

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## LEUTHER NAMED TOP SCIENCE GRADUATE AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS—July 22, 1993—What started as a trip to the United States to learn English blossomed into a career in science for 26-year-old Kerstin Leuther, a native of Frankfurt, Germany, and this year's winner of the Nominata award. This honor is annually bestowed on the top student graduating from Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Leuther came to the United States in 1986 as part of a student exchange program. She attended Jamestown College in Jamestown, N.D., and received a bachelor's degree in biology after only two years. She was accepted into the graduate school at Duke University Medical Center and went to work in the lab of Dr. Stephen Johnston, then an associate professor of biochemical engineering and botany. When Johnston relocated to UT Southwestern in early 1991, Leuther and other lab personnel followed.

"Kerstin is the hardest working graduate student I've ever seen," said Johnston, now an associate professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern. "She has done an amazing job of focusing her work, and she has golden hands in the lab. Kerstin gets things to work right away."

As proof of her ability to work swiftly, Johnston cited a paper Leuther published last year in *Science*. It took only two weeks for her to conceive the idea, conduct the experiment and submit the paper.

Her primary areas of research are molecular biology and genetics, specifically gene regulation in yeast cells. Leuther has accepted a post-doctoral position at Stanford.

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