Please welcome entering ‘08 student KayCee Gardner to the TRUST MT program (see next page). She will spend the next two weeks shadowing Dr. Bennett at the Lewistown Clinic and will then head to MSU Bozeman for her first year of medical school. Kaycee grew up on a ranch in rural Montana, about 45 miles from Broadus, the nearest town. Her first five years in school were spent in a one-room school house with four other students. Growing up, her activities included working on the family ranch and raising and selling 4-H animals. Her undergraduate years were spent at MSU Bozeman, where she studied Biochemistry. As a junior there, she was Septemviri recipient, given to the seven most outstanding upcoming seniors on campus, based on their extraordinary scholarship, leadership, and service. In 2006/2007 she interned with the Indian Health Service at the Lame Deer Clinic where she shadowed a doctor and nurse practitioner and then later assisted a family doc at the Family Practice Associates Clinic in Bozeman. She culminated this experience with a thesis paper comparing the two settings, with a focus on evaluating the prevalence of prescription drug abuse in each clinic. Her investment in community outreach has been incredible. She organized a fundraiser for St. Jude’s Hospital, raising over $15,000 for cancer research and patient treatment. This lead to her volunteering to become the Team Development Director for MT State University’s Relay for Life. Her community involvement continues with her work with Eagle Mount, an organization that provides therapeutic recreational activities for people of all ages with disabilities and children with cancer. KayCee is a welcome addition to MSU’s entering class of 2008 and we are delighted to have her on board for the inauguration of the TRUST MT program.
The Montana WWAMI program is pleased to introduce the Montana TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) program which started this summer with a pilot group of three students. The goal of Montana TRUST is to increase the number of Montana WWAMI students choosing a primary care specialty or other needed specialty and returning to practice in the rural and urban underserved areas of Montana. A cohort of five students will be selected this coming year with a targeted admissions process that will choose Montana students likely to practice in a rural or urban undeserved practice.

The program will use existing programs, as well as, new programs to create a continuum that selects, educates and supports Montana students with an interest in rural or urban underserved medicine. Students will be matched with a rural or urban underserved mentor at the time of admission. They will complete a 2 week pre-matriculation experience at the practice and participate in weekend experiences with the mentor during that first year. Between first and second year the students will spend a month with the mentor continuing the continuity experience. Students will have the opportunity in the third year to be placed in the Billings or Missoula TRACKS or participate in the WRITE program a 5 month rural continuity experience in Montana. Grants have been submitted to support the program and use of some of the funds will support student travel to regional and national meetings of interest to rural or underserved medicine. Students will participate in the Underserved Pathway at the UWSOM as well as an online journal club and monthly lectures of interest. The TRUST program will mentor students as they choose a specialty and residency.

The Montana TRUST website has further details on the program.

http://www.montana.edu/wwwwami/TRUST.pdf