



TEXAS TECH UNIVE

and first set of scrubs are presented at the annual Scrub Party.

“We value our students and the journey they're about to embark on,” Sanchez said. Although their friends and family cannot come and celebrate with us, we felt it was important to provide them with the opportunity to receive their TTUHSC branded stethoscope and to celebrate and welcome them to campus.”

Sanchez said each year stethoscopes are sponsored by TTUHSC alumni donors and friends in order to provide each student with their first stethoscope. Also, this year UMC Health System donated \$10,000 to the students for stethoscopes.

Two medical students said even though the traditional ceremonies are different this year, there is still excitement for the new semester.

Sofia Altamirano grew up in Germany before moving to San Antonio. She received her high school degree at the age of 16, finished her undergraduate degree at 19 before completing her master's degree at Villanova University. Now a first-year medical student in the M.D./Ph.D. program, she said she values the support from the School of Medicine and donors.

“I think that the School of Medicine put a lot of consideration into the parade,” Altamirano said. “I want to say thank you, and I'm very grateful. The stethoscopes are a very meaningful gift, especially coming from a previous class. When I got my master's degree, I experienced the other side of struggling to pay tuition and struggling to pay living expenses, and that can definitely have an impact on how you're able to succeed as a student. It is incredible because I feel like I have unlimited potential.”

Daemar Jones, a first-year medical student from Arlington, found his discipline on the basketball court. As the shortest player on the team, he was determined to succeed. The sport helped him develop discipline – a trait he says has been critical in academics. Jones completed his undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University, but as a first-generation student, he said he believed he needed more academic experience to prepare for medical school. This May he