



Southern Illinois University
School of Medicine
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N E W S

Commencement exercises for the 25th graduating class of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine will be held Saturday afternoon. Seventy-one physicians graduate during the ceremony, held in UIS's Sangamon Auditorium in Springfield.

AMA president, Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, delivers the convocation address. Dickey is a board-certified family physician from College State, Texas, who became president of the AMA last June. Dickey is program director for the Brazos Valley Family Practice program, which is associated with Texas A&M University.

Senait Fisseha, class chair, delivers remarks on behalf of the graduating students. Dr. Erik Constance, associate dean of student affairs, presents the class for degrees. Jo Ann Argersinger, Ph.D., SIU chancellor, confers the degrees. Dr. Carl J. Getto, dean and provost of the School of Medicine, awards the diplomas.

Springfield students in the graduating class include -- Joseph D. Conlon, son of Sandra Conlon, who will enter a medicine/pediatrics combined residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin affiliated hospitals in Milwaukee; James A. Conour, son of George Conour, who will enter a one-year internal medicine transitional residency at Northwestern University Medical School in Evanston, followed by an anesthesiology residency at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle; Robert L. Gordon Jr., son of Robert and Mary Ellen Gordon, who will enter an internal medicine residency at SIU affiliated hospitals in Springfield; Raymond J. Gotanco, son of Reynaldo and Rachel Gotanco, who will enter an internal medicine residency at the University of Nevada School of Medicine in Reno; Ryan D. Holzmacher, son of Richard and Rita Holzmacher, who will enter an internal medicine residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin affiliated hospitals in Milwaukee; Kiran R. Kareti, son of Prasad and Sarala Kareti, who will enter an internal medicine residency at SIU School of Medicine affiliated

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SIU School of Medicine graduation – add 1

hospitals in Springfield; Sameer K. Mehta, son of Pradeep and Manjula Mehta, who will enter an internal medicine residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas; and Brian D. Powell, son of Dale and Darlene Powell, who will enter an internal medicine residency at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn.

Other Springfield-area graduates are Nancy J. Antonacci, daughter of Gene and Kathy Walker of Sherman, who will enter an emergency medicine residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington; Brian L. Bostwick, son of Larry Bostwick of Chatham, who will enter a medicine/pediatrics combined residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine/St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria; Toni M. Quinn, daughter of Al and Kay Vonbehren of Pawnee, who will enter an obstetrics/gynecology residency at SIU affiliated hospitals in Springfield; Nancy J. Taft, daughter of Charles and Dorothy Taft of Rochester, who will enter a surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin affiliated hospitals in Milwaukee; and Kim S. Wyatt, daughter of Fred and Sharon Spillers of Beardstown, who will enter a family practice residency at SIU affiliated hospitals in Springfield.

Other graduates and their Illinois hometowns are P. James Abraham of Elgin; Robert M. Bandera of Oregon; Kevin T. Barnett of Belleville; Michael E. Beck of Chicago; Jay A. Brieler of Clinton; Peg Chilvers of Olney; Deedra G. Cozart of Benton; Roger K. Eagan of Champaign; Dana A. Eisenmenger-Good of Pesotum; Tami C. Engel of Elliott; Amy E. Fisher of Pinckneyville; Rodney A. Friend of San Jose; Maria K. Galanos of Carbondale; Herbert L. Hawes Jr. of Chicago; Peter M. Hofmann of Chicago; Nada L. Hussein of Hillside; Maria Kaefer of Winnetka; Coles E. L’Hommedieu of O’Fallon; Amy S. Larson of Knoxville; Kosta P. Lekkass of Godfrey; Michelle D. Lockwood of Peoria; Jeanine A. Merryman of Woodstock; Ruth J. Michaelis of Glen Ellyn; Michelle Miner of Glenview; David L. Mitchell of Belleville; Melanie R. Mueth of Freeburg; Kristin K. Newcome of Decatur; and Tola B. Omotosho of Chicago.

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Other Illinois graduates are Jyoti R. Patel of DuQuoin; Jessica E. Paxon of Edwardsville; Erika L. Peterson of Decatur; Murray J. Propes of Olney; Brian D. Rempe of Champaign; Shannon B. Rider of Harrisburg; Esperanza Y. Salinas of Chicago; Dariush S. Takhtehchian of Glenview; Pninit Varol of Carbondale; Blake A. Vonderheide of Freeburg; Lisa K. Walker of Yorkville; Brett J. Walker of Groveland; Mark Wallace of Calumet City; Laura L. Wally of Franklin Park; Travis P. Webb of Effingham; Carol L. Wilhelm of Hanover Park; Sonia M. Williams of Chicago; Christopher K. Wyatt of Rochelle; Brian C. Yocks of Fairview Heights; and Thomas M. Zabiega of Centralia.

Other graduates include Martha S. Burk of Satellite Beach, Fla. (originally of Troy, Ill.); Leslee S. Davis of St. Louis; Kristin C. Herman of Suisun, Calif. (originally of Capron, Ill.); Cheryl L. Niles-Brown of New York, N.Y.; Michele M. Thomas of Litchfield, Minn.; and Zdravka D. Zafirova of Sofia, Bulgaria.

Two students will receive a M.D./J.D. dual degree -- Peter Lourgos of Palos Hills, Ill., and Senait Fisseha of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They completed the six-year-long combined M.D./J.D. dual degree program and will receive medical degrees from the School of Medicine and law degrees from SIU's School of Law.

The new physicians will begin residency training in July. Fourteen graduates (20%) are entering family practice, 19 (27%) internal medicine, 7 (10%) obstetrics/gynecology, 5 (7%) surgery, 4 (6%) medicine-pediatrics, 4 (6%) pediatrics and 6 (8%) emergency medicine. Other residencies selected are 3 each (4%) psychiatry and orthopaedic surgery, 2 each (3%) anesthesiology and plastic surgery, and one in neurology.

SIU and its affiliated hospitals in Springfield, Carbondale, Decatur and Quincy attracted 15 SIU graduates (21%) for residency training. Another 15 students (21%) picked other Illinois programs and 19 others (27%) selected midwest programs, giving a total of 70 percent that will train in the midwest.