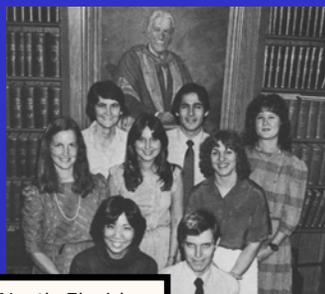


# Dr. Jean Cook, Class of 1983

## Interviewer: Sarah Smith-Vaniz MS3

I'm awestruck by the privilege of learning what we get to learn and taking care of other people. It's incredibly fun to deliver babies, and have that long term relationship. As an OB you get to be primary care physician and specialist, and it's wonderful to care for other women.

Dr Cook is in the back row on the far right.



Dr. Jean Cook is in practice with North Florida Women's Physicians.

Sarah Smith-Vaniz is a member of the Class of 2008 (below right).



Sarah Smith-Vaniz' reflections on the interview: After interviewing Dr. Cook, I am more appreciative of the opportunities that I have in medical school. There are many things that I took for granted as just part of the medical school experience, which I see now in a new light. For example, the medical mission trip DR HELP was such an important enrichment of my classroom education, that I cannot imagine starting third year now without having been part of it. The variety of student initiated programs and activities that make our school special were really highlighted by her description of medical education. More than ever, I am proud to be a student in the UF College of Medicine, and honored to follow the many alumni who have helped to shape it.



Jean Cook: I can think of a series of experiences that taught me about patient care. I had Dr. Robert Cade as the attending physician for clinical rotations during my first, second and third years. We cared for the same patient all three times and we saw the patient repeatedly. This patient was a young, extremely brittle diabetic and Dr. Cade did an amazing job teaching us about the social background for a teenage diabetic. He taught us about what happened to families with diabetic children, and about healthcare and ethical issues. We discussed who was a candidate for a transplant and the ethics behind who got a transplant organ. We learned much from one patient with those multiple experiences. It was a remarkable side of Dr. Cade who also has an amazing clinical, ethical message.



Above left: Dr. Robert Cade, inventor of Gatorade. Above right: The clinic in Mayo, FL



Jean Cook: Lafayette County has a population still of about 6,000. There's a little tiny walk-in clinic and medical students would go up there and stay in a pretty ramshackle house provided. You'd walk in in the morning and have bushel baskets of fresh vegetables on your front porch as anonymous gifts, and when you went to the little grocery store in Mayo they saw you with your little white coat and they would step aside to make sure you went through the line first.

Sarah Smith-Vaniz: What was the newest medical treatment when you were in medical school?

Jean Cook: Now you're going to date me. CT scans were just being introduced at community hospitals. Nobody had a laptop, or a PDA. Nobody did any medical research online so when you researched a topic, you were in the library stacks copying bound articles. Ultrasound, which is a mainstay in my practice, was static. Now we have color, 3-D and it's real time. There was no cardiac stenting. Interventional Radiology had not developed as a subspecialty. One of the huge transitions in the last 20 years has been minimally invasive or non-invasive diagnosis and testing. I do more through the laparoscope than I trained to do in open procedures.

Sarah Smith-Vaniz: What external event affected your experience in medical school?

Jean Cook: My brother during those years was a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Central America. I heard his stories about the refugees coming out of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and they influenced my desire to work with underprivileged people. This last November I did my first mission trip in Guatemala.



Jean Cook: I was the student president of AMWA while I was here and I met one of the first presidents of the American Medical Women's Association, who is a family practice doctor in Washington D.C. on East Capitol Street. I did a 2 week preceptorship with her. She still used a monocular microscope, and her patient practice included Senators and street transvestites. It was an incredible experience but I had to create it and get it approved.