UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

May 15, 1998
RELEASE AFTER 9:00 p.m. **PST**

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**COMMUNITIY LEADERS , FACULTY AND STUDENTS
HONORED AS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GRADUATES CLASS OF 1998**

RENO ...The University of Nevada School of Medicine inducted its 18th class of

physicians into the field of medicine, by awarding them their academic hoods, on Friday evening

at the convention center. During the ceremony, 47 members of the Class of 1998 (including 19

from **Reno**) took the Hippocratic Oath and were formally accepted into the medical profession.

"We need you to be physicians who will look over the pile of paperwork – look around

the corporate cost control interference – and see a patient – an individual – who is sick – with

anxieties, fears and apprehensions," Dean Robert Daugherty told the graduates. "We need you

to be physicians who listen, touch, and care first and most about the individual as a person."

The graduates were also welcomed by Nevada Governor Robert Miller and University

Nevada, Reno President Joseph Crowley, Ph.D.

David P. Westfall, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs at **UNR** and Professor of

Pharmacology at the School of Medicine,, was not only selected by the students to offer the

keynote address, but had the distinct honor of hooding his daughter, Alison Spencer Westfall,

who will be entering the School of Medicine's Obstetrics and Gynecology program in Las

Vegas.

In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. Westfall continues to teach and conduct research geared to understanding how nerves regulate organs of the body. The work has important implications for treating cardiovascular disorders.

For "his tenacity in helping the School of Medicine pursue its dream of building programs and structure in Las Vegas", Scott Higginson, Vice President of Government and Public Affairs for the Del Webb Corporation, was one of this year's recipients of the Dean's Award. The award recognizes outstanding personal contributions to the field of medicine, and/or to the development of the University of Nevada School of Medicine. As a Las Vegas City Councilman, Mr. Higginson was instrumental in persuading the city council to donate nearly 11 acres of land in the Las Vegas Technology Center to the School of Medicine for a campus in Southern Nevada.

The Dean's Award was also presented William and Myriam Pennington, who, as co-founders of Circus Circus Enterprises, Inc. and the William N. & Miriam Pennington Foundation, have been stalwart benefactors of the School.

Graduating students also presented awards to the faculty and resident physicians, acknowledging their dedication as role models and mentors.

School of Medicine professor Ken Maehara, Ph.D. associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine was named Outstanding Professor in the Basic Sciences in **Reno**, and John Fildes, M.D., chief of Trauma Surgery in Las Vegas was named Outstanding Clinical Professor.

Reno surgeon Todd Arcomano, M.D., was named Outstanding Community Professor, for volunteering his time to train medical students..

Paul Smith, M.D. received the Outstanding Resident Award for his work with the department of Family Practice in **Reno**.

Reno Inductees to Alpha, Omega Alpha, the national honorary medical society recognizing excellence in the profession included: Gregory M. Bricca, Joanne D. Jarrett, and Marni S. Kwiecien

The following students from **Reno** received M.D. degrees: Cheri Lee Audrain, Gregory M. Bricca, Bradley E. Chatlin, Bradley S. Chotiner, Daniel T. Colombo, Peter B. DeKay, Terry A. Ellis, II, John P. Epperson, Jr., Stacey Hudson, Joanne Davis Jarrett, Travis Kieckbusch, Marni S. Kwiecien, Maureen E. Mays, Kristen Nork, Jennifer Pohl, Bryan Scheer, Saovaros Vongngarm, Courtney West, and Alison Westfall.

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