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Monday, June 2, 2008

Medical school grads

Honors given at 35th commencement

UMASS AWARDS 220 DEGREES

By Stephanie McPherson SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

WORCESTER— At Mechanics Hall yesterday, where 220 degrees were handed out at the University of Massachusetts Medical School commencement, the graduates were reminded that the label of student never really goes away.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told the graduates they never stop learning, especially in the evolving world of medicine. He spoke of the ever-changing medical field and the challenges with which they'll inevitably be faced.

Dr. Fauci acknowledged, thinking back to his medical school graduation, that he could not "remember a word of what the commencement speaker said or even who he or she was," drawing laughs from the many parents and well-wishers who packed the hall for the school's 35th commencement program.

"However, you will not have to remember what I say, since what I am going to tell you will in fact happen to you, and that you surely will remember," he continued.

The students of medicine, biomedical sciences and nursing who sat before Dr. Fauci will never cease to be students, having chosen a continuously evolving career path, he said.

He illustrated this point with a story about his own start in medicine during a time when the problem of infectious diseases was supposedly disappearing.

"As fate would have it, at that time I was on my way to begin, of all things, an infectious diseases fellowship at NIH," he said. "... I felt somewhat ambivalent about my career choice, to say the least."

Thirteen years later, the AIDS epidemic began to garner attention, along with other infectious diseases that are today plaguing the world.

Dr. Fauci referred to the UMass graduates as "perpetual students" and assured them that economic stability on a global scale cannot happen until the world is "relatively free of the constant devastation by disease."



Kelly John Holland, right, and Carolyn Marie Kelper, friends and Doctor of Medicine graduates at UMass, greet each other before yesterday's ceremonies. (ALEX WITKOWICZ)
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Michael F. Collins, UMass senior vice president for health sciences and interim medical school chancellor, awarded 104 doctor of medicine degrees, including five M.D./Ph.Ds, 48 doctor of philosophy degrees, and 60 master of science degrees, two post-master's certificates and three doctor of philosophy degrees in nursing.

Two honorary degrees were awarded besides the one presented to Dr. Fauci. The Honorable Margaret H. Marshall and Dr. Leonard J. Morse were honored with doctor of humane letters and doctor of science, respectively. Justice Marshall is the first female chief justice of the state Supreme Court. Dr. Morse is Worcester commissioner of public health.

Rosemary Kirousis of the School of Nursing, Christian Matranga of the School of Biomedical Sciences and Kelly Holland of the School of Medicine all addressed the graduates.

Mr. Matranga questioned his peers, asking, "What does today represent for the class of 2008? Is it the end of something big, or is today the beginning of a new challenge?"

Mr. Holland drew laughter and applause at the beginning of his speech.

"This moment, right here, right now, this coming together is awesome," he said.

He continued to engage the audience, asking the future medical professionals gathered in the room to treat "all of our sisters and brothers as members of one human family and ensuring that all people have proper health care among their intrinsic rights," again to a wave of applause.

He closed by thanking all those who made their successful completion of UMass Medical School possible, including "the citizens of the commonwealth whose taxes make our tuition a wicked bargain," and all the graduates of the class of 2008 who are now entering into the world of medicine as colleagues.

UMASS WORCESTER

AREA GRADUATES, 2008

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Athol: Amy B. King (STT).

Auburn: Laura D. Small (STT).

Clinton: Johsie M. Oliva (STT).

Jefferson: Daniel G. Eurich (STT).

Lancaster: Mallory M. Macdonald (STT).

Leominster: Rosemary A. Kirousis (STT).

New Braintree: Rachel N. Howard (STT).

Northbridge: Devon Mical Alvaro (STT).

Paxton: Nicole M. Capite (STT).

Shrewsbury: Joselyn M. Cortez (STT), Ann DeFosse (STT) and Eileen A. Duhamel (STT).

Spencer: Kelly L. Laprade (STT).

Sterling: Elizabeth M. Foss (STT) and Lauri A. Toohey (STT).

Thompson, Conn.: Joan S. Morrison (STT).

West Brookfield: Karen J. Ostiguy (STT).

Whitinsville: Kimberly K. Kats (STT).

Worcester: Ama O. Ahenkorah, Abraham Ballah (STT), Dawn Hardy Bull (STT), Jaime L. Cesnickas (STT), Ashley E. Choruzek (STT), Justin J. Gwatirisa (STT), Christine V. Hoogasian (STT), Katie M. Sullivan (STT) and Kerry-Ann N. Williams (STT).

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IN NURSING

Holland: Ruth Foster (STT).

Worcester: Joan Margaret Arakelian (STT).

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING

Mendon: Nancy Eleanor Stone (STT).

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Westboro: Alice R. Bonner (STT).

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Charlton: Mandy Roberts-Crowley.

Hudson: Jennifer Yearley.

Uxbridge: Andrew Coles.

Worcester: Margo Frey, Jennifer Murzycki and Rajas Warke.

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Gardner: Sangita Stearns Pillai.

Holden: Vilas Rashmi Patwardhan (AOA) and Lakshman Subrahmanyam.

Hudson: Francisco Aguirre.

Marlboro: Elizabeth Margaret Cherella and Phong Thanh Dargon.

Northboro: Alexandra S. Bailey (AOA).

Sterling: Rachael Y. Blake (AOA).

Westboro: Grace Ai-mei Fong and Craig Richard Lareau.

Worcester: Andrew Edward Giese, Jennifer Ellen Murzycki and Jennifer Beth Rosenberg (AOA).

HONORS KEY: Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AOA); Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society (STT)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Academic Achievement & Leadership Award – Acute Care: Elizabeth M. Foss of Sterling.

Academic Achievement & Leadership Award – Family Nurse Practitioner: Kelly L. Laprade of Spencer.

Academic Achievement & Leadership Award – Nurse Educator: Jaime L. Cesnickas of Worcester.

Chancellor's Award: Lauri A. Toohey of Sterling.

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award – Ambulatory: Rosemary A. Kirousis of Leominster.

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award – Family Nurse Practitioner: Ama O. Ahenkorah of Worcester.

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award – Nurse Educator: Lauri A. Toohey of Sterling.

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award – Post-Master's Certificate: Joan Margaret Arakelian of Worcester.

Fairlawn Scholars: Joan Margaret Arakelian of Worcester, Alice R. Bonner of Westboro and Christine V. Hoogasian of Worcester.

Lillian R. Goodman Award: Alice R. Bonner of Westboro.

Lucie D. Russell Briefcase Award: Abraham Ballah of Worcester.

Mary Kinnear Raymond Award: Nicole M. Capite of Paxton.

Massachusetts Medical Society Award for Academic Excellence: Sangita Stearns Pillai of Gardner.

Mildred M. Connor Award: Katie M. Sullivan of Worcester.

Sandy Marks Memorial Award: Vilas Rashmi Patwardhin of Holden.



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