

At the Thursday evening honors convocation held the night before graduation in the main auditorium of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate School, family, friends, colleagues and fellow students gathered to honor those 42 students, mostly graduating seniors, and five members of the faculty who were honored for their exceptional achievements this past year in the Medical School. Named in honor of esteemed members of the faculty over the history of the School and sometimes in honor of the donors of the prizes, the awards highlight scholarly excellence and faculty dedication across many areas.

The honors convocation address was delivered by Roland G. Hiss (BS '55, MD '57, Residency '66), a member of the faculty in internal medicine and medical education for the past 33 years who joked



*(Above)* Convocation speaker Roland Hiss, professor of internal medicine: in search of the physician's "teachable moment"

that it was the first time he'd ever given a speech with "no slides, no handouts and no syllabus." His subject was the long expanse of education that marks a career in medicine, one that begins with learning that is "dependent on the word," shifts in its second phase to learning dependent on experience, and then returns, in its third phase, to learning based on the word again as the practicing physician relies on

continuing medical education for new knowledge. A great believer in experience-based learning, Hiss said that graduate medical education was definitely the "peak" of a physician's training, and he recounted his own experience of returning alone to "Old Main, which had stood empty and silent for a year," and going up to the medicine floor, 6E, to the second bed on the left, to the very memorable place where he had learned "what congestive heart failure really was. I had lots of lectures before that time, 44 lectures for 32 straight weeks," he said, "but that patient experience was what brought it all together."

Hiss will spend the remainder of his career at Michigan creating a continuing education model that he hopes will meet the needs of physicians at those "teachable moments" when they most need information and can use it most effectively, and that will deal with the "huge and impenetrable" barriers, including geography, attitudes, economics and the delivery of medical care itself that interfere with a physician's ability to keep learning. [m](#)

*(Right)* The lamp of learning: Dean Allen Lichter presents Professor Roland Hiss with the convocation speaker's traditional gift.



*(Above)* Brian Zink, M.D., associate professor of emergency medicine, reads, on behalf of the faculty, the citation honoring Arul Chinnaiyan with a Dean's Award for Research Excellence for his work on programmed cell death.

# Honors



*(Above)* Jason Van Ittersum is congratulated by Dean Lichter for his William B. Taylor Dermatology Award, named in honor of a member of the faculty from 1950-92. Van Ittersum also received a Hewlett-Packard Award as one of the top five graduates who excelled academically throughout the four years of his medical education.

*(Right)* Mark Jacoby and Vidya Krishnan hold the Rappaport-Sprague stethoscopes they received from Hewlett-Packard for being among the top five graduates who excelled academically throughout the four years of their medical education.

*(Left)* Inteflex graduate Patrick Javid accepts the congratulations of Alphonse Burdi, director of the Inteflex Program, for his outstanding performance in the junior clerkship, senior electives and surgery research, for which he received the C. Gardner Child III Award, named for a former chair of the Department of Surgery. Javid also received the Association for Academic Surgery Student Research Award.



*(Above)* Jennifer Zelenock receives the J. Robert Willson Award, named in honor of the late chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and given to a student for outstanding performance in obstetrics and gynecology, from Timothy Johnson, Bates Professor of the Diseases of Women and Children and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

# Convocation 1999

Honoring those who, in a class and a school of great distinction, nevertheless managed to distinguish themselves by their excellence

*(Below)* Tracey Oppenheim is congratulated by Michael Jibson, clinical assistant professor of psychiatry, on receiving the Raymond W. Waggoner Award, given by the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry to a graduating senior for distinguished performance in psychiatry. The award honors the chair of the Department of Psychiatry from 1937-70.



*(Left)* Dean Lichter presents Rosemarie Fernandez with her Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award for her outstanding performance in emergency medicine. Fernandez also received a Dean's Award for Research Excellence for her research contributions during her medical school career, especially her work on the body's inflammatory process.