

Portland Health/Education Observer

Diversity shows through in new Oregon medical school students



Van Tran of Portland (left) and Ivory Crittendon of Abilene, Texas are fitted with their first white coats as a symbol of their entry into the field of medicine.

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A diverse class of 96 entering, first-year medical students at Oregon Health Sciences University stood Friday and recited a medical creed called the Oath of Geneva. The ritual was one of the first duties of the class of 2004 as they become more aware of their professional responsibilities. They were also cloaked in their first white coats, a symbol of the physician-patient relationship. The message: physicians should care as well as cure.

These first year medical students were also encouraged to lead noble and honorable lives.

The class of 2004 is comprised of students from Portland, the greater Northwest and from across the country. The largest minority group consisted of 11 students who identified themselves as Asian-Americans, three students as Hispanic, one as African-American, and one from Puerto Rico. Four students did not specify an ethnic background.

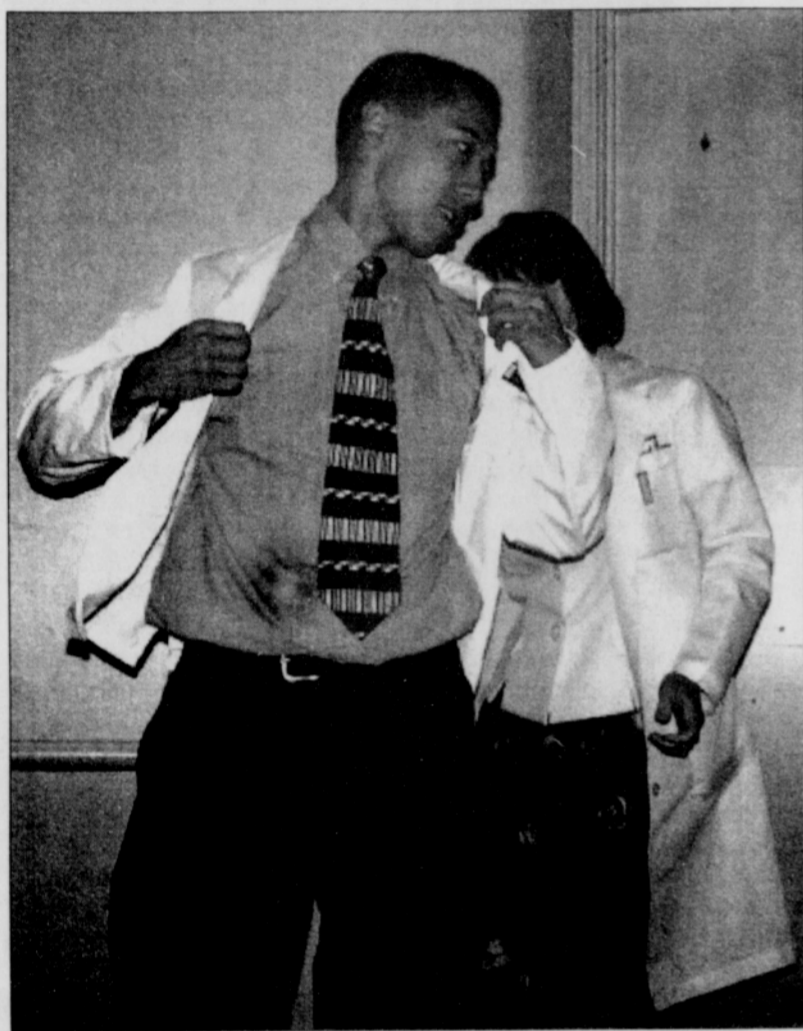
The OHSU School of Medicine is the direct descendant of the University of Oregon School of Medicine that first opened its doors in Portland in 1887 and graduated its first class the following year.

Only one other medical school in the west has a longer lineage; only 33 of the present 125 medical schools in the United States existed prior to the founding of the School of Medicine in Oregon.


Today the school is widely recognized for excellence and its mission continues to be the enhancement of human health through programs in education, research, health care delivery and public service.



Future doctors at OHSU are cloaked with their first white coats.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



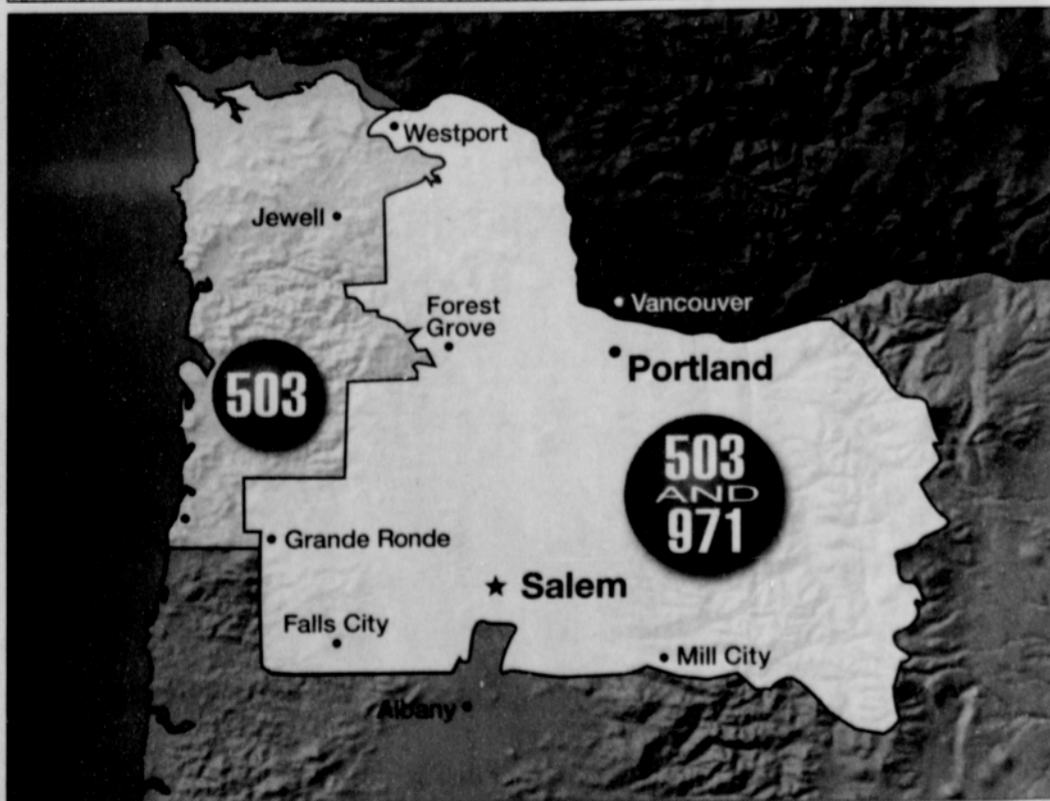
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