

October 1990

CONTACT: Jennifer Donovan
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/328-3193
Fax: 214/688-8252

****Former patient studies medicine
on Christmas card scholarship

DALLAS -- This holiday season, Mark Owen has good reason to be thinking about cancer.

First he fought -- and won -- a battle of his own against osteogenic sarcoma, which struck during his senior year of high school. Then a three-year scholarship from the Children's Christmas Card Project of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center helped put him through premedical school at Louisiana Tech University.

Now he is a second-year medical student at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, studying to be a pediatric cancer specialist and help other youngsters stricken as he was, and he has been honored with a Children's Christmas Card Project scholarship for graduate education.

The \$3,000 scholarships, which are awarded to former cancer patients, are funded by the annual sale of holiday cards designed by youngsters undergoing treatment for cancer at the Houston cancer center.

The 24-year-old medical student plans to go into pediatric cancer research and surgery. He says he is dedicating his life's work to the

(More)

friends he made during his own cancer treatment, "especially the ones who didn't make it."

Owen says having cancer helped him focus a longtime interest in science and changed his outlook on life.

"You have to deal with what happened," he explains. "Some people try to ignore it, but I chose to use my experience to do something constructive that will mean something to others."

###