



Natasha Spencer with mentor Derrick Brooks at her medical school graduation.

## COLLEGE AWARDED MAXIMUM REACCREDITATION STATUS

The Florida State University College of Medicine has been granted a maximum eight-year accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the sanctioning body of U.S. medical schools. With the favorable ruling, Florida State becomes the first new medical school of the 21st century to be reaccredited.

"This news was not unexpected based on the remarkable outcomes this medical school has produced since the first class of 30 students arrived in 2001," said College of Medicine Dean John P. Fogarty. "The leaders, administrators, faculty and students who helped plan and build this program should be extremely proud, as should all of our friends and supporters."

Accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education occurs every eight years as part of a nearly two-year process that includes a rigorous self-study by the applying institution and a thorough inspection from a site visit team. Only accredited institutions may receive federal grants for medical education and participate in federal loan programs. In addition, attendance at an accredited program is required for allopathic medical students before they can take the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam or enter residency programs approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Since first gaining full accreditation status in 2005, the College of Medicine has opened new regional campuses in the Florida cities of Sarasota, Fort Pierce and Daytona Beach and rural clinical training sites in Marianna and Immokalee; graduated seven classes; and grown from around 170 medical students to a full enrollment of 480. The new regional campuses are in addition to previously opened campuses in Orlando, Pensacola and Tallahassee.

## A YOUNG WOMAN'S JOURNEY FROM INNER CITY TO MEDICAL DEGREE

**Derrick Brooks (B.S. '94, M.S. '99)** made a lasting impression as an All-American football player at Florida State in the 1990s and later as an All-Pro linebacker for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Without nearly as much fanfare, he is making contributions off the field that will have an effect for generations to come. A recent Florida State University College of Medicine graduate plans to make sure of it.

**Natasha Spencer (B.S. '06, M.D. '11)** credits Brooks with inspiring her to overcome the obstacles of growing up in a crime-ridden Tampa, Fla., neighborhood. Spencer first met Brooks when she was 11 years old. As a charter member of the Brooks Bunch program, she joined the NFL standout and other young people from low-income communities on educational field trips. The program evolved as the children grew older, assisting participants such as Spencer with college. With support from Brooks and fellow Seminole **Stuart Lasher (B.S. '81)**, Spencer fulfilled her dream of going to medical school.

Brooks, who recently completed his term as a member of the university's board of trustees, fought back tears as he watched Spencer pick up her diploma at the College of Medicine's commencement ceremony on May 21.

"Now she's going to throw the rope back and help pull others up," he said.

After completing a residency program in obstetrics and gynecology, Spencer plans to go back to Tampa and help others.

COLLEGE OF  
MEDICINE