



# The Best Medicine

SPRING 2003

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## College of Medicine builds on solid foundation

With new leadership and a \$60 million building complex under construction, the Florida State University College of Medicine is headed into its third year stronger than ever.

Dr. J. Ocie Harris was named dean Jan. 28, replacing Dr. Joseph E. Scherger, who was the founding dean. Harris came to the medical school in November 2000 as associate dean for medical education and was the first physician to serve on the faculty.

"Having been here since the beginning, I feel well prepared to move forward with the excellent program we've already put in place," Harris said. "We've laid a solid academic foundation, and now we're laying the foundation for a marvelous new facility."

Harris, who came to FSU after a nearly 30-year career at the University of Florida College of Medicine, has been responsible for overseeing the development of FSU's regional medical school campuses in Orlando, Pensacola and Tallahassee, and for recruiting many of the school's clinical faculty. He also has played a



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE DEAN J. OCIE HARRIS, M.D., LEFT, SHAKES HANDS WITH FSU PRESIDENT T.K. WETHERELL, PH.D., AT THE FEB. 4 GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING COMPLEX.

key role in the accreditation process.

The medical school was granted initial provisional accreditation in October and is preparing for an April 6-9 site visit by a survey team of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the organization that accredits programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States and Canada. As part of the process leading to full accreditation, the LCME will visit the medical school each year until the inaugural class

graduates in 2005. The April site visit will focus on the third- and fourth-year program.

"We feel like we're in good shape," Harris said. "The college now has 70 full-time faculty members and another 120 part-time faculty. Among those are dozens of local physicians in the three communities in which we operate. We've been working very closely with these physicians to ensure that they'll be ready for our students in July when the members of the inaugural class

## MESSAGE FROM DEAN J. OCIE HARRIS, M.D.

It's a great honor to serve as dean of the FSU College of Medicine, an institution with a mission to educate patient-centered physicians who will serve Florida's elderly, rural, minority and other medically underserved populations.

The medical school continues to be fully committed to this mission, and in less than two years our faculty and students have developed a number of programs to address the health-care needs of the underserved.

With faculty support, students have developed service projects ranging from diabetes and blood pressure screenings at a local homeless shelter to migrant health initiatives and pediatric outreach programs.

As dean, I will certainly do all that I can to keep the medical school focused on its mission. And I would like to thank all of those who have demonstrated their belief in that mission by supporting the medical school, especially during the recent transition in leadership.

Faculty, staff, students and friends of the FSU College of Medicine have pulled together from the very beginning and have become increasingly united throughout the many challenges we have faced.

The medical communities in Orlando, Pensacola and Tallahassee have welcomed the medical school and its students enthusiastically as we have prepared to implement the third

and fourth years of the curriculum. Dozens of the best physicians in each community have signed on to serve as clinical faculty for our students, and so far 16 hospitals, health maintenance organizations and other medical facilities have agreed to serve as teaching sites.

Since its founding, the medical school also has enjoyed the generous and much appreciated financial support of its devoted benefactors.

We could not have accomplished so much in such a short time without this tremendous outpouring of support. To all those who have helped us along the way, I thank you, our faculty and staff thank you, and most of all, our students thank you.

FOUNDATION, from p. 1

begin their third-year rotations."

Dr. Alma Littles, who was appointed associate dean for academic affairs in January, will be responsible for overseeing the four-year academic program. Named Family Physician of the Year by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians in 1993, Littles had a solo private practice in Quincy, Fla., from 1989 to 1994 and later served as director of the Family Practice Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare. She came to FSU in August 2002 as chair of the department of family medicine and rural health.

In overseeing the four-year curriculum, Littles will be assisted by David Steele, Ph.D., assistant dean for curriculum and evaluation and the newly appointed director of the office of medical education.

Steele previously taught behavioral medicine at the University of Nebraska's medical school and serves as the evaluation consultant on a \$1.75 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop a four-year family medicine curriculum that will serve as a national model.

## Meet our new dean

From 1973 until joining FSU in 2000, College of Medicine Dean J. Ocie Harris, M.D., had a distinguished career at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

He progressed through the ranks from assistant professor to professor of medicine, and later became associate dean for community-based programs and director of UF's North Florida Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, a position he held for 10 years. The primary role of the AHEC Program is to develop community-based education for health professions students, especially in rural and medically underserved communities.

Harris served as director of the internal medicine clerkship at UF from 1974 to 1995. A

leader in primary care education in Florida, he was recognized by his students with the Hippocratic Award for Teaching Excellence for his contributions to their education.

Harris earned his M.D. degree from the University of Mississippi at Jackson in 1965 and completed his internship, residency and a fellowship in pulmonary and infectious disease at the University of Florida. For two years beginning in 1969, he served as the chief of the medical chest service at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, Calif. He began his career in academe as an assistant professor of medicine at Louisiana State University in 1971.



J. OCIE HARRIS, M.D.  
DEAN

Harris' research interests range from medical education to the effects of cigarette smoke on pulmonary defense mechanisms. He is the author of 70 abstracts and academic publications.

# Medical school breaks ground on new building complex

The Florida State University College of Medicine broke ground Feb. 4 on a 270,000-square-foot complex of buildings that will be the school's new home starting next year.

The \$60 million complex on the northwest corner of the FSU campus will consist of an education and administration building, which includes facilities for first- and second-year medical education, a research building and an auditorium.

"This new facility represents the first opportunity in more than 20 years to build an entirely new medical school from the ground up," said College of Medicine Dean J. Ocie Harris, M.D.

"It will offer the latest in medical information technology and wireless communications to keep our students on the cutting edge."

The three new medical school buildings will surround a cloister garden and will follow the Jacobean architecture of the historic core of the FSU campus. They will be built in phases over the next two years, with the education and administration building expected to be complete by next summer.

