The Florida State University College of Medicine was created in 2000 to produce more primary-care physicians for the state—especially physicians who will work with Florida’s rapidly growing population over age 65, its millions of patients in rural areas and other medically underserved patients. Because of our focused mission, we are producing more primary care physicians than any other medical school in Florida. But students with the greatest commitment to medically serving others often have the fewest economic resources. Research also shows that students most likely to practice in medically underserved communities are those who come from such a background. This is where scholarships play a crucial role. Brett Thomas, Class of 2014 president and student at the Tallahassee Regional Campus, said, “I was on the path to accrue more graduate debt compared to most of my colleagues. Support from many scholarship resources has provided a spirit of liberation to pursue a specialty irrespective of the salary.”

For the third year, the Fort Pierce Regional Campus has embarked on a campaign to provide scholarships to our students. At our recent Faculty Appreciation Celebration, we were able to provide four $5,000 scholarships to very deserving fourth-year students. Two, sponsored by the general foundation fund of the Fort Pierce Campus, were awarded to Ryan Berger and Rida Laeeq. Another, the Sai Ram Scholarship, was provided by an anonymous faculty member and was earned by Laura Irastorza. The fourth scholarship was donated by the Martin County Medical Society, through a donation from FSU faculty member Dr. Steven Lofton. This scholarship was awarded to Ryan Howard.
Fort Pierce Community Board

We are so thankful to our community board for the support they provide.

Chair: Randall Bertolette, M.D.
Fort Pierce Regional Campus Dean

Jay Finnegan
CEO, St. Lucie Medical Center

Mollie Hill
Director, Community Clinical Relations,
FSU College of Medicine

Alastair Kennedy, M.D.
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Medical Center and Heart Institute

Alma Littles, M.D.
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Education and Academic Affairs,
FSU College of Medicine

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Nancy Baker, M.D.
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Pediatrics

Juliette Lomax-Homier, M.D.
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Grove Place Surgery Center
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Indian River Medical Center
Indian River County Medical Society
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center

Martin Health System
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast
Port St. Lucie Hospital Treatment Center

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Sheridan Healthcorp
St. Lucie Health Access Network
(HANDS clinic)
St. Lucie Medical Center
St. Lucie Surgery Center
Surgery Center of Okeechobee
Surgical Center of the Treasure Coast
The Surgery Center at Jensen Beach

Treasure Coast Center for Surgery
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic
Health Care Champions, an event presented by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers and TD Bank, celebrated health-care professionals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the quality of health care on the Treasure Coast. At a breakfast on Oct. 2, six categories of Health Care Champions were recognized: Physician excellence, non-physician excellence, administrative excellence, innovation in health care, community outreach and quality of care lifetime achievement. With many nominations judged by six representatives from the Treasure Coast medical centers, 12 finalists were selected. Several of our FSU clerkship faculty were nominated, and two were selected as finalists. Lalit Chaube, M.D., FSU clerkship faculty for psychiatry, was a finalist in the Community Outreach category. Moti Ramgopal, M.D., FSU clerkship faculty for infectious disease, was a finalist in the Physician’s Excellence category. At the awards ceremony, both of these outstanding physicians earned the title of winner! Congratulations from everyone at the Fort Pierce campus.

Throughout the year our dean, Dr. Bertolette, and student support coordinator, Sandy Stevens, provide “bonus” educational sessions with our students in the form of Dean’s Rounds. So far this year, five sessions have been conducted after the Doctoring 3 course on Wednesdays. Chris Hollinger, M.D., anesthesiologist at Indian River Medical Center, volunteered to provide our students with hands-on training in tying suture knots and becoming IV ninjas. Donato Viggiano, M.D., plastic surgeon in Port St. Lucie, instructed our students in best practices for wound care. David Glener, M.D., anesthesiologist in Port St. Lucie, spoke about pain management. Moti Ramgopal, M.D., infectious disease specialist on the Treasure Coast, presented information on Ebola and chikungunya fever. Our students really appreciate these outstanding educational experiences. Thanks so much to Drs. Hollinger, Viggiano, Glener and Ramgopal!
Alumni News

Class of 2009

Leslie (Haney) Sanders, M.D., got married in 2012 and then completed her residency in obstetrics/gynecology at Beaumont Health System in Royal Oak, Michigan. She recently joined the Baptist Medical Group practicing in Pensacola.

