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NEWS

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*****Well-known television journalist to speak at health center.

DALLAS--Jim Lehrer, the widely-respected Washington anchorman and associate editor for "The MacNeil/Lehrer Report" on public television, will deliver the commencement address June 7 at The University of Texas Health Science Center here.

Lehrer, a former Dallas journalist who has gained national prominence with his incisive and straightforward style of television interviewing, was selected as speaker by the senior class of Southwestern Medical School.

The 211 members of the graduating class make it the largest ever at the medical school. In addition 15 persons will receive the Ph.D. degree, 2 the master of arts degree and 3 the master of science degree.

Special recognition will be paid to Dr. Gladys Fashena, a faculty member since 1943 and a former president of the Dallas County Medical Society who will become Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics on her retirement.

Although he is best known for his work on "The Report," Lehrer most recently lent his talents to "The National Nuclear Debate" and "The Pursuit of Excellence," both aired nationally by the public broadcasting service. Lehrer is recipient of the Lowell Thomas Award of the American Platform Association and, with Robert MacNeil, received the University of Missouri School of Journalism Medal of Honor.

Both Lehrer and MacNeil brought varied journalistic talent to the weeknightly news program begun in 1975.

Lehrer had been a reporter for the Dallas Morning News, a political writer and columnist and finally a city editor for the Dallas Times Herald.

While working for the Herald, Lehrer found time to write a novel about a mythical Mexican general who managed to retake the Alamo for a short while. The book was later made into a popular movie. Since that time, he has written another book, "We Were Dreamers."

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After his stint as city editor of the Herald, Lehrer was picked to be executive director of public affairs and on-air host and editor of the local news program, "Newsroom," at KERA-TV Channel 13 in Dallas. It was Lehrer's work here which set the tone for this program for a number of years.

After joining the National Public Affairs Center for Television in Washington, Lehrer moderated the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry, "Washington Straight Talk," and "Washington Connection." In the years from 1973 to 1975, Lehrer won an Emmy and the 1974 George Polk Award for coverage of the Senate Watergate Committee's investigation. For work on other productions, he won the American Bar Association Silver Gavel and the 1974 Peabody Award.

One of the top awards to be given at the June 7 commencement will be the traditional "Ho Din" award presented by the Southwestern Medical Foundation, the organization which created the medical school in 1943.

The award--given to a graduating senior--will be bestowed by F.B. Goldman, a trustee of the foundation.

Presiding at the commencement will be Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

Presentation of the 181 men and 30 women candidates for the Doctor of Medicine degree will be made by Dr. Fred Bonte, dean of Southwestern. Presentation of candidates for the other degrees will be made by Dr. Kern Wildenthal, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. During the past 12 months nine Ph.D., seven M.A. and two M.S. degrees already have been awarded.

Walter G. Sterling, member of The University of Texas System Board of Regents, will confer degrees. Physician's oath will be administered by Dr. Bonte, who is also president of the Dallas County Medical Society.

Academic procession marshals will be Drs. Bruce D. Fallis, Alan K. Pierce, Jack Reynolds, Roger N. Rosenberg and Donald W. Seldin. Music will be by the Texas Brass Ensemble from North Texas State University led by Royce E. Lumpkin.

Invocation and benediction will be by the Rev. F.L. Conrad, Jr., Doctor of Sacred Theology.

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