

Hillarie Sizemore - Manchester to Manhattan



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Class of 2005

I walked down *Purpose Road* past the *Bridge to the Future* and saw the familiarity with which the students greeted one another and faculty, I had a feeling of belonging. I am not usually a “fly by the seat of my pants” sort of spontaneous girl, but after that visit, I knew without a doubt that Alice Lloyd was the place for me. I have never regretted that almost-last-minute change of plans to attend Alice Lloyd College. In fact, I always tell people it was one of the very best decisions I have ever made.

I attended Alice Lloyd from the fall of 2001 until the spring of 2004. I started out as an English major, but during the spring of my freshman year, I began to feel that a career in medicine was my true calling. It was hard to leave the English department because I really enjoyed the classes, professors, and friends I had made there. Even after changing my major, I took as many English classes as I could.

During my sophomore year, I began to think seriously about what path of medicine interested me most. It has always been very important to me that I do something that helps others and challenges me while still allowing me to have a good quality of life. At my mother’s suggestion, I began shadowing a podiatrist in Hazard, Kentucky. I loved that the doctor never really knew what would walk through the door. It could be a teenager with a sports injury, an elderly man with a diabetic foot ulcer, a pigeon-toed two-year-old, or a thirty-year-old with painful bunions. I saw him treat dermatological problems, bone deformities, neurological complications of diabetes, and biomechanical abnormalities. I took the MCAT and applied to the New

York College of Podiatric Medicine during my junior year at Alice Lloyd. I didn’t really expect to get in, but almost before I knew it, I was headed to New York City in August of 2004.

I didn’t know a soul in New York when I got there, but looking back I think this worked to my advantage, because I was forced to really get outside my comfort zone and make friends from day one. I always knew New York wasn’t going to be a permanent move, so I have tried to take full advantage of what the city has to offer. I can’t say that I never got homesick for the way the mountains look in the fall, the taste of soup beans and cornbread, and hugs (I never thought I’d literally go months without hugging another person). But looking back now, I know that it was God’s plan for me to leave all that I knew and explore another part of this great big world. I highly suggest that everyone live in a place away from home for a while. It will change your perspective about the world you live in and make you appreciate things that you took for granted.

I will graduate on May 28th as valedictorian of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine Class of 2008. In my graduation speech, I will admit that it has been a long road; I will reflect on all that myself and my classmates have learned and comment on all that we have yet to learn; and I will leave the audience with a Bible verse I have long since made my personal motto: from Luke 12:48, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required.” I consider myself richly blessed beyond measure. I know that I wouldn’t be where I am today if it hadn’t been for the love and encouragement I received on my journey from family, friends, and my Alice Lloyd College mentors.

I am unsure of exactly what the future holds for me, but I do know that the mountains are where I will eventually serve. In March, I will find out where I am headed to do a three-year surgical residency. I am not worried about the location because I know I never walk alone, and if I, a little country girl raised in the head of a holler in Clay County, Kentucky, can survive New York City, I can pretty much handle myself anywhere.

