

# CUTLER SCHOLARS



Spring Quarter 2009  
Issue 2

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## Scholars Excel at Research Fair

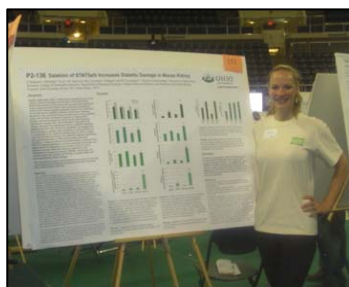
Erika Swanson, Brienne Porter, Jesse Branner, and Matt Denhart participated in the Research and Creativity Fair on May 14.

**Brienne** placed first in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Session 2 with her poster on "Comparing Isomerization Rates of Analogous Electrochromic Ruthenium Complexes." Her research looks at how to control speed and reversibility of isomerization.

**Erika** received first place for her poster "Deletion of STAT5a/b Increases Diabetic Damage in the Mouse Kidney". Her research looks at diabetic nephropathy, a leading cause of end stage renal disease, dialysis use, and death in diabetic patients.



**Brienne Porter**, Riedel-Cutler Scholar



**Erika Swanson**  
Stocker-Cutler Scholar

**Jesse** received first place in the Communication Studies division with her poster on the visual and verbal rhetoric of Tina Fey and the Sarah Palin skits. A second poster examined the verbal and nonverbal performances of the OU women's volleyball team.

**Matt** presented research findings on profits and loan access for market women in Ghana based on surveys collected during his research there last summer.

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## New Advancement Officer Joins Staff

### Jack Ellis

*Vice President Emeritus for Development and Associate Director, Cutler Scholars*



The newest member of the Cutler Scholars staff, Jennifer Hall, joined with us in April. Her title is Director of Development for Scholarships, and Assistant Director, Manasseh Cutler Scholars Program.

A graduate of Muskingum College with majors in business and psychology, Jennifer has significant experience in business, sales management, and the strategic direct marketing and communication arenas with the financial and health care service industries. She was formerly with the College of Business as the Assistant Director of Placement and External Relations and later served as the Interim Director for that area. In July, 2008, she was appointed as the Director of Development for the College of Business.

Jennifer was born and spent her formative years in Williamstown, West Virginia. She enjoys biking, walking, reading, cooking, developing, and coaching others.

She has two nieces and one nephew who live in Sidney, Ohio: Lauryn, age 11 (they share the same birthday); Jenna, age 10; and Jyheir, age 4.

Jennifer will be working closely with me until my retirement in June, 2010. Among her responsibilities will be directing the "Friends of the Cutler Scholars" program, the Annual Fund campaigns, and coordinating and directing the Cutler "Class Agents" program. She will also be working closely with the Office of Advancement staff in identifying and promoting the Cutler Scholars Program to potential benefactors.

Jennifer is a most welcome addition to our staff and we all look forward to the talent, skills, and experiences she brings to the Cutler Scholars Program. Jennifer may be contacted at hallj3@ohio.edu or by calling 740-597-1641.



*Dustin Fisher and Chris Sustersic explored Australia for their management experience*

## Engineering in Australia

### Dustin Fisher & Chris Sustersic

In the summer leading up to our senior year, the Cutler Scholars program provided us with an opportunity to study abroad. We were looking for an opportunity to study either business or engineering in an English speaking program. We landed upon [www.study-australia.com](http://www.study-australia.com). The "Energy Tomorrow" program had exactly what we were looking for. Being engineering students, the topic was of great interest to us both, and spending our summer in Australia seemed too incredible to pass up.

The program itself was very interesting. The six-week course for engineering students explored energy and sustainability, with a focus on new developments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. The program was based on a ninety-hour combination of lectures, tutorials, laboratory work, demonstrations, site visits, computer simulations, assignments, and discussion periods. The lectures and educators for the program were from the University of New South Wales (UNSW). UNSW is recognized as the top

university for energy research and development in Australia with many of its research groups among the world leaders in their field.

One of the highlights of the program was the opportunity to travel. The program traveled to four cities spread out over the country. The first week was spent in Darwin in northern Australia. The second week was spent in the outback region at the city of Alice Springs. For the next three weeks, we lived at a UNSW dormitory in Sydney, Australia. The final week was spent in tropical Cairns on the east coast.

