Please welcome Timothy Hatlen who is entering the first year of medical school this fall at the Washington State University-Spokane campus. Timothy is among a select group of students who are entering the Washington TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) in its inaugural year. He will spend time with Drs. Castrodale & Chaffee at Coulee Medical Center in August and for select periods of his first year of medical school.

Timothy grew up in Sammamish (a short distance east of Seattle) and graduated from University of Washington this spring with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication. Watching his mother’s role as public health nurse and spending three years working in the Neurological Research Department of Children’s Hospital during college influenced Timothy to enter medical school and enter a specialty in primary care. He is looking forward to observing practice in a rural community.

Timothy is close to his older sister, Anne and stays in close contact with family in Western Washington. An avid soccer player, Timothy has interest in many sports as well as camping and hiking. He has recently taken up fishing and is hoping to increase his skill level while in Eastern Washington.

Timothy is a welcome addition to WSU-Spokane’s entering class of 2009 and we are delighted to have him on board for the inauguration of the WA TRUST program.
The University of Washington School of Medicine is pleased to announce the TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) program which started this summer with a pilot group of two students. The goal of Washington’s TRUST is to increase the number of Washington’s WWAMI (Washington-Wyoming-Alaska-Montana-Idaho) medical students choosing a primary care specialty or other needed specialty and returning to practice in the rural underserved areas of Washington. A cohort of five students will be selected this coming year with a targeted admissions process that will choose Washington students likely to practice in a rural underserved practice.

The program will use existing programs as well as new programs to create a continuum that selects, educates and supports Washington students with an interest in rural underserved medicine. Students will be matched with a rural underserved mentor at the time of admission. They will complete a 1—2 week observation experience at a rural practice and participate in weekend experiences throughout the first year. Between first and second year the students will spend a month with a rural practice adding to the continuity experience with patients. Students will have the opportunity in the third year to be placed in the WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) program (a five-month rural continuity experience). Students will participate in the Underserved Pathway at the University of Washington School of Medicine as well as an online journal club and monthly lectures of interest. The TRUST program will mentor students throughout medical school and assist in the selection of a choice of specialty and residency program.