

'New' doctor joins in Occidental Area Health Center anniversary

by Chris Rooney

The new kid on the block at the Occidental Area Health Center has been around a little longer than you may think.

Although Dr. Trina Bowen will be formally introduced to the community at the center's 10th

anniversary and open house Aug. 22, the doctor has already been practicing medicine with fellow physician Greg Rosa at the health center for a year.



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"I never seriously considered another profession," Bowen says. "Early in high school I decided to be a doctor."

Bowen is quick to point out that most high school, college and even pre-med students have a romanticized view of the medical profession.

"I had no concept of what I was getting into," she explains. "But I'm real happy that I'm doing it today. No one could possibly be prepared for the stress of residency, but you also get a

acquainted with the center's procedures and as business has picked up, Bowen's responsibilities have grown also. Despite working just part-time for the health center, she has developed a personal rapport with many of her patients.

"It's great being here," Bowen states. "I've gotten a lot of satisfaction in helping people to stay healthy and to develop positive lifestyles."

Bowen says that working with Rosa has been a pleasure and they have had no problems adapting to each other's styles.

"He (Rosa) and I have similar philosophies," she explains. "All doctors have different ways of

our patients as well as possible."

Working part-time has allowed Bowen a chance to travel, and that has been an educational as well as working at the health center for her.

"I've been to India, Nepal, Kenya, Venezuela and several other places," she says. "I've learned a lot. To be immersed in a culture that's different in every perspective is very good experience."

As for her future, Bowen's plans are up in the air. Although she has learned a lot from Rosa and the staff at the Occidental Area Health Center, Bowen likes the fact that her part-time commitments leave her the opportunity to continue traveling.

"I don't know just what I'll be doing on down the road," muses Bowen. "For the near future I plan to stay here." That should keep Occidental residents both happy and healthy.