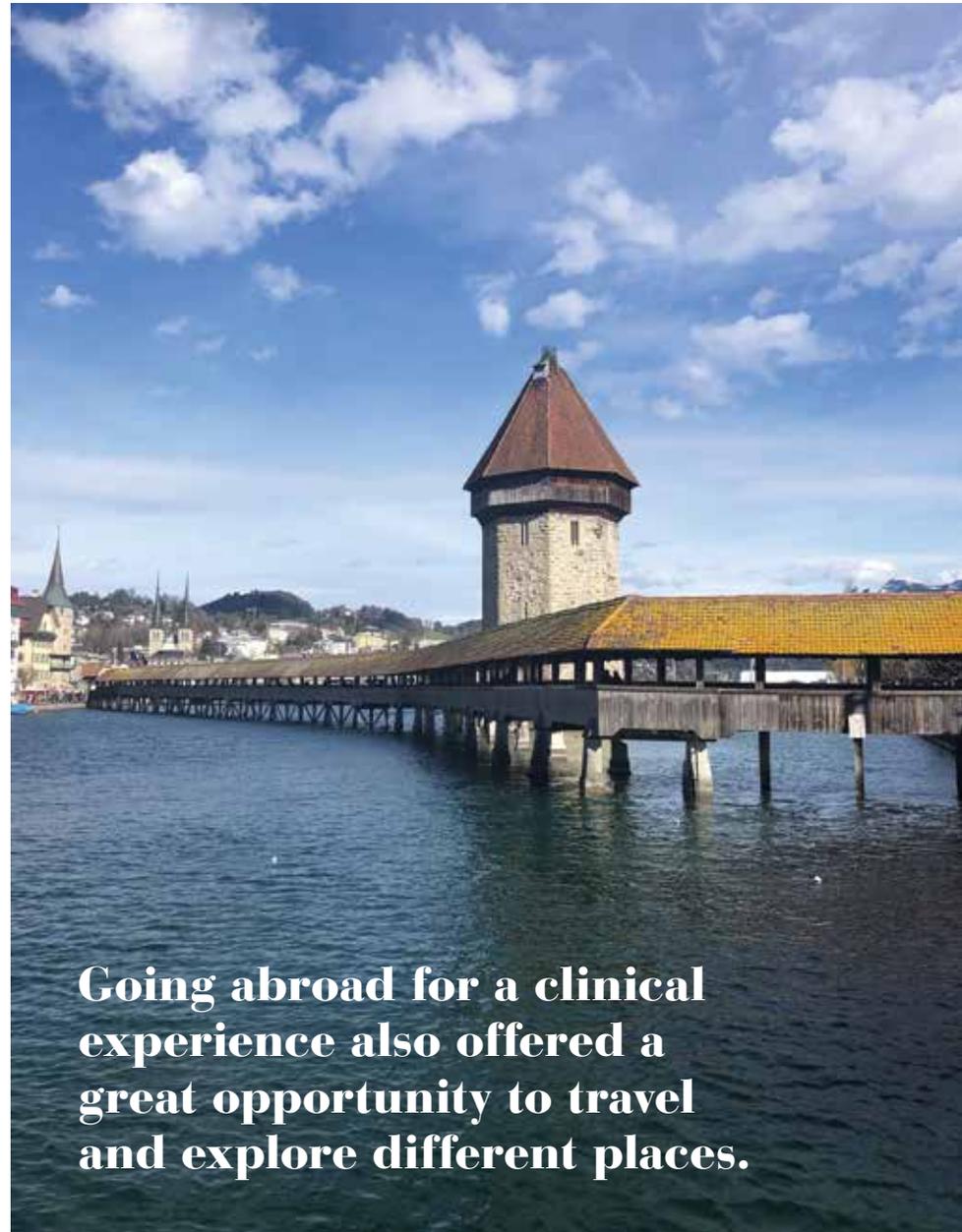
As students, we found ourselves trying to do what Italian therapists termed “too much” with each patient during a PT session. After taking a step back and studying the way our mentors organized sessions and the plan of care, we were able to adapt our intervention sessions and treatment plans to provide therapeutic care using a different approach to therapy. Over time, we began to appreciate these differences.

