

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN HONORS ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS

DALLAS — June 7, 1995 — One student practically danced into her field of study. Another considers herself a sort of medical detective. The third student looks forward to the day when her menus will play an important role in improving people's health.

Angela Brown of physical therapy, Kimberli Stice of medical laboratory sciences and Angela Bobo of clinical nutrition were honored in April as recipients of UT Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School's annual Schermerhorn Scholarship Awards. Dr. Gordon Green, dean of the school, hosted an April 19 luncheon recognizing the three students' achievements.

The Schermerhorn Scholarship Award, named for Dr. John Schermerhorn, dean of the allied health school from 1971 to 1985, was established as a way to recognize allied health students who had excelled in the classroom and participated in extracurricular activities. The awards, worth \$250 each, were first given in 1987.

"Dr. and Mrs. Schermerhorn were instrumental in setting the foundation for the allied health school. We see this award as instrumental in setting a foundation for the future careers of these students," Dr. Green said. "Because the award honors not only academic accomplishment but also service to the community, we hope it sets an example for others."

Angela Brown

Having trained for years as a dancer, Brown suffered through a variety of injuries that led her to a string of physical therapists. "I'd sprain my ankle, be on crutches and a few days later be back on stage," Brown said. "I, like a lot of people, saw myself as kind of invincible. It took me a long time to figure out my anatomical limits."

Her own experience of pushing herself too hard too fast taught Brown the importance

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of linking the mind with the body. "I like to say that the body doesn't come with a manual, and we need to listen to what the body is telling us because it's the only body we'll ever have."

As president of her class, Brown, 23, is due to graduate in August 1996. She previously graduated from a performing arts school. She said the scholarship is a great honor but points out that all of her classmates are talented and dedicated.

Brown is active in the Texas Physical Therapy Association, helping with lobbying efforts in Austin, attempting to explain the profession's needs and goals to legislators. She expects to continue her professional activism after graduation. "I'm hooked now," she said. "I won't be able to just sit back and let things happen without having a say."

Dancing is still a big part of Brown's life, and she would someday like to operate a dance studio for disabled children, offering them a chance to show their creative side through a routine of physical therapy.

Kimberli Stice

Stice enjoys the investigative aspect of her field. Working in medical laboratory sciences, she examines blood samples for various diseases or traits. "It's like starting a new case each time," she said. "I never know what I'm going to get with each new sample I work with."

This enthusiasm for her subject matter, along with a strong work ethic, has helped make Stice a success as a student. Besides attending UT Southwestern, she also works part time at the Carter Blood Center and does volunteer work for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Fort Worth.

Stice, who said she's always been interested in science, viewed medical laboratory sciences as a logical first step into research. She earned her bachelor's degree in medical technology at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls and is considering working toward a master's degree in a biology-related area after graduating from UT Southwestern in

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August.

A native of Burkburnett, Stice said she plans to stay in the metroplex after finishing school. Besides the friends she's made since moving here, she said she's gained a great deal from her involvement with the local sickle cell association, which she assists in screening children for the sickle cell trait.

Stice, 24, is a member of the Association of Clinical Pathologists.

Angela Bobo

As individuals more actively seek ways to prevent illness instead of just looking for cures, nutrition is likely to become a bigger part of more people's lives. Bobo, who will graduate this August, is eager to have an impact.

"I believe that dietitians will be playing a larger and larger role in health care as more emphasis is placed on wellness and the way we eat," she said.

Bobo, a Hurst resident, said she is honored to receive a scholarship and values the education she's received at UT Southwestern. "I'm interested in going into clinical nutrition. I know I couldn't get the kind of experience that I've gotten at UT Southwestern's different medical facilities anywhere else."

Ultimately, Bobo said, she sees herself working at a dialysis center because of the profound impact diet can have on kidney disease. "With so many diets, you don't really see the results until years later," Bobo said. "With patients who are suffering from kidney disease, I could make a difference in their lives and see the effect right away."

Bobo, who is a graduate of Trinity High School in Euless, is a member of the allied health school's Student Affairs Committee and also is a member of the American Dietetic Association and the Texas Dietetic Association. Her husband, Michael, is a home builder.

The other award finalists, who also displayed outstanding scholastic, professional and community achievements, were: Kathleen Zeller, allied health education; Ginger Haswell, rehabilitation science; Katherine Evanson, physician assistant; and Ellen Bogacki,

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gerontology and geriatric services.

Faculty and administrators of the allied health school choose the scholarship winners. Seven undergraduate candidates and one graduate were considered. The grade point average for allied health courses represented 50 percent of the candidate's score, with contribution to school, profession and community accounting for another 30 percent. The student's GPA in other courses also was considered for 20 percent of the score.

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