

# New Medical Humanities chair no stranger to campus

Two upbeat words stand out as Janine C. Edwards discusses returning to Florida State to become chair of the medical school's Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences:

- "Transformative." That's how she describes her experience years ago as a Florida State graduate student in education.

- "Delightful." That refers to her goal of forming partnerships with some of the university's excellent programs in music, fine arts and comparative religion.

Edwards, who starts her new job May 17, is professor emerita of humanities in medicine at Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine and a member of the Rural and Community Health

Institute. She is also a volunteer faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin College of Medicine. She is known for her research and publications concerning faculty development and the admissions process in medical education. Her current research interests focus on distance learning, international health education, language learning, and health services research.

The onetime English teacher in New Orleans earned her Ph.D. in instructional systems – across the street at the Florida State University College of Education. She praises the medical school's mission and collaborative culture, as well as the department's "fine spirit of cooperation and communication."

The current chair, Distinguished Research Professor Suzanne Johnson, will devote more time to her research.