Much of the reason for the travel was to get into direct contact with the technologies through site visits, displaying the engineering applications in action. Throughout the six weeks of the course we took field excursions to many industrial sites as we traveled the country. Outside of the city of Darwin we toured the Ranger Uranium Mine as well as a Phillips Conoco plant producing natural gas. While in Sydney, tours were taken of the OneSteel Plant, a Solar Energy design tour through Kogarah, and a visit to a "green" modern city building. Finally, in

the city of Cairns, we took a field trip to the Mossman sugarcane producing areas, a main source used to produce ethanol.

The experience also provided us with the opportunity to see much that Australia has to offer. Outside the classroom, we were able to do much sightseeing on our own. Some of the highlights of these adventures were our trips to Kakadu National Park, climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge, learning to surf on Bondi Beach, and spending three days out on the Great Barrier Reef scuba diving.

Overall, the experience was very educational and enriching. The course provided us with a new outlook on sustainable engineering that we had not

otherwise had much contact with. Additionally, we were able to witness a different culture firsthand and explore the differences between our way of life and the way of life "down under".

The Cutler Scholars Program has provided us with endless opportunities to discover an "outside the box" education. We are very thankful to the Cutler Scholars Staff for their continuing guidance and assistance. We would each like to thank our benefactors,

the Civil Engineering Alumni Board (Dustin Fisher) and Tom and Betsy Wheeler (Chris Sustersic), for making all of these experiences possible. We have truly enhanced our education in many ways due to these summer experiences in the past 4 years.

Both graduating seniors, **Dustin Fisher** is a Civil Engineering-Cutler Scholar, and **Chris Sustersic** is a Tom and Betsy Wheeler-Cutler Scholar.

## Community Service: Volunteering in Ecuador



*Elizabeth Cockerill and an optometry patient at a clinic in Ecuador*

### Elizabeth Cockerill

Konneker-Cutler Scholar '05

Last September, I had one of the best experiences any optometry student could ever ask for. Along with 30 other optometry students and 4 optometrists, we traveled to the rural countryside of Ecuador to perform eye examinations over the course of four days.

All together, we saw over 2,700 patients—a new record for the organization! People came from several miles, many of them receiving the only eye examination they will ever have.

We would leave our campsite around 7 am to go set up clinic for the day. We would see patients all day, only taking a short break for lunch, and hopefully be out before sunset at 6 pm. Each student was assigned to a different station, such as taking visual acuity, putting in dilation drops, checking patients for

glasses and the internal ocular health, and handing out glasses, sunglasses, and eye medication. I was able to see advanced cataracts, retinal diseases, and I felt a man's eyes whose intraocular pressure was so high his eyes literally were as hard as rocks. It was amazing to observe things first had I had only seen pictures of in my textbooks.

The most frustrating and challenging part of the trip was that I was not able to communicate very well with my patients. I could only remember a few phrases from my high school Spanish classes (ex: good morning, my name is Liz, and "I'm sorry but I do not speak Spanish very well"—one I used a lot). However, by the end of the week I knew enough words to do an eye examination, could explain some of my findings to the patient, and was even able pick up on a couple of other words when they would thank me.

The most rewarding part of the trip is seeing the face of someone light up when I would put glasses on them and they could see. This was most evident in the 45+ year olds who just needed a simple pair of reading glasses because they wanted to be able to read their bible. They would rattle off something in Spanish with a huge smile on their face, speaking even faster than I knew people could speak Spanish. I'm pretty sure it was all good things they were saying (I hope)!

Being part of an adventure like this really does humble you and make you realize how easy it is to take things for granted. You appreciate your own life more than you ever thought possible. Simple ocular problems, such as cataracts, is one of the leading causes of blindness in underdeveloped countries, yet easily accessible and fixable in the United States. It was frustrating not being able to do anything for patients with dense cataracts; all we could do was give them magnifying glasses and sunglasses.

Even though I was hot, worn-out, and smelly by the end of the week, I could not have asked for a better experience. I was lucky enough to leave without a significant number of mosquito bites and was able to avoid getting 'Montezuma's revenge.' Even though I could not speak much Spanish, I learned that a smile is a smile wherever you go, and the people there will be forever grateful to the Ohio State University College of Optometry.

