

Kayla Luhrs, Attended 2004-2005, Former Student Ambassador

Bob Hoskovec, Director of Recruitment and advisor for the Ambassadors, keeps in touch with many of the former student Ambassadors. The alumni office caught up with Kayla Luhrs to gather more information. She is most inspirational and is continuing her education after graduating magna cum laude this spring from the University of Wyoming.

Years Attended: 2004-05

Area of Study: Dance/Physiology/Biology

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Kayla brings us up to date with her life. She writes:

"I was a student during Fall 2004, J-Term 2005, and Spring 2005. While I was there I worked with Bob Hoskovec giving campus tours and representing YC at community events. I did not necessarily declare a major at YC; I just took general classes.

When I first got there I was studying arts because I thought I wanted to be a dance teacher. I took a careers class my first semester there and realized that was not a good career fit for me. I still wanted to study dance so I tried to maintain a dance major with my science curriculum at the University of Wyoming. My time was too constricted though so I changed that to a dance minor with my physiology/biology major. Eventually I had to drop that as well and now just dance for fun. I now have my bachelor of science in zoology/physiology without any minors, although I did graduate magna cum laude.

The vast majority of my time this year was consumed with



schoolwork. I completed my 7th semester of college (5th at University of Wyoming) and will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in zoology/physiology on May 10th. I took the admissions test for medical school (MCAT) this past August and have been working on applications for medical school. I have completed applications for 13 schools and will hopefully be receiving interviews January-March of 2008.

In September of 2006, I began working in the Neuroscience Department here at UW doing research with a faculty member and Ph.D. candidates. The first project I worked on was a study on methamphetamines and I was the 3rd co-author on a research poster about this topic, which was presented at the International Neuroscience Convention this year in San Diego.

My main project, which I am still working on, is a study on Alzheimer's disease. I gave a presentation about this at Undergraduate research Day 2007 entitled "Behavioral and Pathological Changes in a Bigenic (APP^{swe}+PS1/DeltaE9) Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease". I am now studying the role neuroinflammation plays in Alzheimer's

disease and I wrote my senior thesis on this topic.



This summer I had the great pleasure of traveling to South Africa to participate in a program on medicine. I spent several weeks going all over the country to visit various clinics and hospitals to learn about the country's progress to overcome the AIDS epidemic.

I also got to visit the apartheid museum, Nelson Mandela's former home and an orphanage. I was really moved by all that I experienced and had an absolutely wonderful time.

That is mostly what I do these days! For fun I still dance, bead, go bargain-hunting, take aerobics, go to church, cook, go out on an occasional date, and sleep."