The health care system in Italy is very different, and therefore, a slower approach to therapy is possible. Italy’s National Health Service is organized by region and provides universal coverage with minimal copayment or no charge.

In the rehabilitation facility, the amount of days allotted per patient varied based on region of citizenship; however, all regions seemingly covered patients’ rehab stays for a longer period compared to what we saw in U.S. practice. This system allotted more time to provide care at a slower pace and allow a more gradual and controlled return to function.

### Time to Absorb

We thought the best part of this experience was the ability to be



**Going abroad for a clinical experience also offered a great opportunity to travel and explore different places.**

immersed in a different culture and absorb all the lessons it had to offer. We gained an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. health care system, as well as learned about the benefits of a national health care system.

In the United States, we demand speed and efficiency out of everything. In Italy, life tends to move slower both in the rehabilitation setting as well as in people’s private lives.

### Being Tourists

Prior to beginning the clinical experience in Italy, we traveled around Europe, visiting England, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland.

We were able to continue our explorations during the weekends to many beautiful Italian cities, such as Cinque Terre, Florence, Perugia, Rome, and Venice. We were able to take in countless beautiful sites, interact with locals,



*Above: Venice Italy*

*Opposite page: Lucerne, Switzerland*

delight in seemingly endless amounts of wonderful food, and appreciate and learn from the very rich cultures of Europe.

### **Final Thoughts**

The link between the global workplace and university programs continues to grow as more opportunities for international physical therapy clinical education experiences become available. The university's Professional Doctor of Physical

Therapy Program partners with Eduglobal—a nonprofit health education management company—to provide students with the opportunity to complete a final clinical education experience in rehabilitation centers in central Italy.

Studying abroad offers great adventures, numerous successes, and unimaginable insight into life as students immerse themselves into international culture and foreign health care systems.

An international clinical education experience offers many benefits, including seeing health care through a different lens, understanding a different culture, making international contacts, and seeing the world. We would recommend this adventure to any students looking to broaden their horizons, both professionally and personally. □

*Brittany Inerfeld, Jenna Rosenfield, Michael Jones, and Courtney Cave are recent graduates from the Department of Physical Therapy—Fort Lauderdale.*

## TUNNEL VISION



### Are We Supporting Closed Minds in Medicine?

BY ROBERT C. GROSZ, ED.D., ACSM

I routinely include a lecture on the “State of Genetics Progress” during the academic year. I’ve been teaching for 59 years, and, beginning in the 1980s, my comments about genetics were continually amended to include the history, updated objectives and progress, and updated results of the Human Genome Project (HGP).

I have been discussing the history of the HGP with students for years, but in the past three or four years, I have seen a change in their attitudes, as more students appear to be disinterested. This has been evident in the evaluations students write after the course. Some very common criticisms I get are, “Why do we have to discuss this when it will not be on our certifying exams?” or “I pay good money to learn medicine, not this irrelevant material.”

#### Highlighting Influences

It is no secret that genetics has influenced medicine—legally, ethically, practically, technologically, and spiritually. If we allow ourselves to be open-minded, we can see that genetics could very well influence

every aspect of our daily existence. It saddens me that students could be becoming so tunnel-visioned that they are closing their minds to anything that doesn’t tell them how to diagnose pneumonia, treat a UTI, or read an MRI.

Likewise, as we become more global, and as we increase our use of Internet technology, we are becoming more involved in or exposed to diverse cultural experiences. As we become more mobile, we are more personally in touch with a greater variety of cultures that could similarly influence the practice of medicine.

#### Understanding Evolution

Years ago, your patient most likely grew up in a relatively circumscribed environment. Someone who lived in a lower socioeconomic community had school-mates who shared common religious beliefs, gravitated toward each other during school recess or lunchtime, socialized with each other, and played with each other. On the other hand, someone growing up in a higher

socioeconomic community gravitated to those with similar exposures in similar environments.

The patients you saw were most likely homogenous, with most patients in your practice probably coming from a common environmental exposure. If they were educated and/or affluent, they most likely had similar, and probably narrow, environmental exposures—with the same material, educational, behavioral, and consistent experiences.

