



Michael Weiss



COLIN HACKLEY

Garrett Chumney

Honoring distinguished alumni

When they received their newest garment at the White Coat Ceremony in August, the Class of 2020 also met two role models. Drs. Garrett Chumney and Michael Weiss received Distinguished Alumni Awards for sharing medical knowledge and improving lives.

Chumney was a member of the College of Medicine's inaugural Class of 2005. Having grown up in Apalachicola, he understands the health-care needs of small communities in rural areas, where recruiting new physicians can be a challenge.

He lives in Tallahassee, serving as a preceptor to first- and second-year medical students and taking care of patients at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital's Behavioral Health Clinic. He also regularly drives an hour each way to direct the emergency room and care for patients at Calhoun Liberty Hospital in Blountstown.

In addition, Chumney makes himself available to speak with FSU medical

student groups about the challenges and opportunities awaiting them.

The other honoree, Weiss, is an alumnus of FSU's Program in Medical Sciences. He completed his first year of medical school through PIMS, then transferred in 1991 to the University of Florida. There he has become a leading expert in providing critical care for preterm infants with brain injuries.

He directs the Florida Neonatal Neurologic Network, a collaboration of hospitals providing whole-body cooling for infants who suffer from microbleeding in the brain before delivery.

In the past, there were few options for improving the odds for these babies. But Weiss has been a leader in using high-tech cooling blankets to protect cells on the verge of death and in reducing long-term disabilities for babies who've suffered brain damage.

"Look to these award winners as examples," Assistant Professor Christie Alexander told the first-year students, "and consider the legacy you will build."



John Thomas



Matt Welsh

After the shootings

Among the many health-care professionals who won praise after the tragic shootings in Orlando's Pulse nightclub in June were two Class of 2014 alumni now working as surgery residents at Orlando Health. In a note to Orlando Regional Campus Dean Michael Muszynski, Julie Brown, the senior academic program manager in the orthopedics department, wrote:

"I watched my attending and resident physicians step up and run like a fighting machine. Two of the residents that were here during the critical time were FSU alumni. **Matthew Welsh** and **John Thomas** were two of the many that made us proud."