southwestern medical school - graduate school of biomedical sciences - school of allied health sciences

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DALLAS--The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School will award 112 Doctor of Medicine degrees--the largest number in its 33-year history--during annual Commencement Exercises to be held at 8 p.m.

Monday, May 27, in McFarlin Memorial Auditorium on the campus of Southern Methodist University.

Nine graduate science degrees also will be awarded by Southwestern's sister institution, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, during joint ceremonies of the two components of The UT Health Science Center at Dallas. Center President Dr. Charles C. Sprague will preside.

While the 112-member class constitutes the largest yet for Southwestern, it marks only the first incremental increase toward annual graduating classes of 200 by 1978, made possible by the Health Science Center's current \$40 million expansion program scheduled for completion this summer. Last year's graduates totaled 104.

This year's graduation exercises will also be the last to be held off-campus. The new 1,200-seat Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium is part of the center's nearly-finished building complex on Harry Hines Blvd.

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In a special recognition to be made during the ceremonies, Dr. Sprague will present an expression of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Green who have provided unusual assistance to the Health Science Center.

Another highlight of this year's program will be the presentation of the Award of Ho Din to an outstanding senior medical student. The \$1,000 award is made annually by the Southwestern Medical Foundation and will be presented this year by James W. Aston, president of the foundation.

Continuing a recent custom, medical graduates will hear two commencement speakers of their own choosing--one faculty member and one student. They will be Dr. Asa W. DeLoach, professor and interim chairman of psychiatry, and Alan Keith Young, president of the senior class.

Degrees will be conferred by Dr. Joe T. Nelson of Weatherford, member of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System. Candidates for the M.D. degree--102 men and 10 women--will be presented by Dr. Frederick J. Bonte, Southwestern dean. Candidates for six Doctor of Philosophy degrees and three Master of Arts degrees will be presented by Dr. Ronald W. Estabrook, graduate school dean.

Graduate degrees include two M.A.'s in physiology and one in biochemistry; Ph.D.'s include three in physiology and one each in radiation biology, clinical psychology and microbiology. second add graduation

The Physician's Oath will be administered to medical graduates by Dr. James T. Downs, president of the Dallas County Medical Society and clinical professor of obstetrics & gynecology at Southwestern. Marshal for the acadmeic procession will be Dr. Robert M. Pike, professor of microbiology and a charter member of the medical school's faculty.

Special organ music during the program will be provided by Fred Monroe Ussery III, a graduating medical student. A brass ensemble from North Texas State University also will play.

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