

News

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****UTHSCD Classes of '85 have 241 graduates;
speaker to call for return to idealism.

DALLAS--The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas will award degrees to 241 students on June 1 during outdoor commencement ceremonies on the campus' McDermott Plaza. The speaker will urge graduates to enter medical practice with an attitude of traditional idealism and to ignore a current tendency to "bottom-line" medicine.

Southwestern Medical School, one of the three components of UTHSCD, will be graduating its 41st class. Organized during the pressures of World War II with only 18 faculty members, the school awarded degrees to 33 men and 3 women at its first commencement in 1944. Today Southwestern is recognized as one of the 15 best medical schools in the country, and the class of 1985 includes 193 students, one-quarter of them women.

In addition, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Research, another component of the university, will award 16 master's degrees and 32 Ph.D. degrees at the ceremony.

"The Peril and the Promise" is the subject of the commencement speaker Dr. John G. Freymann, president of the National Fund for Medical Education in Hartford, Conn. Freymann is former director of the Worcester Cancer Clinic and the Boston Hospital for Women.

Freymann believes that 1985 is a time when the American medical profession has never offered more promise yet been in greater peril. The promise comes from the progress being made to understand and overcome serious chronic disorders such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, arthritis and emotional disorders. The peril is that medicine may lose its heart, along with its traditional goal of caring for people, and become simply a means for making money.

"Bottom-line" medicine, as it is being practiced by too many people today, puts medicine on the same basis as other trades whose prime concern is profit, according to Freymann. To remain a profession, medicine must retain the ethics and idealism that have marked its progress for 3000 years. Freymann sees this decade's materialistic focus as a swing away from the social concern of the '60s and early '70s, paralleling the nation's previous cycle of social concern from 1900 to 1917 and selfish interests in the 1920s.

When the public's concern focuses on social issues once again, as Freymann believes it will, the whole profession will suffer a loss of respect as a result of the selfish ends chosen by a few. He calls for the graduating seniors to leave medical school with the same idealism with which they entered it.

Following Freyman's talk, the Ho Din will be awarded by Southwestern Medical Foundation to David Klamon as the outstanding Southwestern Medical School graduate. Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Research gave its highest award, the Nominata, to doctoral candidate Diane Jelinek for her research in immunology during a separate ceremony earlier this month.

Degrees are to be conferred by UTHSCD President Charles Sprague. The physician's oath will be administered by Dr. Harold C. Boehning, a 1953 graduate of Southwestern Medical School and 1984 president of the Dallas County Medical Society. Rabbi Mark Goodman of Temple Shalom will deliver the invocation.

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