The medical school then will begin moving out of its current facilities in the renovated buildings previously occupied by FSU's Developmental Research School.

Gradually, all of the buildings that once housed the school known as "Florida High" will be torn down to make way for the phased construction of the research building and the auditorium.

The technologically rich interior space of the new buildings will feature wireless Internet capabilities throughout and classrooms outfitted with state-of-the-art electronics for classroom presentations, videoconferencing and distance learning.

Eight student communities, each accommodating 30 students, will provide a learning environment that promotes teamwork and small-group study.

The new Clinical Learning Center, a simulated clinic designed for teaching patient communication and basic clinical skills, will include 14 patient rooms outfitted with the latest digital recording equipment and medical information technology resources, including an electronic medical record system.

The research building will house 48 high-tech laboratories for the advancement of research in biomedical science, geriatrics, rural health, patient safety and many other areas.

A 300-seat auditorium, 150-seat lecture hall and several classrooms for 40-60 students will accommodate the estimated 240 students who eventually

will be located on the main campus at any given time. The medical school currently has 30 second-year students and 40 first-year students. A third class will be admitted in May.

Third- and fourth-year education will take place in community settings at the school's regional campuses in Orlando, Pensacola and Tallahassee.

Project architects are Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum Inc., in association with Elliot Marshall Innes, PA. Construction is a joint venture of Centex Rooney Construction Co. and LLT Building Corporation.



THE 270,000-SQUARE-FOOT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE BUILDING COMPLEX WILL FEATURE WIRELESS INTERNET CAPABILITIES THROUGHOUT AND CLASSROOMS OUTFITTED WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART ELECTRONICS FOR CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS, VIDEOCONFERENCING AND DISTANCE LEARNING. IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN 2005.

# Partnership expands access to care for uninsured Tallahassee residents

“It was a marriage of the two things I like to do most, which is teach students and take care of indigent patients.”

JERRY BOLAND, M.D.

Neighborhood Health Services in Tallahassee has increased its patient-care capacity by 50 percent through an exciting new partnership with the FSU College of Medicine.

Dr. Jerry Boland has joined the faculty of the medical school and will be spending the majority of his time seeing patients and teaching students at NHS, which provides care for uninsured and other underserved populations.

Boland, who served as director of the Taylor County Health Department for nearly a decade, said the job answers his professional calling.

“It was a marriage of the two things I like to do most, which is teach students and take care of indigent patients,” Boland said.

The arrangement benefits medical students, as well as patients of NHS. Students have opportunities to strengthen skills they’ve learned in the Clinical Learning Center, interact with patients and witness first-hand the health-care needs of underserved populations. In turn, NHS can expand services to those in the community who need it most.

Dr. Nina Sumlar, NHS clinical director, appreciates her professional partnership with Boland.



(L-R) JANELLE BAKER, A.R.N.P., CLINICAL DIRECTOR NINA SUMLAR, M.D., AND JERRY BOLAND, M.D., STAFF NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH SERVICES, WHICH PROVIDES CARE TO UNINSURED PATIENTS IN THE TALLAHASSEE AREA.

“Dr. Boland brings a wealth of indigent health care experience,” she said.

A board certified family physician, Boland taught medical students from the University of Florida and from the FSU Program in Medical Sciences while working in Taylor County.

Sumlar, who also has FSU medical students working with her, notes the students’ enthusiasm, diversity, genuine interest in medicine, and

willingness to do anything for patients, as well as their grasp of medical information technology.

“They all have their handheld computers, and they’re actually teaching me about technology,” Sumlar said. “They’re very savvy.”

Boland agrees.

“I learn as much from students as they get out of me,” he said. “Sometimes I get the best of it, I think. I think I learn more than I teach.”

— Abby Cruz



## Regional Campuses

### Faculty, facilities prepared for July arrival of medical students

The 30 students in the medical school's inaugural class will begin their third-year clinical rotations in July, and faculty at FSU's regional medical school campuses in Orlando, Pensacola and Tallahassee will be ready for them.

"Each of our clinical campuses is very well prepared for the students' arrival," said Mollie Hill, director of community clinical relations. "We've hired some of the best doctors these communities have to offer, and they are excited about working with our students."

Local physicians known as clerkship faculty will be teaching students in their practices and at area hospitals and outpatient facilities in each community. Each third-year student will be assigned to an individual physician for a six- to eight-week clerkship in that physician's specialty.

Clerkship directors will oversee the students' education in each of eight clinical specialties – family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, emergency medicine, psychiatry, obstetrics/gynecology and surgery.

Clerkship directors and faculty have been participating in a series of workshops developed by Dennis Baker, Ph.D., assistant dean for faculty

development. The workshops are designed to help faculty with their teaching skills and bring them up to speed on the medical information technology tools used by FSU's medical students.

"The presentations were both interesting and comprehensive in describing the mission and methods of the College of Medicine, as well as the roles of the clinical faculty," said Herndon Harding, M.D., psychiatry clerkship director in Orlando.

"The interest of the participants was clear by their creativity – the small groups' ideas for making the students' rotations not only educational but enjoyable, questions about the school in general, and concerns for balancing flexibility of education with accountability and assessment. It was clear that the faculty is doing this with great heart."

In addition to readying the faculty, the medical school has established offices in each community to house the campus administration and provide a place for students to meet with faculty, participate in videoconferences or access the medical school's extensive Internet-based library resources.

Each facility has about 5,000 square feet of space dedicated to administrative and faculty offices, conference rooms, and a student lounge and study area.



JAY FALK, M.D., DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AT ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, LEFT, AND ARMANDO FUENTES, M.D., ORLANDO CLERKSHIP DIRECTOR FOR OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY, RIGHT, TALK WITH ORLANDO CAMPUS DEAN ANTHONY COSTA, M.D., AND HIS WIFE BETH AT AN OPEN HOUSE HELD IN DECEMBER TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE CAMPUS OFFICES.

