

Meet Physics Department Alumnus

Raoul Sanchez, MD

Stetson class of 1990

Dr. Raoul Sanchez and his wife, Dr. Kim Sanchez, joined The Carithers Pediatric Group in 1997. They met in undergraduate school at Stetson University. They got married two weeks before starting medical school at the University of South Florida School of Medicine, and then enjoyed the pediatric residency program at the University of Alabama's Children's Hospital. They are board certified in pediatrics.

The couple have two children, Kyle and Alyssa, and they reside in the Southside area. Outside their home, they find their greatest fulfillment in serving God through their church, First Baptist of Jacksonville. Other hobbies include exercise and reading.

December, 2001

OPEN LETTER TO PHYSICS MAJORS:

I appreciate the opportunity to be a Stetson University featured alum in physics. Fifteen years ago I was in Dr. Lick's University Physics course as a freshman because I wanted to get that pre-med requirement out of the way early. My high school physics teacher had made the field seem boring and irrelevant just one year prior. I couldn't wait to be done with that requirement for good.

I was so challenged that first week of college that I both hated and loved it. By the end of my first semester I switched my major from biology to physics and then, later, registered for a full complement of physics courses for the next year. The field seemed to just draw me in. I changed my career path to physics as a profession and started looking at which grad. school I would want to attend. Along the way I realized that although I loved physics because it was challenging, complex and stimulating to my mind, medicine pricked my heart. College isn't so much about learning the details of your future profession. It's about equipping you to rise to the challenge of post-graduate school and giving you the stamina and vision to excel in your future career. It's about establishing a life long pattern of learning and growing. Drs. Lick, Jusick and Riggs helped me realize what I could accomplish

with absolute dedication and focus.

For anyone considering majoring in physics but not wanting to follow the conventional doctorate path, I exhort you to stick with your major nonetheless. I found in my career, I have always drawn more respect and attention because I majored in the field others feared. It helped me stand out among the multitude of predictable bio. majors trying to get into med. School. Also, if you think life will afford you time to one day indulge that interest in physics, you're mistaken. Enjoy it now while you can. Carpe Diem!

After graduating Stetson, I married another Stetson alum, and we matriculated into USF College of Medicine 2 weeks later. We had a 4 year honeymoon at that point! Actually, med.school was a real whirlwind, but I graduated with medical honors (Alpha Omega Alpha). I couldn't over-emphasize the important role that the physics department played in that. They taught me I should understand and not just memorize and helped me develop the mental calluses I would need to endure the hours upon hours of study required. I could go on about this but suffice it to say that my experience as a physics major has been an essential part of my success in my field.

After medical school I completed my residency at UAB-Birmingham, an awesome pediatrics residency. I worked at the health department there briefly then established my career in Jacksonville, FL. My wife and I joined Carithers Pediatric Group where we are now partners. I have taken part in research at the Kennedy Space Center and clinical research in Birmingham as well. I am currently piloting a project in Jacksonville to promote health and safety of children in childcare settings. My passion lies in my church, First Baptist Church, where I serve as deacon and often get to teach in a classroom-type setting. My wife and I have taught several sessions to laymen and pastors on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, a controversial disorder. I have two wonderful school aged children that might one day be Stetson students. One principle of success I have abided by, and which I hope can serve as motivation for you is this: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3:23, NIV.

--Raoul Sanchez



Drs. Kim and Raoul Sanchez, Stetson class of 1990.

Dr. Sanchez has given us permission to publish his pediatric practice's web address and his e-mail address, should you wish to contact him directly:

MyKidsDoctor.com
rksanchez@attbi.com

He also recommends the following web site with great pediatric links...

Pediatrics.medscape.com