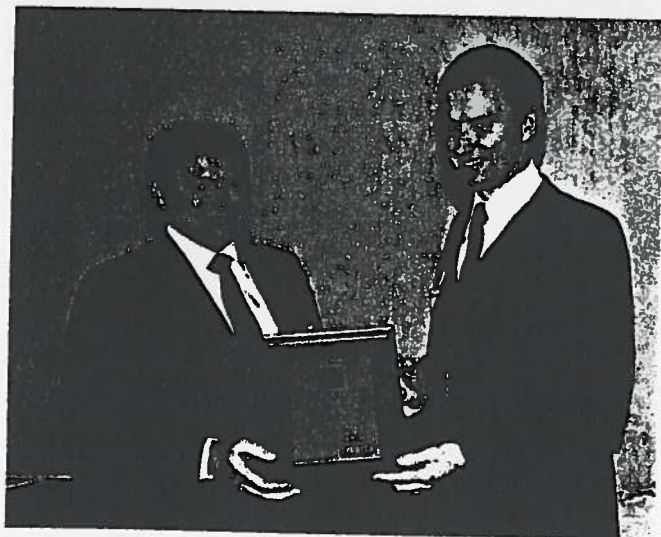


## 1982 Robert G. Dicus Award

**Ben Johnston** has been a physical therapist for 17 years, 16 of those in private practice. He has served as president, chief delegate, and treasurer of the Washington Chapter, APTA, president and treasurer of the Private Practice Section, in addition to serving on most of the Section's Committees. On the APTA national level, he has served 14 years in the house of delegates, on APTA's Finance Committee, task force on third-party payers, and the task force on physical therapists in school settings. Other professional activities include 6 years on the Washington State licensure board, treasurer and organizing committee for APT-CAC, president of the Pierce County American Cancer Society, and president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Educational activities include organizing the Rocabado Institute for teaching advanced TMJ techniques for therapists and dentists, organizing Practice Dynamics for teaching practice management, and serving as consultant for many practitioners entering private practice. His current research efforts include funding and organizing, through the Rocabado Institute, research projects to establish the relationship between occlusion and head and neck posture. Following are Johnston's acceptance remarks.



Good evening, my friends. To say to you tonight that I am overwhelmed with this honor or that I am speechless is, of course, an understatement.

I was informed three weeks ago and asked to prepare a statement that could be published in our publication, the *Whirlpool*. The deep emotion that I am experiencing has not wavered nor did the words and thoughts come with any ease during these weeks. The emotion is deepened with thoughts of predecessors and colleagues that I champion as recipients of this fine honor.

Those of you that know me remember that I use as few words as possible in a public forum. I believe that when you talk you cease to be at peace with your thoughts. Consequently my comments tonight will be brief; which will please us both.

I feel like the man who was digging in the earth for roots and found a treasure. Tonight you reward me for that which I thought was my obligation. To create an appropriate perspective, I must share this moment with a few individuals who have contributed significantly to my growth and character. My father—who taught me to work and gave me a work ethic that guaranteed success, eventually. My mother—who taught me loving and caring. My mentor and first professional partner who taught me the joy of living—is as Joseph Addison wrote:

To love, not to be loved  
To give, not to receive, and  
To serve, not to be served.

Application of these principles created the majority of my success in patient care and in the professional, business, and educational activities that exist in the periphery.

The Association, the Section, and you, my colleagues, and friends, provided a vehicle and an avenue on which to learn leadership, professionalism, techniques of business and to monitor the pulse of the profession.

Bob Dicus, in an article entitled, "Origins of the Section" wrote and I quote, "Our individual experiences were running several years ahead of our collective experiences." It is my observation that the same is true today.

The association with my colleagues allowed me to gather new ideas and techniques from them and to test mine in return. It allowed me to gain confidence in myself and in the profession.

It was selfish motives that brought me to this organization, and I learned quickly that the more involved I became, the more I learned, grew, and benefited.

It is you that should receive this award, because it is you that created the qualities which you honor in me tonight.

This is a magnificent profession we share. It has potential beyond our dreams. We as individuals will grow at a much faster pace than we will collectively. It

is extremely important that each member of the profession become involved in sharing so that the collective professional image is pulled along and remains close enough to individual realities to provide a pulse for the profession and cement for the avenue towards those dreams. Our predecessors made it easier for us because they were involved in sharing. We are easing the way for those to follow because we, too, are involved in sharing.

Our foundation will only remain solid if the sharing continues and intensifies. Individual members with unique qualities and members in unique practice settings have the opportunity to exercise a greater amount of freedom in their practice. These members have the freedom to accept the challenge to be the innovators of our profession, yet the freest among us often wear freedom as a yoke and a handcuff. The sharing process can greatly facilitate and balance the exercising of these freedoms.

Tonight I feel as though my teacher has given me an A+ for a final grade—yet it is only mid-term. You, each of you, are my teachers, and it is indeed only mid-term. I am very humbled by this honor, and it is only exceeded by the personal growth that you have provided for me. It is my hope that all that I have done and all that I have learned have prepared me for a greater contribution yet to come. □

## PARTING SHOTS

