

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS HONORED WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

DALLAS — April 21, 1997 — For the three students chosen this year to receive Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School's top award, returning to school meant a new opportunity to pursue longtime interests.

Kevin Wilson in the physician assistant program, Glenys Phillips in clinical nutrition and Paula Schall in medical laboratory sciences were presented with the Schermerhorn Scholarship Awards at a luncheon April 7. Named for Dr. John Schermerhorn, dean of the allied health school from 1971 to 1985, the scholarships recognize allied health students who have excelled in the classroom while taking a leading role in extracurricular activities. The awards, which include a \$250 check, were first given in 1987.

"These students should feel proud that they have been selected from among many worthy and talented classmates," said Dr. Gordon Green, dean of the allied health school, a component of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The scholarship winners came from a variety of backgrounds. Prior to entering UT Southwestern last spring, Wilson worked as an air ambulance pilot, primarily transferring patients in Mexico to hospitals in the Houston area. "As a pilot in that situation, I needed to coordinate a lot with the medical team to figure out altitude and other factors that could affect a patient's condition," he said.

Though he still enjoys flying, Wilson decided to change careers because he wanted a more stable profession and one in which he could work closely with people. Besides class and his work with patients, Wilson serves as class president and is a member of the Student Affairs Committee.

Wilson looks forward to graduating in August 1998, after which he hopes to have more time for his wife and 12-year-old daughter. "I'm enjoying learning new things, but I think I'll really enjoy being able to use what I've learned to help patients," he said.

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Phillips is a Canadian transplant who has had to trade in her affection for skiing for an interest in windsurfing and biking. Having moved from Alberta to Dallas three and a half years ago, she says her positive experiences at UT Southwestern have helped make the adjustment to Texas easier.

"I've been impressed time after time with the exceptional allied health programs and the ability of faculty members to keep up with what's current," she said.

Dietetics was a natural choice for Phillips when she decided to leave her previous career in computers. Suffering from several severe food allergies, she understands the challenge of figuring out what to eat to stay healthy. She is unable to consume foods containing dairy products, wheat or oats.

"It can make eating at a restaurant quite difficult," she said.

Phillips will graduate in May and intends to start her new career by working in a hospital. She eventually would like to move into private practice, counseling pregnant women and other individuals referred by their physicians.

Schall had an interest in blood banking for many years and even worked in a blood bank part time before deciding to attend the allied health school. When her youngest child went to school, she decided the time was right to plan for her future career.

"I think I've become a new kind of role model for my kids," she said. "They see me with homework, and they see how hard I work at school."

Through the medical laboratory sciences program, Schall has greatly expanded her knowledge of blood-bank technology and management systems.

"I've become very interested in quality-control issues recently," said Schall, who will graduate in August. She would eventually like to become an inspector, working with blood banks to ensure their blood supply is properly protected against potential hazards.

Schall also would like to continue volunteering at her children's school. "I've gotten great support from my children and my husband," she said.

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