

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE TRUST Program
(Targeted Rural Underserved Track)
Heart Butte, MT ~ Summer 2010**



***Please welcome
Vanessa Maycumber***

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

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Greetings! My name is Vanessa Maycumber, and as a MT WWAMI TRUST student, I look forward to spending two weeks in July and August shadowing Dr. DesRosier in Browning, before starting my first year of medical school at MSU Bozeman. I was born and raised in the vicinity of Kalispell. As a child, I was very fond of music and took up the clarinet in 6th grade. This became my primary pastime throughout high school and college. In the outdoors, I enjoy swimming and biking, and have spent many summers as a volunteer or counselor at Big Sky Bible Camp in Bigfork. During high school, I also competed in speech and debate and participated in Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). As a HOSA member, I held state offices, competed at national conferences, spoke at the Governor's Healthcare Summit, and was awarded with the National HOSA Scholarship. I was also offered a National Merit Scholarship and a full-ride scholarship to Wheaton College in Illinois as a QuestBridge scholar.

At Wheaton College, a small Christian liberal arts school near Chicago, I majored in psychology and minored in French. Part of my minor was spent in Quebec, where I enjoyed hiking up Mont St. Anne and learning the French Canadian dialect. As a psychology major, I spent the summer of 2009 at Kansas State University with Dr. Palmatier studying the mechanisms of nicotine addiction in rat models. Additionally, while in Illinois, my homesickness for Montana compelled me to go on a number of camping trips, so as a junior I spent my spring break taking a backpacking course in weather that dipped down to -10° F.

I entered college considering both international health and neurology as possible career pathways, but as I gained experience with underserved inner-city and suburban populations at La Rabida Children's Hospital, clinics for the uninsured, and tutoring programs for refugees through World Relief, I was drawn to the role of a primary care provider for underserved US populations. In the course of my undergraduate career, I wrote papers on depression and substance abuse treatments in American Indian populations, took courses in psychopharmacology and addictions, shadowed a family physician in Kalispell, and spent my last spring break of college volunteering at a residential rehabilitation facility in rural New Hampshire. Before coming to Browning this summer, I will spend five weeks taking my first medical school class in histology at the University of Washington as part of the Prematriculation program. My current aspirations are to work as a family physician either at a rural CHC or on an American Indian reservation in Montana.



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