If they were less educated and/or less affluent, their environmental exposure was probably just as similar and narrow, only less material. The only differences between patients would have been a complaint about a knee hurting in one, fever and chills in another, or blurring vision in someone else. However, they shared the commonality in that they had narrow life experiences, only at different socioeconomic levels.

The conversations between the clinician and the patient probably revolved around “diagnosis and treatment.” At that time, any personal talk most probably reflected the patients’ narrow “life experience,” dependent upon the socioeconomic existence. Traditionally, medical education focuses on teaching diagnostic skills, treatment protocols, and the necessary mechanical dexterity and skills.

### Reveling in Proximity

In the past 30 to 40 years, three nonmedical, nonscientific words have prominently influenced our personal existence: one is Internet, the second is mobility, and the third is relocation. We see more, and far away; we travel more, and far away; and we relocate more, frequently, and often far away.

Years ago, a circumscribed existence was quite prominent; only the privileged might have expressed a variety of life exposures because of travel opportunities. Therefore, you could have two patients, each with the exact same medical complaint, yet each with diametrically opposed exposures to life’s experiences. However, in previous years, underserved/less-educated people had just about as much exposure as the privileged.

Because of the great variety of social media, the ease with which they are used and available, and the broad spectrum of people that use these media, more people of varied socioeconomic origins are being exposed to more experiences than they normally would. As a result, more people are more vulnerable to more

influences. Someone from one cultural existence may now develop some behavioral traits of another cultural exposure.

### Celebrating Diversity

At minimum, one might now become aware, or knowledgeable, of what might have years ago been a “foreign culture.” Language certainly is a prime example. Other examples might be dietary practices, entertainment likes and dislikes, and interaction between genders. We are seeing a greater variety of patients who have had or tried a wide variety of medical experiences, such as Traditional Chinese, Indian, or Egyptian medical approaches. We are truly becoming global.

Shouldn’t medical education reflect the social and behavioral changes we are now seeing? Should we assume that “the kid from the hood” would be shallow? Should we assume that the “typical, sheltered, affluent housewife” has no understanding of what it means to be needy? Should we assume that less education means less appreciation for opera? Should we assume that overindulgence or privilege means less awareness of the social effect of rap?

### Encouraging a Global Mind-Set

If life’s influences are more global, and the world is getting smaller, shouldn’t the clinician be more global? Shouldn’t medical education include more training for clinicians to be more sensitive to, and more aware of, their patients’ cultural experiences?

Yes, the combination of science and medicine is advancing and changing at a much faster clip than 30 to 40 years ago, because ever-changing technologies are supporting a faster change in both diagnostic and therapeutic skills.

We obviously cannot just keep adding course material to medical education. Therefore, what we do is pick and choose what is altered and how. However, in doing so, we should be alert to the changes in behavior that are resulting from the changes in both the pace and scope of cultural exposure.

By staying so focused on the technology of medicine, are we engaged in tunnel vision in our traditional medical training? □

*Robert C. Grosz is a professor and course director in the Department of Physician Assistant—Fort Lauderdale.*



## PROFESSIONAL POSTERS

### Undergraduate Students Present New Studies in Exercise and Sport Science

BY MONIQUE MOKHA, PH.D., ATC, LAT, CSCS

Exercise and Sport Science (EXSC) students presented posters at research conferences held domestically and abroad.

Senior Angela Cicienia made a splash at the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports (ISBS) conference in July, illustrating how individualizing stance length based on lower-leg length during the swimming start could improve performance in elite swimmers.

When asked what prompted her research interests, she said, “It all started with a thought, a curiosity. As a former swimmer, I love the sport and have always had questions about technique that I never asked. In my NSU Biomechanics class, I started asking questions about how I could measure force of swimmers at the start. I did my final semester project on the swim start. I found biomechanics so interesting that I asked my professor about an independent study for the following semester.”

Cicienia sought help from fellow EXSC classmate Caroline Oster, B.S., a member of the Nova Southeastern University (NSU) swimming team. With my

guidance, they wrote a study proposal that earned approval from the Institutional Review Board. The three of us collected data at the NSU competition pool and analyzed the video data in the EXSC lab using Dartfish software.

