

## Medical School Hotline

### **Student Profile: Class of 2004 John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM)**

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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 34<sup>th</sup> entering class and the 12<sup>th</sup> class to undertake their medical education in the format titled, Problem Based Learning (PBL) Curriculum.

One thousand one hundred and fifty-three applied for sixty-two positions. Of the total, 236 qualified to be interviewed. Included in the total accepted are nine graduates from Imi Ho'ola, the Post Baccalaureate Program. The Imi Ho'ola Program addresses the issue of diversity and those who are educationally, socially, and economically disadvantaged. Fifty-six are residents of the State of Hawaii and six are from the U.S. mainland.

JABSOM is the world's most ethnically diverse school. In the incoming class, there are 19 Japanese, 11 Caucasians, 8 Hawaiians, 7 Filipinos, 6 Chinese, 3 Koreans, 3 Vietnamese, 2 Pacific Islanders, 1 East Indian, 1 Laotian, and 1 Southeast Asian.

Twenty-six are graduates of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hilo and one from Hawaii Pacific University. There is one graduate from a foreign college, University of Philippines. Thirty-four are from mainland colleges which include University of California (San Diego, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Santa Barbara), Boston College, Columbia University, Loyola Marymount, Boston University, Brown University, California Polytechnic State University, California State University, Case Western Reserve University, Colorado State University, Cornell University, Harvard University, Lawrence University, Mount Holyoke College, Ripon College, Stanford University, Swathmore College, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of San Diego, Wake Forest University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Yale University.

All entering students have Baccalaureate degrees. In addition, 8 have their Masters Degrees, 3 with Doctorate Degrees, and one with a degree in Jurisprudence. Twenty-nine have degrees in Biology, 3 in Psychology, 2 in Biochemistry, 2 in Chemistry, 2 in Mechanical Engineering, and 1 in each of the following college majors: Accounting, Accounting and Strategic Management, Anthropology, Biology and Society, Biology/Asian American Studies, Biology/Visual Arts, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Ha-

waiian, History, History and Sociology of Science, Human Physiology, Liberal Studies/Pre-Med., Mathematics, Microbiology, Microbiology/Music, Neuroscience and Behavior, Nursing, Philosophy, Physical Therapy, Physics and Biology, Political Science, Russian Area Studies, and Social Science.

The Admissions Committee was composed of 11 clinical and regular faculty members, 6 men and 5 women. Eight were clinicians, two social scientists and one basic scientist. Hawai'i's major ethnic groups were represented as well as a variety of age levels. The Committee met twenty-one times between September, 1999 to mid-May 2000. During this period, they rated, by secret ballot, a total of 236 candidates which included 20 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: Hawai'i 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.

