



Submitted photo

Local Internal Medicine physician Trey Falconer, M.D., (center) was recently awarded the Guardian of the Mission award by Florida State University's College of Medicine. He is pictured with Dr. John Fogarty, dean of the FSU College of Medicine, and Dr. Mel Hartsfield, dean of the Tallahassee Regional Campus.

## FSU gives award to local physician

### Staff report

Local physician James "Trey" Falconer, M.D., has been named the prestigious Guardian of the Mission award recipient, presented by the Florida State University College of Medicine, Tallahassee Regional Campus.

The award recognizes a physician whose activities have furthered the college's mission to "educate and develop exemplary physicians who practice patient-centered health care, discover and advance knowledge and are responsive to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority and underserved populations."

Falconer, an internal medicine physician at the McIntosh Clinic, member of the Archbold Memorial Hospital active medical staff and clinical faculty member at the FSU College of Medicine, has served as an instructor for third- and fourth-year medical students at FSU since 2006.

Archbold Medical Center and FSU signed an agreement in 2005 to allow medical students to complete clinical training in Thomasville and affiliated areas. Members of Archbold's medical staff train students in eight required clinical areas — family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, geriatrics, psychiatry and emergency medicine — as well as other specialties offered as fourth-year electives.

Each student works one-on-one with Falconer and other physicians to gain clinical experience by seeing patients in the physician's office and at the hospital.

"I was fortunate to have many mentors who helped tutor

me [so] to be recognized for [my] work in mentoring other people is very gratifying and also very humbling," said Falconer.

"Your job in any field of business is always to raise up the leaders of tomorrow so it's flattering to be recognized for doing that. It is an honor, but humbling, too."

Falconer was one of the first Thomasville physicians to join the clinical faculty at FSU and was influential in recruiting other local physicians to the program.

"He is a dedicated teacher and has been loyal to the College of Medicine from day one," said Rudy Hehn, M.D., Thomasville clerkship administrator for the clinical training program and Archbold physician. "He is a great role model for continuity and excellence in primary care."

Dr. John Fogarty, dean of the FSU College of Medicine, said, "I can say with all conviction that the success of our partnership [with Archbold and Thomasville physicians] is in large part due to his commitment and his leadership. However, of equal importance [is] the influence he has had on our students. He has led by example, exhibiting the qualities in practice and commitment to his patients that define who we are as a College of Medicine."

"Having been Dr. Falconer's practice partner and friend for more than 10 years, I can say there is no one more deserving of such a prestigious award," said William Cooper, M.D. "The fact that this award is voted on by the students themselves is most revealing as to how much care and hard work he puts into molding our next generation of physicians."