

## Department of Consumer Sciences Senior Profiles



### Danielle Putt

Textiles and Clothing, 2008

The Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC) at first may seem like an unlikely place for an intern from the Textiles and Clothing major, but Danielle Putt has an internship there working with the facility's interior designers. Fortunately for Danielle, two alumni from the program recently took fulltime positions as designers in the hospital and are helping to create opportunities for current students. Danielle has been able to develop her portfolio through the position as she has helped to select materials and finishes and provide uniformity to spaces across the hospital system. Danielle learned of the OSUMC opportunity from one of her professors, Dr. Susan

Zavotka. Not entirely certain of what the position would be, Danielle read the announcement several times before she applied but she said that she is glad that she decided to submit her resume. She will continue her internship over this summer after she graduates.

Danielle is an advocate for the Textiles and Clothing major and for study abroad programs. In the summer of 2006, she studied politics, history, and literature in Dublin, Ireland. "It was an amazing opportunity. I wish I could have stayed longer," and she said, "The Office of International Affairs was a great help to me. They worked with me to find scholarships to help pay for the expenses."

The advice that Danielle would give to freshmen in Textiles and Clothing is the same as what she gives to her younger sister, who is starting at Ohio State next year, too. "Apply for scholarships early, talk to advisors, professors, and students in your prospective major, try to get more than one internship and, when you are looking for an internship do not take the first one that comes along. Find one that clicks for you."

### Meredith Rawling

Hospitality Management, 2008



The internship that Meredith Rawling completed as part of her requirements for the Hospitality Management major was valuable to her because, "it was the first place that gave me significant responsibilities and the opportunity to make big decisions." This would be impressive in any restaurant, but Meredith's internship was with Chicago's famed AAA Four Diamond Award winning restaurant, The Pump Room. She gained management experience, opened herself up to and learned about fine cuisine and wine, and received an offer to return to work there after graduation. Meredith is graduating this June with her Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management. To gain a variety of experience early in her career, she is returning to Chicago but has accepted a position with one of the city's best catering and event management businesses, Blue Plate Catering. Her plan is to build experience in various segments of the hospitality industry and eventually work as a hospitality consultant.

When asked what advice she would pass along to students just starting in Hospitality Management, Meredith recommends that they begin gaining experience in the industry early. "It is good to get started so that you can work your way up, and it is important to make contacts in the industry with people you can rely on later." One of Meredith's best contacts came from another internship that she completed for the major at Crowne Plaza Hotel and the Lofts. She said that her supervisor there became a great source of support and encouragement.

Meredith also mentioned the importance of networking with the Hospitality Management faculty members. She was grateful that she was able to form close bonds with her teachers as she felt comfortable talking to them about topics ranging from professional to personal. In the Hospitality Management department, communication is a two-way street and Meredith's intelligent and sincere contributions to the major are as significant to it as the education was for her.