On behalf of the students, faculty and staff at the UF College of Medicine, I want to express my appreciation for the support of our alumni and friends last year. Your generosity helps to guarantee our continued commitment to excellence in medical education, research and patient care, and we are grateful for all that you make possible with your philanthropy. Producing this Honor Roll each year reminds me of how fortunate we are to have your endorsement for our most essential initiatives.

The UF College of Medicine has reached a critical moment in its history, and the ongoing support of our alumni and friends is vital to our future. The UF College of Medicine was the first public medical school in the state of Florida and is the only academic health center in the Southeast. While our institution has grown in a myriad of ways, our physical campus has not kept pace. While our alumni continue to become national leaders in all areas of medicine, our scholarship support for future generations of students must be strengthened in order to remain competitive.

To deliver the most relevant medical education possible, we need a facility that supports an invigorated curriculum and that capitalizes on the impact of technology in teaching and learning.

To continue to attract and retain superb students, we need to remove financial barriers and reward academic achievement. We need to advance these compelling priorities at a time when external funding is at its most challenging level. Thank you for all you have given to the UF College of Medicine in the past year. We look forward to your continued investment in our work as we move forward in our journey to become a national leader in medical education, research and patient care.

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Giving to the next generation
Alum makes Florida Medical Opportunity gift to honor son

Robert Stanton, MD ‘76, knows what it’s like to be the first member of his family to go to college and medical school and struggle to pay for that education.

To help fund his undergraduate studies, the 1976 College of Medicine graduate sold shoes during summer breaks, took out loans and joined Army ROTC. After serving his first tour of active duty with the U.S. Army, he took advantage of the G.I. Bill and the Army Health Professions Scholarship Program to pay for medical school.

“I very much value my ties to UF and the U.S. Army,” Stanton said. “I love about everything to those two organizations.”

Now chairman of surgery and division chief of pediatric orthopedic surgery at Nemours Children’s Clinic in Pensacola, Stanton wants to help today’s struggling medical students. He recently donated $20,000 to the Florida Medical Opportunity Scholars fund.

The Florida Medical Opportunity Scholars initiative supports College of Medicine students from low-income backgrounds who are the first in their families to attend college. Girard Cua, a member of the UF COM class of 2015, has been named as one of the first Florida Medical Opportunity Scholars. Cua earned his undergraduate degree from UF with financial support from the Florida Opportunity Scholarship program that President Bernie Machen initiated in 2006 to support first-generation college students.

“I felt that was very close to my story,” Stanton said. “It meant something special to me — that’s why I wanted to do it.”

Stanton also made the gift in honor of his son Scott Phillip Stanton, who was killed in an automobile accident in December 2010. Living in Los Angeles, Scott was a 31-year-old successful filmmaker and film editor.

Scott was also a Gator fan and one of his favorite charities was Doctors Without Borders, so Stanton believes his son would approve of his gift.

“I thought this was a way to help and honor my son Scott,” Stanton said.

— By Melanie Stawicki Azam
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<th>Name</th>
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Banks scholarship supports future minority physicians

H. Earl Cotman, MD ’70, made history as one of the two first African-American students to earn medical degrees from the UF College of Medicine.

But he knew others helped pave the way for him, including his own family doctor, Gainesville physician Cullen W. Banks, MD.

“He was my family physician when I was a teenager, so I’ve known him for a long, long time,” said Cotman. “He was a very caring and brilliant physician.”

Banks was the first African-American to have full practicing privileges in Alachua County—first at Alachua General and later at North Florida Regional Medical Center, where he was a founding trustee. He practiced medicine in Gainesville for 46 years before his retirement in 1996. He and his wife, Lakay, still live in Gainesville.

Honoring Banks and helping other young African-American scholars pursue their dreams of becoming a doctor was what drove Cotman, who is a radiation oncologist in St. Petersburg, to donate to the Cullen W. Banks, MD, Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was established almost 10 years ago by the Alachua County Medical Society in honor of Banks’ commitment to his patients, dedication to medicine and tireless work in the community.

The Banks scholarship is awarded to an incoming first-year medical student who demonstrates academic merit and a commitment to the continuation of a diverse student body. It is intended to be awarded every four years. Lauren Simmons, a member of the class of 2015, was named the most recent Banks Scholar.

“Banks always felt it was important to have minority representation at the college and worked with the college for years to assist minority medical students in need, said Garry Banks, MD ‘90, Cullen Banks’ son.

