

Hilary Alpert,  
from Troy,  
a 2003 Michigan  
graduate, begins her  
medical studies  
this fall with the  
class of 2007.


## MOMENTS IN MEDICINE AT MICHIGAN

"My first exposure to medicine occurred when I was four, and again at eight when I had surgery on my eyes. I thought it was cool — all the doctors talking quickly, like the hustle and bustle of a big city. I always had an interest in science and it was a genetics class in high school that made me think maybe I'd be a genetics counselor — or a doctor.

"It was a rigorous four years at Michigan majoring in physics, doing research in a prostate cancer genetics lab, doing a lot of volunteer work — plus playing piccolo in the Marching Band — but those years taught me some very good problem-solving skills and study habits.

"The summer after freshman year, I worked in a chemotherapy lab. One time I was helping a nurse transfer someone who was very seriously ill through the tunnels to MRI. I waited with the family for about 45 minutes while the test was going on. They knew that the patient wasn't going to make it, but they were so hopeful and gracious. They were really pleased with what the doctor had done for them. And I knew I wanted to be like that — a doctor who would give hope to patients and do everything possible to help.

"I'm as apprehensive as anyone about taking anatomy. It's something so completely different [from physics], but I'm in the same boat with 169 other people. We're all on the same team and in the same community working together toward the same ultimate goal.

"I know that I'll be able to make friends, but sure, I'm nervous. It's like you're back in elementary school, taking all your classes with the same people. I know it's going to be stressful and tiring to an extent I don't even know about. Everybody tells you that, but until you experience it yourself..." 

—WH