## Gustervov Scholar Selected

### Butch Hill

*Director, Cutler Scholars*

While many OU students were enjoying sunny beaches during Spring break, Karen Deardorff and I arrived in Macedonia in a freak snowstorm. Our last flight had been diverted to Thessaloniki, Greece, because of the rapidly accumulating snow. We eventually arrived in Skopje, Macedonia, on a bus, which added seven extra hours to a trip from Ohio that had already totaled more than 24 hours. However, we wouldn't have traded places with those sunbathers for anything!

Macedonia is a wonderful place to visit: the mountains and lakes are beautiful, the food is delicious, and the people are superb hosts. In fact, the only two difficult things to do in Macedonia are paying your own way at restaurants (that goes back to the "superb hosts" thing) and maintaining your ideal body weight.

Karen and I traveled to Macedonia to help select the newest Gusterov-Cutler Scholar. Also serving on the Selection Committee

were Lou Vlasho, the honorary Consul of Macedonia in Naples, Florida (who recently attended his fiftieth class reunion at Ohio University) and Bisera Gjosevska, the first Gusterov-Cutler Scholar.

The nominees were excellent and the selection difficult. We literally had the most outstanding high school seniors in the country to pick from. Elena Mihajlovska was selected during the process, and we were even more reassured that we made the right choice a few days later when we visited with her charming family in her hometown of Bitola.

Elena (pronounced with the accent on the first syllable: EL-in-uh) will arrive in Athens in late August. And if she feels homesick at first, Karen and I can sympathize. We're both ready to go back to Macedonia for another visit!

## From Florida to Mexico: Learning Through Enrichment

### Ana Gicova

*Gusterov-Cutler Scholar '10*

Since I am doing a minor in Spanish, I wanted to do my study abroad enrichment experience in a Spanish-speaking country in order to improve and increase my knowledge of the language. I chose to go to Mexico during winter quarter.

While in Mexico, I had a wonderful and rewarding experience that contributed greatly to the improvement of my personality and opened my mind to a completely new culture. This special place is a mixture of the originality between the new and the antique, and between the modern and the traditional. Merida offers something for all types and ages of visitors—every person that has visited desires to return.

I expanded my knowledge to a great extent regarding the Mexican and the Mayan culture and civilization. I learned about the Mexican customs, types of food, religion and



*Ana Gicova and Lou Vlasho in Naples, Florida*

beliefs, economy and social classes, legends, architecture, art, music, and the traditional “jarana” dance that represents a significant part of their cultural heritage. I also had the opportunity to visit many interesting and intriguing parts of Mexico, such as Cancun, Tulum, Chichen Itza, Agua Azul, Palanque, and many more. In addition, my language skills significantly advanced and they improved for four levels, starting at a low intermediate level and ending at a low advanced level. Not only did I gain knowledge and understanding of the language and the culture, I also had a very pleasant time meeting new people and making new warm and welcoming friends.

This experience was a great opportunity for me to make a comparison and contrast between three different ways of life in Macedonia, the United States, and Mexico. Overall, I have learned that no matter the distance or location,

most people value the same things such as love, friendship and family.

Last summer my business internship took me to Naples, Florida, one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. I would have never had this wonderful opportunity if it was not for Mr. Lou Vlasho, Honorary Consul to Macedonia and a Naples entrepreneur, who helped me find an internship in the Naples Chamber of Commerce.

This internship provided me with the opportunity to apply the management skills I have learned in class in a real-world environment. Also, I learned the importance of organization and creative thinking through my participation in the different activities such as assisting the senior vice president for programs plan and run an Executive Club Program for business leaders, completing a demographic and economic study of active Chamber Members, and providing support for two Council for International

Visitors programs for overseas guests sponsored by the United States Department of State.

The work atmosphere in the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce was pleasant, but at the same time, intellectually stimulating. I learned from other employees that hard work, dedication, and communication are the foundation of success in a work environment. I am very thankful to have learned the proper application of my business skills from such wonderful people. Specifically, I would like to thank Mr. Reagan, the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce for accepting me as intern and guiding me along during my two-month internship. I am also especially thankful for the help of Mr. Vlasho because not only did he help me find the internship, but he made sure my stay in Naples was a pleasant and unforgettable experience.

I do not have the words to describe my gratitude to my benefactor, Risto Gusterov, and to the Cutler Scholars Program for providing me with the opportunity to study abroad in Mexico and to gain invaluable management experience in Naples.



