

# WWAMI Student Profiles

In the summer edition of Wyoming Medicine Magazine, we take the time to profile Wyoming students who are in their first year of the WWAMI program. This year we asked them the following questions:

## Wyoming Medicine Questions

1. What is the name of your undergraduate institution and what was your major?
2. What has been the highlight of med school thus far?
3. What area of practice are you considering and why?
4. What areas of the country would you like to practice in and why?
5. What do you like about the WWAMI program?
6. What brought you to Medicine?

### Tappy Gish Laramie, WY

1. University of Wyoming; Physiology major, Anthropology minor.
2. The highlight of medical school thus far has been the wonderful experiences that I have been given through working with my preceptors. I have found that active learning through being in the clinic and actually getting to work with patients substantially helps to solidify the material we learn in class.
3. While I am by no means set on anything in particular, I have always enjoyed the doctor-patient relationships and continuity of care involved in Family Practice. However, recently I have discovered through working in the oncology department, a new-found interest in hematology/oncology as well as radiation oncology; therefore, my doors to opportunity remain open.
4. I grew up on a ranch here in Wyoming, and have a fond appreciation for the state and all that it has provided for me and my family. I know that I want to start a life in a place that has ample outdoor opportunities, with an often “simpler” style of living; therefore, I plan on returning to the state to practice, to start a family, and to fully enjoy the natural beauties of this land I call home.
5. This might relate right back to the “highlight of medical school” portion however, I cannot stress enough how much I appreciate the recent change in curriculum to include more clinical work within the first and second year. I also love our class, and how close we have become as a group - supporting each other, and genuinely caring about each of our successes. It is a wonderful program, and I am truly blessed to be apart of a fellow group of students, teachers, and faculty/staff that are so considerate, understanding and compassionate about what they do.
6. I have always been drawn to science and medicine; however it began more in the veterinary realm. Being on the ranch; medicine, life, and death was just part of what you did. My transition from veterinary medicine to human medicine vastly occurred on an anthropological and health analysis field school in Tanzania, Africa. Working in the hospital and helping to provide outreach clinics fueled my love for each day, and I knew I had found something special. I returned home to the states and began to pursue medical school and gain further experience. Having the opportunity to be employed as a medical scribe at CRMC Emergency Department, and then as an MA/Scribe for Urgent Care/Stitches in Laramie, were the best experiences I could ask for as a premedical student. These gave me the basic science and understanding of US Health Care Systems to have a balanced realization of the field I was pursuing.

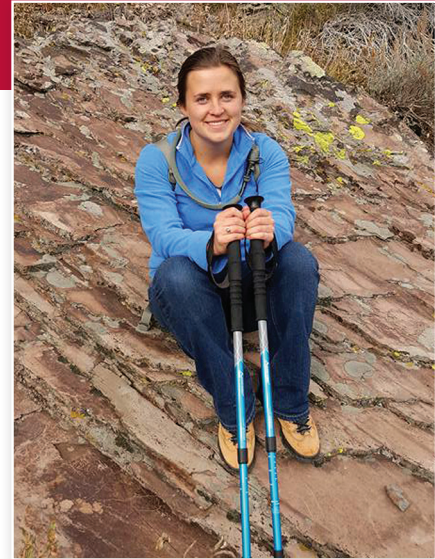




## Amanda Kinley

Wilson, WY

1. University of Wyoming; Major in Microbiology, Minor in Music.
2. Our NOLS wilderness first responder course at the beginning of the school year certainly started things out on a high note. Since then, hands-on learning continues to be the highlight of my education both in the clinic and in the classroom.
3. Pediatrics is the field I have considered the most, but I am open to any field at this point in time. There is still so much to learn before I can have a solid answer, but I definitely have the energy and patience for pediatrics.
4. I really love all of the states in the WWAMI region and I look forward to coming back to Wyoming after exploring some other areas during my clinical education. Wyoming has small towns and access to all of the outdoor activities I love, not to mention it is my home.
5. The clinical experience we gain right away is invaluable. There is nothing that solidifies a concept in my mind more than seeing it first hand. It is so exciting when I encounter things we have learned in class at my preceptor's office or the hospital.
6. My initial interest in medicine came from various personal and family experiences on the patient side of medicine. Later on I discovered that medicine would definitely be the most fulfilling career path I could choose. It incorporates my interests in science, being a perpetual student as well as teacher, and making a difference in the lives of others.



