

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENT

DALLAS — May 23, 1996 — In this 25th anniversary year of UT Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, the recipients of the school's annual Schermerhorn Scholarship Awards say they feel honored to play a part in a proud educational tradition.

"This experience has reminded me of the sense of history at the school," said Joseph Beckham, a medical laboratory sciences student and one of the three recipients of the 1996 award. Holly Gallegos from the physician assistant program and Lori Stubblefield from physical therapy also were selected.

Other finalists for the allied health school's top award were Glenys Phillips, clinical nutrition; Ron Coulter, allied health education; Ginger Haswell, rehabilitation science; Rich Jesteadt, prosthetics and orthotics; and Edith Minor, gerontology and geriatric services.

Dr. Gordon Green, dean of the school, hosted a luncheon in the A.W. Harris Faculty-Alumni Center to recognize the three students' achievements. The Schermerhorn Scholarship Awards, named for Dr. John Schermerhorn, dean of the allied health school from 1971 to 1985, recognize allied health students who have excelled in the classroom and participated in extracurricular activities. The awards, which include a \$250 check, were first given in 1987.

"This award is notable because it honors not only academic accomplishment but also service to the community," Green said. "We hope the dedication and commitment of these students sets an example for others."

JOSEPH BECKHAM

As Beckham explains, he always has been interested in science. He has just moved from plants to people.

Before starting at UT Southwestern, Beckham worked in horticulture and

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oversaw outdoor landscaping projects for a major luxury hotel chain.

"I enjoyed working with plants and being outdoors, but I made the decision that I wanted to be involved in health care in a major way. Medical laboratory science seemed like a good opportunity," he said.

A native of El Paso, Beckham will graduate next August. He plans to work in a hospital after completing his studies and may one day choose to continue his education.

"Medical laboratory sciences appealed to me because so much medical treatment begins with a test, and that's what I'll be doing," he said.

Beckham is president of his department's junior class and is active in recruiting students to the program. He also is chairman of the school's Student Affairs Committee and has worked hard to bridge the gap between medical and allied health students by helping to plan cooperative events. As though he doesn't run around enough for school, Beckham also runs on the weekends — in one or two 5-kilometer races a month.

HOLLY GALLEGOS

For her first few months in the physician assistant program, Gallegos found herself feeding her baby along with her mind.

With a new baby boy, Gallegos had to figure out clever ways to coordinate her mothering duties with her school responsibilities.

"I was adjusting to two new things at once," she said. "I did have to learn how to juggle."

But Gallegos, who grew up in Beaumont, said she knows she made the right decision in going forward with her medical training. She had earned a bachelor's degree in biology and for a time considered going to medical school.

"I wanted to have a family and decided medical school wouldn't be the right choice for me," she said. "As a physician assistant, I will be able to do a lot of what physicians do — work closely with patients — and have a relatively normal schedule."

The study load at UT Southwestern is heavy, but she credits her "support system" of family members with giving her the chance to succeed. Gallegos has been

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active with the Student Affairs Committee and helped organize this year's blood drive, which attracted four times as many donors as past efforts.

Gallegos wants to start her career in family practice but also is interested in obstetrics, pediatrics and surgery.

LORI STUBBLEFIELD

Stubblefield's drive to become a physical therapist is evident inside and outside the classroom.

"You could say I've become a professional driver," she said. Stubblefield is referring to the three-hour-long round-trip drive she makes each day from her grandparents' home in Little Elm.

Stubblefield said the drive is worth it because she enjoys living with her grandparents so much. In the same respect, all the hours spent studying and learning about physical therapy also are well worth it, she said.

"What I like best about physical therapy is that you get to work closely with people one-on-one for an extended time and see the progress," Stubblefield said. She can speak from personal experience. She was in therapy for six months after knee surgery in high school.

Stubblefield is lauded by UT Southwestern faculty members not only for her excellent grades but also for her caring manner toward patients. She finds it easy to get along with a wide variety of people, and that positive attitude has made her a leader among her classmates.

Stubblefield's career won't begin until after graduation next summer, but Stubblefield is facing another important "beginning" this August. She's getting married.

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