

# CUTLER SCHOLARS



Winter Quarter 2009  
Issue 1

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## Rock for Red Benefits HIV/AIDS Alliance

**Gina Beach**  
*Emrick-Cutler Scholar '09*

Red tee shirts intermingled with the crowd at Buffalo Wild Wings on November 14 for an event dubbed Rock for Red. The result of a quarter-long collaborative effort between the Cutler and Templeton Scholars (a merit-based award for students from under-represented groups), the event raised money for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

The two groups of scholars met bi-weekly in joint colloquia sessions to

discuss the AIDS epidemic at home and abroad. Student discussion leaders, who led the joint sessions, met weekly with Dr. Butch Hill and Dr. Greta Oliver (Templeton Scholar director). To disseminate some of the knowledge they had gained and to actively contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS the groups planned a benefit concert to bring students and community members together in an educational and fun forum.

In preparation for the event, the scholars

booked musically diverse bands, secured the venue, rented equipment, created tee shirts, and launched an advertising campaign. Musical groups for the event included Athens' RED ARMY and Grade School, Toledo's Empire Drift, and popular rapper Jesty Beatz, the son of Dr. Oliver.

Between acts, expert AIDS researchers from Ohio University spoke about their experiences with AIDS. Tania Basta and Anthony Sallar,

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## DHI Sponsors HIV/AIDS Symposium

**Heather Baird Tomlinson, PhD**  
*Konneker Cutler Scholar '00*

Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc., (DHI) co-sponsored the First Annual Cutler Scholars Symposium during Ohio University Homecoming Weekend in September, 2008. The topic built on the Cutler Scholars fall quarter colloquium topic—HIV/AIDS.

The highlight of the 2008 Cutler Scholars Symposium was a presentation by Dr. Eric Arts of Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Arts is a well-respected thought leader in the area of HIV evolution and drug resistance. His presentation focused on the origin of the HIV epidemic and the spread of HIV in our society.

Following Dr. Arts' presentation, a panel discussion on HIV/AIDS was held with current Cutler Scholars, Cutler Scholar Alumni, Cutler Benefactors, and DHI employees. Panelists included Annette Ratcliff, Ellis-Cutler Scholar (2006), Gina Beach, Emrick-Cutler Scholar (2009), and Irina Panovska, Gusterov-Cutler Scholar (2006). Heather Baird, Ph.D., Konneker-Cutler Scholar (2000) served as the panel moderator.

Annette represented the perspective of pharmaceutical companies given her current Ph.D. thesis research in HIV drug resistance and her experience in drug toxicity

testing while employed at Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc.

Gina discussed the impact of HIV/AIDS in developing countries, taking into account her enrichment experience volunteering at an AIDS orphanage in Tanzania and her knowledge of access to HIV medications in third world countries.

Speaking about the social impact of the disease, Irina recounted her experience working as an HIV peer educator and as a fundraising coordinator for the Macedonian Interethnic Association. She also spoke about her experience organizing HIV and STI prevention seminars

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## Return to Ghana

**Matt Denhart**

*McClure/Fuller-Cutler Scholar '10*



Matt conducts interviews for micro-financing research



Matt helps make bread at an orphanage in Ghana

I first became interested in Africa as a freshman at Athens High School after a particularly memorable African history unit. I never could have imagined that before even graduating from college I would have already visited the continent twice. Yet, through the support of the Cutler Scholars Program and the particular generosity of my benefactor Mrs. Lois McClure, I have made two trips to the West African country of Ghana to volunteer and to conduct research.

I selected a volunteer project working in a Ghanaian orphanage as my Cutler service experience following my freshman year in order to further explore my interest in Africa. My duties that summer included teaching in the orphanage school, organizing free-time activities, and giving the children individual attention and care. Spending time with all the children was an incredible experience, and I knew I wanted to return to Ghana someday to visit all my new friends.

Having spent six weeks in a developing country I found myself confronted with several tough, yet interesting, questions. Why for example do so many Southern countries suffer from incredible poverty, what factors

prevent them from increasing economic output, why has traditional foreign aid been so ineffective, and, finally, what can be done differently to help these billions of people living at subsistence levels? After pondering these issues for some time and reading a few excellent books recommended to me by a fellow Cutler Scholar, I became intrigued with micro-financing as a method of combating poverty.

Micro-finance, begun in 2005 by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, is the practice of providing small manageable loans directly to poor informal entrepreneurs. Nearly everyone I had encountered in Ghana relied upon small family-owned businesses to generate the little income they had. I soon designed a research project that would allow me to return to Ghana to conduct interviews with the local informal merchants living in the village that is home to the orphanage where I volunteered. With the help of a grant from the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fund, I was able to travel to Ghana this past winter in an attempt to gain a better understanding of this informal economy and explore opportunities to expand micro-finance type programs to the region. Additionally, I was able to live at the orphanage and

visit all the children at the home I had grown so fond of during my previous trip.

