

January 15, 1992

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****African-American medical student named
Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship winner

DALLAS -- Kimberly Persley was named as a winner of the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship competition at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Persley, a third-year medical student, was one of three 1992 MLK scholarship winners honored at a campuswide reception at 4 p.m. in Gooch Auditorium.

Persley, a graduate of Texas Wesleyan University, plans to specialize in an area of primary care medicine. During her years at UT Southwestern, Persley has been an active participant in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), the largest independent medical-student organization that focuses on the needs and concerns of minority medical students.

Dr. Drew Alexander, assistant dean of student affairs and clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern, chairs the MLK Scholarship Committee and acts as SNMA chapter advisor. Alexander described Persley as "a leader in her class and a sensitive, warm participant in the medical school community." According to Alexander, Persley has been instrumental in planning and executing the annual minority premedical conference and has contributed to minority recruitment at the medical school by attending interview lunches and housing out-of-town applicants.

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Persley has also committed time outside of the classroom to community service. She has worked with the Homeless Outreach Medical Services Program, assisting in providing health care to many homeless adults and children in shelters.

Persley has also lectured to high school students on sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. Persley believes that it is important to reach out to young people and encourage them to challenge themselves. "Anything worth achieving requires hard work and sacrifice," she said. "We must do that as a people to get ahead."

The scholarship recognizes UT Southwestern students who have excelled in the areas of academic achievement and community service. The financial needs of award candidates are also considered in the selection of scholarship recipients.

Other MLK Scholarships recipients include Jose Pena, a fourth-year medical student, and Steven Ray Krebaum, a graduate student in clinical psychology.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president, and Alexander presented the awards.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.