### Regional Campus Locations

3331 Capital Oaks Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(corner of Capital Medical Blvd. and Miccosukee Rd.)

415 Briercliff Drive  
Orlando, FL 32806  
(Delaney Park)

9151-A Stillbridge Ln.  
Pensacola, FL 32514  
(University Parkway)  
OPENS MAY 1

# The power of a mother's love

**P**huong Nguyen's journey to the Florida State University College of Medicine began in 1981, when his mother, Yen Le, carried Phuong, then 18 months old, onto an overcrowded boat headed from Ca Mau, Vietnam, to Thailand.

"The reason I've been working so hard for the past so many years is just for her, just to show her that we are grateful, and that without her none of us would be where we are."

PHUONG NGUYEN

For four days and four nights Phuong, his mother and about 30 fellow Vietnamese refugees survived on what little food and water they'd been able to carry on board or were able to get from passing Thai fishermen in exchange for their few belongings.

"There was no room to lie down (on the boat)," Le explained.

The gold jewelry that Phuong's mother used to pay for their passage was only a small part of the price she paid to leave Vietnam.

Imprisoned three times along with Phuong's four older siblings after being caught during previous attempts to escape Communist rule, Le had decided to send ahead the four — ages 10 to 19 — in hopes that if they were caught without her, the children would not be put in prison.

Throughout her ordeal at sea, Le could only speculate as to what might have happened to her four other children, who had left Ca Mau on a similar boat two weeks earlier.

After arriving in a refugee camp in Thailand, it took Le three months to locate her other children, who had ended up in a different camp. The family, minus Phuong's father, who had stayed behind in Vietnam, was eventually reunited in Bangkok.

Le was then able to contact her sister, brother and mother, who had already settled in Tallahassee, Fla., and with sponsorship from a local Catholic church, she and her five children were able to join them.

Upon Le's arrival in Tallahassee, a church volunteer

offered to take her to buy groceries for the family. Not realizing that Le had no money, the volunteer left her in front of the Publix supermarket at the intersection of Pensacola and Ocala and promised to pick her up in an hour.

With nothing else to do, Le wandered until she came upon



MEDICAL STUDENT PHUONG NGUYEN AND HIS MOTHER YEN LE STAND OUTSIDE COIN-O-MAGIC, LE'S LAUNDRYMAT ON PENSACOLA STREET IN TALLAHASSEE.

a coin laundry across the street with a “for sale” sign in the window.

Using broken English she’d picked up while working as a bartender in a club for American servicemen in Saigon, Le negotiated to buy the Laundromat with \$2,500 down, promising to pay the rest of the \$25,000 sale price over three years.

Le returned home that night and convinced her brother-in-law to loan her the money for the down payment, and by 9 a.m. the next day, Le owned Coin-O-Magic.

Phuong spent his toddler years perched on his mother’s hip at Coin-O-Magic’s cash register, seated in front of her at the counter, or propped up behind her at the sewing table after she’d begun taking in alteration work from a local department store to make extra money.

“(Back then), I hemmed a pair of pants for \$5 or \$6,” said Le, who had learned only rudimentary sewing skills in Vietnam. “It took me all day.”

Le worked long hours at the Laundromat seven days a week

so that her children could all get an education. Family members recommended she send the older children to work to help support the family instead, but Le refused, saying she didn’t want them to resent it later.

Since the family’s arrival in Tallahassee more than 20 years ago, Le’s daughter and three oldest sons have all earned their bachelor’s degrees in computer science from FSU and become successful in their careers.

Phuong, who graduated with honors from the University of Florida with a degree in microbiology and cell science in 2001, is the last one still in school. He says his mother was “overcome with joy” when he told her he was coming home to Tallahassee to go to medical school at FSU.



SIBLINGS (L-R) TUAN NGUYEN, DUC NGUYEN, TRANG NGUYEN BARTELL, PHUONG NGUYEN AND HOANG NGUYEN HAVE ALL ATTENDED FSU. ALL GRADUATED WITH DEGREES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, EXCEPT PHUONG, WHO IS A FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT.

Meanwhile, at age 62, Le still works every day at Coin-O-Magic. Phuong often stops by after school to check on his mother. Listening to her recount the family’s odyssey, he still finds it hard to believe.

“You hear this story, and it’s something you hear in a movie, like a script,” Phuong said.

“From then until now, my mom has done so much. And

it’s all because of us. She’s the most devoted person I’ve ever known. Just seeing her here every day is really my motivation to excel, to be as good as I can be.

“The reason I’ve been working so hard for the past so many years is just for her, just to show her that we are grateful, and that without her none of us would be where we are.”

## EDITOR’S NOTE

The story of any medical school, ultimately, is the story of its students. They represent and carry forth the school’s core values, its mission and its future.

Therefore, with this issue, *The Best Medicine* is kicking off an ongoing series of articles featuring students in the FSU College of Medicine.

There is no better representation of the FSU College

of Medicine than its students. Theirs are stories of courage, perseverance, compassion, sacrifice, persistence, selflessness, intelligence, motivation and hard work.

FSU’s medical students come from all over Florida and are culturally diverse. Many come from small towns and rural areas, but the state’s major metropolitan areas are also well represented.

A number of students are older than average for medical school and bring a broad range of professional and life experiences, while others come straight out of undergraduate programs. Most are active in student organizations, community service projects and medical outreach programs.

You’ve just met Phuong Nguyen, a first-year student

from Tallahassee. Also in this issue, you’ll meet second-year student Kevin Raville, a member of the 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group at Patrick Air Force Base.

We look forward to introducing you to more of our students in future issues.

