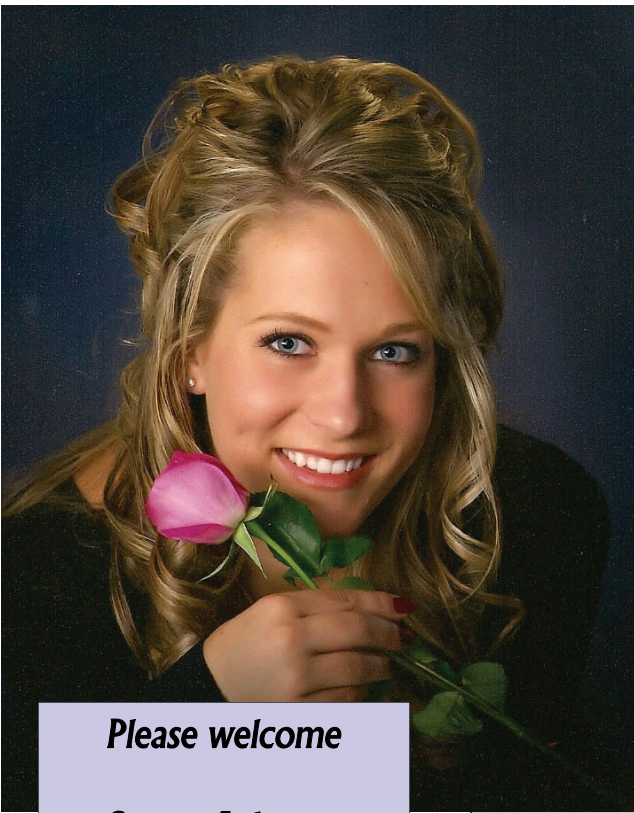


**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
TRUST Program
Targeted Rural
Underserved Track
Dillon, MT ~ Summer 2011**



Please welcome

Serena Johnson

~ ~

**1st Year
Medical
Student
University of
Washington School
of
Medicine**

Greetings Dillon!

My name is Serena Johnson and I am a recent graduate of Montana State University in Cell Biology & Neuroscience. I grew up in Chester, where my mom was an elementary school teacher and my dad managed the General Mills grain elevator. The summer before my freshman year of high school, I moved to Conrad, where I was very active in basketball, volleyball, track and tennis. I graduated as valedictorian, earning a scholarship to Montana State University. During my time at MSU, I worked 2-3 jobs to finance college and did volunteer work at Bridger clinic, assisting in providing health services to area residents who cannot afford treatment. During my time in Bozeman, I also earned my EMT-basic, pursuing this not only to further expose myself to the field of medicine, but also as a result of circumstances that happened with my own family...

While visiting my parents on spring break, my stepfather went into cardiac arrest. My girlfriends, my mother, and I performed CPR as best we could until the paramedics arrived and took over. After multiple defibrillations, multiple injections with epinephrine, and multiple rounds of CPR they found a pulse. When my stepfather awoke from his drug-induced coma speaking clearly and with the same personality I had grown to love we were amazed. The doctors told us how miraculous it was that brain damage had been avoided considering he was without a pulse for over thirty minutes. They praised us on our early response and said if we had not acted, the situation could have turned out differently. This experience brought to light the importance of medicine and I realized that there was no other profession that would offer such fulfillment.

During my physician shadowing experiences, I was able to view the patient-doctor relationship and the kind of personality and work ethic the medical field requires. The shadowing opportunities convinced me that becoming a rural primary care physician would be the perfect fit for me. I want to be a main advocate in the lives of my patients re. their health and a trusted source of information and encouragement. Plus, coming from Conrad and previously from Chester, I know I will be happiest serving in a rural community in Montana.

I am very thankful for this unique opportunity and look forward to meeting members of the community!

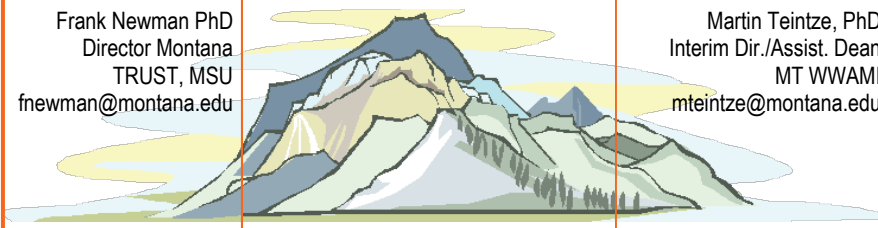
Sincerely, *Serena Johnson*



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