

# Woman gets a foot in the door at doctor's office

## Platt grad joins podiatry practice

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Meriden- Now that Tina Boucher has finished podiatry school, she wants to take up some hobbies she hasn't had time to attempt recently- dancing and flight school among others.

She is always looking for something new- new challenges excite her.

By her own admission, repetition is boring. Boucher is facing her biggest challenge yet- bigger than leaving Meriden to attend college in Canada and bigger than dropping a lucrative world in the corporate world to go to medical school.

Tina Boucher, a graduate of Platt High School, is joining a podiatry practice in Meriden, a place she is returning to after a 15-year absence. "This is my hometown. It is where my family is. It is where my roots are," Boucher said in a recent interview.

Although the 33-year-old applied to practices all along the East Coast and Midwest, something kept drawing her back to Meriden. After some cold calling, Boucher landed a job with Dr. William Mitchard, a podiatrist with a practice on East Main Street. "He called me and said 'I think you are the answer to my prayers,'" she said.

Boucher's path to the medical profession was a long one. Beginning as a child, Boucher was interested in science, scoring well in school. She went onto major in psychiatry at McGill University in Canada with the goal of heading to medical school.

However, Boucher went on to work in Stamford in sales and customer service. "I felt that in the corporate world I wasn't making a difference. You are part of a company. You are just a person who can be easily replaced," said Boucher, who was wearing a black pinstriped suit and smart-looking glasses.

She selected podiatry as her specialty because it encompassed all different aspects of medicine. "This was one of my life goals," Boucher said.

There was another reason Boucher was drawn to the field. Boucher was born with no skin on her feet, prompting regular visits to podiatrists as a child.

"It was very painful," she said. "But a pediatrician told my mother 'Don't worry. She'll be a dancer someday,'" Boucher said.

The pediatrician was as good as his word, and Boucher healed nicely, showing her firsthand the impact a doctor could have on someone's life.

"You become so attached to some of these patients that you never forget them," she said, reflecting on her medical school residency.

Her father, Roland, who runs a service station on the corner of West Main and Johnson streets, was concerned when Tina mentioned she wanted to abandon corporate America and return to school. "I said to her, 'You are making more money than Dad, what do you want to do that for?'" he said.

But knowing it had been her dream since she was a little girl outweighed any concerns he might have had. "She loves what she is doing and her skills are good. I think she is going to do very well," he said.

"I don't want to be 40 and wonder what if," she said. "It had really changed my life. I've always wanted to have the ability to give back."