Media Advisory

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The director of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Paul A. Ebert, will deliver the annual Ohio State University College of Medicine Alpha Omega Alpha lecture on Thursday, April 28.

The lecture will be held at noon in the Rhodes Hall Auditorium of University Hospitals and is free to the public.

Alpha Omega Alpha is a national honor medical society which recognizes students and alumni for character, service and achievements.
Students join medical honorary

By Erin Watterson
Lantern staff writer

A ceremony inducting 33 students into Ohio State's medical honor society was held Thursday evening at the Columbus Museum of Art. The ceremony was held at the Columbus Museum of Art. At the ceremony, OSU President Dr. Gordon Gee and the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics spoke of the difficulties facing physicians.

Election to Alpha Omega Alpha, which is the only national honor medical society in the world, is based on scholarship, the capacity for leadership and compassion.

In addition to the students who were elected as members while in their third or fourth year of medical school, one alumnus, one faculty member and three residents were elected to the society.

William Root founded Alpha Omega Alpha in 1903 as a society that would foster honesty and scholarship.

Mental fortitude, moral integrity and compassion are qualities shared by our inductees,” said Steven L. Elieff, president of OSU's Gamma Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha.

Gee spoke of the increasing need for medical education to take an interdisciplinary approach. Doctors must be able to provide their patients with a context for the medical information they are receiving.

He also spoke of the increasing ability of ordinary citizens to access medical knowledge.

Gee said this generation of aspiring physicians will define what health care in the next decade will look like.

In a knowledge-based society, “a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing,” he said. In today's world of technology, Gee asked the aspiring physicians not to forget the importance of ideals.

Dr. Antoinette P. Eaton, who was elected as the first woman president of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1990, addressed some of the issues facing the medical community.

“All is not well with the nation's health care system, and fundamental changes are needed,” Eaton said.

She said 37 million Americans do not have health insurance, leaving them with little access to medical care.

Today, physicians must face different problems than 50 years ago, Eaton said. An increase in crime and substance abuse is evident and has even affected the nation's public school systems, according to Eaton.

She called for the medical profession to direct knowledge, commitment and devotion to overcoming these challenges and insuring the highest quality of care for Americans.

One of the greatest rewards of a career in medicine is the self-gratification that comes from the ability to make a difference in people's lives, Eaton said.

She assured the inductees they “have the knowledge, the devotion and the commitment to make the medical profession better.”