

# FSUCOM, Archbold celebrate 10-year success story



**Byron Dobson**, Democrat senior writer 6:10 p.m. EST February 12, 2016

## Nearly 50 FSU students have completed clinical training in Thomasville



(Photo: Florida State University)

Ten years ago, Florida State's College of Medicine established an agreement with Archbold Medical Center in Thomasville that would give students close proximity for clinical studies, while increasing the center's options for recruiting new doctors.

On Thursday night, the two entities celebrated this venture which they say has been successful in accomplishing both goals.

"We couldn't be happier with where our partnership with Archbold Medical Center has taken us since that time," Dr. John Fogarty, dean of the FSU College of Medicine, said in a release. "Students from our Tallahassee Regional Campus get tremendous clinical opportunities in Thomasville and get to experience what life is like as a community physician in a small town. These experiences are consistent with our mission to produce more primary care physicians, especially those who will serve where they are needed the most."

The agreement between the FSUCOM and Archbold started with three students in 2006, marking the first time the college had established a setting for required clinical rotations to be completed outside the state. Two of those three students —Randa Perkins and Amy Neal — are now full-time practicing physicians in Tallahassee.

Since then, nearly 50 medical students have completed their third and fourth year of clinical training in Thomasville.

The FSUCOM sends five third-year and five fourth-year students to Thomasville, where Archbold covers their living expenses.

Dr. Mel Hartsfield, Archbold's chief medical officer, said the relationship with FSU helps Archbold in recruiting new primary care physicians to rural areas.

"Archbold's partnership with the FSU College of Medicine has really helped expose medical students to what it's like to live here and practice medicine in Thomasville. Four FSU College of Medicine alumni are now practicing in Southwest Georgia—that's a true testament to how beneficial the program is for the students, our hospital and our region."

The connection between the college and the hospital goes beyond academics.

Perry Mustian, Archbold's CEO, grew up in Tallahassee. His father, M.T. Mustian, was CEO of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital from 1964 to 1989.

Dr. Ron Hartsfield, dean of the College of Medicine's Tallahassee Regional Campus since January 2012, succeeded Mel Hartsfield, who held the position for five years. They are distant cousins and both are graduates of FSU's Program in Medical Sciences, (PIMS), which preceded the creation of the College of Medicine.

"Archbold is dedicated to providing patients access to high quality healthcare. One critical way we do that is to recruit highly skilled physicians to practice medicine in our region," Mustian said.

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