*Meghan Haynes with her patient Marisol*



*Meghan gives her first joint injection*

## Volunteering in Honduras

### Meghan Haynes

*Jewell-Cutler Scholar '07*

As a wide-eyed freshman in the fall of 2003, I could have never imagined the opportunities that would become available to me. Through the generosity of Dr. James and Nellie Rowley Jewell and the Cutler Scholars Program, my undergraduate education and enrichment experiences formed the foundation that continues to guide my path.

As a first year medical student at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, almost every waking hour is filled with learning the information and skills to become a physician. However, the college also recognizes the importance of extracurricular involvement and encourages students to enhance their training with community service. To accomplish this goal, I joined the local chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Association and hold the office of secretary.

The CMDA shares the conviction that medicine is an avenue of ministry. My avenue of ministry was a medical mission trip to Honduras during spring break. After inventorying and packing medical supplies and equipment to take with us, seventeen other medical students, one physician, and I traveled by plane and bus to our destination. We joined several members of the Nehemiah Network ministry team and the local Honduran Word of Life ministry team at the village of La

Paz to address both medical and spiritual needs to those who visited the clinic.

While on my triage shifts I saw many patients and obtained their medical histories. I used my newly learned medical knowledge to deduce what important questions to ask that would later help the physician to diagnose. I learned liquid antibiotic preparation and dosage requirements during my placement in the makeshift pharmacy. In addition to shadowing the physicians and nurse practitioners, I also played with the children to calm their fears.

During my first day at the clinic, three-year old Marisol arrived sobbing uncontrollably and she was completely inconsolable because of her fear of doctors. She wanted nothing to do with the man in the scrubs. I began our interaction with gifts of hair barrettes and crayons. Before too long, she was sitting on my lap chattering away in Spanish so fast I almost did not understand her. By the time she left the clinic, she was nothing but smiles. The next day her mother came to the clinic for an examination and Marisol came with her. She was crying again; however, her mother told me the crying was not for fear of doctors but because she did not want me to leave the village!

I really enjoyed putting all my clinical skills, so diligently practiced in lab, to use on real patients. I listened to lungs and hearts hearing crackles and murmurs. I

looked in ears, mouths, and noses examining for patent tympanic membranes, swollen tonsils, and deviated septa. All of the elaborate terminology and intricate techniques I had studied so hard were finally being put to use. The rewarding experience helped to offset the stress and challenges of my medical education. My first injection was performed on a 23-year old man with arthritis in both knees. I smiled at him just before I stuck the needle into his joint. Although I felt badly for his pain, I was ecstatic to be on the other end of the syringe for the first time in my life!

While my trip was exciting and gratifying, it was also a scary adventure that required me to rely on many of the abilities and skills developed as a Cutler scholar. My Outward Bound trip provided me with the courage to go after my goals and the confidence needed to reach

them and allowed the opportunity for development as a team member. The heightened development of my Spanish-speaking skills during my study abroad in Mexico can now be used for communication with a diverse group of patients. Critical thinking, global awareness, and respect for opposing opinions were cultivated through the colloquial interactions. These opportunities and experiences supported my personal development as a Cutler scholar and helped me accomplish my most recent

adventure as a student doctor.

I am grateful to Dr. Jewell, The Cutler Scholars Program, and Ohio University for giving me the opportunity to make the most of my undergraduate education. Without the generosity of my benefactor and the support of Cutler Program I would not have the necessary strengths to be a medical student. But more importantly, I would not have learned the skills necessary to make me the most capable doctor I can be and the productive member of society I am still becoming.

## Internship Provides Insight into Profession

### Meghann Karnes

*Konneker-Cutler Scholar '10*

During Winter Quarter 2009, I worked for Deloitte Tax LLP in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was an amazing experience where I was able to learn about the tax profession, Deloitte, client relationships, and business in general. At Deloitte, I worked in the Lead Tax Services Department. This department works mainly with Corporation, S Corporations, Partnerships, and other business clients. Individual returns are rarely prepared in this department unless the return is for an executive or family member of an executive.

As an intern, I prepared tax returns. Most returns I worked on were very basic, but I learned a lot about book-to-tax adjustments and separately stated

items. I began to gain an understanding of how numbers flowed from the trial balance to the tax return as well. I prepared most returns from scratch with only the prior year's file to guide me, but it was this hands-on learning approach that probably taught me the most.

