

LEVON VARTANIAN entered the Wilhelm Scholê at the age of three and remained through his twelfth year. When Levon applied for entrance to the **University of Texas Medical School** this is what he wrote:

"The spark of my education started in a private school called the Wilhelm Scholê, where I was taught the basic sciences, math, arts, history, and the cultures of the world at the age of four. Thus my education began from a curriculum which was drawn from the history of civilization. This atmosphere at such an early age exposed me to a learning environment that was not just educational, but enjoyable and exciting. This school taught my fellow students and me to share our knowledge with others in the form of science fairs, publishing Haiku poetry, art exhibits, musical performances, and by performing in Stravinsky's ballet "The Firebird". Grades were not that important, however, the joy and progress of learning were stressed instead. At the age of eight my interest in the medical sciences began after studying about medical pioneers such as William Harvey, Hippocrates, Galen, Vesalius, Semmelweiss, Koch, and other great physicians. For me, the key to becoming interested in the medical sciences began in learning about the lives of the individuals that made contributions to history and science. After learning about William Harvey and his work on the circulatory system, I was fortunate enough to see open heart surgery performed by Dr. Denton Cooley. Seeing this man give a new life to helpless individuals inspired me as I became fascinated with his surgical techniques. Since that day I set forth my goals and expanded my knowledge not just in the sciences, but in the social sciences and arts as well with the intention that I would be an outstanding surgeon someday.

While attending Baylor University, I enjoyed the learning experience that I obtained from my courses, but, above all, I think my involvement in campus and social activities such as Baylor E.M.S., Sigma Tau Gamma, fund raisers, and service projects have contributed to my values and maturity tremendously. By doing service projects with my fraternity in socially deprived neighborhoods and nursing homes, I have been exposed to many social problems and have enjoyed helping, advising and sharing my ideas and knowledge with these individuals while becoming their friend as I render aid to them by emergency medical support through E.M.S. or by counseling.

My ability to communicate with people has helped me to integrate myself with the sick, the poor, and the elderly while allowing me to show them compassion and understanding. I enjoy rendering aid to helpless individuals not to be recognized as a good Samaritan, but because it gives me a feeling of value, benefit, integrity, and happiness.

My motivation to learn and to help sick and traumatized individuals encouraged me to become an E.M.T. and thus I was able to save lives of automobile accident victims, cardiac patients, respiratory distressed and other trauma patients while fulfilling my academic requirements at Baylor. After my first C.P.R. experience in West Texas with West Ambulance Service, and the many encounters of primary patient care in the E.M.S. field, I realized that this year I was following my bliss and that my entire life would arise from it as long as I continue helping suffering people. This year in the E.M.S. field, I have learned to be a responsible individual with a professional attitude while learning how to excel in patient assessments. My motivation to learn and help others has encouraged me to continue asking questions, discover solutions, and to perfect techniques. Further, learning and sharing information with friends and colleagues allow me to remove myself from the competitiveness that exists in the university system and make my learning experience not just exciting, but beneficial to my classmates and me.

In conclusion, I believe my medical and academic background, communication skills, compassion, motivation to continue learning, and my integrity will no doubt prepare me for a future medical career. Throughout the last three years of my college life, I have developed both mentally and socially due to E.M.S., my fraternity, and my involvement in college activities. As a successful medical student, I believe that my knowledge will prepare me for my citizenship in this world and thus with this preparation I will contribute to humanity the best way that I can. By *always* doing my *best* and trusting myself, the present will become my future and my goal to becoming a surgeon will be achieved."

Levon Vartanian graduated from **University of Texas Medical School** May 1994 and is now in residence at the **University of Arkansas Medical School** in the Emergency Medical Department. He intends to specialize in Emergency Medicine.