## Alexandra Gobble

Casper, WY

1. New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology/Materials Engineering with a concentration in Biomaterials Engineering and a minor in Biology
2. The preceptorships have been the highlight of medical school. I love being in a clinic and interacting with patients. Our preceptors have been so amazing and helpful with learning clinical skills.
3. I've been thinking some sort of surgical specialty. I love working with my hands and making things, and think I can find a good fit there. But I am open to everything at this point.
4. I don't think I could ever stray too far away from the mountains, but I haven't picked a specific town yet.
5. From my experiences so far I can say that I like our smaller Wyoming class, we're so connected with the Wyoming community, and that we get to have so many meaningful clinical experiences so early in school. I also look forward to being able to experience what all of the WWAMI states have to offer during clerkships.
6. I've always wanted to have a job where I make others' lives better. I love medicine for this because you get to directly work with people and you can be involved with other research and exciting new technology.

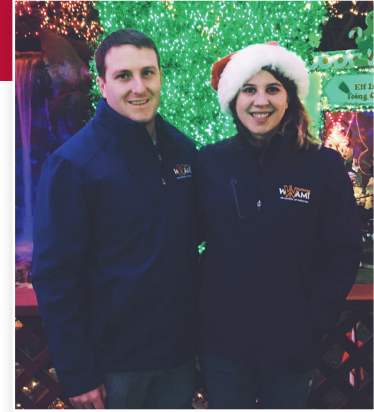


# WWAMI Student Profiles

## Brittany Christensen

Powell, WY

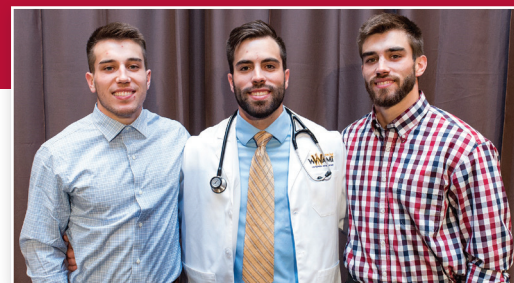
1. University of Oklahoma, European History.
2. The highlight of medical school so far has been, for me, getting the chance to interview and practice our physical exam skills with real patients. It is especially exciting as the year goes on and we learn more, as I am able to understand more and more of what is going on with patients and why the physician chooses to treat them the way they do.
3. I am considering both Internal Medicine and Radiology at the moment, though it seems I change my mind every day. I am interested in Internal Medicine because I like the idea of getting to see the same patients year after year and build a relationship with them, and I like Radiology because I find the imaging and associated technology fascinating also I have really enjoyed the opportunities we have had to read different imaging sets.
4. I hope to practice in the Rocky Mountains because I enjoy spending time outdoors, and I love the mountains! While I enjoyed my time in undergrad in Oklahoma, it definitely feels good to be back in a mountainous region where I can participate in outdoor recreation activities.
5. My favorite part about the WWAMI program is that we get a lot of one on one time with physicians. Not only do we get more hands on experience this way, but we get to form a closer relationship with the physicians.
6. I decided that I wanted to study medicine in college, after realizing that I wasn't as interested in engineering as I had initially thought. I wanted to study biology and physiology but also be able to work with and help people, so medicine seemed like a great fit.



## Caleb Rivera

Cody, WY

1. University of Wyoming, Physiology.
2. The highlight of medical school thus far has been gaining experience in the clinic as well as getting to know my classmates, professors, physicians, and everyone that pours their hearts into the WWAMI program
3. I am currently interested in gastroenterology and radiology, but I am excited to gain experience in a variety of specialties during our third and fourth year rotations. Gastroenterology is intriguing to me because I love nutrition and am interested in how the digestive tract absorbs specific nutrients to fuel the body and heal pathologies.
4. I would love to practice in Wyoming because the people of Wyoming have molded me into the person I am today and I want to give back to the communities that have given so much to me.
5. I love the small class size as well as the early clinical exposure.
6. I want to pursue medicine because I have a passion for serving others and I can't wait to collaborate with patients in their pursuit of overall health. I also love the teamwork aspect of medicine and I believe medicine gives me a unique opportunity to build meaningful relationships with people and positively impact their lives.





