



COLIN HACKLEY

A thousand grads

No balloons descended onto the stage. No confetti showered the caps and gowns. But the May 21 graduation ceremony in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall paused just long enough to acknowledge an impressive milestone.

“It is now my pleasure,” announced Senior Associate Dean Alma Littles, “to introduce **Dr. Joda Lynn**, who will join us to hood the 1,000th graduate in the history of the Florida State University College of Medicine.

“Dr. Lynn was the very first student accepted into the FSU College of Medicine in 2000, not long after we became the first new medical

school in the United States in nearly a quarter-century.

“Dr. Lynn graduated with our first class in 2005 and today cares for patients in his hometown of Perry, Florida. He serves on the alumni board and encourages each of you to be active with our alumni group to help ensure we continue to thrive so that all of our graduates remain proud to call themselves FSU Medical Alumni.

“Dr. Lynn, will you please do the honors as I call our 1,000th graduate: **Dr. Elizabeth Ellen Coughlin.**”

Imagine: 1,000 graduates. To the people who were here at the beginning, before the curriculum was created, before the faculty was hired, before the shiny new buildings replaced the beat-up trailers, before the students even arrived, it must have seemed that this day would never come.

Sixteen years after the governor signed this college into existence. Eleven years after the inaugural class graduated. Six years after full enrollment.

The College of Medicine is now old enough to have graduated 1,029 students — but still new enough to keep careful count of each alum who, like Joda Lynn, practices in Florida.

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Every annual report contains updates of those numbers and many more. Today, let's look at some different measurements of how far we've come on the journey from first student to 1,000th grad. *(The numbers below were accurate as of May 2016.)*

- A list of "Brag Points" from 2005 proclaimed that about 700 community physicians and 15 hospitals were involved in the clinical training of FSU's medical students. Today it's more like 2,500 community physicians and 90 facilities.
- The top five specialties in which our alumni are practicing:
 1. Family medicine.
 2. Emergency medicine.
 3. Pediatrics.
 4. Internal medicine.
 5. OB-GYN.
- The number of alumni who are teaching at FSU or elsewhere, either full or part time: 87.
- The number of alumni who've committed to military service: 41.
- The number of alumni now in residency programs sponsored by FSU: 22.
- The number of alumni who left Florida for residency training but returned to practice in the state: 83.
- Some of the notable residency programs where those 83 trained:
 - Baylor College of Medicine.

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School.
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.
- Duke University Medical Center.
- Emory University School of Medicine.
- Johns Hopkins.
- Kaiser Permanente-Los Angeles Medical Center.
- Vanderbilt University.
- Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.
- Yale-New Haven Hospital.

- The number of alumni who've served as chief residents or chief fellows: 148.
- The number of alumni couples in which both were chief residents: 3 (**George & Kristen Barrios, Rachel Bixler & Josh James, Jazmin & Joseph Lesnick**).
- The number of alumni who were both chief resident and chief fellow: 2 (**Erin Mariano and Regan Rostorfer**).

And in case you're curious, we also looked up the most common last names among our alumni. In a four-way tie for third place are Gonzalez, Martin, Nguyen and Walker (5 alumni). In second place is Davis (6 alumni). And in first place, way out in front, are the 18 alumni named Patel.



Golden couple

Neeka Akhavan, M.D., and Tony Brar, M.D., joined the University of Florida's Internal Medicine Residency Program in the "couples Match." And they've now become two of only three people in UF's entire medicine department nominated recently for membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

"We have been recognized for our humanism, which we developed during our time in medical school," Brar said. "We are extremely proud to have graduated from the FSU College of Medicine, and we think awards like this speak very highly of the excellent education we received in medical school.

"We are starting to learn that, as physicians, times can be emotionally punishing, but connecting with patients as fellow human beings is what renders this much more than just a job to us. It is showing us the importance of life. We do not just treat illnesses; we treat people with illnesses. We are incredibly grateful to have this responsibility."