**Nancy Kinnally**  
Editor

# Military man turned medical student

**K**evin Raville began medical school less than two years ago, but he's been in training to save lives for 13 years.

A reservist in the 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group at Patrick Air Force Base since 1997, Raville spent eight years on active duty before earning a bachelor's degree in microbiology at the University of Florida and entering medical school at FSU.

The balancing act of attending medical school and continuing service as a reservist creates heavy physical, emotional and psychological demands on Raville.

One weekend a month, he makes the five-hour drive to the Air Force base near Cocoa Beach for duty training and testing. He typically leaves Friday evening, has training from 7:30 a.m. Saturday to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, and then drives back home, arriving around 11 p.m. His first class starts at 8 a.m. Monday.

"This past semester (fall 2002) weekend duty always fell before an exam, so I just had to plan ahead for it," Raville said.

These days, the War on Terrorism is always in the back of Raville's mind. Raville is the only eligible member in his 30-man unit who hasn't been activated,

and it's because he's enrolled in medical school.

"My teammates are behind me," Raville said. "They know on the one hand, I want to be active on the team to support our missions. On the other hand, I'm crossing my fingers and hoping I can stay in school."

Raville completed two years of intense military training to become one of fewer than 350 Pararescue Jumpers (PJs) in the entire Air Force. PJs primarily perform combat search and rescue, emergency medical treatment, triage, evacuation of the wounded and humanitarian aid. They also provide support for NASA space shuttle launches and landings.

Raville's training began with a 10-week indoctrination program that has a 90 percent wash-out rate. That was followed by SCUBA school, a combat diver's course, basic parachute training, survival school and military freefall parachuting. Raville also received paramedic training as part of his preparation to become a PJ. He completed his training at Kirtland Air Force Base in

Albuquerque, N.M., where he received the coveted maroon beret worn by PJs.

Injuries are common in PJ training, which involves high-risk procedures such as parachuting into water and forests, jumping out of helicopters into the ocean and scaling ships on rope ladders. Just about every PJ unit has lost one of its members at one time or another, either in training or during a rescue mission.

Raville's plans are to pursue a career in



KEVIN RAVILLE IS A RESERVIST IN THE 920<sup>TH</sup> RESCUE GROUP AT PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE NEAR COCOA BEACH, FLA.

family practice or emergency medicine, and maybe to become a flight surgeon with his reserve unit.

"It's always been evident to me that Kevin wants to improve himself, and I can't think of anything more difficult than going to medical school," said Lt. Harley Doubet of the 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group. "He's going down a different path right now so that he can come back and be an asset to our team in a different way."

Now in his second year of medical school, Raville feels he owes many of his accomplishments to the United States Air Force. He says the patient care experience he received as a PJ helped inspire him to become a doctor.

"It's meaningful," Raville said of his time spent in military service. "It's pretty much gotten me to where I am. If somebody had told me in high school that I was going to be a doctor, I probably would've laughed at them. Being a Pararescue Jumper helped me see medicine as a potential career."

— Abby Cruz



KEVIN RAVILLE LEARNS ABOUT PEDIATRIC ASSESSMENT FROM STEVE GROSSMAN, M.D., IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL'S CLINICAL LEARNING CENTER.



# Student Activities

## Interest Groups

### Emergency Medical Student Association

EMSA faculty advisor Javier Escobar, M. D., discussed the field of emergency medicine and how to get into emergency medicine residency programs at the organization's Feb. 17 meeting. EMSA is planning its second suture clinic at which students will learn about methods of suturing and have an opportunity to practice on pigskin.

### Student National Medical Association

Students in SNMA offered blood pressure and diabetes

screenings in the southside community of Tallahassee on Saturday, Jan. 25. Students stationed themselves at a convenience store to make their services accessible to the public. This event marked the beginning of a long-term project intended to incorporate multiple sites. SNMA is a national organization focused on minority health issues.

### Family Medicine Interest Group

Students in the FMIG organized the medical school's first-ever health fair, held Saturday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tallahassee Mall. Eleven FSU medical student organizations participated in the fair, which focused on the theme, "Health

Maintenance and Disease Prevention." First- and second-year medical students offered screening tests for health concerns such as osteoporosis, scoliosis and high blood pressure. Organizational booths provided information

on health issues relating to tobacco use, obesity, depression and diabetes. The health fair was supported by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians and several local health-care providers.



(L-R) DAVID BOJAN, KIM RUSCHER-ROGERS, FORMER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE DEAN JOSEPH SCHERGER, M.D., M.P.H., BRIAN GIBSON AND DENNIS MAYEAUX, M.D., FAMILY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP DIRECTOR IN PENSACOLA, WERE AMONG THE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WHO RAN THE DISNEY MARATHON TOGETHER JAN. 12. OTHER RUNNERS WERE: BETH ALEXANDER, KAREN MILES, SACHIN PARIKH AND JASON ROCHA. FOR THE SIX STUDENTS WHO RAN, IT WAS THEIR FIRST MARATHON. ALL FINISHED.

## FSUCARES expands service activities

FSUCARES, a medical student organization dedicated to medical outreach, continues to develop service activities both at home and abroad.

In addition to the organization's spring break medical mission to Panama, FSUCARES has organized blood pressure and diabetes screenings at a local homeless shelter, health screenings for the local migrant community, a health education program for an underserved Tallahassee neighborhood, and pediatric outreach projects.

Students organized the inaugural FSUCARES 5k and 1mile Fun Run in November, which raised

\$8,000 for medical outreach projects. The 5k race started at the Westcott fountain on the FSU campus and ended at the medical school. Plans are already being made for this year's 5k, scheduled for Oct. 18.

Race sponsorships have enabled 16 students to spend their spring break in Panama providing medical care to some of the country's most needy communities under the guidance of four members of the medical school faculty.

FSUCARES faculty advisor Elena Reyes, Ph.D., said the mission trip is an educational experience for the students.

