



THE  
FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

# REGIONAL CAMPUS REVIEW

## SARASOTA

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1

FALL 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Bruce Berg, MD, MBA

With the recent graduation of the Sarasota Campus Class of 2009, I once again had the opportunity and pleasure of placing the FSU College of Medicine hoods on our third group of students to receive their MD degrees. It is always a joyful experience to be

present as they walk across the stage in Tallahassee in front of a jubilant crowd of family, friends, fellow students and professors. It is hard to believe that we have had three graduating classes from our campus.

The good news is that our campus has been in existence long enough to see the results of the

wonderful work performed by our faculty physicians, regional hospitals and community organizations. One medical student who received training at our campus is now a practicing pediatrician in Arcadia.

To return fully trained physicians to our area is one of our main goals as a regional campus and I am happy to witness this goal come to fruition. I am hopeful that in time we will see more familiar student faces from our campus returning to Sarasota to practice medicine. When that occurs, the benefits returned to the community by our FSU College of Medicine campus will be evident.

Sincerely,

**Bruce H. Berg, MD, MBA**  
Sarasota Campus Dean

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS of 2009!

On May 16, at Christian Heritage Church in Tallahassee, 73 students stood to take the Oath of Hippocrates, the traditional rite of passage for practitioners of medicine. Fourteen of the 73 new MDs hail from the Sarasota Regional Campus and are now experiencing life as interns in their first-year residency programs. Dr. Bruce Berg, Dean of the Sarasota campus, was there to place the customary hood over his newest alumni. "It is an extraordinary feeling to be with the students on this momentous occasion in their lives. Even though graduation happens every year, the excitement and joy of being there with the students and watching their family and friends is always new and truly overwhelming."

Dr. Dan Van Durme, Chair of the Department Family Medicine of Rural Health offered the Commencement Address. He urged the graduates "to care deeply about your patients for there is where the true joy and satisfaction of medicine is found."



SARASOTA CAMPUS CLASS of 2009

*Front: Taalibah Ahmed, MD; Vinod Suresh, MD; Joshua Dietzer, MD;  
Christine Rojas, MD*

*Middle: Amanda Fraser Wallace, MD; Luis Hernandez III, MD; Campus Dean  
Bruce Berg, MD; Michael Lee, MD; Kristen Morrell, MD;  
Melanie Thomas, MD*

*Back: Alisa Holland, MD; Chelsea Tehan, MD; Angélica Soberón, MD;  
H. William Higgins II, MD; Tariq Hakky, MD*

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## PRAKASH & HURWITZ RECEIVE FACULTY HONORS

One of the highlights of the annual Faculty Appreciation Event is the awarding of the Faculty Council Awards. These two awards, *Outstanding Community Faculty Educator* and the *Mission Model Award*, recognize physician faculty in the community who have distinguished themselves as enthusiastic, dedicated physicians committed to the mission of the Florida State University College of Medicine. This year we are happy to recognize **Dr. Soordal Prakash** as winner of the 2009 Mission Model Award and **Dr. Kenneth Hurwitz** as Outstanding Community Faculty Educator. We extend our sincere congratulations to Drs. Prakash and Hurwitz for their tireless efforts in teaching our students the art and science of medicine.



(l-r) Bob Watson, MD; Kenneth Hurwitz, MD; Soordal Prakash, MD; and Bruce Berg, MD



Bruce Robinson, MD

## SMH NAMED AMONG NATION'S BEST FOR TREATMENT OF SENIORS

**Dr. Bruce Robinson**, Clerkship Director for Geriatrics, was recently featured in the July 23 edition of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*. *U.S. News & World Report* recently ranked Sarasota Memorial as one of six Florida hospitals recognized for geriatric care. Robinson heads the Memory Disorder Clinic at SMH and credits the hospital's electronic record-keeping, focus on patient safety and medical library as reasons why we get such high points for treating seniors. The other hospitals recognized are: Shands Healthcare and UF, Mount Sinai Medical Center – Miami Beach, Jackson Memorial Hospital at UM, Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and Tampa General in Tampa.

**Dr. Adam Bright**, Orthopedic Surgeon and Sarasota Community Board Member, completed The Leadville Trail 100 in Leadville, Colorado, a 100-mile trail run in 29 hours, 5 minutes. The trail run starts at 10,000 feet and climbs to an altitude of nearly 12,700 feet. It is widely considered one of the most challenging ultra-marathons in North America.