I encouraged Cicienia to submit the required four-page summary of findings to the ISBS. The paper was accepted, and we attended the July 2019 conference.

“Presenting the two-minute oral in front of an international audience was challenging, because I had to make sure I delivered my points clearly and professionally,” Cicienia said. “During the poster presentation, a number of people came by to discuss my research,” she added. “Some had studied the swimming start, too. At the end of the day, I had 10 business cards from people all over the world. I also received suggestions about where it would be best to go to graduate school to continue this research path.”

Cicienia is currently working on expanding the research to include additional measures using the lower-leg length method and plans to submit the study to the ISBS 2020 conference that will be held in



*Left: Christopher Horn stands by his poster at the International Society of Sports Nutrition conference.*

*Right: Angela Cicienia discusses her research poster at the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports conference.*

Liverpool, England. She also hopes to continue her NSU studies in the Department of Health and Human Performance’s new Master of Science in Sports Science program.

### Fundamental Patterns

Jessica Pokryfke, B.S., a current M.S. in Athletic Training student, conducted an interdisciplinary study with NSU staff athletic trainer Amanda Leon, M.S., ATC, LAT, and me that demonstrated that fundamental movement patterns are similar between college swimmers regardless of swim stroke specialty.

The results were interesting to strength and conditioning coaches and athletic trainers who design team-based corrective exercise programs. Pokryfke presented her poster at the 2019 National Athletic Trainers’ Association conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### Sport Nutrition and Body Composition

EXSC students treated attendees of the 2019 International Society of Sports Nutrition (ISSN) conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, to a variety of research presentations. Lia Jiannine, Ph.D., CSCS, CHES, assistant professor, mentored EXSC students Pathik Vaidya and Tatyana Salguero on their research investigating changes in grip strength and body composition in elite American football players who were part of a National Football League (NFL) draft preparation camp.

The results were relevant to players and coaches interested in making even the smallest of improvements for the NFL tryout. Todd Chou, EXSC junior, joined Salguero as second author and copresenter. Cassandra Carson, B.S., CISSN; Christopher Horn, B.S., CISSN, CSCS; and Madeline Kenyon, B.S.,

CISSN, worked with mentor Jose Antonio, Ph.D., CSCS, CISSN, EXSC director and associate professor, to lead presentations on how the energy drink Bang affected one’s ability to focus on a mental task.

Kenyon also presented data from a study that examined an obesity-associated gene called FTO and its role in body composition in exercise-trained athletes. EXSC senior Denvyr Tyler-Palmer, B.S., CISSN, joined the group as coauthor on a study outlining the effects of hydroxy-methyl-butyrate on mixed martial arts fighters.

The ISSN brings sports nutrition experts from around the globe together. It also provides an excellent opportunity for our EXSC students to network with thought leaders in the field.

### Running Biomechanics

EXSC senior Deborah Fortino attended the American College of Sports Medicine conference in June 2019, where she had lively discussions with attendees who visited her poster about how excessive motion at the pelvis and rearfoot in distance runners is related to forces during ground contact. She hopes to earn her doctorate in physical therapy and found the research experience—from conducting the 3-D gait analyses to presenting her findings at the conference—to be a great exposure to clinical biomechanics.

Cicienia succinctly summarized the experience of being a student researcher in the EXSC Program. “The dynamic between professor and student is a big factor,” she said. “The faculty members give us the support and guidance to be successful.” □

*Monique Mokha is a professor in the Health and Human Performance Exercise and Sport Science B.S. Program—Fort Lauderdale.*



# Breaking Bread

## NSU Interfaith Prayer Lunch Inspires Attendees

BY TERRY MORROW NELSON, PH.D., M.S.

The annual Interfaith Prayer Lunch, sponsored by the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC), brought Nova Southeastern University (NSU) students and faculty and staff members together to share prayers and break bread. The event's purpose is to unite people from different spiritual faiths at the commencement of the academic year to pray for blessings, positive impact, protection, and health for the university community.

Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of special projects for the Health Professions Division, served as the keynote speaker. He encouraged each person to look beyond religious

differences and stereotypes, to seek to understand one another, and to be kind to one another.

Edye Groseclose, Ph.D., a professor in the College of Medical Sciences, represented the Buddhist faith and shared a prayer. Student representatives from the Ablaze Christian student organization and the Christian Pharmacy Association joined to pray for NSU's leaders. Next, representatives from the NSU International Muslim Association prayed for the university's health and success.

The Interfaith Prayer Lunch leadership team recognizes that the health of our university, and each individual, is inextricably connected to our community,

nation, and world. Members from Catholic Life and the Catholic Medical Association prayed for our local community and its leaders. Finally, attendees collectively prayed for our nation and world with prayer from the Jewish tradition.

Following the prayers, each of the 63 attendees selected a piece of cloth and a colored marker to write a personal prayer within any of the areas for which we previously prayed. As spiritual music played in the background, some wrote a prayer for a loved one.

Many wrote prayers for colleagues, students, and university leaders. Many others offered prayers for the university,

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنِّي عَلَى ذِكْرِكَ  
وَ حَسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ

"O Allah, help me remember You,  
to be grateful to You, and to  
worship You in an excellent manner.

Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata mundi  
miserere nobis

Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata mundi  
miserere nobis

Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata mundi  
dona nobis pacem.

Dear Lord,

Bless this university. May your  
light shine through us.

Guide us in our endeavors to  
represent you here on earth.

Amen

♥ Let there be PEACE  
ON EARTH... and  
Let it begin with ME ♥

حسبي الله و نعم  
وكيل

Allah is sufficient  
for me & the Best  
Helper.

We pray for our  
world. We pray for our  
community. We pray for our campus.

We glorify you, LORD.  
You have made a way  
for us. We thank  
you for all you have  
already done & what  
you continue to do.

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.  
We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

community, nation, and world. Each piece of cloth will be sewn together into a Tapestry of Prayer, which will be hung in the Inter-faith Prayer Room. While people shared prayers from many faiths, it was quite interesting to see the similarity of the prayers.

At the beginning, the speaker shared a quote from French philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

The event concluded with the following prayer, which is shared at many interfaith gatherings.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to  
understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving  
that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.*

For more information about the MAC, contact  
[mac@nova.edu](mailto:mac@nova.edu). □

*Terry Morrow Nelson is the assistant dean of student  
affairs at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.*

# DESTINATION: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

EVENT PERSPECTIVES



*The local charity organization DR Missions treats NSU PA students to a well-deserved break after seeing more than 300 patients.*

# NSU SHARKS FUNDRAISE THEIR WAY TO A MEDICAL OUTREACH TRIP

BY NAW-AM DANIELS, B.S., AND ANDREW CHANEY, B.S.

More than a year ago, 25 Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Jacksonville physician assistant (PA) students committed to making a difference in the Dominican Republic. There is a scarcity of public health care beyond the major cities and tourist areas of the island nation, and government funding is often lacking in terms of health care facilities, personnel, and medicine.

Additionally, there are refugee areas that have more than 300 families displaced by natural disasters. As a result, participating students chose to collaborate with a local missionary group known as DR Missions. This unique volunteer opportunity helped bring needed health care to an underserved population.

Coordination of the trip was not without its obstacles. During the fundraising phase, several stories arose about victimization of Americans in the Dominican Republic. The media reported several deaths, and, understandably, the students became anxious.

Nevertheless, they recognized the overwhelming medical needs of their destination and overcame

their fears by collaborating as a team. Starting with minimal resources did not dampen their resolve in the slightest. Through

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**This trip allowed them to gain an appreciation for one another as they worked as a team to overcome hardships and difficult situations. Everyone left with a renewed sense of belief, joy for life, and passion for making an impact in the community.**

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mutual support and encouragement, they created several innovative ways to finance the trip.

## Game On

Students leveraged social media with numerous posts about their purpose and reached out to the

City of Jacksonville on three different occasions with appearances on their local news station, News4Jax. They maximized outreach with spirit nights at restaurants and homecoming events. They also dressed in costumes to garner interest, held bake sales, and even hosted an unusual ping-pong tournament.