The findings from my research suggest that the demand for loans is incredibly high among these poor merchants. Of the fifty eight interviews I conducted over a two-week period, every single merchant indicated a high interest in being granted a loan and nearly all also agreed strongly that a loan would allow them to expand their businesses in a significant way. While a few micro-finance type loan programs exist in the region, many potential borrowers are unaware of their existence or unsure about the process required to borrow the capital they desperately need. It seems

there is a huge potential for expanding micro-finance programs in this region.

These experiences have made my undergraduate studies at Ohio University truly remarkable. It is rare that a student is able to put theory learned in the classroom into such immediate practice. Perhaps the greatest aspect of the Cutler Scholars Program is that it transforms dreams into reality and

provides us students with the opportunity to delve deeper into the world around us.

I would like to conclude by thanking everyone associated with the Cutler Program, and especially Mrs. McClure, for giving me some of the most incredible and beneficial experiences of my life.

## Experiences Prepare Scholar for Life

### Brittany Henthorn

*Paul F. and Gwyneth G. Hoff-Cutler Scholar '06*

As hard as it is to believe, here I am with only a few months left before I graduate. The start of a new year is a good time to stop and reflect on what the Cutler Scholars program and the enrichment experiences have meant to me.

My journey as a Cutler Scholar started with my Outward Bound course in Alaska. Mountain climbing for a few weeks with bears and no showers made me very grateful for toilet paper and gave me incredible confidence. After this experience, I believed I could do anything I set my mind to doing. Don't get me wrong, I'd told myself the same thing countless times before, but with an experience like that backing the statement it tends to gain a little more conviction.

For my second enrichment experience, I spent a few weeks in the green expanse of Ireland digging in the dirt and



Brittany Henthorn traveled to Pisa while studying in Italy.

crossing a potential career path off my list. Archaeology may not have been an aspiration that made it past the summer of 2006, but I went, I saw, and I sifted. And, I learned a lot about the field of archaeology and about myself. My management internship was spent in Athens, Ohio, working with Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc. As a business student, working at DHI allowed me to explore my professional self and the ins and outs of office life. There is a lot to be said for real-world experience.

Finally, there is my last and most recent enrichment experience—study abroad in Italy. I spent fall quarter walking where ancients had walked, eating gelato, and drinking cappuccino. I selected Italy as a culmination to my study of the Italian language. I guess I've also always been fascinated by the culture and history, so that was an added bonus. Aside from the classes I took there, I

was a tour guide in a Dominican church for English-speaking tourists. I also traveled throughout Italy—to Pisa, Arezzo, Assisi, Orvieto, Napoli, Roma, Firenze, Capri, Perugia, and Fiesole. I was not surprised by any differences between the Italian culture and my own; I absorbed everything as it came. Florence became my home, and everything around me that might have been fantastical to a tourist, or even to me on my first day, became the norm...just another day of class, or walk to a friend's place, or trip to the supermarket.

I've grown even more with this last experience, learning self-reliance beyond the comfort of a native language environment. My love of Italy spurred me to apply for a Fulbright in hopes of returning there to teach English.

Thanks to my benefactors, Paul and Gwyneth Hoff, and to the Cutler Scholars staff for the opportunities I have had to explore and to grow. I will be leaving Ohio University with experiences of a lifetime that will help prepare me for the lifetime ahead.

## New Scholarship Kicks Off Annual Giving Campaign

### Jack Ellis

*VP Emeritus for Development  
Associate Director*

My thanks to the alumni, benefactors, Cutler parents, and friends who have generously continued to support the Cutler Scholars program. We are honored to list your names in the annual yearbook published each fall.

The 2008-09 "Friends" annual giving program is underway, and we request

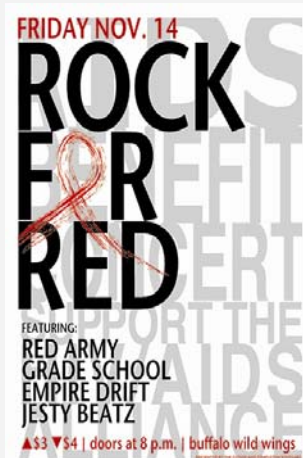
your financial assistance again this year. All contributed monies go directly to support the Cutler program and to help ensure the continuation of the educational quality you and our scholars expect.

