Jenny Konjoian, a recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and SSH member, has found her calling. And, the field of medical simulation has found a wise-beyond-her-years representative of a new generation of simulationists who is already a passionate advocate.

“I love it. I think that every day, through simulations, clinicians improve, and that has a direct impact on patients.”

Konjoian is a simulation technician at the Center for Medical Simulation in Boston; she has worked there for just seven months. She already feels immersed not only in her job, but in the field. As part of her training, she attended IMSH in Orlando this past January.

“I literally don’t think there was one minute when I did not have a smile on my face,” she said. “Simulation is an opportunity. It is a chance to be valuable and to ask questions and to be curious. And you get out of your comfort zone. And if you make a mistake, it’s an opportunity to learn.”

Konjoian plans to pursue her education in nursing, to become a teacher and to remain involved in simulation-based training.

As many people involved in simulation today have moved into the field from other avenues – nursing, ER, teaching – Konjoian sees that dynamic changing as college students begin to see simulation as a career path from day one.

She remembers one of her undergraduate nursing classes in which the students entered a simulated hospital room to examine and take notes: the patient’s vitals, positioning, whether the blood pressure cuff was positioned correctly and other details. In addition there was a pre- and post-event debriefing.
"I got teary-eyed. I remember walking into that room and I got the chills. I remember thinking that this is why I want to be a nurse, there’s just so much critical thinking involved."

Outside of the healthcare community, people (including her parents!), don't really understand simulation, she says, but that is changing.

"I see a future with this," she said.