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(Ann)

I chose to come to Wesleyan after spending one semester at a very large university. I was attracted to Wesleyan because it was a small school; it had an excellent science program and PhD's who were experts in their respective fields were teaching the classes.

By the end of the freshman year, I knew that this was the school for me.

Not only was I getting outstanding training in chemistry and biology, but I found that classes outside my major helped me attain a broad liberal arts education.

The advantage of going to a multi-college micro-university allows for variety. One can easily acquire a taste for music, art, literature and history.

Now that I'm a medical student here in Springfield I look back on my college education with a deep sense of gratitude.

Educational discipline and a love for learning have enabled me to successfully pursue my graduate studies.

In my three and a half years at Wesleyan, I had a lot of biology courses including embryology, histology, comparative anatomy and physiology.

I always had very good professors and they always expected a lot from us, and we always had to work real hard, but I always found that I always was doing better and I always enjoyed working hard for people that asked me to work hard. And this was the same in chemistry; I enjoyed general chemistry and organic chemistry and had to work pretty hard at it to keep the professors happy.

But I also found that I enjoyed classes outside the science program, especially enjoyed humanities and I enjoyed taking art history, and I enjoyed taking voice lessons in the school of music. / So overall I could say I got a very good broad liberal arts education and that was something that, I guess, I got kind of as an extra besides just my training and preparation for medical school.

I went to a large university my first semester as a freshman and I was really disappointed because they had teaching assistants teaching the classes and I didn't even have a PhD for my first semester in college at this big university. I was pretty disappointed; I thought, well I think I could pay some money and get a fine education elsewhere

where I'd actually have experts in their field teaching me a certain subject.

So I decided to go to Wesleyan because I'd heard that professors were teaching the classes and that they were doing a really good job.

So when I started out here as a second semester freshman I was just ecstatic because I had four classes and I also had four PhD's teaching these classes.

And not only that, they offered a lot of help outside the class for help and their expertise on particular subjects that the student or teacher was interested in teaching. And I felt this to be a real advantage at Wesleyan and I'm certainly glad that I came to this school for it.

(David)

I came to Wesleyan because I really believe in the concept of a small school, particularly the close student-faculty relationship. I think I took advantage of this relationship to the fullest. It seemed like it was a rare day when I wasn't sitting in some professor's office asking questions, clearing up something, finding out where I'd gone wrong on the last exam...for some reason. But I was there all the time taking advantage of them to the fullest. They were a lot of help.

Coming out of high school, I thought it was terrific that as a first semester freshman, I not only had all PhD professors in my courses but I had two heads of department as well.

You can't expect something like this at a large university.

Over my years at Wesleyan, I really developed a close relationship with the faculty members there to the point that I really miss them these days and still see them occasionally. Many of them are really lifetime friends.

I also came to Wesleyan with a sport but it was academics number one and my sport second.

I also came to Wesleyan to play tennis. I visited the tennis coach when I was still a senior in high school, but I came with the idea that academics were going to be my number one pursuit and my sport second to academics.

Wesleyan allowed me to pursue both of these activities without conflicting too drastically with the other one.

Athletics were accommodating to my academic pursuits. There were times when I would have to miss a practice because of lab, but things always worked out and I was allowed to pursue both of these activities to the fullest. And I really appreciated this fact...that I was allowed to carry on with both of these activities.

With my wife and I both planning to attend medical school and both wanting to apply to medical school, we had special problems in scheduling, applications and so forth.

I spent literally dozens of hours in my advisers office from the first year on receiving advice that just couldn't be given by anyone other than him. This was a tremendous help in our plans. I feel like I'm forever indebted to this adviser.

I was a chemistry major in the science program and my wife was a biology major. Both of these routes were adequate and fine routes to attain access to medical school. Now having had a year and a half of medical school, I can honestly testify that no one is better prepared for medical school than a Wesleyan graduate.

We have students at SIU from the best public schools, from Ivy League schools, from schools outside of state, in-state and no one is better prepared for medical school.

Even the Admissions Committee members that I know have agreed that a Wesleyan grad is really something special. And I can honestly state that no one is better prepared.

(Ann)

I feel that I've had the best preparation for medical school that anyone could ever have. First of all, I felt confident once I started medical school, I felt well this is the kind of material I can handle. In fact,

I found that a lot of the basic medical sciences were actually just a review of what I learned at Wesleyan.

I know that Wesleyan has a very good reputation among the medical schools.

The letters of recommendation from the faculty are highly regarded and
looked upon as being both honest and sincere. If you perform well at
Wesleyan, Wesleyan will add a lot of backbone to your application to medical
school. A good recommendation is going to help an individual get
into medical school.

(David)

The letters of recommendation from Wesleyan faculty that accompany an application to medical school are perceived as frank, open and honest when received by that medical school.

So when Wesleyan endorses their students, they have a firm backing for possible matriculation into medical school.

(Ann)

David and I decided that it would be a really good idea for us to go early decision to medical school. And what this means is that we applied to medical school the summer before our senior year. Most students applying to medical school will apply in September, October, November and December

of their senior year, so, in other words, we applied about five months earlier. What this amounted to was that we wanted a letter of recommendation and all our transcripts and everything to be sent in the summer before our senior year. We were very lucky that the science faculty at Wesleyan decided to stick around that summer and type out our letters which usually involves quite a bit of work. And this took a lot of their time and it took time in the summer when I suppose they could be out doing other things.

It was to our relief that we were successful in early decision program because around the middle of September, end of September, we heard that we had been accepted early decision to SIU School of Medicine.

You can imagine our jubulance (?) and happy times we were having our senior year knowing that our future plans had already been staked out for us.