"These students are very interested in learning more about the problems faced by culturally diverse and disadvantaged populations," Reyes said. "It's a great opportunity for them to work with a medically underserved patient population while under close faculty supervision."

In preparation for the trip, students collected medications and supplies from community physicians. They made an effort to gather the types of medications for which they saw the greatest need on their trip last year.



SECOND-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS DAVID BOJAN AND NATHOSHA CANTY PARTICIPATED IN BLOOD PRESSURE AND DIABETES SCREENINGS AT THE SHELTER IN TALLAHASSEE THIS JANUARY WITH FSUCARES.

## Friends of the COM

# Southern Scholarship Foundation dedicates Stone house to medical students

Nine FSU medical students are benefitting this year from a bright idea had some 50 years ago by a Blountstown man who served for many years as dean of FSU's College of Education.

As scholarship recipients at the Mode and Jeanne Stone Scholarship House of the Southern Scholarship Foundation, the students live rent-free in a comfortably furnished house just "a stone's throw" from the medical school.

The late Mode L. Stone, former dean of the College of Education, recognized back in 1952 that many students had to forgo college because they simply couldn't afford it. His innovative solution was to work together with several other FSU faculty members and a local attorney to build and purchase houses and offer scholarships to

deserving students in the form of rent-free housing.

His legacy is the Southern Scholarship Foundation, an organization that operates 25 scholarship houses on four college campuses around the state and has served more than 7,000 students to date.

Zach Elmir said getting accepted into the Scholarship House rivaled his excitement at getting into medical school.

"I felt a huge load was lifted from my shoulders," said Elmir, a first-year student who had been unable to stretch his student loans to meet his monthly expenses during his first semester of medical school.

"Now I can focus on school more, and my chances of practicing the relatively low-paying specialty of geriatric medicine are tremendously improved since I will not have to worry as much about repaying loans."



BACK ROW (L-R): SCHOLARSHIP HOUSE RESIDENTS MICHAEL HERNANDEZ, SACHIN PARIKH, ZACH ELMIR, JODA LYNN, STEFANO BORDOLI, SCOTT BROTHERTON, LUC TRAN, AND SHANNON PRICE. FRONT ROW (L-R): LEE STONE, MARY LOIS MAYFIELD AND NANCY THOMPSON, THE THREE CHILDREN OF MODE AND JEANNE STONE.

By paying a modest \$530 a semester to cover utilities and some groceries, Elmir and the other eight students each save about \$5,000 a year, or \$20,000 over four years, thereby reducing significantly their total debt burden, which for medical students averages about \$100,000.

Each student has a furnished, private bedroom and shares a bathroom with one other student. The house also includes a furnished living room, dining room, fully equipped kitchen, laundry room, guest bathroom and patio. Wireless Internet access was

recently added to the list of amenities.

Mary Lois Mayfield, one of three children of Mode and Jeanne Stone, said that when approached by the Southern Scholarship Foundation her family members agreed that the mission of FSU's medical school – to educate physicians to work in rural and other medically underserved areas – was one their parents would have embraced.

"They were about service to their God and to mankind in any way that was presented to them," Mayfield said.



MEDICAL STUDENTS JODA LYNN, LEFT, AND SHANNON PRICE STUDY IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE MODE AND JEANNE STONE SCHOLARSHIP HOUSE. BOTH PLAN TO PRACTICE IN THEIR NATIVE TAYLOR COUNTY.

# Dance Marathon: A two-day dance for a life-long chance

Pediatric outreach programs at the FSU College of Medicine are expanding thanks to the tireless efforts of more than 1,000 FSU students who participated in Dance Marathon 2003.

The event, which requires participants to stay on their feet for 32 hours straight, raised more than \$60,000 for the medical school's pediatric outreach programs. A significant portion of the funds will be dedicated to establishing pediatric health-care services at a clinic in Gretna.

Owned by the Gadsden County Health Department, the clinic already provides health-care services to adults through a collaboration with the Florida A&M University School of Nursing. The College of Medicine is hoping to join forces with FAMU, the City of Gretna, the Health Department and others to provide health-care services for children in need.

Gadsden County is federally designated as medically underserved and has the highest infant mortality rate in Florida.

"A pediatric clinic in Gretna would not only provide care to an underserved population, but also provide our students with an extraordinary learning opportunity," said Alma Littles, M.D., associate dean for academic affairs.

Considering the FSU College of Medicine's mission, the school is a perfect fit to be a beneficiary of Dance Marathon, said Adam Ouimet, second-year medical student and president of the Pediatric Interest Group.



DANCE MARATHON COMMITTEE MEMBERS ANNOUNCE THE 2003 FUNDRAISING TOTAL OF \$140,965.50, THE HIGHEST EVER ACHIEVED BY THE FSU STUDENT PHILANTHROPY. PROCEEDS WILL BE SHARED BETWEEN THE FSU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PEDIATRIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND SHANDS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.

"Working at the Gretna clinic will give us (students) satisfaction in knowing that we are providing exactly the type of service that the College of Medicine has pledged to provide in Florida," Ouimet said.

Dance Marathon is a national phenomenon that has an eight-year history at FSU. The largest student-run philanthropy on the FSU campus, Dance Marathon has raised more than a half-million dollars for the Children's Miracle Network, a nonprofit organization that strives to raise funds and awareness for sick and injured children.

The generosity of the event's major sponsors, Proctor Automobile Dealerships

and Farmers & Merchants Bank, and of many other local businesses and individuals, will impact the lives of hundreds of Florida children.

As at Children's Miracle Network hospitals across the country, a person's ability to pay for medical services will not interfere with health-care delivery at the Gretna clinic.

The College of Medicine will focus on providing preventive care, including well-child exams and immunizations, developing counseling clinics for children and, eventually, establishing specialty clinics such as neurology and endocrinology.