Class of 2010

Kristen Barrie, M.D., M.P.H., recently finished her residency in anesthesia at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville. She has joined Greater Florida Anesthesiologists and is practicing in Tampa, her hometown. Dr. Barrie reported that she passed Part One of her boards and will take the oral exam in spring 2015.

Brian Gadbois, M.D., recently completed his general psychiatry residency at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine in Tampa. In July he started practicing at the James A. Haley VA Hospital PTSD Clinic in Tampa.

Arif Ishmael, M.D., is continuing his studies after completing his internal medicine residency at the University of Florida College of Medicine - Shands Hospital in Gainesville. He is now at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine in Buffalo, New York, working in a gastroenterology fellowship program.

Holly Schwartz, M.D., graduated from the UCLA San Fernando Valley psychiatry residency program in July. She has started practicing for Inpatient Physician Consultants in California, a hospitalist company. Dr. Schwartz is also the new medical director of an intensive outpatient program called Stepping Stones at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital.

Class of 2011

Tina Tso, M.D., earned the Gillespy Award at the recent graduation ceremony for the Family Medicine Residency Program at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach. Chosen by the inpatient hospital nurses, the recipient of this award is the resident who most exemplifies the qualities of a caring doctor—compassionate, kind, caring, empathetic. This resident is also the one who shows the most professional respect toward all members of the health-care team and is the most cooperative with the nursing staff. Dr. Tso is now working as a Florida Health Care Plans primary-care provider, and has a solo outpatient office in Daytona Beach. She has also earned a faculty appointment as a clinical assistant professor for the FSU College of Medicine Daytona Beach campus.

Class of 2014

Vishal Dahya, M.D., continues to work hard on extracurricular projects while working as a first-year resident in the FSU College of Medicine Internal Medicine Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Dr. Dahya was the lead author of a recent study that had encouraging results for HIV-positive people who’ve been getting long-term treatment. The study, which Dahya presented at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, was reported on the website TheBody.com. Researchers found that the HIV-positive people they studied — people on long-term antiretroviral therapy — had no higher calcium scores than the population as a whole. Those scores are related to calcium buildup in plaques, which is seen as evidence of coronary artery disease. Dr. Dahya was also among HIV researchers interviewed by thebodypro.com on whether this had been a bad year for research on an HIV cure. “Regardless of the diagnosis, regardless of disease, we have to stay positive in everything that we’re doing,” Dahya replied. “Research has its downturns and upturns, but we have to be able to stay positive, because it’s a process. Going back and trying to find the exact mechanisms that caused the relapses will definitely help prevent it from happening again, and also be able to further our research so we can get to that point in which we can find that cure.”

Dr. Dahya also presented a poster at the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Fort Lauderdale. On the project, titled “Peptostreptococcus Endocarditis presenting as Lumbar Discitis in an Immunocompromised Patient,” he collaborated with clerkship faculty Prasad Chalasani, M.D. and Moti Ramgopal, M.D.

And finally, during Dr. Dahya’s fourth year of med school, he completed an externship in infectious disease at the same place where his sister, Zarna Dahya, M.D. (FSU grad 2011), was working in her Internal Medicine Residency Program at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Kentucky. At that time, he worked with his sister to get a case published in the International Journal of Colorectal Disease, titled “McKitterick-Wheelock syndrome complicated by Enterococcus faecalis endocarditis: a unique combination.”
The FSU College of Medicine’s new human subjects research review process has launched and is completely online.

The new policies cover human subjects research by faculty, staff, students and others affiliated with the college. They establish a centralized, faculty-based review process and were developed by a collaboration of department chairs and faculty members, with approval from the dean and Executive Committee. The internal review process is a necessary step approximately two to three weeks prior to submitting a new FSU-affiliated human subjects research proposal to the FSU Institutional Review Board (IRB). IRB renewals and amendments are not required to go through the review process, only first submissions. In research involving external funding, the process will not impede or delay sponsor applications.

