

## Student Life

Upon graduation in 2009, **Dr. Nicole Dunlap** from Champaign began her residency in psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She said choosing her residency was made easier because of the early clinical opportunities and the support she received from SIU staff and faculty.

*“Taking history and physicals during my first year gave me the confidence I needed to be successful in my studies.”*

As she completed her medical school experience, Nicole said she is happy with her choice of SIU medical school.

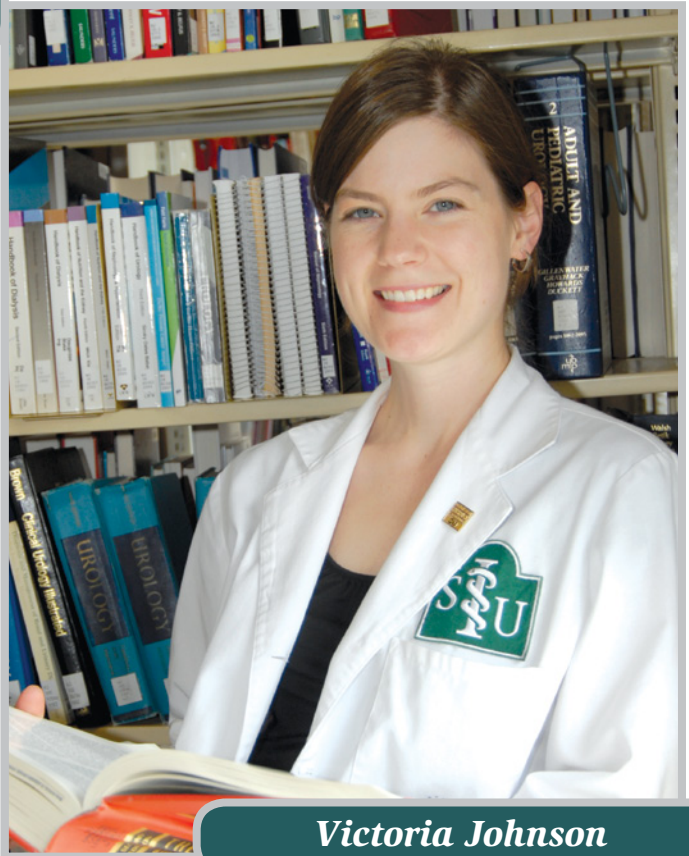
*“SIU is not located in a big city and that was a plus when choosing a school. Now it makes me proud to hear students from other medical schools tell me that SIU is known as an innovator in medical education.”*

Nicole believes the problem-based learning approach used at SIU has made her an effective, efficient and life-long learner.

*“I also liked the small class size and the one-to-one interaction with the faculty. The faculty want to see each of us succeed and will support students until they reach their goal. SIU is well-known and respected for its medical education and I know I will be a better doctor because of the education that I received here.”*



**Dr. Nicole Dunlap**



**Victoria Johnson**

**Victoria Johnson** is a third-year student from Pittsfield who looked for a school close to home.

*“Throughout my educational career, I’ve enjoyed both science and art. To me, medicine is a combination of both. I want to listen to a patient’s story, interpret the symptoms and help them to heal.”*

*“When applying to medical schools, I knew I wanted a school where my costs would be manageable. I visited several other schools, but never felt the same welcoming and supportive atmosphere as I did at SIU. Students are the first priority to the faculty.”*

Her clinical rotations begin during the third year at SIU and offer an opportunity to experience the different areas of medicine. At the end of this year, Torrie will decide on her specialty and begin to think about what area of medicine and where to complete her residency.

*“As a third-year student, I value the early clinical contact I’ve had with patients. These hands-on opportunities have allowed me to learn by experience, rather than through lecture and text. Small group and self-directed learning have given me the tools to be a life-long learner.”*

**R**yan Stock, a second-year student from Benton, chose medicine as a career because he enjoys interacting with patients and helping them through a difficult time.

*“I selected SIU for several reasons. This School feels like a community. The faculty, many of them SIU alums, are accessible, friendly and personally invested in each of us. They help to make medical school interesting and enjoyable.”*

The transition from Carbondale to Springfield was easy for Ryan. He said that while the curriculum moves a little quicker than in the first year, adjusting to the study load is not a problem since students already have learned what study strategies work for them.

*“Self-directed learning allows me to fit the curriculum to my learning style and still allows me time to volunteer in the community. This is just one more way that I can help others.”*

Ryan is impressed with the easy-going atmosphere and lack of competition between the students. *“I can enjoy learning without the added stress of competition.”*

*“Choosing a medical school that fits your personality is important. SIU has enabled me to make the most of my medical education while still being able to enjoy life outside of school. SIU has been a perfect fit.”*



**Ryan Stock**



**Alison Saulog**

**A**lison Saulog is a first-year student from Salem. She chose medicine as her career because she wants to help people and wants a career that is always evolving. Medicine is that profession.

She chose SIU because of the non-traditional curriculum which has fewer lectures and more opportunities for students and faculty to develop personal relationships.

*“As a first-year student at SIU, I like that the faculty know who I am. I’m not afraid to ask for help from them or my classmates.”*

*“Being at SIU is like being in the real world. Small learning groups keep me focused on the material and help me learn at a quicker pace. But I always try to remember that being in medical school is a marathon and not a sprint. I’ve learned to take time for me.”*

Alison has enjoyed meeting people who share her passion for learning.

*“SIU is like a big family. The skills I’ve learned this year will become building blocks for future learning. SIU makes me feel like this is where I belong.”*

*“Medical school is a challenge, but if you’re willing to make the most of this opportunity, you will become a better doctor for your patients.”*