

FSU medical students explore connections between arts, health care, wellness

Robin Dannahower, Special to TCPalm Published 12:04 p.m. ET Oct. 25, 2019

The Class of 2021 from [Florida State University's College of Medicine Fort Pierce Regional Campus](https://med.fsu.edu/) (<https://med.fsu.edu/>) recently visited the [A.E. Backus Museum](https://backusmuseum.org/) (<https://backusmuseum.org/>) as part of a special Dean's Rounds program exploring the connections between the arts, health care and wellness.

Museum Executive Director J. Marshall Adams presented an interactive workshop "Museums On Call: Visual Thinking Strategies in Museum Practice and Clinical Practice" using a specialized tour of the Backus Museum's collection on display as a resource.

[Buy Photo](#)



FSU College of Medicine student Jessica Lowenhaar shares her observations, with Gabriel Lowenhaar and Allan Joseph at a special Dean's Rounds program at the Backus Museum exploring the connections between the arts, health care and wellness. (Photo: Contributed photo by MaryAnn Ketcham)

Visual Thinking Strategies, or VTS, is a research-based methodology first developed and applied in art museum settings, but increasingly has expanded to classrooms and now also to health care. It is characterized by thoughtful observation and guided discussion of a work of art to embrace multiple perspectives and find new meanings and understandings.

When applied in medical education, VTS improves visual recognition and visual literacy, communication skills, active listening, dealing with ambiguity or uncertainty, "debiasing" or identifying and actively reducing inherent biases, collaborating in diagnoses and treatment, and promoting reflective practice.

Adams modeled two VTS engagements with paintings by A.E. Backus, followed by breaking down the pedagogy and drawing the parallels and application to medical students and allied health care professionals in clinical practice.



Backus Museum Executive Director J. Marshall Adams talks about “Museums On Call: Visual Thinking Strategies in Museum Practice and Clinical Practice” with FSU College of Medicine students. (Photo: Contributed photo by MaryAnn Ketcham)

Today, the arts, culture, and creative expression are being introduced and integrated into wellness and health care in a variety of innovative ways for their demonstrated positive effects in patients, practitioners, caregivers, and environments. The Backus Museum is pleased to act as a resource for learning and in promoting the value of the arts in the community.

The [A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery](https://backusmuseum.org/) (https://backusmuseum.org/) is at 500 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. It is closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

At [FSU's Regional Medical School Campus in Fort Pierce](https://med.fsu.edu/) (https://med.fsu.edu/), third- and fourth-year clinical training is offered to students, including rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, psychiatry, geriatrics and emergency medicine with local physicians, ambulatory care facilities and hospitals. The regional campus is on the Indian River State College Main Campus.

CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING TODAY: [Help support our local journalism](https://offers.tcpalm.com/specialoffer/)
(https://offers.tcpalm.com/specialoffer/)

Buy Photo



FSU College of Medicine students Allan Joseph, left, and Krista Gomes examine painting elements pointed out by Alyssa Allen at the Backus Museum in Fort

This article is **FREE** to your community.
As low as \$9.99 per month

Buy Photo



Members of the Florida State University College of Medicine Fort Pierce Regional Campus' Class of 2021 recently visited the A.E. Backus Museum in Fort Pierce to participate in a special Dean's Rounds program exploring the connections between the arts, health care and wellness. (Photo: Contributed photo by MaryAnn Ketcham)

Read or Share this story: <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/specialty-publications/luminaries/st-lucie-county/2019/10/25/backus-museum-executive-director-conducts-workshop-on-visual-thinking-strategies-fsu-medical-student/2454144001/>