

PRESS RELEASE

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Class of 2010 Honored at Awards Program

CONTACT: Doug Carlson  
(850) 645-1255 or (850) 694-3735  
doug.carlson@med.fsu.edu

TALLAHASSEE, FL - The pre-graduation awards program for the Class of 2010 was highlighted by repeated opportunities to mispronounce Melissa Kozakiewicz's name and by a standing ovation for Jimmy Moss. They were two of the 25 students who were recognized for their excellence during the past four years. The 94 students of the Class of 2010 are graduating 10 years after the College of Medicine was established by the governor's signature. They are the medical school's sixth graduating class, and Dean John Fogarty thanked them all for what they had contributed to the college and to the communities where they've spent their third and fourth years. Kozakiewicz (pronounced ko-ZACK-a-witz) heard her name called – and sometimes mangled – six times during the awards program. Among her multiple honors was the J. Ocie Harris Outstanding Student Award, sort of the Best in Show award at the medical school, and the Pensacola Regional Campus Dean's Award. Pensacola Dean Paul McLeod remarked that Kozakiewicz had "the mind of a detective and the skill of a concert pianist." Here's a small sampling of the praise heaped on other students:

Tanya Anim was called a "perfect mission fit" for the Outstanding Graduate in Family Medicine Award. Elizabeth Brooks was "a joy to teach," nominator Dr. Bruce Robinson wrote when nominating her for the Florida Geriatrics Society Award. "I am proud to be producing students of her caliber." A Daytona Beach faculty member in surgery called Amanda Sebring "the best medical student I have encountered," even though she's going into not surgery but pediatrics.

And then there was Jimmy Moss. When he was young, he and his brother and sister lived for a while in a homeless shelter. At other times they were bouncing from one relative's home to another, nearly two dozen in all. When he was 13 he got a job in a tire factory. Yet somehow, amid all the childhood chaos, Moss excelled in school. Now he is praised as much for what he has not become as for what he has: He has not become bitter over the struggles of his early life. Nor has he become cocky over the successes of his later life. Tallahassee Regional Campus Dean Mel Hartsfield described the athletically built Moss as large in stature, large in integrity, large in performance and large in compassion. And he said Moss never turns down a chance to be a mentor to young people who are facing obstacles similar to his own. "Look at me," he tells them. "As I did, so can you." Among the honors Moss took home was the Individual Student Award – and the fresh memory of a standing ovation. Below is a list of the awards and other honors that were announced at the program.

#### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AWARDS**

J. Ocie Harris Outstanding Student Award  
("the best all-around promise of becoming a physician of the highest caliber")  
**Melissa Kozakiewicz**

Myra M. Hurt Leadership in Medicine Award  
("exemplary leadership in one or more areas of medicine")  
**Tony Sochet**

Altruism in Medicine Award  
("embodies the highest ideals of medicine as a service calling")  
**Tanya Anim**

Access to Care Award  
("strong interest in providing access to health care for underserved populations,"  
given in honor of We Care Network coordinator Robin McDougall)  
**Nicole McCoy**

Student Research Award  
**Craig Campbell**

Individual Student Award  
(given out only in years when a student's extraordinary accomplishments merit it)  
**Jimmy Moss**

#### **REGIONAL CAMPUS AWARDS**

Regional Campus Dean's Award  
(for "the most outstanding student at each College of Medicine regional campus")  
**Amanda Sebring** (Daytona Beach)  
**Brandon Allen** (Fort Pierce)  
**Emily Taylor Overholser** (Orlando)  
**Melissa Kozakiewicz** (Pensacola)  
**Eilene Weibley** (Sarasota)  
**Nicole McCoy and Jimmy Moss** (Tallahassee)

#### **HONOR SOCIETY AND SPECIALTY AWARDS**

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society inductees  
(the only national honor medical society)  
**Brandon Allen, Elizabeth Brooks, Michael Hall, Adam Hammond, Jennifer Kinley, Melissa Kozakiewicz, Christina McCall, Nicole McCoy, Molly McIntyre, Jimmy Moss, Kate Ross, Emily Taylor Overholser, Amanda Sebring, Vanessa Vasquez, Eilene Weibley and Katie Wolter**