This position also enabled me to meet some really interesting people. One of the partners in the office is the national health care leader, and I was able to sit in with other professionals on some of his national calls. My mentor at Deloitte, Alicia, was a manager whose specialty was the Form 990 (Not-for-profit return). Alicia had been relocated to Cincinnati to work with the national health care leader I mentioned above and was really interesting; she took me in very early in my internship and really provided insights

into the corporate world. For example, she taught me that no matter who you are talking to if you treat their work like it is the most important thing you are doing, they will come to you later with bigger, more important tasks. Though I never actually prepared a Form 990, Alicia always made sure I had work and always knew who to go to with questions she couldn't answer herself.

I had an amazing internship experience. I appreciate being able to have this experience in the winter because it gave me valuable insight into the accounting profession in its busiest time. I want to thank Dr. and Mrs. Konneker for affording me this opportunity. I really appreciate all the experiences this scholarship has made possible.



*Meghann Karnes*



## Grannis Takes Washington by Storm

### Emily Grannis

*Grasselli Brown-Cutler Scholar '10*

During Winter Quarter I worked in the Public Information Office at the U.S. Supreme Court, the perfect job since I have been interested in politics and law for as long as I can remember. The PIO was particularly well suited to my interests in journalism as it is the Court office that deals with the press.

This was my first experience in government work and with bureaucracy. Working in the system on a daily basis gave me invaluable insight into how government offices work and how members of the public and the press fit into the process. We also set up (and

sometimes sat in on) interviews with the justices, which were an exciting part of working at the Court. Watching Justice O'Connor talk about why American students need to study the legal system was not only informative, but also fun. I really got a feel for some of the justices' personalities through these interviews, sitting in on arguments, listening to them announce decisions, and occasionally taking calls from them.

The job also gave me the chance to interact with and get to know the Supreme Court press corps—an opportunity I that I took advantage of in formal settings through my PIO project, and in informal ways just chatting in the office about the Court, Washington politics, journalism, baseball ... I got to sit down one-on-one with 14 Washington reporters and producers, most of whom

had been covering the Court for more than 20 years. I also got the chance to visit a number of the bureaus for my interviews, including The New York Times, CNN and NPR—a definite highlight, though I did love my office.

Working in PIO also gave me a chance to interact with members of the public. People would call to plan trips, register complaints and ask questions, and it was rare for a day to go by without a few really good ones. The phone calls definitely provided some of the better stories I left PIO with and rounded out my understanding of government work.

The experience was fantastic and I can't thank the Cutler Scholars program or Jenny and Glenn Brown enough for their support and encouragement.



*Emily Grannis on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court*

## APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

**Jay Simmons** (Jewell), **Max Henderson** (Riedel), and **Meghann Karnes** (Konneker) received School of Accountancy Academic Awards.

**Matt Denhart**, McClure/Fuller-Cutler Scholar, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior!

**Sarah Spence**, Hughes-Cutler Scholar '03, was promoted to legislative aide to State Senator Gary Cates.

**Erika Swanson**, Stocker-Cutler Scholar '09, completed her check-out dive to receive her SCUBA license and certification.

**Bradley Kleparek**, Ellis-Cutler Scholar '02, and Kara Hayman will be married on August 15.

**Jessica Wilson**, Stocker-Cutler Scholar '08, began a new job as an Intervention Specialist/Teacher at Spectrum Consulting Services and School.

**Erika Swanson**, Stocker-Cutler Scholar '09, and James Hayes were recently engaged.

**Brittany Van Dyke**, Konneker-Cutler Scholar '09, and Justin Stubbs will be married on August 15.

**Allison Norwood**, Riedel-Cutler Scholar '01, and Ryan Levine will be married on August 29.

**Lauren Logan**, Bush-Cutler Scholar '08, received a Tau Beta Pi Scholarship. She also placed first at the Research and Creativity Fair for her senior electrical engineering design project "A Health WIN: Wellness Integrated Network".

## Bidding Seniors Farewell...



The Cutler Staff hosted a senior farewell banquet at the Ohio University Inn on April 26. Good luck and best wishes seniors—you will be missed.

Back row, left to right: Ben Jewell, Dustin Fisher, Christopher Sustersic, Kelsy Perry, Erika Swanson, Brittany Henthorn

Front row, left to right: Brittany Van Dyke, Gina Beach, Kendra Michel.  
Absent: Alisha McGuire

## Scholars Invited to Faculty Commons

Gina Beach, Emrick-Cutler Scholar; Matt Denhart, McClure/Fuller-Cutler Scholar; and Jordan Templeton, Stocker-Cutler Scholar, were invited to give a presentation during the "Faculty Commons Fridays" series at Alden Library on May 15.

