



**Nevada
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Centers**

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Sept. 22, 1989

Release: immediately

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Medical student enjoys her stay in Fallon

There has been a new face at Dr. Richard Dingacci's Fallon Clinic for the past month and it belongs to Jessica Wang, 24, a fourth-year medical student from the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Wang, originally from Taiwan but most recently from Sparks, joined Dr. Dingacci's practice temporarily to learn more about family practice medicine.

"I really like family medicine," she said. "There's so much diversity. You do a little bit of surgery, a little bit of internal medicine. It makes it interesting."

Wang's stay in Dr. Dingacci's office, a rural rotation required of all fourth year medical students, is coordinated by AHEC, Area Health Education Centers, a federally funded program that's part of the School of Medicine. AHEC also provides support services for rural health care professionals.

The purpose of the rural rotation, which places all 48 medical students in a rural community for one month, according to Jamie Anderson, AHEC education coordinator, is to give the students a taste of what it's like to be a rural doctor.

"No matter what practice the student later chooses, the rotation encourages empathy and compassion for the physician in a rural community," she said. "It also helps develop relationships between rural and urban physicians."

And although Wang said she plans to go into pathology and research once she graduates, this experience has made family practice medicine a realistic second choice for her.

AHEC also places first year medical students in a rural rotation called a preceptorship. This gives the students a taste of rural medicine early on in their careers before a specialty area has already been chosen.

Dr. Dingacci, a graduate of the Nevada School of Medicine, is a native of Fallon. He, along with other rural physicians who participate in the rural rotations, must meet the standards of the School of Medicine. According to Anderson, this speaks well of the quality of care being received by Fallon residents through Dr. Dingacci.

Wang has one more week with Dr. Dingacci and then heads back to Reno to continue her final year of classes.