The research policies accomplish three major goals of the college:
1. Strengthen and advance the college’s mission and growth through research activities, and lay the groundwork for the college to develop its own IRB with faculty expertise in human subjects research and translational science.
2. Create a central repository of studies to better track and showcase the college’s research efforts.
3. Provide a supportive structure to promote excellence in research.

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is responsible for carrying out the research policies and review process. The RAC is composed of faculty members from across the College of Medicine, including each department, to represent its diverse research environment. Administrative support for the RAC is provided through the College of Medicine Division of Research, Office of Research Administration. You may direct questions to rac@med.fsu.edu.

An informational internet site is available from the College of Medicine’s home page. Click on this link to access that site: http://med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=RAC.home#

Investigators will access the review process via the college’s SharePoint intranet. Information on the submission and review process, the Research Advisory Committee, FAQs and other content is provided on this site. You can access the intranet site with your College of Medicine user name and password by clicking on this link: https://intranet.med.fsu.edu/sites/research/RAC

Personnel from the College’s Division of Research are available to answer your questions and will provide assistance and technical support. If you have any questions, please contact RAC Chair Michael Muszynski, MD, at Michael.Muszynski@med.fsu.edu, or Assistant Dean for Research Activities Donna O’Neal, at Donna.ONeal@med.fsu.edu.

Indian River State College was named a top 10 finalist for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, America’s most respected and selective recognition of sustained high achievement and performance in state and community colleges. After a rigorous review of the college’s performance, IRSC was selected as one of 10 prize finalists from a pool of more than 1,000 colleges nationwide.

"The selection of IRSC as a top 10 college finalist for the Aspen Prize is one of the most significant accomplishments in the history of the college, and recognizes IRSC at the national level for consistently outstanding results in helping students succeed," said Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRSC president. He noted that the Aspen Institute assesses colleges achievements in student learning, certificate and degree completion, high rates of employment, earnings for graduates and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

The Aspen Prize recognized IRSC for these exceptional achievements culminating in student success:
- College-Wide Focus on Student Success
- Extreme Affordability
- Workforce Readiness Through Hands-on Partnerships
- Leadership in Emerging Industry Job Creation

Aspen’s Finalist Selection Committee, composed of former community college presidents, respected researchers and policy experts, selected the 10 finalist institutions after reviewing extensive data on performance and improvements in learning, graduation, workforce outcomes, and equitable outcomes for all students.
Student Spotlight

A well-crafted essay by Yaowaree (Noona) Leavell (Class of 2015) is spotlighting the College of Medicine’s student-centered faculty. The tribute to Dr. Suzanne Harrison, associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health, was a finalist in the American Medical Women’s Association contest on the topic of mentorship. The best essays, including Leavell’s, were printed in AMWA’s first Linda Brodsky Memorial Journal, named after a noted activist for fair treatment of women physicians. Leavell and Harrison are involved in AMWA locally as well as nationally. Both also are members of AMWA’s committee called Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans (PATH).

“Dr. Harrison has been far and away the most influential professional mentor I have ever had…. Her approachable, supportive personality not only allowed but encouraged me to stop by if I had questions, ideas, or just needed to talk. She is never too busy to meet with me, and none of our conversations ended without producing the seed of some new project.”

Two years ago, Ryan Berger — with the help of classmate Jesse O’Shea (Sarasota campus) — created an app to help anyone on campus find the nearest automated external defibrillator in case of cardiac arrest. Now the two students from the Class of 2015 have written a paper about that app, and it’s being published. “AEDs at Your Fingertips: Automated External Defibrillators on College Campuses and a Novel Approach for Increasing Accessibility” has been accepted for publication in The Journal of American College Health. The app — found under the “Places” heading in the free FSU Mobile app — can give you a list of every AED on Florida State’s campus, show you a picture of each site and even guide you step by step to the closest ones. Nancy Clark, the college’s director of medical informatics, helped the students develop the app.