— Abby Cruz

Please consider pledging your support to the College of Medicine.  
Here are a few ways to get involved:

Benefactors' Circle \$15,000

The first 20 donors at this level will have their names inscribed on one of the benches to be placed along the entry paths to the College of Medicine buildings.

Founders' Circle \$10,000

Donors at this level will have their names engraved on the College of Medicine Founders' Wall.

Hippocrates Society \$1,000-5,000

Donors at this level will have their names engraved on a marble slab at the entrance to the College of Medicine.

Century Club \$100-\$999

Donors at this level will have their names engraved on one of the bricks lining the central courtyard.

For more information,  
contact:

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## Outreach Programs

# SSTRIDE expands to Taylor County

When Elizabeth Sutton met Shannon Price, it was like meeting her own future face to face.

A junior at Taylor County High School in Perry, Fla., Sutton hopes one day to follow a trail being blazed by Price and Joda Lynn, FSU medical students who come from Perry, population 6,800, and plan to practice there.

“All of our doctors here are not from here, so it kind of seems like no one from Perry will ever make it,” Sutton said. “And to see somebody from your small hometown actually make it that far, it makes you realize that you too can do it.”

A former operating room nurse at Doctors’ Memorial Hospital in Perry, Price met Sutton while on a return visit to her high school stomping grounds to help spread the message that medical school isn’t just for privileged city dwellers.

Price was one in a series of weekly speakers brought in to offer insight into the medical field as part of a new pre-medical chemistry course offered at Taylor County High School. The course, made possible by the FSU College of Medicine’s Outreach Programs in cooperation with Big Bend Area Health Education Center, represents the first expansion of the medical school’s in-school SSTRIDE program beyond Leon County. SSTRIDE stands for Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence.

Gwen Randolph recently joined the medical school staff as director of community and rural outreach and has been traveling the Panhandle’s medically underserved areas to identify future sites for the college’s outreach efforts. The goal is to establish SSTRIDE programs in five counties over the next five years.

William Tripp, who teaches the advanced chemistry course, said having the SSTRIDE program at Taylor County High School will encourage students who might have written off the idea of a career in medicine as too far-fetched.

“I think this will open some doors for people in our community that might not have been opened otherwise,” Tripp said, adding that the smaller class size of 15 students provides greater learning opportunities.

“I can spend more time on what they’re interested in, and the class is taking on much more of a personality,” he said. “I’m very tough on them, but as an honors class I’m getting more from them than from any other honors class.”

Students say the course is providing them a view of the medical field they’d never seen before.

“We’ve learned about the side of medicine that you can’t learn by going to the doctor’s office and just watching,” said Josh Goodman, a junior. “You’re actually getting people who are taking a second to go aside from what they’re actually doing to explain what’s going on behind the scenes. You’re hearing the side that no one else hears.”



STUDENTS FROM TAYLOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL TOURED THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND VISITED WITH MEDICAL STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN THE CLINICAL LEARNING CENTER IN DECEMBER.

James Moses, a senior, was particularly impressed with what he learned on a recent field trip to the FSU College of Medicine. He noted the hands-on patient care experience FSU medical students get at the school’s Clinical Learning Center and their use of wireless technology.

Moses is applying to Florida State University as an undergraduate this year, but already he’s placed his hopes on getting into FSU’s medical school four years from now.

“I hope I get to come to this medical school because from what I’ve heard it would be a great experience,” Moses said. “It’s very high tech and it’s got very high standards.”



# Biomedical research program grows

The FSU College of Medicine is attracting some of the best young minds in biomedical science to its growing research program.

Five recent faculty recruits have come to the medical school's department of biomedical sciences from top U.S. medical schools, and dozens more are being considered for faculty positions in the department. All of the faculty in the department will have a role in teaching as well as research.

Mohamed Kabbaj, Ph.D., came to FSU from the University of Michigan, where he was a research investigator in the Mental Health Research Institute in the School of Medicine. Kabbaj is studying the brain's involvement in emotional behavior.

"There was no way for me to refuse the golden opportunity to work with the top-notch molecular biologists at FSU," Kabbaj said. "And I wanted to be part of the exciting developing stages of the College of Medicine."

Kabbaj is joined by new faculty members Curtis Altmann, Ph.D., Yanchang Wang, Ph.D., Branko Stefanovic, Ph.D., and Trent Clarke, Ph.D.

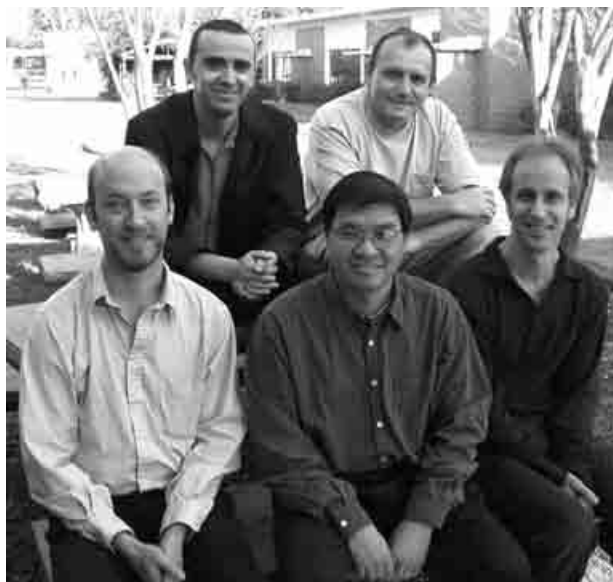
Altmann's research examines the development of the vertebrate eye at a molecular level and is aimed at developing treatment strategies for developmental defects, as well as age- and trauma-induced vision problems. Altmann came to FSU from The Rockefeller University, where he

was a postdoctoral associate in the department of molecular vertebrate embryology.

