

Rob Strong



## CELEBRATING GEISEL'S NEW MD GRADUATES

**C** LASS DAY IS A DAY OF CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION when graduating MD and other students are hooded and receive their diplomas. Geisel's Class of 2018 featured 77 MD graduates, including four MD-PhD and eight MD-MBA grads.

Guest speaker George E. Thibault, MD, president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, reflected on changes in the practice of medicine since the days of his father, a small-town physician in New York who had a big impact upon his community.

Recognizing today's accelerated medical environment, he encouraged the newly minted physicians to retain the heart of small-town medical practices by reminding themselves daily "of our oath, of renewing our commitment to professionalism, and to our social contract."

Citing Geisel's efforts in providing a nurturing environment for intellectual and emotional growth that allows students' "innate sense of compassion and altruism to express itself through medicine," Dean Duane Compton, PhD, recalled lessons learned in the classroom, as well as from each other and the community.

Speaking of the need to pursue truth in medicine rather than accepting established beliefs or dogma without examination, student speaker Mike Lauria reminded graduates that the quest for truth relies on unwavering intellectual curiosity. "I think this ethos can carry us through some of the tough times to come ... and allow us to do amazing things in the future. So, stay curious, my friends."

Among award honorees were, Shawn Li, who received The William Mellen Chamberlain Memorial Prize and Dean's Medal for best overall record of academic achievement. And selected by her peers as someone who exemplifies qualities of the good physician, Madeleine Haff received the Good Physician Award. MD-PhD graduate Kevin Shee was awarded the 2018 John W. Strohbehn Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research.

## NEW MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN QUANTITATIVE EPIDEMIOLOGY

**G** EISEL'S GRADUATE PROGRAM IN QUANTITATIVE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (QBS) interdisciplinary graduate program trains students in bioinformatics, biostatistics, and, now, epidemiology.

"This new degree program brings together our faculty from different disciplines to cross-train students to prepare them for a variety of future professional experiences," said Duane Compton, PhD, dean of the medical school.

Designed to appeal to those interested in epidemiologic methods, biostatistics, bioinformatics, data analysis, and translational research, the program gives graduates competencies in the theory and application of epi-

demologic methods in order to solve complex problems in population health.

Margaret Karagas, PhD, the James W. Squires Professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology at Geisel, said, "We're excited about this opportunity to train the next generation of epidemiologists equipped with cutting edge skills in bioinformatics and biostatistics in the context of a robust epidemiologic method."

Setting this program apart from others is the 4+1 option for Dartmouth undergraduates who can take up to three graduate courses prior to matriculation into the program, allowing them to complete the program one quarter sooner. This year, two Dartmouth undergraduates took advantage of this option.

"Dartmouth students already receive world renowned liberal arts training in the arts and

sciences," said James O'Malley, PhD, QBS director. "By linking interested undergraduate students with a master's degree program in epidemiology that is unique for its quantitative rigor and focus, we provide students an efficient pathway to obtaining a stellar and unique combined qualification in five years at Dartmouth that will serve them well in both the short- and long-term."

Though the epidemiology master's program focuses on study design and molecular biology, students can tailor their own program by mixing and matching to a certain degree between it and QBS's Health Data Science master's program.