## Kevin Muller

Evanston, WY

1. BYU-Idaho, Chemistry Major
2. The highlight so far has been experiences with my primary care preceptors. The small opportunities to encounter and interview patients have helped make the basic science coursework feel more real as I see the clinical manifestations of different diseases and disorders right in front of me. Also, it has given me chances to connect with patients.
3. I am not sure yet. I have thought most about general surgery, but I am also currently considering family practice or pediatrics. Either way, I want to practice in something that will allow me to be away from an urban setting. I want to have a wide scope of practice with ample opportunities for further development.
4. I would like to practice in Wyoming nearly all my family is here. If that did not work out somehow, I would like to be in the rural northwest.
5. I enjoy the small classroom environment, where I can be familiar with each of my classmates. I appreciate that physicians practicing in the area have given up their time to teach us. Their practical perspective really enhances the learning.
6. At first I thought I would be a pharmacist. After starting in chemistry, I thought I would become a chemist. I came to the realization that I did not want to work in a lab the rest of my life. I wanted to work with people, and Medicine seemed to give me that chance.



## Shaye Lanouette

Casper, WY

1. University of Wyoming, Biology major with minors in Spanish and Chemistry
2. The highlight for me has been precepting with many different physicians in Laramie and Cheyenne. I am so grateful that the best doctors we have are giving their time to teach us and it makes the material in class more relevant.
3. I am mostly interested in surgery or specialties that include some surgical procedures like OB/GYN. Working as a surgical tech after undergrad confirmed my love of the operating room and the constantly changing and challenging career it provides. I like the balance between patient care and the direct, technical approach to fixing a problem.
4. I enjoy living in the mountain west and expect to return. I love the outdoor sports available all year round and the friendly atmosphere here in Wyoming.
5. I like that the program employs some of the best regional instructors and faculty who are truly dedicated to our success. It is also great how intimate the learning experience is with only 20 students and the close friendships I have gained.
6. I became interested in medicine from the experiences I've had on both sides of the doctor- patient relationship. I have been specifically moved by seeing how dedicated my mentors are in caring for patients, and seeing how crucial that interaction is as the patient or family of a patient.



# WWAMI Student Profiles

## Olivia Rogers Powell, Wyoming

1. University of Wyoming, Psychology.
2. There have been many highlights of medical school thus far, including clinical experiences, NOLS training, and the incredible friendships I am building with my classmates.
3. I am undecided about the field of medicine that I would like to go into. Everything is so interesting, and I am keeping my mind open to many fields at this point.
4. As far as where I would like to live, I am open to many places, with Wyoming being very high on the list. There are so many beautiful places in Wyoming, and the people here are great!
5. The WWAMI program is an incredible opportunity for medical students. Our revised curriculum from the University of Washington allows us have valuable hands on experience with patients from day one. Through our clinical mornings we practice valuable skills such as physical examinations, interviewing techniques, and decision making.
6. My journey into medicine began at a young age. Many of my family members are involved in healthcare, which initially sparked my interest. The more I explored medicine throughout high school and college, the more my passion grew. I have to say, I could not be happier with my decision.



## Megan Olson Cheyenne, WY

1. University of Wyoming, Physiology.
2. Without a doubt, the highlight of medical school thus far has been my preceptorship experience. Working with physicians one-on-one and seeing patients in the clinic serves as a frequent reminder of why I want to be a doctor. It is also a wonderful opportunity to improve my clinical skills and gain hands-on experience.
3. Currently, I am interested in Family Medicine and Internal Medicine. I enjoy the long-term relationships that the physicians in these specialties build with their patients. These specialties would also allow me to satisfy my wide range of clinical interests.
4. After completing my training, I want to return to Wyoming to be close to my family. Additionally, after taking a class in rural healthcare, I am interested in serving patients in rural communities.
5. One of my favorite aspects of the WWAMI Program is the wide range of clinical experiences we have in our first year. I also enjoy the supportive atmosphere and comradery that comes with the small class size.
6. Many of my family members work in the medical field, so I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be a doctor. I never imagined myself doing anything else.





## Jaryd Unangst

Casper, WY

1. Casper College - A.S. Pre-medicine, University of Wyoming- B.S. Biology, Minor in International Studies
2. The highlight for me so far has been the opportunity to work in the community with our preceptor physicians. Being able to see patients as a first-year student and assist with procedures has simultaneously been exhilarating and a challenge. This tutelage provides the opportunity to build my skills working with patients and fortifies knowledge gained in class from diagnosis to treatment.
3. I am really drawn to emergency medicine and some of the surgical disciplines at this point because I very much enjoy variety and the challenge of high pressure situations. I also want to have a balance of medical decision making knowledge and procedural skill and these fields currently represent that to me.
4. The biggest thing for me is access to outdoor spaces. I have always been an avid outdoorsman, enjoying activities from hunting to backpacking to mountaineering in my free time. The Rocky Mountain region represents the nexus of these hobbies with an abundance of public land covering varied terrain and thus is my preferred area of practice.
5. I have really enjoyed having the small class size along with the close relationships with faculty and community practitioners. Experiencing the rigors of medical school as such a small group has really brought us closer as individuals and created a united, rather than fractured or competitive, group. The same holds true with faculty and practitioners. We receive a world class medical education while still forming close relationships with our instructors and community physicians.
6. The biggest factor for me was to use my passion for education to improve the lives of individuals and the health of our population to the extent that I am capable. I have been exceedingly fortunate in the opportunities I have been granted and feel the best way to repay this debt is to pursue a profession that allows me to continuously learn while bettering the lives of others. Medicine is the epitome of this ideal to me.



