

# 1993 CAREERS

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The Portland Observer

## There's More To Medicine Than Science

"You don't have to be exceptional to become a doctor or major in science," says Terry Elaine Hicks-Woodbeck, a second-year medical student at the University of Arizona college of Medicine in Tucson. "You just have to want it."

Terry spent her early years in Buffalo, New York, went to high school in Michigan and spent her senior year in Arizona where her family settled when she was 16. "My mother tells me that as a little girl I wanted to be a doctor, but I knew this was reality the life for me when I spent the summer in a pre-med internship with several African-American physicians. They helped me understand what it means to be a doctor. Until then I hadn't much exposure to the real life of a doctor."

As Terry explains it, being a doctor isn't only fixing broken bones and sewing up cuts. The word doctor means "to teach" and most of being a doctor is teaching and talking to your patients about their health.

Sandwiched between an older and younger brother, Terry learned to hold her own early. "My brothers kept me on my toes and saw to it that I toed the line," she says. "I think we used to get on my parents' nerves, but we had the best times together."

Her parents stressed education, were always encouraging and Terry learned the value of family from them.

As a minority woman, says Terry, a lack of role models is a problem—especially in Arizona. "Being the only brown face in a classroom makes things even more stressful," she says. There is already pressure to do well, and with few minorities it sometimes "feels as though everyone is watching you." However, this year Terry is working with Dr. Pam Davis, an internist and faculty member at Arizona. Dr. Davis not only provides academic guidance, but emotional guidance as well. "Dr. Davis has shown me the value of keeping focused on school, but at the same time not losing track of who I am and the reasons I came to medical school. In short, she keeps me sane!"

As Terry talks about Dr. Davis the picture of a committed, sensitive and caring doctor emerges. "Her patients know that she cares and wants to do the best for them. She always finds time to answer questions, console a patient or



Terry Elaine Hicks-Woodbeck

teach a student." Terry also was fortunate to have a mentor in her early years. Dr. Winford Quick, a general practitioner and close family friend, spent time with her, describing the joys of medicine. "I remember one day when I had stitches in my hand and he took them out for me."

I was so impressed that he could do it right in his home! He always told me that I would make a great doctor. All I had to do was to do well in school and, most of all, want to help people."

When Terry gets that M.D. after her name, she wants to work with teenagers. "There are so many pressures during the teen years. I enjoy people and I'd like to help this special group and find some answers to make these years easier," she says. Terry also likes to cook, play games, travel and "act crazy" with her family and friends. "I like to laugh and make

others laugh." Her advice if you're interested in medicine? "There are lots of aspects to medicine. You don't have to be a genius to be a doctor, but you do have to be committed and disciplined," she says. "A good doctor is not one who gets perfect grades and knows all the facts, but one who also can talk to and care for patients. Yes, it's hard work, but the love of medicine keeps me going."

Note to readers: If you are interested in participating in a summer program to help prepare for medical school, contact your local college or university. There are a large number of summer programs across the country for high school, undergraduate and graduate minority students. Most programs run for six to eight weeks and scholarships, fellowships, awards and other forms of financial aid are available.

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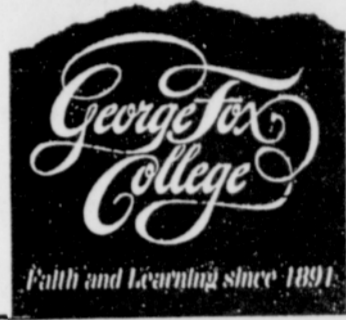
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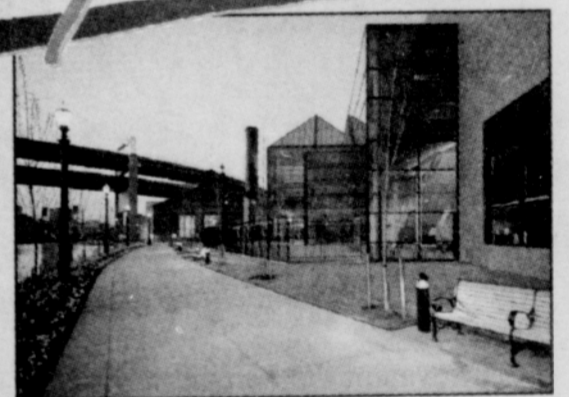
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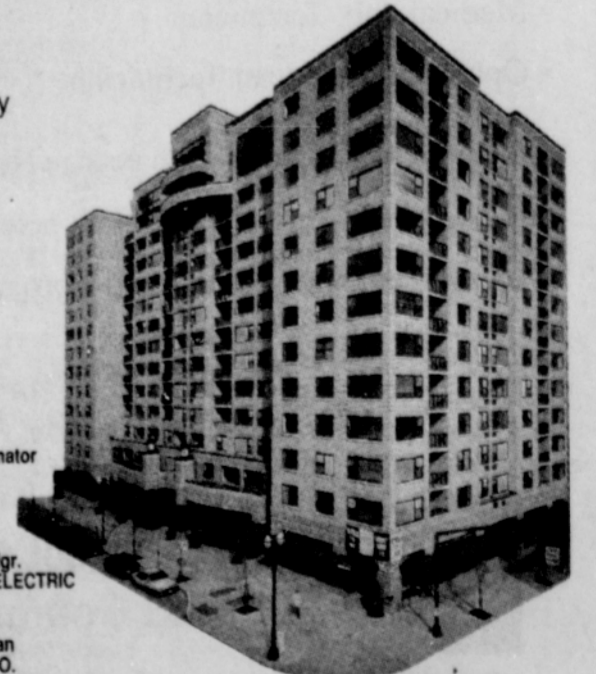


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