They're Always After  
Me Lucky Charms!

(And, if you run it, you may be lucky enough to see leprechauns without traveling to Ireland – Dr. Bright reported he saw one dancing on the side of the road halfway into the race!)



## DR. NICOLE BENTZE TO LEAD FAMILY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Nicole G. Bentze, DO**, as Clerkship Director for Family Medicine at the FSU College of Medicine, Sarasota campus. Dr. Bentze succeeds Dr. Stella King who served in that role until July when she moved to San Antonio to accompany husband, Brad, who is doing a fellowship there.

Dr. Bentze brings years of experience both as a clinician and educator. Board-certified in Family Medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians, Dr. Bentze is highly trained in the many facets of family medicine including preventative medicine, adolescent care, women's health, and management of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. Following medical school in Philadelphia, she completed internship and residency in Harrisburg, PA. She later worked as a faculty physician for the Harrisburg Family Practice Residency Program, where she taught students and mentored residents in training. Dr. Bentze completed a competitive post-graduate primary care faculty development fellowship at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in medical education and curriculum design. Welcome, Dr. Bentze!



Nicole Bentze, DO

Do you have any news you'd like to share? Have you been published lately? Spoken at a conference, taken a trip to visit long-lost relatives? Whatever it may be, we want to hear about it!

**Jot down your news and send it to us! You can either drop it in the mail or email us at the address below:**

FSU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ~ SARASOTA CAMPUS, 201 COCONUT AVE, SARASOTA, FL 34236  
TOULA.KANE@MED.FSU.EDU



# CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

## 2009 FACULTY APPRECIATION RECEPTION



(l-r) Dr. Bruce Robinson, Dr. John Kieffer, and Dr. Cynthia Samra



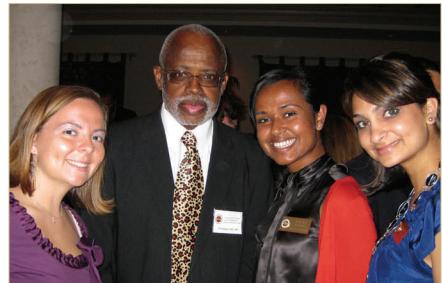
Dr. Brian Garby (left) and Ray Suplee



Melody Trimble, CEO, Venice Regional Medical Center, Dr. Bruce Berg, Campus Dean, and Perry Fulkerson, Vice President, FSU Foundation



Dr. Steve Halbreich & Dr. Maureen Maguire with students Camille Hippolyte (far left) and Tony & Kristen Sochet



Dr. Washington Hill with students Nicole Meisner (left), Shaila Siraj, and Sanaa Bhatty



Deanna Byrne

## WARM WELCOME TO DEANNA BYRNE

The Sarasota campus is happy to welcome Deanna Byrne to the College of Medicine as Administrative Assistant. Deanna brings with her over 15 years in administrative management and customer service relations. Please introduce yourself the next time you are in the building. Welcome, Deanna!

## 2008 – 09 ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

The Sarasota Campus Annual Fund closed on June 30 with gifts totaling over \$25,000. In a year when the economy weakened and organizations were compressing around us, we are especially grateful for your generosity.

We look forward to the coming year with renewed optimism. We have a very energized and enthusiastic class of third-year students, and our fourth-year students prepare to enter residency next summer following graduation. With the help of our extraordinary physician faculty we will continue training young men and women to be thoughtful, caring physicians.

Thank you for making a gift to the Annual Fund. We look forward to your continued support, which is so vital in advancing our mission and enriching the lives of our students.

**If you'd like to make a gift:**

Online, please visit:

[foundation.fsu.edu/community/give2med](http://foundation.fsu.edu/community/give2med)

Or, please send a check payable to:

**"FSU FOUNDATION, SARASOTA CAMPUS"**

and mail to:

**FSU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ~ SARASOTA CAMPUS  
201 COCOANUT AVE., SARASOTA, FL 34236**

*With grateful appreciation to our sponsors*



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



VENICE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

# MATCH DAY 2009

## SARASOTA CAMPUS CLASS *of* 2009 – WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

The graduates began residency training in July at some of the top residency programs across Florida and the United States. More than 60 percent of the class matched for residency in primary care specialties, including family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology. Other students matched in anesthesiology, dermatology, emergency medicine, orthopedic surgery, pathology, psychiatry, and urology.

