

May 12, 2000

Contact: Trish Kearney or Nancy Zimmers
217-785-2155

SIU Med School Graduates 73 New Physicians

Commencement exercises for the 26th graduating class of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 20. Seventy-three physicians will graduate during the ceremony which is being held in the Sangamon Auditorium at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Dr. Robert W. Brown, a cardiologist from Fort Worth, Texas, who combined medicine with a baseball career (1958-84), will deliver the convocation address. He is a former New York Yankee third baseman (1946-54) and a past president of the American League of Professional Baseball Clubs (1984-94). While president, he was responsible for instituting youth baseball programs throughout the country and instrumental in initiating a ban on the use of smokeless tobacco in the minor leagues.

He entered Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., as a pre-medical student and subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II. The Navy assigned him to officer training and sent him to the University of California, Los Angeles where he received his bachelor's degree. He later served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Korea.

Brown received his medical degree from Tulane Medical School in New Orleans (1950). He did an internal medicine residency at San Francisco County Hospital and completed a one-year fellowship in cardiology at Tulane in 1958.

Mary Elizabeth Abusief of Danville, class chair, will deliver remarks on behalf of the graduating students. Dr. Erik Constance, assistant professor of internal medicine and associate dean for student affairs, will present the class for degrees. John Jackson, Ph.D., SIU interim chancellor, will confer the degrees. Dr. Carl J. Getto, dean and provost of the School of Medicine, will award the diplomas.

Two students will receive medical degrees from the School of Medicine and law degrees from the SIU School of Law, completing a six-year combined program for a M.D./J.D. dual degree.

The graduates will honor two of their instructors during the ceremony. Dr. Randy Kienstra, professor and chair of pediatrics, will read the Hippocratic Oath. Dr. J. Kevin Dorsey, Ph.D., professor of internal medicine and associate provost southern region at SIU, will hood the graduates.

-more-

SIU School of Medicine graduation – add 1

Two other faculty members will be recognized for honors. Ted LeBlang, J.D., professor and chair of medical humanities, will receive the Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching. Dr. Terence Anthony, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy, will receive the Carbondale Teacher of the Year honor for his contributions during the students' first year.

During the ceremony, Dr. Jeffrey Frank, Class of 1986, will receive the distinguished alumnus award. Frank is associate professor of neurology and surgery as well as director of neuromedical and neurosurgical intensive care at the University of Chicago (UC) and previously was on the neurosurgery and neurology staff of The Cleveland Clinic and directed two of its neuro units.

The award recognizes outstanding contributions to medicine and distinguished service to humankind. Frank's nominators said he is an outstanding neurologist, clinical researcher and teacher of medicine who also is a caring and compassionate physician who gives attention to the humanistic side of medical care.

Frank received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1982) and after graduating from SIU, completed his neurology residency at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago (1990). He completed a one-year neurointensive care fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston (1991).

The new SIU physicians will begin their residency training in their chosen specialty fields in July. Forty-four of the graduates (60 percent) will enter primary care specialties. SIU and its affiliated hospitals attracted 15 (21 percent) of the graduates to their residency training programs. Fourteen (19 percent) picked other Illinois programs and 17 others (23 percent) will stay in the Midwest for their postgraduate training.

-30-

NOTE TO MEDIA: A formal news conference will not be held for Dr. Brown because of his tight travel schedule. There is time for brief interviews with him before the ceremony at 10 a.m. on the lower level of the auditorium. His address will occur at approx. 11:40 a.m.