Concerned that physicians know too little about the business side of medicine, fourth-year student Aaron Hayson wrote an article for Vascular Surgeon on the importance of business education for medical students. “Steps to incorporate business knowledge into the medical school curriculum” was published in August. Hayson obtained an undergraduate degree in finance, worked on Wall Street for five years and switched to medicine after finding the profession unfulfilling. He was the founding president of the student interest group Business and Medicine currently sponsored by Clinical Sciences Assistant Professor Michael Sweeney.

Aaron also recently volunteered as a guest speaker on a radio show for WIRA 1400 AM. He spoke about his path that brought him to medical school and provided inspiration for the young adults in our community.

Two students Laura Irastorza (left) and Cesar Garcia-Canet (right) each have received a scholarship from the Rotary Club of Miami’s Thomas Brown McClelland Scholarship Fund.

“The mission of the fund is to give financial assistance to medical students who have graduated from a Miami-Dade high school,” said Garcia-Canet (Class of 2016), who graduated from Miami’s Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in 2004. “What is asked of the students is to pay it forward as a doctor by practicing medicine in South Florida and being of service to those in the South Florida community.”

Both students have received the award each year of medical school. Irastorza (Class of 2015), who graduated from Miami’s Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in 2007, received $3,000 this year. Garcia-Canet received $2,000.

Two years ago, Rennier Martinez, Class of 2015, had his artwork featured on the cover of the October 2014 issue of Academic Medicine. “I saw a worried immigrant mother, with a sick child, who sought help from the community health clinic doctor because she had nowhere else to turn,” Martinez wrote in the accompanying artist’s statement. “She was ready to take any advice the doctor had and follow it to the letter. The level of trust this mother had in a doctor who, frankly, she did not know anything about was inspiring.”

Students Laura Irastorza (left) and Cesar Garcia-Canet (right) each have received a scholarship from the Rotary Club of Miami’s Thomas Brown McClelland Scholarship Fund.

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Nice to see a friendly face! Class of 2015 student Laura Irastorza (pictured on the left) was completing a pediatric externship at Miami Children’s Hospital and got the opportunity to work with an FSU College of Medicine Fort Pierce Regional Campus graduate. Class of 2013 alumna, Dr. Claudia Zapata, is in her second year of the pediatric residency program there.
Student Spotlight

Class of 2015 students **Ryan Berger**, **Paulie Bruns** and **Noona Leavell** were accepted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society in September. Started in Chicago in 1902, the AOA serves to recognize and enhance professionalism, academic excellence, service and leadership within the profession. Medical students are eligible for nomination if their scholastic qualifications place them in the upper 25 percent of their class. About 3,000 students, alumni, house staff and faculty are elected each year nationwide. Since its founding, more than 150,000 members have been elected into the society. Ryan, Paulie and Noona will be recognized at the awards ceremony at the central campus in Tallahassee during graduation week in May 2015. We congratulate these students!

"Humanism is defined by the link between compassion and scientific competence. When practiced, humanism in medicine fosters relationships with patients and other caregivers that are compassionate and empathetic. The humanistic doctor demonstrates the following attributes (i.e., C.A.R.E.S.).

- **Integrity**: the congruence between expressed values and behavior
- **Excellence**: clinical expertise
- **Compassion**: the awareness and acknowledgement of the suffering of another and the desire to relieve it
- **Altruism**: the capacity to put the needs and interests of another before your own
- **Respect**: the regard for the autonomy and values of another person
- **Empathy**: the ability to put oneself in another’s situation, e.g., physician as patient
- **Service**: the sharing of one’s talent, time and resources with those in need; giving beyond what is required”


Three of our Fort Pierce Class of 2015 students, **Ryan Berger**, **Paulie Bruns** and **Noona Leavell**, were recently inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. These students rose to the top as true exemplars of humanism by receiving multiple nominations from faculty, staff and peers in categories demonstrating clinical excellence, service to others, patient-centered approach to care and compassion. It was no surprise to the staff, faculty and students at the Fort Pierce Regional Campus that Ryan, Paulie and Noona were nominated and selected for this honor. They are dedicated, determined, friendly, compassionate and conscientious students. We are all so proud of them!
Faculty Appreciation Celebration

Two prestigious awards were given out Sept. 10, when the Fort Pierce Regional Campus of the Florida State University College of Medicine gathered its faculty members for a night of appreciation and academic updates. The event took place at the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex on the campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. The keynote speaker was John P. Fogarty, M.D., dean of the FSU College of Medicine, who presented an update on the achievements and ongoing success of the college.