Here's where the Sarasota grads are headed:



**TAALIBAH A. AHMED, MD**  
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY  
*MERCER UNIVERSITY*  
*MACON, GA*



**JOSHUA P. DIETZER, MD**  
FAMILY MEDICINE  
*TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL*  
*HEALTHCARE*  
*TALLAHASSEE, FL*



**AMANDA FRASER WALLACE, MD**  
ANESTHESIOLOGY  
*UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO*  
*AURORA, CO*



**TARIQ S. HAKKY, MD**  
UROLOGY  
*UNIVERSITY OF*  
*SOUTH FLORIDA*  
*TAMPA, FL*



**LUIS O. HERNÁNDEZ III, MD**  
GENERAL SURGERY  
*JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL*  
*MIAMI, FL*



**H. WILLIAM HIGGINS II, MD**  
DERMATOLOGY  
*BROWN UNIVERSITY*  
*PROVIDENCE, RI*



**ALISA V. HOLLAND, MD**  
INTERNAL MEDICINE  
*TEXAS HEALTH*  
*PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL*  
*DALLAS, TX*



**MICHAEL J. LEE, MD**  
PATHOLOGY  
*EMORY UNIVERSITY*  
*ATLANTA, GA*



**KRISTEN B. MORRELL, MD**  
EMERGENCY MEDICINE  
*UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA*  
*HOSPITALS*  
*CHAPEL HILL, NC*



**CHRISTINE ROJAS, MD**  
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY  
*WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY*  
*DAYTON, OH*



**ANGÉLICA M. SOBERÓN, MD**  
PHYSICAL MED & REHAB  
*UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS*  
*HOUSTON, TX*



**VINOD P. SURESH, MD**  
PSYCHIATRY  
*ST. LUKE'S – ROOSEVELT*  
*HOSPITAL CENTER*  
*NEW YORK, NY*



**CHELSEA B. TEHAN, MD**  
PEDIATRICS  
*UNIVERSITY OF*  
*SOUTH FLORIDA*  
*TAMPA, FL*



**MELANIE M. THOMAS, MD**  
INTERNAL MEDICINE  
*MAYO CLINIC*  
*JACKSONVILLE, FL*

# HAIL & FAREWELL

## SARASOTA CAMPUS CLASS *of* 2009 GRADUATING STUDENTS HONORED

### The Merritt Ryals Clements, MD

**Award for Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology –**

#### Christine Rojas, MD

Presented to the student at each regional campus who has best demonstrated dedication to the health of women. Through performance on the OB/GYN rotation, these students exhibited



Christine Rojas

significant interest in women's health issues and commitment to incorporating this concern into future endeavors.

### Regional Campus Dean's Award –

#### Luis O. Hernández III, MD

Conferred on the most outstanding student at each College of Medicine regional campus.



Luis Hernández

## SARASOTA CAMPUS CLASS *of* 2009 GRADUATION DINNER



### Class of 2009 Graduation Dinner

(Clockwise from Top Left) Mrs. Julie Delaney & Dr. Bruce Berg; Dr. John Fogarty, Dean & Keynote Speaker; Luis & Edlin Hernández; Dr. Mark Brus & wife, Rita



## SARASOTA CAMPUS WELCOMES NEW THIRD-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

SARASOTA CAMPUS CLASS *of* 2011

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

To *Northern Trust* for hosting the Class of 2009 Graduation Dinner in May. Your generosity and thoughtfulness continue to make a significant difference in the lives of our students.

*With grateful appreciation to our sponsor*



**Northern  
Trust**

# CLASS NOTES

## *CLASS of 2007*



**Jorge Barrero, '07**, is doing great; it has been a very fulfilling experience in Boston, MA. "The weather is too cold in Boston to stay much longer which is why I'm headed back to Florida". Jorge will be doing a fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Miami - Jackson Memorial Hospital and is very excited.

