

HANNAH DISINGER 2015

The Making of a Superhero



Photo by Brett Groehler, University of Minnesota Duluth

Hannah Disinger 2015 recently completed her second year of medical school.



A fall landed alumna Hannah Disinger 2015 into her future career. It's true; a fall off her bicycle took Disinger to the emergency room for stitches on her chin and introduced her to the work of doctors and nurses who adeptly handled her situation. "They seemed like superheroes to me and I knew that I wanted to grow up and be someone's superhero," she remembers.

One of the first to enter school to become a medical doctor from the Crookston campus, Disinger is breaking new ground. "I knew I wanted to stay in Minnesota and I love Duluth," she says. "When I received my offer from the University of Minnesota Duluth, I accepted without hesitation." She recently finished her second year of medical school there.

Disinger came to the University of Minnesota Crookston in part because of a scholarship and because she met with Associate Professor Brian Dingmann and he sold what the Crookston campus had to offer. "My college career took

off when I was a post-secondary enrollment student (PSEO) attending classes on the Morris campus,” she explains. “So, in turn, when I started at the University of Minnesota Crookston, I jumped right into the upper level sciences like organic chemistry and cell biology. I love anything about the human body and especially the intricate details of the cells.”

She took advantage to study abroad twice, once to do an internship at the Brain and Mind Research Institute at the University of Sydney in Australia, where she was involved with psychology research for 2 ½ months. The other time she traveled with Brian and Melissa Dingmann to be part of the Global Leadership Summit in New Zealand.

“I really felt like as my advisor, Brian cared about me and about what I wanted to do,” Disinger says. “He was the reason I came to Crookston and one of the reasons I stayed.”

Her mom, a licensed practical nurse, and stepdad, a lab and x-ray director, served as role models for Disinger growing up. The path ahead for her includes practice in a clinical setting and a residency of three years to specialize in her area of passion—emergency medicine.

“I am drawn toward emergency medicine

because I like helping and I want to be that contact for people in times of challenge,” Disinger says.

“Struggling through medical school is me living my dream,” she continues. “I feel alive when I work with people and I know I am making a difference.”

Part of her medical training includes working with her preceptor who is in Willmar, Minn., which is where Disinger would eventually like to practice. “I remember sitting with an elderly woman whose husband was developing dementia,” she reflects. “I talked with her and felt such a connection to someone who needed me. We see people at the worst times in their lives and we have the opportunity to help them along and pick them up.”

She has recently been accepted into the Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP) for clinicals during her third year. “I will be at CentraCare Paynesville for nine months starting in October working with my preceptor,” Disinger says. “This is exciting and gives me a chance to experience rural medicine and the life of a rural physician.”

It will also be good practice for becoming the superhero Disinger has always dreamed of being to people in need.



Disinger is interested in emergency medicine and helping people in times of challenge.

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