

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE TRUST Program
(Targeted Rural Underserved Track)
Lewistown, MT ~ Summer 2009**



**Please welcome
Abby Kelly
1st Year
Medical Student
University of
Washington School
of
Medicine**

Greetings Lewistown, MT.
My name is Abby Kelly and I grew up on a cattle ranch outside of Fort Benton. I spent my early years raising animals for 4-H and playing high school sports. I attended Montana State University, receiving a degree in Microbiology. During my time in Bozeman I was employed by REACH, a non-profit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities. For two years I worked in a residential setting at an intensive care home/transitional living home, spending weekends caring for the clients and going on outings. It was sometime here when my desire to care for people as a profession was piqued. This realization was magnified when I received an INBRE grant and began working in a research lab on campus studying streptococcus pyogenes for potential vaccine development. Although related to my microbiology degree and I found the whole research process to be thoroughly interesting, I couldn't help but notice the difference between lab work and people work. To complement my efforts in the lab I focused on finding more people-oriented projects including becoming an orientation leader for incoming freshman; a campus tour guide for prospective students; peer advisor for students with undeclared majors; and I was a member of the student health advisory committee, which allowed me to participate in interviews for physicians at the student health center. Summer breaks found me as a resident assistant for a summer camp targeting rural high school students interested in health careers (a camp that I attended when I was in high school and credit for setting the wheels in motion on my path to becoming a physician). Working for three years as a team member and organizer for Relay for Life was very satisfying, having lost a cousin, uncle and grandfather to cancer. During my senior year I had the opportunity to begin working at the Student Health Center as a lab assistant, which was a great experience and helped to solidify my desire to go into medicine. One of my greatest honors as a student was receiving the award of Septimviri which recognizes seven outstanding juniors, based upon extraordinary scholarship, leadership, and service to Montana State University, as well as the Ethelyn C. Harrison scholarship, awarded to a senior woman who exemplifies high standards and concern for others.

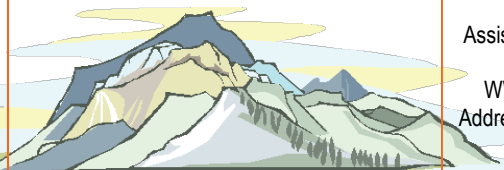
In the last year I have been working at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital in the inpatient pharmacy as a certified pharmacy technician. This job has allowed me to spend time in all areas of the hospital including the operating room stocking anesthesia carts and the cancer center mixing chemo. I spent time in Chester, which is 50 miles from my home town, shadowing Dr. Anna Earl which was a great rural medicine exposure. I am excited to experience something similar in Lewistown and am looking forward to my time in this community!

Abby Kelly, MT WWAMI Student E'09

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