

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



Please welcome entering '09 medical student Brooke Christiaens to the MT TRUST Program. She will be spending two weeks in July shadowing Dr. Snider at the Cooperative Health Center and will then head to MSU Bozeman for her first year of medical school. Brooke was born and raised in Great Falls, MT by her father, a cancer survivor, and her mother, a RN. Growing up, her activities included playing basketball, watching her brothers play hockey, and spending time with family at Flathead Lake.

Her undergraduate years were spent at Carroll College, where she majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry. In 2007/2008, she worked in the cytogenetic research lab of Dr. Gerald Shields and successfully published her work on the *Simulium arcticum* complex in two peer-reviewed journals, *The Western North American Naturalist* and *Zootaxa*. She culminated her research experience by completing an honors thesis. As a senior, Brooke was named Manion Scholar, an honor given to three outstanding students from the junior and senior classes based on their extraordinary achievements in academic performance, participation in science or health field activities, and citizenship to the college and surrounding community.

She has also dedicated a lot of time participating in community outreach programs targeted at children, including Big Brothers Big Sisters in both Great Falls and Helena. In addition, she helped organize Carroll's Up 'Til Dawn fundraiser, raising over \$30,000 for St. Jude's Children Research Hospital. Her last two summers were spent volunteering as a camp counselor at the American Cancer Society's Camp Goodtimes in Post Falls, ID and she looks forward to returning every year.

Brooke is a welcome addition to MSU's entering class of 2009 and we are delighted to have her on board for the MT TRUST program.

**Please welcome  
Brooke Christiaens**

~ ~  
**1st Year  
Medical  
Student**

**University of  
Washington School  
of  
Medicine**



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