

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## ALUMNUS ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR STUDENTS IN FINANCIAL NEED

DALLAS – Dec. 12, 2001 – Dr. Gerald A. Belkin, class of '55, said he has always felt indebted to UT Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas because his education enabled him to live a happy, productive life. To show his gratitude, he and his late wife, Becky, established a scholarship fund so a promising medical student in financial need could receive a four-year scholarship to UT Southwestern.

That was in 1998. But Belkin didn't stop there. He subsequently has used proceeds from the sale of his medical software company, which he founded after he retired from practicing medicine, to add to the endowment. He now supports four Belkin Scholars, one in each medical-school class, and the scholarship fund now totals more than \$400,000 – the largest such endowment at the school.

“Becky and I always believed in supporting undergraduate and graduate education. We talked about doing something on a significant scale, if we ever had the opportunity. Starting this endowment was a source of great satisfaction to both of us,” Belkin said.

During the 1950s when he was in school, students in Texas could attend a state-funded medical school for minimal cost, making it feasible for him to afford medical school, Belkin said.

“I discovered, much to my relief, that my education – especially the ability to step in and take care of patients – was second to none,” said Belkin, who was the first student from UT Southwestern to be accepted for an internship at Yale University School of Medicine. “It was quite a revelation.”

“The Belkin gift is wonderfully generous and exceptionally important to the recipients and our ability to attract first-class students,” said Wes Norred, associate vice president for student and alumni affairs at UT Southwestern. “To help put the impact of such support in perspective, consider that each Belkin Scholar not only receives the direct support of the tuition

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scholarship but also does not have to take out a student loan; therefore, the recipient avoids the interest that would accrue on that loan.

“Receiving a Belkin Scholarship affirms a student’s past success and positive future. Dr. Belkin has had a significant impact on the life of these students and will continue to far into the future.”

“Jerry Belkin knows firsthand the value of a UT Southwestern education. His desire to give back to his school is truly wonderful,” said UT Southwestern president Dr. Kern Wildenthal. “He and his wife have made an impact that will help our students for generations to come.”

The first Belkin Scholar, Luis Jancowski, will graduate in May 2002.

Jancowski was 17 when his family immigrated to El Paso from Juarez, Mexico. Although neither of his parents finished high school, Jancowski graduated from UT El Paso with a 3.9 grade point average, while working full time to provide for his wife, Marcy, and two daughters.

Jancowski said he took a risk when he applied to Southwestern Medical School because he didn’t know how he would pay for tuition.

Luckily for Jancowski, when he was accepted to the medical school, he also received notification that he had been selected as a Belkin Scholar.

“I am deeply appreciative of Dr. Belkin’s gift,” said Jancowski, who is currently interviewing at more than 30 medical schools for his residency in radiology. “His generosity has allowed me to realize my dream of becoming a doctor.”

“I hope that one day I will be able to make a difference in someone’s life the way Dr. Belkin has made in mine,” Jancowski said.

Last year Jancowski had the chance to meet his benefactor at a breakfast meeting and thank him personally.

Other Belkin Scholars are Brandon Chau, a third-year medical student; Spiros Blackburn, a second-year medical student; and Michelle Alletag, a first-year medical student.

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