## Dan Nicholls

Lovell, WY

1. University of Wyoming, Degrees in Biology and Zoo/Physiology.
2. NOLS trip to Lander.
3. Undecided - There are too many interesting fields to choose from.
4. Wyoming - of course.
5. The ability to attend one of the best medical schools in the nation while also staying close to home.
6. My wife, who is nurse, encouraged me to go to PA school after my undergrad, then gave permission to go to Med School when I decided I wanted to further my education.



# WWAMI Student Profiles

## JayCee Mikesell

Green River, WY

1. University of Wyoming, Bachelors in Physiology and Colorado State University, Masters in Biomedical Sciences, Concentration in Neurobiology.
2. The highlight of medical school so far has been the clinical exposure. We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful practitioners in our community who have volunteered their time to teach us. I have also valued the friendships I have created with my fellow classmates, and have been overjoyed to see us all succeed in our first year of medical school.
3. I have always been interested in women's health and pregnancy. I would like to practice in a specialty where I am able to form longitudinal relationships with my patients, while also getting to perform some procedures and surgery. Obstetrics and Gynecology encompasses all of that. Nonetheless, I am keeping my mind open and am looking forward to clinical rotations where I can see what other specialties offer.
4. I am planning on coming back to Wyoming to practice. I love Wyoming and all the opportunities it offers to its residents. I feel it would be a great place to have a career as a physician and raise a family.
5. The WWAMI program offers students a unique opportunity to have early clinical exposure. We get to be in the clinic and the hospital at least once a week, whereas many other medical students won't get to do this until later on in their medical education.
6. Our health has such a large impact in our quality of life and overall well-being. It is for this reason that I chose to pursue a career as a physician. By improving patients' health I will be able to directly improve their quality of life. This to me is one of the most gratifying things I can strive to do in my life.



## Laurel Green

Casper, WY

1. University of Wyoming - Physiology; Minors in Statistics and Neuroscience.
2. My favorite moment of medical school thus far was witnessing my first labor and delivery.
3. I am very interested in pediatrics and subspecialties including pediatric endocrinology or cardiology.
4. My dream would be to return to one of the many scenic towns in Wyoming and staying close to family.
5. The ability to stay in Wyoming for my first year of medical school has been a gift with the amazing support I have enjoyed from my family. I am also grateful for the incredible friendships I have made in our class.
6. I became interested in medicine after being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11. Living with this chronic disease provides the opportunity to educate patients both from personal and professional experience.





## Teal Jenkins

Laramie, WY

1. B.S. in Physiology with a minor in Statistics from the University of Wyoming, Fall 2014.
2. The highlight of medical school thus far has been the integration of our classwork with clinical practice. In undergrad, you learn about many disease processes but rarely apply this knowledge to real patients. It has been exciting and beneficial to learn about abnormalities in class, and then be able to interact with patients who have these disorders with our preceptors.
3. I am still open to many specialties. I very much enjoyed working in the ER my first semester but am also considering anesthesiology.
4. I enjoy the small population and easy access to the outdoors that Laramie provides. However, I don't particularly care for such cold weather nor the snow. I hope to practice somewhere that experiences warmer weather.
5. My classmates are my favorite part of the WWAMI program. Spending so much time with a small group of people has made our cohort a tight-knit group of friends. Each of us brings different experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives that enhance our group and our learning.
6. I chose a career in medicine because I am fascinated by the human body and have always enjoyed learning. I feel that medical school is one of the most in-depth educations one can receive. I have also come to appreciate those individuals who give back to their community and would very much like to be someone who does so as well.



## Glen Clinton

Cody, Wyoming

1. Chadron State College, Human Biology.
2. My preceptorship in the ER at Cheyenne Regional has been some of the most fun I've had during school. I feel like I am already making a positive impact on patient lives, which is exactly why I fell in love with medicine in the first place.
3. I am very interested in Emergency and Internal medicine. I like seeing patients first, investigating what is wrong, and having the tools to fix what is going wrong.
4. I absolutely want to practice in Wyoming. I think it is the perfect place to raise a family and integrate into a smaller community as a physician.
5. We are a small class of 20, and I truly believe that is an ideal environment for learning and forming relationships with one another.
6. I grew up in a family that was bombarded with medical issues, which exposed me to the good and the bad of medicine. I love the science, and I'm unbelievably humbled and excited to serve my future community as a physician.





