Pride Points

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

TILANKA CHANDRASEKERA, Architectural Studies graduate student, received the Architecture Research Centers Consortium King Student Medal for Excellence in Architectural and Environmental Design Research as well as an MU Teaching with Technology Award in 2012.

ALLISON HEIZELMAN, Nutrition and Exercise Physiology senior, was selected as one of the Mizzou ’39 recipients. This honor is based on the student’s academic achievement as well as their leadership and service in the community.

GRAHAM McCaully, Human Development and Family Studies graduate student, was elected as the 2010-2011 MU Graduate Professional Council GPC Vice-President.

RACHEL RIPLEY and JENNA SALMONS, Textile and Apparel Management (TAM) seniors, as well as KRISTA VILlers and Adeline Wolfgang, TAM juniors, were recipients of the 2012 YMA Fashion Scholarship in the amount of $5,000 each.

ANTANICE SILLS, Architectural Studies senior, won first place in the Commercial Category of the Boardwalk 2011 Student Interior Design Competition at Maryville University in St. Louis.

Serving Our Servicemembers

Katie Drobina receives the Military Social Work scholarship.

AFTER THREE SEMESTERS, Katie Drobina is among the first graduates of the Military Social Work certificate program. “I believe the certificate program has equipped me to better understand the current and impending issues facing our servicemembers, veterans and their families,” says Drobina, whose husband currently serves in the U.S. Army. “Understanding and helping with issues such as reintegration and readjustment, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), marital and family issues, and military sexual trauma (MST) are just a few of the topics on which the certificate program focuses.”

Drobina was able to pursue the program with the help of a scholarship from Veterans United Home Loans. “My husband is stationed in Texas while I am completing my master’s degree,” Drobina explains. “We are paying two separate living expenses with one paycheck. This scholarship has helped me finance some basic expenses for my time in the program, and eases some of our burdens given the situation.”

Drobina was awarded the scholarship because of her academic achievement and the quality of her application.

“Soldiers and their families sacrifice so much for our nation, our communities, and their families,” Drobina wrote in her application essay. “The least I can do is provide services to help with the transitions and demands they face daily.”

Drobina is currently finishing her final practicum at Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri. She works with the Family Advocacy Program (FAP), which serves soldiers and their families facing domestic violence investigations. “Along with learning about and understanding the military system of handling these situations, I will be working closely with alleged offenders and family members through the processes of assessment and brief intervention,” she says.

Eventually, Drobina hopes to work with FAP as a victim advocate social work provider on a military installation. She’d like to employ her interest in child abuse and neglect by serving on a case review committee, which utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to assist families medically, legally, and emotionally in the wake of child or spousal abuse.

Only time will tell where Drobina will work – she and her husband will likely spend the next 15 years living the active duty lifestyle. Drobina sees opportunity in moving around the country. “Not only does this provide me with the opportunity to experience new military environments regularly, but it also gives me the privilege to serve military personnel, veterans, and their families in a variety of places,” she says. “I believe that my education at the University of Missouri and the Military Social Work Graduate Certificate program have prepared me to enter the career field of military social work and serve the men, women, and families who daily serve us.”