SIU School of Medicine graduation – add 2

The Springfield graduates are –

Careyana Brenham, daughter of Michael Lynn Brewer and Sandra Hudgins-Brewer, who will enter a family practice residency at SIU School of Medicine and its affiliated hospitals in Springfield; Julie Chiang, daughter of John and Jennifer Chiang, who will enter an internal medicine residency at McGaw Medical Center at Northwestern University in Chicago; Ronald Ernest Gotanco, son of Drs. Reynaldo and Rachel Gotanco, who will enter a medicine-preliminary residency at SIU followed next year by an anesthesiology residency at the University of Arizona affiliated hospitals in Tucson; Meeta Jain, daughter of Pukraj and Manju Jain, who will enter a transitional residency at Louis Weiss Hospital at the University of Chicago followed next year by a physical medicine and rehabilitation residency at McGaw Medical Center at Northwestern University in Chicago; Matthew Townes Murray, son of Marsha Murray of Springfield, who will enter an emergency medicine residency at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz; Christine Perks, daughter of George Perks and the late Susan Perks, who will enter a medicine-pediatrics residency at the University of Illinois School of Medicine at Peoria; Channing Smith Petrak, daughter of Catherine Petrak, who will enter a pediatrics residency at the University of Illinois School of Medicine at Peoria; and Alyce Sherbenou, daughter of Jerre Sherbenou of Livonia, Mich., and Brenda Larison of Dawson, who will enter an obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison.

Other Springfield-area graduates are –

W. Scott Boston, son of Bill and Sue Boston of Roodhouse, who will enter an emergency medicine residency at the University of Illinois School of Medicine at Peoria; Douglas R. Bree, son of Bill and Pat Bree of Lincoln, who will enter an internal medicine residency at Washington University in St. Louis; Angela Marshall, daughter of Lionel and Kay Marshall of Mt. Pulaski, who will enter an obstetrics and gynecology residency at Aultman Hospital/NEOUCOM in Canton, Ohio; Niru Vallala, daughter of Madhusudan and Suvarna Vallala of Jacksonville, who will enter an internal medicine residency at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; and Denise Sarver Willers, originally from Pana, daughter of Mary and Paul Escarraz of Sherman and Jerry and Michelle Sarver of Vandalia, who will enter an obstetrics and gynecology residency at Washington University in St. Louis.

SIU School of Medicine graduation – add 3

Other graduates and their home towns are --

Mary Elizabeth Abusief of Danville; Kris Andrews of Charleston; Jerry M. Antonini of Pekin; Gregory A. Babcock of Decatur; Jacob Wilson Baltz of Millstadt; Mark Barnett of Champaign; Jennifer Ruth Bobell of Carbondale; Heidi Katherine Bowles of Peoria; Alanna Flath Bree of Highland; Kelly Ann Caldwell-Chor of Hecker; Scott Carrington of Toulon; Tina Chang of Peoria; Angellee S. Chen, of Potomac, Md.; Shrearest Mignon Crenshaw of Tulsa, Okla.; Kevin Ray Diel of Edwardsville; David Rayelle Donnersberger, Jr., of Western Springs; Amy Ewen of Mahomet; Jason Cole Fleming of Alton; John Patrick Freese of Sullivan; Julko Fullop of Mt. Carmel; Aline Gilbert-Johnson of Carbondale; John Willard Grace, III, of Winthrop Harbor; Damian Walter Grivetti of Standard; Kristina Kay Gustafson of Bloomington; Adil Javed of Skokie; Michelle E. Jenkins of Benton; Matthew Thomas Jordan of Pontiac; Charles Victor Kenney of Byron; Jeffrey Kerr of Carrier Mills; Michele M. King of Chillicothe; James J. Klemens of Decatur; Michael Kloess of Belleville; Mandi Meeks of Paris; Jason Mehrstens of Waterloo; Brent J. Michael of Highland; Jay-James R. Miller of Normal; Christopher Monty of Carbondale; Daniel Moore of Timewell; Jeffery Patrick Naour of Champaign; Julie Marie Noffsinger of O'Fallon; Ashwinikumar Patil of Decatur; William Dean Payne of Patoka; Kristoffer David Pepperell of New Holland; Jennifer (Cook) Peura of Carterville; Robert L. Robinson of Troy; William Patrick Robinson, III, of Alton; Christine Michelle Rouse of Rockford; Paul Salmon of Cairo; Jennifer Jill Setterdahl of Rio; Daniel L. Shekleton of Peoria; Carolyn Denise Sparks of Ipava; Jeffrey D. Stearnes of Pekin; Stephen F. Stoll of Champaign; Amod O. Sureka of Peoria; Henry T. Tang of Urbana; Tiffany Anya Thies of Pekin; Lucy Nelson Wisdom of Bloomington; Karen (Charleston) Woods of Philo; and Matthew Yociss of Smithton.