

# Campus offers unique program

**ROBERTA C. NELSON**

Herald Staff Writer

**SARASOTA** — Medical students enrolled in Florida State University College of Medicine arrive in July for a two-year program at the college's regional campus.

The Sarasota campus, 301 Cocoanut Ave., joins other FSU regional medical schools in Orlando, Pensacola and Tallahassee, where the main campus is located.

The regional medical campus program is unique in Florida where students spend their entire third and fourth years in clinical rotations away from the main campus, according to Nancy Kinnally, university spokeswoman.

Dr. Bruce H. Berg, a retired physician who also holds a master's in business administration, was named campus

dean.

"Our main mission is training primary care physicians," Berg said Thursday. "In this program, students learn one-on-one with experts, which is hard to come by these days."

For instance, assisting in surgery is a rare opportunity for medical students at large teaching hospitals, such as Shands at the University of Florida, he said.

"There is a pecking order," Berg said. "First is a fellow, then resident, intern, and below that are the medical students."

Beau Toskich, a Sarasota resident, is one of the nine third-year students who will study at the regional campus until 2007. He chose the Sarasota regional campus because his family lives here, but also because of the student-focused training.

"A lot of the hospitals where we are going to work do not have residence," Toskich said. "They are community-based hospitals. There will be more opportunity to interact at the forefront of where medicine is administered to the patients."

By practicing in community settings, the students will see more "real patients" and fewer "zebras," he said. A "zebra" is a patient with unusual, very rare conditions that a primary-care physician might see once or twice in his career, he said.

Alma Littles, M.D., associate dean for academic affairs at FSU Tallahassee, said the three regional campuses established two years ago are operating successfully. The regional campuses have 68

## CAMPUS FROM 1C

students in the class of 2005, Kinnally said. Between 30 and 40 local physicians have been recruited to work with students on clinical rotations.

Students will do clinical work in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, psychiatry, geriatrics and emergency medicine. A variety of electives are also available, Kinnally said.

Participating physicians and students will have access to a high-tech facility at the school, housed in a restored 1938 house owned by the Famiglio Family Foundation. The house was purchased by Mark P. Famiglio to prevent its demolition. He moved the 2,000 square-foot building from its U.S. 41 location near the Ritz-Carlton Sarasota and spent \$1.85 million on its restoration, he said.

The building, which was placed on a newly constructed 1,000 square-foot first floor, has wireless Internet connection, plasma television screens, built in videoconferencing and PowerPoint presentation capability, and an electronic library.

The regional campuses — in specified locations — were included in the Legislation that created a medical college at FSU in 2000. The law requires the school to educate doctors to serve the state's rural, geriatric, minority and other underserved populations. Sarasota students will work with migrant workers, battered women, inner-city patients, and others, Kinnally said.

Berg said FSU has no immediate plans to take the program into Manatee County hospitals and health facilities.