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Inspired adversity



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

• Architect
student says
victory over
cancer help
him in his
graduate w

Now that his cancer is in
recession, Carl Lintner, an
architecture graduate student, is
visiting hospitals that are more
friendly for patients.

BY TRAVIS IRBY
The Battalion

Adversity can be a catalyst in
people's lives, forcing them
to take measure of their
strength. Carl Lintner faced incred-
ible adversity when he was diag-
nosed with testicular cancer, but he
drew strength from the experience.

Lintner, a graduate student in
architecture, is the holder of a fel-
lowship from the American Insti-
tute of Architecture and American
Hospital Association, one of only
three awarded each year.

The struggle with cancer,
helped give Lintner a patient's
perspective on the design of
health care facilities and a mis-
sion to improve them.

He will present his thesis, "The
Cancer Patient's Perspective on
Facilities Design" to an Academy
of Architecture for Health Confer-
ence in Pittsburgh, Pa. in October,
which is National Cancer Aware-
ness Month.

Lintner's health is fine now, but

not long ago, he spent most of his
time in hospitals instead of design-
ing them.

During Thanksgiving 1993,
Lintner started to experience back
pain. His visits to the doctor did
not uncover anything out of the ordi-
nary, even when flu-like symp-
toms followed.

During the winter break, the
pain became so intense he decided
to go back to the doctor.

Lintner passed out in the wait-
ing room and was taken to St.
Joseph's Hospital.

He stayed there for several days
before the doctors told him about
the cancer.

Lintner said the timing during
the holidays made a harrowing ex-
perience worse.

"It was a really emotional
Christmas," Lintner said. "I would
spend the holidays in the hospital."

Lintner went to Tyler in order
to seek treatment and to be close
to his family.

The testicular cancer had spread
throughout his body — into his

back, lungs and brain.

Lintner was in and out of
hospital from December
1994, undergoing a combi-
nation of surgery, chemotherapy
and radiation treatments.

In July 1994, the doctor
determined he was well
enough to stop treatment.

But in August, a checkup
revealed the cancer had re-
turned.

Lintner sought treat-
ment at M.D. Anderson, one of
the country's top cancer centers.
The treatment was intense.

"The treatment and
physical therapy was
intense," Lintner said.

Despite his ongoing
cancer, he completed his
thesis and earned a bachelor's
degree in architecture by
completing his courses through the mail
and the phone.

In Fall '95, Lintner
started graduate school at A&M.

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