Clarke began his research career at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was a research fellow. His research explores the ways in which cells interact with each other during the development of human reproductive tissues and could lead to new treatments for infertility.

Stefanovic was most recently at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a research assistant professor in the department of medicine. His research is aimed at discovering effective drugs for treatment of liver fibrosis, the ninth leading cause of death in the United States.

Wang came to FSU from Baylor College of Medicine, where he was a postdoctoral fellow in the department of biochemistry and molecular biology. The goal of Wang's research is to understand how cell growth and division is regulated at the molecular level, with applications to the control of human cancer.



**NEW BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES FACULTY** BACK ROW (L-R): MOHAMED KABBAJ, PH.D., BRANKO STEFANOVIC, PH.D. FRONT ROW (L-R): TRENT CLARKE, PH.D., YANCHANG WANG, PH.D., CURTIS ALTMANN, PH.D.

Altmann, Clarke, Kabbaj and Stefanovic all have been awarded First Year Assistant Professor Awards from the FSU Council on Research Creativity.

In addition, Stefanovic holds a National Institutes of Health grant for his research project, "Regulation of Type I Collagen in Hepatic Fibrosis," and Wang holds a grant from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for his project, "Functional Analysis of Mammalian Chk1 in DNA Damage Response."

## RESEARCH DIVISION LAUNCHES SEMINAR SERIES

The Division of Research at the FSU College of Medicine has launched a weekly seminar series to highlight the work of the medical school's faculty and others. Presentations made to date have been:

**January 16** Brooks Keel, Ph. D., Vice President for Research and Professor of Biomedical Sciences. "The Sperm Chronicles: Confessions of a Clinical Andrologist."

**January 23** Curtis Altmann, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sci-

ences. "Genomic Approaches to Early Vertebrate Development: The Eye."

**January 30** Yousef Haik, Ph. D., Assistant Professor, College of Engineering. "Nanotechnology and Medicine."

**February 6** Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph. D., Professor and Chair, Biomedical Humanities and Social Sciences. "Assessing Adherence with Complex Medical Regimens."

**February 13** Timothy Elliott, Ph. D., Associate Professor of Physical Medicine

and Rehabilitation, University of Alabama at Birmingham. "Social Problem Solving Abilities and Family Caregiving Following Disability."

**February 20-21** College of Health Sciences/College of Medicine Symposium, "Lipids and Lipoproteins, Physical Activity and Diet."

**February 27** Nir Menachemi, Ph. D., Director, Center on Patient Safety; Assistant Director of Health Affairs. "Physicians' Perceptions of Medical Errors."

# Faculty Achievements

## Publications

Edward L. Bradley, III, M.D., wrote the editorial, "Atlanta Redux," for the journal *Pancreas*. In press.

Edward L. Bradley, III, M.D., wrote the article, "Guiding the reluctant: A primer on guidelines in general, and pancreatitis in particular," for the *International Journal of Pancreatology*. In press.

Robert G. Brooks, M.D., and Art Clawson, M.S., co-authored the article, "The Rural Physician Workforce in Florida: A Survey of U.S. and Foreign Born Primary Care Physicians," with R. Mardon for the *Journal of Rural Health*. In press.

Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., co-authored the article "Prospective assessment in newborns of diabetes autoimmunity (PANDA): Maternal understanding of infant diabetes risk," for the journal *Genetics in Medicine*. In press.

Gerry Maitland, M.D., wrote the review article, "Posttraumatic Vertigo," for the *Journal of Disability Medicine*. In press.

Joan Y. Meek, M.D., served as editor-in-chief of *New Mother's Guide to Breastfeeding*, an American Academy of Pediatrics title, published by Bantam Books.

Robert K. Oldham, M.D., is co-editor of *Cancer Biotherapy & Radiopharmaceuticals, A Journal of New Cancer Treatment Modalities*, with G.L. DeNardo, M.D.

Randolph L. Rill, Ph.D., co-authored the article, "Acrylamide Polymerized in the Presence of Surfactants: Surface Analysis Using Atomic Force Microscopy," with M. Chakrapani, D.H. Van Winkle and B.C. Patterson in *Langmuir*.

David J. Steele, Ph.D., co-authored Monograph No. 281, "Challenging Physician-Patient Interactions," with J.D. Harrison, published by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Branko Stefanovic, Ph.D., co-authored "Delivery of matrix metalloproteinase-1 attenuates established liver fibrosis in the rat," with Y. Iimuro, T. Nishio, T. Morimoto, T. Nitta, S.K. Choi, D.A. Brenner and Y. Yamaoka in the journal *Gastroenterology*.

Curtis Stine, M.D., was recently named editor-in-chief of the journal, *Adolescent and Family Health*. AFH is a peer-reviewed quarterly journal that publishes original research addressing the factors in family and other social institutions that enhance healthy adolescent behavior—specifically, the common factors influencing adolescent involvement with, or avoidance of, alcohol, drugs, sex, tobacco and violence.

Curtis Stine, M.D., co-authored the article, "Condom effectiveness: factors that influence risk reduction," with J.T. Fitch, W.D. Hager, J. Mann, M.B. Adam and J. McIlhaney in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*.

Richard Usatine, M.D., wrote the article "Teaching and Practicing Medicine With Hand-Held Computers," in the journal *Family Medicine*.

Richard Usatine, M.D., co-authored the article "Photo Rounds: A Swollen Knee," with B. Sachs and J. Sorci in the *Journal of Family Practice*.

## Honors & Awards

Kenneth Brummel-Smith, M.D., was appointed to the Council of the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs (ADGAP). The Council meets twice a year at the American Geriatric Society meetings. Dr. Brummel-Smith will be attending a meeting in May in Baltimore.