The SMASH Ping-Pong Charity Tournament was the biggest fundraising event of the year. The public was invited, as well as other colleges, such as the Keiser University Physical Therapy Program, the University of Florida Jacksonville Campus, and the University of North Florida.

During planning, the students reached out to sponsors, requesting door-prize donations to raise money for the Dominican Republic medical outreach trip. Many local businesses, such as Autobahn Indoor Speedway, Bailey's Health and Fitness, Cheesecake Factory, Orange Theory, and Pho Today, donated door prizes and assisted with event promotion.

Most notably, Whitestone Healthcare made a generous



DR Missions volunteers join NSU Sharks on the medical outreach trip.

\$5,000 donation to support the cause. The venue, SMASH, featured multiple ping-pong tables complete with restaurant and bar. The entire venue was packed with guests throughout the event.

Bystanders were intrigued and joined the games. Students, staff members, families, friends, and other guests expressed their excitement about the event and complimented its flawless execution. The tournament generated an additional \$2,000 for the team.

After a yearlong campaign, it was finally time for the team to meet face-to-face with the DR Missions staff members, many of whom generously offered their homes during the team's stay in the Dominican Republic.

On day one, the team members volunteered in the Bread of Life Feeding Program. This staple DR Missions program provides a nutritious lunch to more than 100 children each day. Some students helped with food preparation, bonding with locals, while others held a wellness seminar and

taught children the importance of washing hands. Another group visited a refugee area where DR Missions regularly provides medical clinics, water filters, and solar lights.

For three days, the NSU students worked in a government-funded hospital, seeing patients in areas such as the emergency room, the neonatal intensive care unit, and the operating room. They performed procedures, including suturing, IV placement, blood collection, injections, obtaining vitals, and triaging.

When not in the hospital, they hosted medical clinics in different neighborhoods around the city. While there, they performed ultrasounds, distributed prenatal vitamins to pregnant women, performed focused health examinations, checked blood pressures, screened glucose levels, and provided excellent patient care.

Throughout the trip, the students learned of one another's dedication and strong sense of

community. While the week proved physically exhausting, it was energizing for the group to spend hours in an environment where the community appreciated all their efforts. The most significant part of the trip, however, stemmed from the conversations students had with both the people they met and among themselves.

At one point, the students simply believed this medical outreach trip would allow them to gain medical experience. In reality, they became an interconnected group with shared values who constantly affected and needed one another.

This trip allowed them to gain an appreciation for one another as they worked as a team to overcome hardships and difficult situations. Everyone left with a renewed sense of belief, joy for life, and passion for making an impact in the community.

Though unusual at first, this quote from a DR Missions member summarized participants' experience perfectly: "Now I get it: I'm ruined. I would never go back to who I used to be. Becoming seriously disturbed and gloriously ruined is the best thing that ever happened to me." —Carrie Rogers, DR Missions. □

*Naw-am Daniels and Andrew Chaney are class of 2020 PA students in the Department of Physician Assistant—Jacksonville Campus.*



Above: From left: PA students Kyle Scott, Brittany Knight, and Naw-am Daniels fill out forms for patients in the refugee area.



Top right: PA students Sarah Sowinski and Alex Peña monitor a fetal heart using ultrasound equipment.



Bottom right: PA students Liuyi Bian and Cyra Bunag play with refugee patients.



## SHARKS IN MOTION

### Student-Run Pro Bono Committee Makes Waves

BY NICOLE SMITH, B.S., AND ABBY STEVANUS, B.F.A.

Since 2013, the Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Tampa Bay physical therapy (PT) faculty members and students have provided pro bono PT services to patients from the Judeo-Christian Health Clinic—a free clinic serving the working poor in the Tampa Bay area. Initially, patients were seen at the clinic.

Two years ago, students and faculty members transitioned to seeing Judeo-Christian Health

Clinic patients on the former NSU Tampa Campus in Brandon, Florida, using PT lab rooms and equipment as part of the musculoskeletal courses.