I am very excited to announce that two anonymous benefactors have pledged a challenge gift of \$10,000 a year for the next four years to establish a new Cutler Scholars Alumni-Manasseh Cutler Scholars award. The challenge is to match their pledge through annual gifts from Cutler alumni and/or parents of Cutler Scholars for each of the four years.

As part of that challenge, personal contacts are being made with Cutler alumni through their respective class agents. Additionally, contacts with parents and friends are being made to help ensure every alumnus, parent, and friend has the opportunity to help us reach this goal with their contributions. Every gift qualifies as your "alumnus" or "friend"

gift to Ohio University and is fully tax deductible.

To participate in the giving campaign, send your personal check to The Ohio University Foundation, P.O. Box 869, Athens, OH 45701 (note on your check that your donation is for the Cutler Scholars program). You may also make your donation on line by following the prompts at: <http://www.ohio.edu/foundation/gift>.



*"The scholars planned a benefit concert to raise money for the HIV/AIDS Alliance and to bring the community and students together in an educational and fun forum."*

## Rock for Red (Continued)

assistant professors in community health services spoke about the epidemic among young people and African countries' policies regarding AIDS, respectively. Mark Sutton, project manager in the College of Medicine, spoke about AIDS in older Appalachian adults. Mandi Chikombero, assistant professor in media arts and studies, discussed her work with non-governmental

organizations (ngo's) in Botswana.

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance was chosen as the beneficiary due to its efforts to combat AIDS in a wide geographic area. A global partnership of nationally based organizations in 40 countries, the Alliance supports community AIDS efforts in developing countries.

A total of \$1,403.66 was raised during the benefit, including a \$100 donation

from Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc., which hosted an AIDS symposium with the Cutler program homecoming weekend. (See related symposium story below.)

This was the second collaborative effort between the Cutler and Templeton Scholars in conjunction with colloquia sessions. Last spring they co-sponsored a forum on race relations on campus.

## HIV/AIDS Symposium (Continued)

and workshops for underprivileged teenagers. In addition, she spent six weeks raising funds for a project that provided medical care for HIV-positive victims of human trafficking.

As the moderator and panel leader, I presented the perspective of AIDS Service Organizations (ASO's) in the United States based on my experience as a member of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Taskforce of Greater

Cleveland. The AIDS Taskforce is considered one of the largest ASO's currently using creative strategies to deal with the changing epidemic, and providing basic services for a largely poverty-stricken population infected with HIV/AIDS in the Cleveland area.

The discussion covered many aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, now the deadliest epidemic in human history. Issues of poverty, gender, race,

access to medical care internationally, cost of developing new treatments, and prevention strategies were highlighted, as well as the discussion of the possibilities of a cure.

The format of the symposium allowed a unique opportunity for current scholars, alumni, and benefactors to share in discussion and learn from one another.

Also participating in the symposium were members of the Templeton Scholars.

## Now Hear This...

Gina Beach, Emrick-Cutler Scholar '09, will join the Teach America Corps in Chicago on June 15. She will be student teaching at a Chicago summer school and starting her teacher certification courses. Gina will also be working toward a Masters of Education at Dominican University.

Brianne Porter, Riedel-Cutler Scholar '10, was inducted into the Alpha Chi

Sigma professional chemistry fraternity. Eligible members must have taken at least three chemistry courses and must pass a series of quizzes and a final. Members must also maintain a satisfactory gpa.

Jessica Wilson, Stocker-Cutler Scholar '08, and Jerome Sen were married on November 28, 2008, in Elyria, Ohio.

Steven Carlson, DHI-Cutler Scholar '08, and Jamie Bolschner will marry on November 28 in Dayton, Ohio.

Will Wemer, Grasselli Brown-Cutler Scholar '08, represented Emerson College at the National Communication Association's annual convention in San Diego in November.

## Study in Denmark Provides Healthcare Perspectives

### Erika Swanson

*Stocker Cutler Scholar '09*

My family came to the United States from Scandinavia in the late 1800s, and I have always dreamed of going there and discovering my roots. Thanks to the Cutler Scholars program, I was able to enroll in a Scandinavian Area Studies program at the University of Southern Denmark where I spent four months studying the culture, language, and history of my ancestors.

Immersing myself completely in another country helped me grow as a person and learn more about the world. While there, I met students from all over Europe and they taught me about their respective countries, their rich histories, the problems their nations face, and the traditions that make their heritage unique. I learned more than any textbook could have taught me.

Not only did I meet an incredibly friendly and diverse group of international students, I also had the chance to travel

to their homelands on long weekends. I explored the Roman ruins in Italy, studied the Venus de Milo in France, reflected on the past at the Berlin Wall in Germany, and daydreamed in Ireland's ancient castles. It was the experience of a lifetime!

