

## Department of Consumer Sciences Senior Profiles



### Alison Cress

Hospitality Management, 2008

Alison Cress set a goal of graduating with Distinction from the Hospitality Management major. To accomplish the goal, she completed a senior honors thesis. The topic of her study was the impact of organizational culture and personality on employee job performance among front-line employees in the hospitality industry. One of the valuable lessons learned by Alison was working through the requirements of the Institutional Review Board (IRB), a body that reviews research proposals to ensure adequate protections are in place before humans participate in research. Alison's project approval was complicated because her data came from confidential surveys completed

by employees and their managers, but she was able to find a way to ensure anonymity of the individuals. She hopes that her work will help employers make hiring choices that better fit the culture of their organization and lead to better overall productivity.

Writing a thesis has helped Alison look at hospitality management issues with enhanced focus and detail and develop her scientific writing skills. Participating in the Honors program also benefited her in the form of a scholarship that helped with tuition as she conducted her research. When asked what advice she would give to someone considering starting a thesis, Alison said, "you must be prepared to do a lot of work and put everything into the research process." She also noted that all the faculty in the department were helpful to her as she worked on the project, but she is particularly grateful for the support that she received from Dr. Kay Stafford and Dr. Michael Tews. Alison plans to turn her attention to a human resources or sales position in the field after graduation, but the thesis experience will give her an edge compared to other applicants as she begins her job search.

### Kathleen Johnson

Textiles and Clothing, 2008



When Kathleen Johnson interviewed for her interior design internship with Ohio State's Office of Student Affairs, she did not have a professional portfolio. After being in that position for sixteen months, she feels that she has developed a "huge" portfolio that shows she has commercial and residential experience. Kathleen learned about the position by working with the Department of Consumer Sciences' career counselor Nancy Dugan. The internship experience provides opportunities for Kathleen to select flooring, carpeting, furniture, chairs, and tables for offices and spaces across the OSU campus, including the Royer Student Activities Center.

As a graduating senior in the Textiles and Clothing major, Kathleen has taken courses to help her in the work that she does, but she said that CS TXTCL 425.02, Interiors Product Development: Housing Application has helped her most.

Kathleen has contributed to the University in other ways, too. For the past two years, she was selected as a co-chair for the coordinating committee of the Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony. As co-chair, she secured speakers for the event and coordinated committee work to make sure all tasks were on schedule. She was also a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society, which she would recommend because it is, "an awesome way of doing two things I love, meeting people and doing service projects."