“He was very grateful to be in the position he was able to achieve, but he also felt it was important to help others,” said the younger Banks, a graduate of the UF College of Medicine who practices internal medicine in Niceville. — By Melanie Stawicki Azam

Lauren Simmons

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Blazing a trail

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FLORIDA PHYSICIAN

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Remembering a teacher ahead of his time

AlumdonatestoestablishSandersscholarship

Willie J. Sanders may not have had the opportunity to attend medical school, but the UF College of Medicine’s first African-American faculty member helped countless students become doctors.

“He was a quiet giant in my mind — a quiet leader,” recalled Renee Blanding, MD ’88. “He really cared about his students and was content to see his students achieve.”

Sanders was “tremendously ahead of his time” and a legendary figure at the college who deserves to be remembered, she said. That is why Blanding, anesthesiologist who is also the vice president of medical affairs at Johns Hopkins’ Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, recently made a donation to establish the Willie Sanders Scholarship in her late professor’s honor. Sanders, who died in March 2010, had a career that spanned more than three decades at UF. He first began working for the Health Science Center in 1957 as an anatomy lab technician and later became one of the first six black students to be accepted into UF as an undergraduate.

When he retired from UF in 1989, he was a tenured associate professor of anatomy and cell biology and had also served as director of the Office of Minority Affairs.

“All the students — whether they were minority students or not — respected and liked him,” Blanding said. “And we knew he cared deeply for us too.”

Sanders was known for his tremendous talent for the study of anatomy, but his widow Pauletta Sanders said his first love was teaching.

“He loved teaching and he loved being around people,” Pauletta Sanders said. “He was like a father away from home for those kids.”

— By Melanie Stawicki Azam
Martin named director of UF’s medical alumni affairs

Her goal is to connect 12,000 COM alumni

From the time she first became a Gator, Chantele A. Martin has been talking to UF alumni and raising money for the university.

“When I was an undergraduate at UF, I worked for the phonathon, which opened my eyes to the world of fundraising in higher education,” she said.

Over the years, Martin, 26, has gained more experience in annual fund operations and alumni outreach.

On July 6, Martin was named the director of medical alumni affairs, joining the College of Medicine’s Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

The UF COM has about 12,000 living alumni, including residents and physician assistants, and about 70 percent of them live in Florida. About half of the COM alumni are medical doctors and about 1,000 are doctorate alumni.

“I’m passionate about alumni affairs because I care very much about this school and what we’re doing,” she said.

Prior to her new role, Martin served as associate director of special campaigns at the UF Foundation, Florida Fund. She has a master’s degree in entrepreneurship and a bachelor’s degree in advertising from UF.

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FLORIDA PHYSICIAN
Harlan A. Payne, MD ’72, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep Aug. 31 in Black Rock City, Nev. Survivors include his wife, Sue Ellen; two sons; two daughters; two sisters; and five grandchildren.

Joe Sanchez Jr., MD ’61, passed away Sept. 28. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; four sons; one daughter; and four grandchildren.

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Jules R. Bemporad, MD ’62, passed away June 3. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three sons; and a grandson.

Homer A. Bodiford, MD ’61, died Oct. 17. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; two sons; and a daughter. He was 76.

George E. Byers Jr., MD, HS ’69, passed away at the age of 76 on Aug. 1. He was a retired associate professor at UF. Byers is survived by his wife, Sally; his three sons; and daughters-in-law.

Richard W. Cunningham, MD ’62, passed away Aug. 29. He joined John Andrews, MD, and established a highly successful Gainesville Medical Group in 1966. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; four daughters; one step-daughter; four sons-in-law; and three grandchildren.

Patrick K. Dobbins, MD ’68, of Atlantic Beach, Fla., died April 30. He is survived by his wife, Mary Elizabeth; and two daughters, Laura Elizabeth and Sheree Ann. He was 68.

M. Michael Eisenberg, MD, HS ’62, died Feb. 24 at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; three daughters; and two grandchildren.

William M. Haycook, MD, HS ’71, passed away in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Loretta; and his children.

William V. Johnson, MD, HS ’64, passed away May 18 at the age of 78. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Elizabeth; seven children; and 22 grandchildren.

Waseem Kamal, MD, HS ’70, passed away July 22, 2010. He was 71.

James I. McNeill, MD, HS ’77, passed away at the age of 64 on Sept. 26. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; and sons, James, Nathan, Seth and David.

Robert Gregory Parsons, MD ’69, died Aug. 26. Born in Lake City, Fla., Parsons is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; three sons; and five grandchildren. He was 71.

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