

NEWS RELEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



FRANK CHAPPELL *Director of Medical Information*

JOHN WEEKS *Science News Editor*

DALLAS -- Freshmen students at The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School at Dallas will begin their medical education with a get-acquainted tour of the city in which they will study for the next four years.

Orientation Week for 105 new medical students will begin Tuesday (Sept. 2) with downtown sightseeing, a visit to Fair Park and meetings with civic leaders and residents of disadvantaged areas of the city.

The students and their wives will meet at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, at the school and board three buses for the tour. At 10:00 a.m. they will be guests at a coffee reception at the City Club, where they will meet Dallas leaders, including trustees of the Southwestern Medical Foundation.

The future doctors will go direct from the City Club to the North Dallas Neighborhood Center of the Office of Economic Opportunity in the old B.F. Darrell School Bldg. on Hall St. in the near-North Dallas area.

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Five community leaders of the low-income groups in Dallas will tell of their work and lead small discussion groups. Following the discussion groups, the party will reassemble for a hour's question-and-answer session.

Community leaders for what has been termed "a short exposure course on the problems of the economically deprived in obtaining health care" will be Randy Ratliff, Mrs. Esther Ramirez, Cecil Jordan, Don Johnson and Walter Travis.

The entourage will go to Fair Park for a luncheon reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McDermott of Dallas. At the luncheon the students will be given an introduction to the many cultural opportunities available to them and their families in Dallas. Mrs. C. Wesley Goyer will explain the program of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Merrill Ruppell will discuss the activities at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. A representative of Theater Three will tell of theater groups presenting plays through the fall and winter in Dallas.

Following a tour of the museum, the group will return to the medical school campus on Harry Hines Blvd. for a reception at 3 p.m. at the Skillern Student Union, sponsored by wives of faculty members.

Three faculty members will serve as hosts on the bus tour. They are Dr. Daniel W. Foster, Dr. Norman Kaplan, and Dr. Alan Pierce, all members of the internal medicine faculty.

The following day, (Wednesday, Sept. 3), the freshmen students will register for their first semester, along with upperclassmen who did not preregister. Classes for medical students will begin on Monday, Sept. 8. Additional on-campus orientation sessions for freshmen will be held throughout the opening week.

A total of some 400 medical students are expected to enroll at Southwestern, said Miss Anne Rucker, registrar. Four new students are expected in the school's Medical Art Program. Additionally, 50 to 60 graduate students in specialized fields ranging from anatomy to radiobiology are expected to register for the fall term, on Sept. 10.

In all, approximately 1,200 aspiring students applied for the school's 105 freshman class openings.

Returning students will find their campus in the midst of change. Construction barricades went up during the late summer for two major additions to the medical school. A large area has been fenced off for erection of a new \$7 million Basic Sciences Research Center, and a smaller sector adjacent to the E.H. Cary Basic Science Hall has been closed for the construction of an addition of a fourth floor to this building, the school's original structure. The work is part of a planned \$40 million expansion program to be carried out at the medical school in the next few years, designed to permit a nearly 50 per cent increase in enrollment, to 150 medical students per year.

The construction work has disrupted some access and parking facilities at the school. A new parking lot accommodating 440 cars being constructed on the northeast corner of the campus will alleviate a temporary shortage of parking space. The new lot is scheduled for completion by mid-November.

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