## WWAMI Student Profiles

### Peter Wilcox

Riverton, WY

1. University of Wyoming; Kinesiology and Health Promotion, Physiology.
2. I'm amazed at how much we're capable of learning in such a short period of time; it's incredible to see how far our academic knowledge and clinical skills have come in less than a year. I've also really appreciated the ample opportunity we get to meet and interact with patients. Creating a clinical picture of our academic material is really helpful in fostering understanding and long-term recall, so it's a huge help.
3. I'm interested in pursuing internal medicine for a few reasons. The broad focus of the discipline would give me the opportunity to interact with adult patients with any variety of disease, I enjoy pathophysiology and pharmacology, and I would also have the chance to narrow my specialty in the future if I desire.
4. I love the Mountain West. I've had the chance to live in places as different as North Dakota, Texas, California, and Hawaii, and yet, I've never lived anywhere that I enjoy the people and the outdoor recreation as much as I do in Wyoming.
5. The WWAMI program provides us with ample opportunity to take histories, perform physicals, produce documents, and deliver oral case presentations on patients in both hospital and outpatient settings during our first year. That's something unique to the University of Washington that students at other medical schools don't get, and I really believe this early exposure will reflect in our clinical competency later down the road.
6. A career as a physician aligns perfectly with my interests in science and disease, my passions in educating and learning from other people, and also my desire to serve as a leader in my community. I've wanted to be a healthcare provider for as long as I can remember, and I'm both thankful and excited every day that I have the opportunity to study medicine.



### Chris Ellbogen

Casper, WY

1. University of Wyoming, Bachelor of Science in Physiology with a minor in History and completion of the Honors Program.
2. So far the highlight of medical school has been precepting in the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center emergency room.
3. I'd like to specialize in Radiation Oncology.
4. I'd like to practice wherever I can find a job. Hopefully in Wyoming, but if not I would like to work somewhere in the Pacific Northwest or Mountain West.
5. I like that our class is so small. We get great individual attention from our faculty and instructors.
6. My interest in medicine stems from wanting a career that focuses in helping others, while still incorporating science and technology.





## Aaron Spurlock

Lander, WY

1. University of Wyoming with degrees in Chemistry and Math.
2. So far in my medical education, I have most enjoyed practical experiences. I have been given opportunities to work with wonderful physicians in family practice, emergency medicine, in a hospital setting, and in orthopedics.
3. It's too difficult to narrow down what I want to practice down the road. So far, I've been interested in family medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, immunology, nephrology, and cardiology. In short, almost everything we've studied so far.
4. I certainly want to practice medicine in the West, and I'm currently leaning towards a small city or large town. I like the atmosphere of most towns I've been in of that size range, and I like the access to the outdoors. I've also liked the rapport that I've seen between physicians and patients in smaller communities. I am so impressed with the administrators, professors, clinicians, and other program staff who devote their time and energy to create such a supportive learning environment here in Laramie. The WWAMI program is extraordinary in the sense it provides an affordable education with excellent opportunities to learn a combination of rural and urban medicine.
5. I like the WWAMI program because of the opportunities it's been giving me to practice the clinical side of medicine, instead of only working on our basic sciences for the first year. I like how involved we've become with the community of physicians around us, and how willing they are to help teach along the way.
6. I always debated whether to go into teaching (science/math) or medicine. Each of them appeal to me for the opportunity to help others, as well as the challenge. I've always wanted to go this direction because of my love for science and the chance to have a positive influence on people's lives. My decision was made when I realized that after I'm established in my practice, I'd like to teach medicine as well.



## Brittney Goeken

Cheyenne, Wyoming

1. University of Wyoming, Psychology.
2. I've really enjoyed getting to spend time in the clinic with my preceptor.
3. Anywhere in pediatrics, because I really enjoy working with kids and have shadowed multiple pediatricians and I love it.
4. I would really like to practice in Wyoming. I've lived overseas and visited lots of places in the US, but Wyoming has always been home. I enjoy the mountains and I want to be close to family.
5. I really like knowing all of my classmates and getting to have clinical experience early on in my education.
6. I've had a lot of family members with health problems, so I was around hospitals quite a bit when I was younger. I want to be able to help others going through similar problems.