**Bobby Crescentini, '07**, has been at UAB and has made it clear that Birmingham is not where he'll be dropping an anchor! He told us that he thought living in Tallahassee would have prepared him for living in the South but Birmingham was "definitely a culture shock. It has turned out to be a fun place to live and I see Charles and his wife often." He is heading to Tampa, FL for his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Moffitt and excited to be heading back to Florida. He sends everyone in Sarasota his best.

**Adam Denker, '07**, writes us from Emory in Atlanta, where he says he has had excellent clinical training which he attributes to the big-city hospital experience. In addition, he had great resident colleagues and attending physicians and has enjoyed living in Atlanta. Adam has been accepted into the University of Florida Cardiology fellowship program in Gainesville, FL.

**NEWS FLASH: Adam and Debbie are engaged and couldn't be happier!**

**Tammy Finger, '07**, is in her third year of studies in New York City and plans to reside either in New York City or Florida. She misses Sarasota.

**Charles Hotte, '07**, is currently in Birmingham, AL and tells us, "I definitely had a great experience in my training in Sarasota, and hope the growing group of medical students is taking advantage of all the opportunities there." Charles will be doing a fellowship in Gastroenterology next year at Baylor in Houston. He and his wife are very excited about the move to Texas and are looking forward to a different challenge. Charles still talks to Jorge and Bobby on a regular basis inside and outside the hospital, and even stayed with Beau once while on the interview trail in Gainesville.

**Kristen Shepherd, '07**, has been in Jacksonville and is considering a fellowship in Maternal - Fetal Medicine or private practice. When her studies are complete she would like to come back to the Sarasota area. She says if everyone could get back to Sarasota "a reunion would be wonderful."

**Beau Toskich, '07**, writes that his surgery intern year was a good struggle. He's starting his second year of radiology, which is a good fit and has him "captivated and content." He has two more years left before he begins a fellowship, which will most likely be IR/interventional oncology. He says he hasn't touched paint or clay since he left Sarasota. He will be in Sarasota in the fall and hopes to stop by and catch up with everyone!

## *CLASS of 2008*

**Paola Dees and Marc Bernstein, '08**, were in the Sarasota campus neighborhood and stopped in this summer. They spent a bit of time with us giving us updates on what their lives are like as they bring the intern year to a close. All in all, they've had a great experience. Paola at USF Pediatrics in Tampa and Marc at Einstein-Montefiore in New York in Internal Medicine.

**Marc** is taking full advantage of the vacation time he gets. After visiting family and friends in Sarasota he was headed to his boyhood camp in North Carolina. After that he was headed west to Colorado to visit friends and do some hiking. After that, Marc will meet up with his fellow residents for what is an annual trip to Las Vegas before returning to New York and the beginning of Year 2.

**Paola** has really enjoyed her first year and had great things to say about her program. She shared some of her tricks about how to sleep during the day when the rest of the world is running at warp speed. "It's all about unplugging the phone and blackout shades – you gotta do it!" Paola did manage to excel in her residency as she was awarded the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award for the Pediatrics residency at USF on June 5. Recipients of this award are residents who have proven to be excellent examples of patient care and in doing so have taught others to be better physicians.

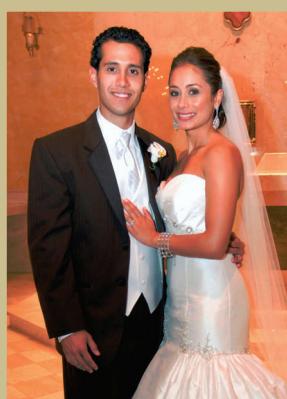
**Moya Chin Kombrinck, '08**, wrote to us early in the year and told us about her adjustment to life in Mississippi. It hasn't been easy and her department is a bit disorganized but she's hanging in there! She told us that she has used up two of her three precious weeks of vacation to vacation in Colorado with husband Jon.

## *CLASS of 2009*

**Luis Hernandez, '09**, and his beautiful bride, **Edlin**, were married on May 23. Luis is doing his residency in surgery at Jackson Memorial in Miami. Luis is averaging 11-13 hour days and getting to do a good number of procedures and exposure to a lot of cases. Edlin is working as a Social Worker for refugee children in foster care.

**Please share your news with us.....we want to hear from you!**

## STUDENTS TYING MORE THAN JUST SUTURES



Luis & Edlin Hernández



Anthony & Kristin Sochet