Gold Humanism Honor Society inductees  
("excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service")  
**Elizabeth Brooks, Megan Hall, Adam Hammond, Noreen Idrees-Asad, Melissa Kozakiewicz, Nicole McCoy, Jimmy Moss, Emily Taylor Overholser, Amanda Sebring and Tony Sochet**

Merritt Ryals Clements, M.D., Award for Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology  
("best demonstrated dedication to the health of women")  
**Tiffany Williams**

Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society Award  
("to outstanding medical school graduates entering an obstetrics and gynecology residency program")  
**Melissa Kozakiewicz and Saira Mir**

American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation  
("female students who demonstrate leadership, service and advocacy and rank in the top 10 percent of the graduating class")

**Elizabeth Brooks, Jennifer Kinley, Melissa Kozakiewicz, Christina McCall, Emily Taylor Overholser, Kate Ross and Eilene Weibley**

American Medical Women's Association Outstanding Female Graduate  
**Emily Taylor Overholser**

American Medical Women's Association Service Award  
**Dani Barnes**

Outstanding Graduate in Family Medicine Award  
**Tanya Anim**

Florida Geriatrics Society Award for Outstanding Student in Geriatrics  
**Elizabeth Brooks**

Excellence in Pediatrics Award  
**Nicole McCoy and Amanda Sebring**

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award  
**Tracy Graham**

Medical Student Professionalism and Service Award  
(presented by the American College of Emergency Physicians for "outstanding patient care and involvement in medical organizations and the community")  
**Brandon Allen**

**FACULTY AWARDS PRESENTED BY CLASS OF 2010**

Outstanding Educator Award  
**Harold Bland**

Hippocratic Award  
**Suzanne Harrison**

Excellence in Teaching Award/Year 1 Basic Sciences\*  
**Charles Ouimet**

Excellence in Teaching Award/Year 2 Basic Sciences\*  
**Gene Ryerson**

Outstanding Clinical Professor\*  
**Gene Ryerson**

Appreciation Award  
**Dean John Fogarty**

\*Presented at end of Class of 2010's second year

**CLASS GIFT TO THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE** Eight large plastic containers to be placed outside each of the Learning Communities so people can recycle bottles and cans.

## STUDENT SUMMARY

**Brandon Allen:** Regional Campus Dean's Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Medical Student Professionalism and Service Award

**Tanya Anim:** Altruism in Medicine Award, Outstanding Graduate in Family Medicine Award

**Dani Barnes:** American Medical Women's Association Service Award

**Elizabeth Brooks:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society, American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation, Florida Geriatrics Society Award for Outstanding Student in Geriatrics

**Craig Campbell:** Student Research Award

**Tracy Graham:** Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

**Megan Hall:** Gold Humanism Honor Society

**Michael Hall:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

**Adam Hammond:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society

**Noureen Idrees-Asad:** Gold Humanism Honor Society

**Jennifer Kinley:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation

**Melissa Kozakiewicz, Valedictorian:** J. Ocie Harris Outstanding Student Award, Regional Campus Dean's Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society, Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society Award, American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation

**Christina McCall:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation

**Nicole McCoy:** Access to Care Award, Regional Campus Dean's Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society, Excellence in Pediatrics Award

**Molly McIntyre:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

**Saira Mir:** Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society Award

**Jimmy Moss:** Individual Student Award, Regional Campus Dean's Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society

**Emily Taylor Overholser:** Regional Campus Dean's Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society, American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation, American Medical Women's Association Outstanding Female Graduate

**Kate Ross:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation

**Amanda Sebring:** Regional Campus Dean's Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society, Excellence in Pediatrics Award

**Tony Sochet, Class President:** Myra M. Hurt Leadership in Medicine Award, Gold Humanism Honor Society

**Vanessa Vasquez:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

**Eilene Weibley:** Regional Campus Dean's Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation

**Tiffany Williams:** Merritt Ryals Clements, M.D., Award for Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Katie Wolter:** Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society