

# FSU marks 10 years of doctors

25 stayed in  
Tallahassee

**By Ron Hartsfield, M.D.**  
Special to the Chronicle

The FSU College of Medicine is marking a 10-year anniversary — again.

In 2010, we celebrated 10 years since the Florida Legislature established the medical school. But this year we're observing another milestone: Ten years ago, for the first time, our third-year students were sent out to a regional campus — in Orlando, in Pensacola or right here in Tallahassee.

It's an important shift in their lives. After two years of academic work on the main campus, suddenly their "classroom" is a pediatrician's office, a family medicine clinic, a nursing home and so on. During those rotations they learn one-on-one, as an apprentice would, from a community physician. Your doctor becomes their teacher.

So it's an important anniversary for our campuses in Orlando, Pensacola and Tallahassee. (Since then we've also added regional campuses in Daytona Beach, Fort Pierce and



Four FSU College of Medicine alumni who are practicing M.D.s in the area: from left, Christie Sain, Tanya Evers, Amanda Shearer and Randa Perkins. SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Sarasota.) Actually the "campus" is a building, not an expansive green space. It houses the support team and gives students a place to learn more about the care of chronically ill patients (longitudinal studies) and to compare notes each week — but for the most part they're on the job, with the patients, at the physician's side.

Here in Tallahassee, our regional campus is at Miccosukee Road and Capital Oaks Drive. Beyond that, though, the Tallahassee campus has two additional training sites — one in Marianna and one just across the state line in Thomasville, Ga.

Let's look at some facts and figures:

» In all, the Tallahassee campus has an active faculty roster of nearly 450 physicians who, at various times, teach our students.

» In any given year, roughly 40 third- and fourth-year medical students are in area physicians' offices, clinics and hospitals, simultaneously learning and assisting with basic medical care.

» The College of Medicine has teamed up with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to sponsor a residency program in internal medicine.

» A high percentage of students and residents

who learn here will decide to stay. So far, of our 100 alumni who have finished residency training and are practicing in Florida, about 25 are in Tallahassee — and others are caring for patients in smaller towns in the Panhandle and South Georgia. Those are all physicians who, without the College of Medicine, probably would be practicing elsewhere.

We offer a huge "Thank you" to the physicians — and patients — who help our students learn. And we look forward to many more anniversaries.

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