southwestern medical school - graduate school of biomedical sciences - school of allied health science

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*****Brenham native graduates as physicians' assistant

SPECIAL TO BRENHAM BANNER PRESS

DALLAS--Lennis Houston, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Houston, 807 Geney St., Brenham, will be one of 15 physicians' assistants to receive Bachelor of Science degrees from the School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS) here August 22.

SAHS, a component of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, has previously graduated two classes of physicians' assistants (PA's). This class brings the total number of graduates to 39.

PA's are trained to take over a number of routine tasks for the doctor, including taking medical histories, giving physical examinations, performing simple surgical procedures, applying and removing casts and bandages, administering drugs prescribed by the physicians and explaining diagnostic procedures to the patients. All duties are done under the supervision of a physician.

Between 90 and 100 PA's are now practicing in Texas, with 40 expected to graduate this summer.