The regional campus faculty is composed of more than 250 active Treasure Coast physicians who take turns teaching about 40 third- and fourth-year medical students. The students work one-on-one with the physicians and gain clinical experience through seeing patients in the local hospitals, surgery centers, physicians’ offices and other ambulatory care facilities.

Two faculty members received awards from Randall Bertolette, M.D., dean of the Fort Pierce campus. One, titled Guardian of the Mission, is for a physician whose activities have furthered the college’s mission: to “educate and develop exemplary physicians who practice patient-centered health care, discover and advance knowledge and are responsive to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority and underserved populations.” Michael Jampol, M.D., the pediatrics clerkship director and student Laura Irastorza, presented this award to Georges Guerrier, M.D., a pediatrician at Florida Community Health Center (FCHC) in Fort Pierce. Guerrier has been a clinical assistant professor for the Fort Pierce Regional Campus since 2008. In those six years, he has taught several first-year students in the Summer Clinical Practicum course and many third-year students in both the pediatrics clerkship and the chronic care course. His dedication to learning as much as he can about clinical teaching and the FSU College of Medicine is exemplified in the number of hours he has gained through attending our various workshops. Since 2008, he has earned a whopping 94 hours of faculty development credit! FCHC is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation that is designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center and was formed in 1976 to serve the medically indigent and migrant/seasonal farm workers. This year’s award winner proudly carries out the FCHC mission by providing accessible, cost-effective, high-quality and comprehensive primary and preventive health care services to all persons, regardless of socio-economic circumstances. And Dr. Guerrier does it all with an ever-present smile, bringing joy to his pediatric patients.

The other award, Outstanding Community Faculty Educator, is for exemplary achievement in meeting student educational needs, working collaboratively, dedication to the curriculum principles and enthusiasm for teaching. Juliette Lomax-Homier, M.D., the ob/gyn education director and clerkship director, presented this award to Peter Dayton, M.D., an ob/gyn physician at Physicians to Women in Stuart and St. Lucie West. He has been a clinical assistant professor with the FSU Fort Pierce campus since 2008. He teaches many of our third-year students in the obstetrics and gynecology clerkship.

He gets rave reviews, as heard in these comments from several students:

“He was the best faculty physician I had during my third year. He gives the student an opportunity to show clinical competency. He is an excellent educator and his enthusiasm for patient care is infectious. He pushes students to think independently. One of the best preceptors I have ever had the pleasure of working with. He truly embraces the teaching mission of the rotation. He is a gem in the community and a great role model for anyone in medicine.”

We truly appreciate and thank the sponsors for this event, Indian River Medical Center and Martin Health System.
If you recently attended our sixth annual Faculty Appreciation Celebration, then you know we love our faculty! Capitalizing on the recent success of the FSU football team, this year’s theme was “Champions on the Field, Champions in Medical Education.” This football/medical-themed event honored the true stars of the Fort Pierce campus—our faculty physicians. The IRSC Public Safety Complex auditorium was transformed into an extravagant awards venue complete with goal posts, an astroturf field, a rockin’ DJ, cornhole, delicious tailgating cuisine and an enthusiastic rendition of the Seminole war chant. Dr. Randall Bertolette, Fort Pierce Regional Campus dean, bestowed scholarships (see page 1) and faculty awards (see page 8). More than 100 faculty, students, community board and staff enjoyed this fabulous evening. We very much appreciate two of our local hospitals who made donations to sponsor the Faculty Appreciation Celebration. We thank Indian River Medical Center and Martin Health System for their generosity.
The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk is a powerful and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community to honor breast cancer survivors, raise awareness about steps to reduce the risk of getting breast cancer, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society fight the disease with breast cancer research, information and services, and access to mammograms for women who need them. Several Class of 2016 students, family medicine clerkship director Dr. Nancy Baker, ob/gyn clerkship director Dr. Juliette Lomax-Homier and student support coordinator Sandy Stevens participated in the Indian River County walk at Riverview Park in Sebastian on Oct. 11. The matching tie-dye T-shirts were made for the FSU College of Medicine team by student Mary Jane Tucker. Thanks to all who came out to support this great cause!
Community Service

