

## **College of Medicine alum among FSU faculty members honored Special to the Chronicle – Oct. 4, 2012**

Two Tallahassee physicians were honored in August as outstanding faculty members at the Florida State College of Medicine — where one of them graduated just seven years ago. The honorees were Alex Ho, an ER doctor at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and Eileen Venable, psychiatry clerkship director and practicing psychiatrist. The College of Medicine has six separate campuses statewide where third- and fourth-year students get their clinical training. These awards were given out by the Tallahassee Regional Campus.

Ho received his award for modeling the medical school's mission: to educate and develop exemplary physicians who practice patient-centered care, discover and advance knowledge, and respond to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority and underserved populations. Javier Escobar, the campus's emergency medicine clerkship director, called Ho "one of the best physicians that I know."

A member of the College of Medicine's first graduating class, Ho has practiced emergency medicine at the TMH Bixler Emergency Center since 2008, when he was named resident of the year. He began as an emergency medical technician in Atlanta and went on to complete his emergency medicine residency at the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill.

"Dr. Ho is an exemplary clinician and communicator who readily establishes rapport with our medical students," said Ron Hartsfield, dean of the Tallahassee Regional Campus. "He treats them as respected and valued learners. Dr. Ho is also an exemplary model for patient-centered care, as even in the fast-paced environment of the Emergency Department each patient is treated with genuine kindness and patience. As a skilled educator he adeptly integrates the foundational and clinical sciences as he nurtures the progressive development of each medical student."

Venable, who works at the Veterans Administration Outpatient Annex, was recognized as an outstanding educator who consistently identifies and meets students' educational needs and enthusiastically collaborates with clerkship directors, faculty and staff to deliver the clinical curriculum to students. "She serves as an ideal role model for compassionate, patient-centered care," Hartsfield said. "Because she is empathetic, jovial and quietly confident, Dr. Venable is able to connect and communicate with medical students in ways that facilitate learning and growth. She is also able to relate medical knowledge to the culture of current students in a way that promotes understanding and retention of the material."

Some students have noted her "great ability to actively listen to patients and students" and say "she cares greatly about how we are developing as physicians and as a whole person." Other students comment that "she helped us to process what we were experiencing and learning" and was able to "make psychiatry something fun and interesting at all times." Hartsfield said all agree that she is a master teacher and mentor.