My main goal in life is to attend medical school and become a physician in order to take care of others and volunteer my skills in underserved areas. Traveling to Denmark was an eye-opening and invaluable experience from a healthcare perspective. It was fascinating to compare the vastly different socialized medicine of the Danes to the capitalistic health care system of the Americans. Witnessing the benefits and pitfalls of the Danish welfare state firsthand helped me to look objectively at our own system and contemplate solutions to the current issues in American healthcare, such as medical insurance and pharmaceutical costs. My time observing the Danish structure will be invaluable when I enter the medical field, and I hope to use the



Erika Swanson visited the Louve during a weekend excursion in Paris.

insight I gained to contribute to the bettering of the American healthcare system.

Spending a semester abroad was the greatest experience I have ever had, and I am beyond thankful to the generous and supportive staff and contributors that made this dream possible. My benefactor, Mrs. Beth K. Stocker, truly believed in the vision of the Cutler Scholars Program, and I am so grateful that my life was touched by hers. Though she is no longer with us, her faith in education and passion for enabling students to achieve their highest potential motivates me to follow my dreams and be the leader I would wish to follow. With the Cutler Scholars in my corner, I know that nothing is impossible. I cannot wait for the day when I can sponsor the academic dreams of others, just like they have done for me.

## Winter Colloquia Focuses on World Financial Crisis

### Dr. Herman "Butch" Hill

*Interim Director, Cutler Scholars*

When the Cutler Scholars were polled about a winter-quarter topic, their response was overwhelming: they wanted to learn more about the world financial crisis. Niall Ferguson's *The Ascent of Money* was chosen as the reader because it

puts the current crisis into historical perspective. While we will ask pressing questions like "What happened?" and "How long will this last?" our main focus will be on how we can prevent it from happening again.

Our first guest speaker will be Natalie Chieffe, associate professor of Finance and advisor to

the Student Equity Management Group. Following Dr. Chieffe will be Shakespeare expert Professor Sam Crowl. What can an expert on Shakespeare tell us about finance? Dr. Crowl will discuss the character of Shylock in the *Merchant of Venice* as a prototypical moneylender of the 1500s.

The schedule for the rest of the quarter is purposefully tentative to give us a chance to explore questions that come up in the first few weeks. However, we will most likely hear from our favorite economists, Professor Harold Winter and, of course, Professor Rich Vedder.

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Dr. Charles Ping and Dr. Heather Baird Tomlinson read essays at Founder's Day



Newsletter designed by  
**Alan Schaaf**  
PACE Student Intern

## Trip to Kenya Reinforces Career Path

**Kendra Michel**  
*James E. Daley-Cutler Scholar '09*

This past December, I had the opportunity to study abroad with the SHARE- Kenya program in Kenya, Africa. For three weeks, I traveled along with a group of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other students to the small village of Masara where we delivered healthcare. Our clinic was divided into several different stations: intake, wound care, exam room, eye care, and pharmacy. I worked primarily in intake and in the exam room with the physicians.

In intake, I was responsible for taking patient's vital signs, recording medical histories, and making sure patients were comfortable during their visit. While working with Dr. Sharon Van Nostran and Dr. Bonyo I was able to diagnosis the patients, perform physical exams, as well as learn about different tropical diseases. As one of the only premedical students in the group, this

opportunity allowed me to surround myself with professionals and gave me an early insight of the healthcare atmosphere.

The SHARE- Kenya program not only opened eyes to medical field but it allowed me to view a different aspect of life. Working in an undeveloped country and providing healthcare to adults and children suffering with AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria,

has strengthened my pursuit of medicine.

The Cutler Scholar program has given me the opportunity to travel and work in various healthcare settings. I am truly thankful for my benefactor, Jim Daley, for providing me with the opportunity to advance my educational career and for allowing my college experiences to shape me into the woman I am today.



Kendra Michel with patients outside a Kenya clinic

## Celebrating Founder's Day

The annual Founder's Day was held on February 6 in the Walter Hall Rotunda. A celebration of Ohio University's founding and history, the event honors distinguished faculty, nationally competitive award recipients, and student scholars.

Executive Vice President and Provost Kathy Krendl recognized the Cutler Scholars during the awards portion of the program.

Dr. Charles J. Ping, Cutler Scholars Director Emeritus, and Heather Baird Tomlinson, Konneker-Cutler

Scholar '00, were invited essayists at the event. Dr. Ping's essay was entitled, "The Promise Fulfilled," and Heather's was entitled, "Possibility." To view copies of their essays, go to <http://www.ohio.edu/provost/Promise-Essays>.

## Do You Have a Story to Share?

We hope you enjoyed the first 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).