

## Their heart on our sleeves

**W**hen members of the Class of 2019 donned their first white coats in August, they were in many ways being cloaked by the kindness of a former physician and his wife, who had a vision for preserving humanism in medicine.

The Jules B. Chapman, M.D., and Annie Lou Chapman Private Foundation was created, in part, with first-year medical students in mind.

“Four years of medical school presents many challenges, and for some the experience diminishes the fundamental goodness that brought them to medical school in the first place,” said Robert Watson, professor of clinical sciences at the College of Medicine and Chapman Foundation trustee.

Watson, a neurologist who was Annie Lou Chapman’s personal physician for several years, said that her steadfast wish was to help medical students learn to provide compassionate care and to seek ways to nurture their humanism during the rigors of medical school. “She always believed that the art of medicine was at least as important as the science of medicine,” Watson said.

The Chapman Foundation covered the cost of the white coats for first-year students as part of the more than \$400,000 in support it has provided to the College of Medicine and its students and faculty.

In addition to the white coats, the foundation supports the student organization *FSUCares* in service-learning trips to Immokalee and a year-round community health program at Maryland Oaks Crossing, which provides transitional housing and services for families who have been, or are at risk of becoming, homeless.

The Chapman Foundation also sponsors the College of Medicine’s chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, provides a \$100,000 Humanism Scholars Fund and partly underwrites the cost of *HEAL*, a student-produced literary magazine for “humanism evolving through arts and literature.”

There’s also a weeklong medical school experience (Summer Institute) in Immokalee for promising high school students from underserved backgrounds who otherwise might not receive the encouragement

and guidance needed to pursue a career in medicine.

The Chapman Community Health Program at Maryland Oaks Crossing provides FSU medical students with an enduring platform for service to the medically underserved. Working with faculty physicians and medical residents, the students are immersed in the values that are the foundation of the College of Medicine’s service-oriented mission.

“We’re challenged to use the knowledge we obtained in the classroom, and translate it into creative and practical solutions for the residents of this community,” said second-year medical student Dijo Joseph. “Dealing with issues such as transportation, access to nutritious foods, and affordability of care — those are things practicing physicians deal with all the time. Being able to have this experience so early on in our medical education has been invaluable.

“I believe these experiences will allow us in the future to better treat patients that have obstacles in maintaining their health and well-being.”

COLIN HACKLEY



First-year student Sam Cook, after being coated by Professor Jim Cavanagh

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