

NEWS

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214)688-3404

May 30, 1979

Contact: Ann Williams
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/375-6043
Contact: Ann Harrell
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/369-2695

*****Dermatology duo: one twin graduates from medical school in Dallas, as her sister graduates in Galveston.

DALLAS--The Chapman family formula is now MD2. While graduation is the big event in many families these days, for the Norman Chapmans of Baton Rouge, La., the season includes a "twin bill."

Sara Chapman will receive her M.D. degree from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas June 2 one week after her identical twin, Julie, received hers from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Mr. & Mrs. Chapman also recently attended commencement in Bowling Green, Ohio, where their other daughter received her bachelor's degree in computer science and her husband, his master's in psychology.

Currently very excited about their children's accomplishments, the Chapmans have always encouraged their daughters to make their own choices. Revealing that the twins are identical in more than appearance, Mrs. Chapman says no matter whether they studied together or not, whether they were in the same school or in different schools, their grades have always come out with only a fraction of difference.

The twins graduated magna cum laude from The University of Texas at Austin, where both were elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In separate medical schools, both were elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, a national medical honor society. They split up for medical school because Sara liked the Dallas school better and Julie preferred Galveston. "Besides," says Sara, "it wouldn't be fair to a medical school to have two identical people in a class of 200."

The two also came to their choice of specialty independently--well, sort of independently. Sara decided first, then Julie tried to decide on something else. "At the last minute, Julie said, 'Dermatology is what I really want to do, even if you are doing it, too.' I really don't know whether it's in the genes," Sara laughed.

After graduation, Sara goes first to an internship in medicine at Bexar County Hospital in San Antonio for a year, followed by a three-year residency in dermatology at Parkland Memorial Hospital here. So the twins will just miss each other in Dallas. Julie begins her internship in medicine at Baylor University Medical Center here, and after one year goes to Baylor Medical Center in Houston for her dermatology residency.

They have no plans yet to go into practice together. The main disadvantage they've suffered in going to different schools is the tremendous telephone bills. If they don't get back together, "We may just have to consider getting a WATS line," says Sara.

##

DISTRIBUTION: A,SA,B,F,G