

DR. AMBER MICHELLE (ESLICK) PETERSON

Graduated from Geneseo High School: 1989.

Current position: family physician at Trinity Family Medical Associates, Geneseo.

Secondary education: 1993 graduate of University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology; graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1998 from Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL, with a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Professional Biology; University of Illinois, Chicago, MD, in 2004.

What led you to this career: "After graduating from the University of Illinois, I found that I missed the sciences, so I pursued further education at the Florida Institute of Technology where I initially majored in marine biology, changing my major after one semester. I made the change to pre-professional biology after much reflection on what made me happiest – helping people one on one. My decision to pursue Family Medicine in particular was based on my desire to return to Geneseo to be near family."

High school experience: "I loved my years at GHS. I had some phenomenal teachers who helped me lay a solid academic foundation and who took interest in me as an individual. A few of my favorites were Mr. Ringenberg, Mr. Steele and Mrs. Eberhardt. I received an excellent education at GHS that allowed me to compete at a high level academically. GHS was where I met many of my closets friends (and my future husband), spent hours working as a crew member of countless plays and musicals, practicing as a member of first the cheerleading squad and later the Maplettes and marching in the Color Guard. The teachers who served as advisors and mentors in these activities gave so selflessly of their time and energy which I did not truly appreciate until I had a family of my own and understood that they had been sacrificing time at home with their families to allow us to have such wonderful opportunities at GHS. I would especially like to thank Mr. Green and Mr. DePauw who fostered such a sense of family among Thespians and made GHS truly a home away from home."

Words of wisdom: "Do not be afraid to try and to fail. You will never know how much you are really capable of until you push yourself to find your limits – you can do more than you ever dreamed. Pursue your dream and find your person and make that your work so that you are excited about every day.

Family: Husband, Todd Peterson; one step-son, one step-daughter and one granddaughter