

SUN NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS

5323 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75235

Contact: Bob Fenley

DALLAS--Officials of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School are hoping you can't take the country out of the boy (or girl) as they shoehorn the largest freshman medical class in history into the school Tuesday.

Of a total of 128 freshmen, there are 19 who are from Texas counties which have less than 50,000 population.

"Repeated studies show that students from rural areas are more likely to go back to rural areas to practice medicine and the admissions committee was well aware of this," said Dr. Bryan Williams, associate dean for student affairs.

And of the total of 471 students who will study medicine at the school this year, there are 63 from counties with less than 50,000 he added. There are quite a number more from what could be considered rural areas.

While there is a general shortage of doctors in Texas, as compared to the national average, there are acute lacks in the more sparsely-populated counties.

Numbers of minority students are up 85 per cent over last year. In all classes, there are 26, including eight blacks and 18 Mexican-Americans. This compares to 14 last year.

In this year's freshman class there are three blacks and nine Mexican-Americans. There are 14 women in the incoming group and this representation is above the national average.

"Actually, we've always had more women medical students than the national average," said Dr. Williams, adding "Southwestern has always had an open admissions policy in this regard."

--more--

first add freshmen

This year's 128 freshmen were chosen from a field of around 1,800 applicants.

"They'll be taxing our facilities to the utmost," said Dr. Williams. The traditional freshman lecture room would not hold the new class, so a move has been planned to the one classroom in the entire school which will.

Southwestern is currently nearing the mid-point of a \$40 million construction program designed to enable the school to accept 200 medical students per class. It is contemplated that the first class of such size will be admitted in 1975--with the full quota of 800 medical students being reached in 1979. (In addition to medical students, Southwestern has 70 graduate students this year who are seeking advanced degrees in subjects like physiology, biochemistry, etc.)

The incoming class, which represents 40 colleges and universities, will be greeted at 10 a.m. Tuesday by Dean Charles C. Sprague. This will be followed by several of the school's distinguished faculty who will explain various aspects of a medical education.

They include Dr. Rupert Billingham, chairman of Cell Biology; Dr. Ron Estabrook, chairman of Biochemistry; Dr. Paul MacDonald, chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Dr. Donald Seldin, chairman of Internal Medicine.

After this introduction, the class will board buses for a tour of Southern Methodist University, the Dallas Theater Center, museums and other points of interest.

A new wrinkle in the orientation this year will be briefings by members of the American Institute of Architects on some plans for the City of Dallas, including treatment of the downtown area.

Then, medical school staffers will brief the aspiring doctors on some of the problems in delivery of health care in disadvantaged areas of Dallas.

Dr. Williams noted that there were a number of members of this new class with very limited financial means--many have worked their ways through college. He said this accentuated the need for loans and scholarships.

The new class boasts a former Texas tennis champion and a professional basketball player. One potential member who already holds a doctor's degree--doctor of science--had to be given a raincheck and will be admitted next year. He is chief experimental nutritionist with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the next Apollo moon voyage. NASA requested that his admission be delayed a year in order that his work might be completed.

AUGUST 31, 1972