These pro bono PT services were coordinated and managed by PT faculty liaison Lance Cherry, Ed.D., M.P.T., PT, OCS, associate professor, who worked closely with the director and patient scheduling coordinator of the Judeo-Christian Health Clinic.

“Although students were required to participate in providing the PT services, there was a missed opportunity for students to gain leadership skills to develop and prepare them for administrative roles,” Cherry said.

#### Passing the Torch

The transition to NSU’s new Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater provided the perfect opportunity to transition from a

*Opposite page, from left: Student committee members Savannah Hodges, Maria Rojo, Akemy Piescik, Niala Ramoutar, Nicole Smith, Samantha Zettelmaier, Khadesha Quammie, Taylor McLellan, and Chris Ninan*

faculty-run to a student-run pro bono clinic. The idea to transfer the coordination and management of the pro bono services to students is consistent with nationwide trends.

According to a recent study, 75.25 percent of American Medical Association college member institutions had at least one student-run free clinic. Among accredited PT programs in the United States, 41 percent of all programs reported having a pro bono clinic that is increasingly student run.

In November 2018, the D.P.T. Tampa Bay student body created a committee to evaluate the feasibility of a student-run pro bono clinic at the new Clearwater campus. The

committee conducted a thorough needs assessment; met with similar groups at other universities; and surveyed NSU students, alumni, and faculty members. The needs assessment revealed a dearth of pro bono PT services, particularly in Pinellas County, where NSU Tampa Bay is located.

In March 2019, Cherry and two student committee members, including Taylor McLellan, B.A., a second-year PT student, traveled to the Eastern Regional Conference of the Pro Bono Network at Widener University outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Pro Bono Network is a national consortium of schools that facilitates the networking of

students participating in student-run pro bono clinics, which are delivering rehabilitation health care services to the uninsured and underinsured communities.

Students presented on topics such as startups, clinic operations, policies and procedures, community integration, outcomes, and fundraising. “The conference experience gave us a wealth of information to bring back to our student committee and work with at a key moment in the planning stages of our clinic’s program design,” McLellan said. □

*Nicole Smith, B.S., is a class of 2021 PT student, and Abby Stevanus is a class of 2023 PT student. Both are in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program—Tampa Bay.*



*Tampa Bay Regional Campus*



Nova Southeastern University's Health Professions Division (NSU-HPD) is in the midst of an exciting phase of ongoing development. However, it is important to remember that an incredible visionary named Morton Terry, D.O., who was the founder of the NSU-HPD, planted the seeds of this evolution.

He believed that health care was going to become increasingly scrutinized by the people of this nation. He also saw that health care was going to evolve into a collegial and collaborative professional venture in both the private and public sectors.

Why am I bringing this topic up at this time? We recently opened the Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater, Florida, which is one of the most highly advanced instructive sites in the United States. The first cohort of students began attending classes in August 2019 at this campus, which offers the most progressive pedagogy and technology possible.

The Tampa Bay Regional Campus houses an additional site for NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is the original school of the Health Professions Division. We also have the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences and the Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing represented at this facility. These colleges stand alongside each other, not as separate programs or separate schools, but as collaborative and collegial health education entities.

This is exactly what Dr. Terry envisioned many years ago. He always said that health professionals, such as physicians, pharmacists, optometrists, dentists, nurses, and physician assistants, needed to work together as a cohesive team. He also said that in order for us to respect each other, we needed to learn together.

Fortunately, that philosophy is on full display at the Health Professions Division. This attitude extends to the NSU campuses in Fort Lauderdale/Davie, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Miramar, Orlando, and Palm Beach, as well as at our Puerto Rico Regional Campus and the new Tampa Bay Regional Campus. Dr. Terry's view, which became my mantra when I succeeded him as HPD chancellor, was that we must always respect one another.

As I mentioned, we are not just a specific school or a specific program. We are One NSU. That was Dr. Terry's belief, and we have carried his vision forward since he passed away in 2004.

Congratulations to everyone who has participated in our growth and success. Thanks to the commitment of so many dedicated and talented people, NSU-HPD's future is brighter than ever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Frederick Lippman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'F'.

Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.  
Chancellor, Special Projects  
Health Professions Division

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