The trio talked about their experiences with leading discussions for two quarters of collaborations between the Cutler Scholars and the Templeton Scholars.

The first quarter the collaborative efforts resulted in a university-wide panel discussion on race relations. The second quarter the scholars joined together to stage *Rock for Red*, an initiative to raise awareness of and money for HIV/AIDS.

Joining the scholars in the series discussion was Dr. Greta Oliver (who directs the Templeton Scholar program) and

Templeton Scholar discussion leader Chenee Castruita. Alden reference librarian Sherri Saines, who was assigned to the collaboration, explained her role in researching source material for the group.

The discussion was moderated by Cutler Scholar Program Director Butch Hill.

## GO BOBCCATS!

"We enjoy Elizabeth and Josh (Biddinger) very much and have tried to keep in touch with them. Elizabeth has been very good at keeping us up to date with their happenings. Marilyn considers her a second daughter. This is truly a great side benefit to investing in our youth with scholarships" (Chuck Stuckey)



Chuck and Marilyn Stuckey with Josh and Elizabeth (Cellar Biddinger, Stuckey-Cutler Scholar '05, at OSU/OU game.

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## Denhart Receives Leadership Award

Matthew Denhart, a junior economics and political science major, received the Rudy Award for Outstanding Student Leadership at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Leadership Awards Gala held on May 20. Joel Rudy, who served as Ohio University's dean of students from 1982-1998, was on hand to personally present the award plaque to Matt.

There were initially twenty nominees for the award and Matt knew he was one of four

finalists. He was thrilled to be given the award and especially enjoyed getting to talk with Mr. and Mrs. Rudy after the event.

Denhart believes the awards gala honors the dedication of students and speaks to the many opportunities available for students to take on leadership roles.

Denhart is a McClure/Fuller-Cutler Scholar '10.



*Joel Rudy presents his leadership award to Matt Denhart.*

## Do You Have a Story to Share?

We hope you enjoyed the second issue of the Cutler Scholars newsletter—a newsletter for Scholars and about Scholars.

The anticipated publication schedule for the newsletter is three times per year in fall, winter and spring quarters. Through the newsletter, we

hope to keep you up to date on what is happening in the program, to give you advance notice of upcoming events, and to share stories about our current and alumni scholars.

We need your help in identifying stories and news worthy tidbits for the next

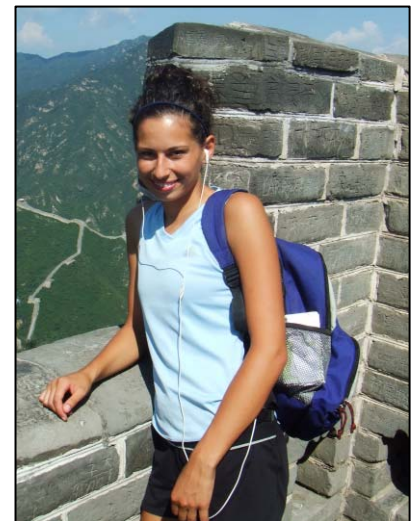
newsletter. If you are interested in writing a story about an activity or experience in which you have been involved, or if you have story ideas, contact Karen Deardorff at [deardorf@ohio.edu](mailto:deardorf@ohio.edu).

## Templeton to Study Abroad in Thailand

Jordan Templeton, Stocker-Cutler Scholar, was selected to participate in the Council on International Educational Exchange program in Khon Kaen, Thailand. During the four-month program Jordan will learn about development and globalization issues from both an academic and grassroots community level perspective and their overall effects on a developing nation. She will also participate in exchanges with villagers, NGOs, and others working for social change through site visits and hands-on field work.

To help defray the costs of her study not covered by the Cutler scholarship, Jordan competed for and was awarded a Daniel K.C. Shao travel grant award. A highly competitive award, applicants are ranked (in order of preference) by their choice of region or country of study, their demonstrated interest in Asia, merit, personal suitability, and financial need. Mr. Shao, one of Hong Kong's leading businessmen and an OU College of

Business graduate, generously endowed this fund to help OU students study abroad in Asia.



*Templeton at the Great Wall of China*



Newsletter designed by  
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