The first class of the millennium began its first day of medical school on August 2, 2000. The week was highlighted by a "White Coat Ceremony" sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. A message from Dr. Gold, the foundation founder, read, "...I wish you the same joys and satisfaction I have had in the practice of medicine over many years. Work hard, care, and never forget human suffering...."

The members of the JABSOM Class of 1979 presented each student with their first white coat.

The class consists of thirty-six men and twenty-six women with a median age of 24. This is the 34th entering class and the 12th class to undertake their medical education in the format titled, Problem Based Learning (PBL) Curriculum.

One thousand one hundred and fifty-three applied for six hundred and twenty positions. Of the total, two hundred and thirty-six were selected for interviews. The committee rated, by secret ballot, a total of two hundred and thirty-six candidates which included twenty candidates for the Imi Ho’ola year 2000 Program. The ratings were ranked to determine the top fifty-three who would be offered acceptances and those to be on the list of alternates. Each Committee member determined a rating for each candidate after examining the following documents: Hawaii residency status, academic scores, scores from the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), interviews, essays that addressed the questions, "Why Medicine?" and "Why the John A. Burns School of Medicine?", letters of recommendations, biographical sketch and transcripts from the American Medical College Admission Service (AMCAS). Credits were given for extracurricular activities related to human services and graduate degrees. Discretionary points were considered for exemplary science and cumulative grade points in the last two years of undergraduate studies.

The entering JABSOM class’s MCAT scores are Verbal Reasoning—10; Physical Sciences—10; Writing Sample—P; and Biological Sciences—10. The cumulative grade point average (GPA) is 3.7 (median) and the science GPA is 3.6 (median).

Each entering student is assigned a faculty advisor who maintains contact with the student throughout the four years of medical school. Students are strongly encouraged to seek the advice of the assigned advisor.

The sixty-two students are on an exciting journey. Each student has been selected from among the hundreds of their peers to become competent, culturally sensitive physicians who will improve the quality of health of all people, especially those who live in Hawaii and the Pacific.