



Department as well as the College of Medicine.

A second, equally serious incident happened the following Monday, when a female student had two seizures in the College of Medicine lobby.

"She came running in here, calling for help. At first I thought someone was after her," Cooper said. "She said, 'I'm about to have an epileptic seizure,' and soon as I got up and came around the desk, she went limp."

As the student began seizing, Cooper laid her on a bench, turned her head to the side so she wouldn't swallow her tongue and, with the help of a passing first-year medical student, held her so that she would not harm herself.

"As it's happening, the first thing I know is that I have to radio FSUPD to get some help on the way, but the training just kind of comes back naturally," he said. "It's like, 'OK, I've got to do this.'"

Soon after the girl's first seizure subsided, a second one began.

Throughout the incident, Cooper continued to stay in touch with FSUPD via radio to keep them apprised of the situation and check the estimated time of arrival of emergency medical technicians.

In both instances, Cooper stayed with the students until EMTs arrived.

**John Beidler**, director of facilities and operations for the college, praised Cooper for his excellent response.

"The first incident was brought to my attention by some of the staff at the College of Medicine, and the other, I walked in at the tail end of the incident," Beidler said. "Tony's training and quick action proved invaluable in both these instances."

Beidler pointed to the incidents as great examples of the value of the life-saving training provided to the staff of the university's Police Department.

"I thank FSUPD for the training," Cooper said. "Some people come here thinking this is a hospital. Or they might have psychological problems and demand to see a doctor. It is different everyday, but it is a good place to work."

FSU Photography Services/Bill Lax

# Super Cooper

(You'd call him that, too,  
if he had helped save your life.)

By **Jeffery Seay**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sometimes a superhero really does show up. For two Florida State students, his name is **Tony Cooper**, the **College of Medicine's** police tech manager who rendered life-saving assistance to them on separate occasions in September.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, an Aramark employee came into the College of Medicine lobby saying a male student was choking across the street in the Fresh Food Company. Cooper raced across the street to help.

"When I got over there, the student was blue and his eyes were rolling up

in his head," said Cooper, a 26-year Florida State employee and veteran of the Army's Air Defense Artillery. "The first thing I checked was whether he had something in his airway. He did have food in his throat so I used the Heimlich maneuver to clear it. After that, he began to come to."

In such situations, there is no time to hesitate. What is required is the kind of quick thinking and automatic action that comes from CPR training or proper use of automatic external defibrillators that is mandatory for all employees of the Florida State Police