Art Clawson, M.S., served as a reviewer of contributed papers, poster sessions, symposia proposals and the student research award submitted for the National

Rural Health Association's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held in May. Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., has been elected chair of the Board of Scientific Affairs of the American Psychological Association.

Edward C. Klatt, M.D., has been re-appointed to serve on the Autopsy Committee of the College of American Pathologists for the year 2003. The committee strives to promote the use of autopsies for improved research, education and public health. It also follows legislation affecting autopsy practice.

Alma B. Littles, M.D., has been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Graham Center in Washington, D.C., and is chairing the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration's Family Practice Physician Recruitment and Retention Advisory Committee.

Commissioners and staff of the Florida Corrections Commission dedicated the 2002 Annual Report to Commissioner Alma B. Littles, M.D., for her service to the Commission from its inception in 1995 until her appointment ended in November of 2002.

Karen Myers, A.R.N.P., has been elected vice president of the Counsel of Advanced Practice Nurses, an organization for nurse practitioners in the Panhandle area, and will also serve as liaison to the Legislative Committee.

Randolph L. Rill, Ph.D., serves on the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and as chair of the Research Committee of the American Cancer Society, Florida Division Inc. Rill is also chair of the FSU College of Medicine Faculty Council and the FSU Faculty Senate University Library Committee.

Eugene Trowers, M.D., served on behalf of the Bureau of Health Professions as a reviewer in the peer review meeting for the Academic Administrative Units grant program Feb. 24-27.

Carol Van Hartesveldt, Ph.D., served on the planning committee for a workshop sponsored by NASA and held at the University of Missouri Nov. 12-14, 2002.

Carol Van Hartesveldt, Ph.D., served as a panelist for the Biology Directorate of the National Science Foundation.

## Presentations

Robert G. Brooks, M.D., presented "Advancing Quality End-of-Life Care in Florida," at the Bioethics in the Capital conference hosted by the Florida Bioethics Network.

Nancy Clark, M.Ed., moderated the session "Dueling PDAs" at the national Scientific Assembly of the American Academy of Family Physicians in San Diego, Oct. 17-20, 2002.

Myra Hurt, Ph.D., served as visiting faculty and gave a presentation on innovation in the creation of a new medical school to the Harvard Medical School Josiah Macy Institute Workshop for Physician Educators on January 15 at Harvard University.

Edward C. Klatt, M.D., hosted the 2003 Winter Meeting of the Group for Research in Pathology Education and presented the seminars "Integration of the Curriculum" and "Digital Web Slides."

Elena Reyes, Ph.D., moderated the session on children's issues at the Bioethics in the Capital conference hosted by the Florida Bioethics Network.

Barbara Shearer, M.S.L.S., Nadine Dexter, M.L.S., and Suzanne Nagy, M.S.L.S., presented "The Electronic Library" at the 2003 Winter Meeting of the Group for Research in Pathology Education.

Richard Usatine, M.D., gave three presentations at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine National Predoctoral Education Conference in Austin, Texas, in February. They involved Web-based learning in medical education, the fourth-year of medical school and bioterrorism competencies in family medicine.

Richard Usatine, M.D., gave two presentations at the AAMC 2002 Annual Meeting in San Francisco in November. One was to the Organization of Student Representatives and was on student community service projects, and the other was for RIME, and was on "Superior Student Chart Notes Challenge Medicare Documentation Policies."

Carol Van Hartesveldt, Ph.D., gave a presentation for "Sex, Space, and Environmental Adaptation: a National Workshop to Define Research Priorities Regarding Sex Differences in Human

## Menachemi to lead Center on Patient Safety

Nir Menachemi, Ph.D., MPH, has been named director of FSU's Center for Patient Safety.

Menachemi came to the College of Medicine after completing the Lister Hill Health Policy Fellowship at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to that he held an appointment as visiting assistant professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health, where he taught courses in public health and health administration.

At the College of Medicine, Menachemi's primary responsibilities include research and teaching in the areas of patient safety and health-care quality. His research interests include causes, consequences and interventions for medical errors. More specifically, he is interested in the impact of communication technologies on the practice of medicine, particularly information system interventions designed to



NIR MENACHEMI, PH.D., LEFT, DISCUSSES THE PRACTICE PARTNER ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM WITH WANDA GAINES OF THE FSU CLINICAL LEARNING CENTER.

promote patient safety. He is particularly interested in patient safety within rural health care.

The College of Medicine established the Center on Patient Safety to promote and conduct research and education designed to reduce medical errors and increase health-care quality. The Center on Patient Safety intends to use research data as the basis for wider discussions toward formulating a state and national agenda for patient safety research and medical error reduction and to stimulate increased funding in this area.

Responses to Challenging Environments." The workshop was sponsored by NASA and held at the University of Missouri Nov. 12-14, 2002.

## Promotion & Tenure

Myra Hurt, Ph.D., has been promoted from associate professor to professor. Hurt is associate dean for student affairs, admissions and outreach.

Edward Klatt, M.D., has been granted tenure by FSU. Klatt is faculty scholar in pathology, professor and Year 2 curriculum director.

Andrew Payer, Ph.D., has been granted tenure by FSU. Payer is faculty scholar in anatomical sciences, professor and Year 1 curriculum director.

David Steele, Ph.D., has been granted tenure by FSU. Steele is assistant dean for curriculum and evaluation and director of the office of medical education.

## Calendar/Events

### **WHITE COAT CEREMONY CLASS OF 2007**

May 16  
6 p.m.  
Opperman Music Hall

### **SUMMER CLASSES BEGIN CLASS OF 2007**

May 19

### **THIRD-YEAR ORIENTATION CLASS OF 2005**

July 7  
Regional Campuses

### **CLINICAL ROTATIONS BEGIN CLASS OF 2005**

July 14  
Regional Campuses



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