With the help of Dr. Ian Boykin, FSU clerkship faculty for internal medicine, and Lincoln Park Academy (LPA) biology teacher Ms. Lisa Hevner, a student medical club has been established at the school in Fort Pierce. At a recent club meeting, two Fort Pierce campus Class of 2015 students spoke to the group regarding their paths to medical school. Fernando Guarderas and Aaron Hayson volunteered to share information with the LPA students and provide their words of wisdom for the aspiring physicians. The LPA students look forward to continued mentoring provided by the FSU medical students.

Class of 2015 student Shlermine (Shea) Aupont was so inspired by the charitable work being done at the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic in Stuart, she decided to help out. Shea is completing her year-long chronic care clerkship at the VIM as part of her third-year medical school curriculum. She is there every Wednesday morning, learning under the direction of the VIM medical director, Dr. Howard Voss. The VIM clinic provides medical care for uninsured clients in Martin County. Dr. Voss, the volunteer physicians and nurses and the entire staff help these patients live better, while also providing an outstanding educational environment for our students.

Shea realized that along with the struggle to obtain the prescription medications they need, these patients also have difficulty purchasing over-the-counter medications. She organized a donation drive to acquire these medications. With the help of FSU students, faculty and staff, over 100 bottles of acetaminophen, ibuprofen, aspirin and cetirizine were donated. Well done, Shea!
Thank You to Our Donors

FY 2015 (July 1, 2014, to present)

Nancy Baker, M.D.  Kenneth Bridges, M.D.  Gerard Flores, M.D.
Daniel Glotzer, M.D.  Calvin Higgins, M.D.  Moises Issa, M.D.
Michael Jampol, M.D.  Alastair Kennedy, M.D.  Juliette Lomax-Homier, M.D.
William Pena, M.D.  Samerah Razuman, M.D.  Jay Samander, M.D.
Tudor Scridon, M.D.  Dudley Teel, M.D.

Thanks also to Dr. Alan Durkin and Ocean Drive Plastic Surgery Center for donating trays of surgical instruments for our students to practice suturing and dermatology procedures.

A way for faculty to help even more

The FSU College of Medicine and the FSU Foundation have created an easy process for faculty to donate their pay back to the Fort Pierce Regional Campus. Through electronic funds transfer, faculty can sign up to have all or a portion of their compensation sent to our campus. These funds are used for faculty development, student orientations, graduation receptions, faculty appreciation, and other special events and programs. Ten of our physician faculty, Drs. Daniel Glotzer, Calvin Higgins, Moises Issa, Alastair Kennedy, Stanley Kurek, Irene Machel, Patrick Ottuso, William Pena, Tudor Scridon and Thomas Suits, are now participating in this program. We greatly appreciate their ongoing generosity. Please contact Dr. Bertolette or Beth Strack for details.

Presidents Club Members ($10,000 or more pledge)

Nancy Baker, M.D.
Randall Bertolette, M.D.
Kenneth Bridges, M.D.
Michael Galels, M.D.
William Hood, M.D., PA
Michael Jampol, M.D.
Bud and Marjorie Jordan
Juliette Lomax-Homier, M.D.
Jay Samander, M.D.
Dudley Teel, M.D.

If you would like to make a gift:

Online, go to https://foundation.fsu.edu/community/give2med and designate your gift for the Fort Pierce Regional Campus.
Or: you may write a check payable to "FSU Foundation, Fort Pierce Campus" and mail it to our campus.

Remember, your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.