Students elect to work in ministries, not jobs

■ **SERVICE:** Religious organizations send students all over the world on mission projects

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

As summer rapidly approaches, many students will have full-time jobs or internships to earn money for school and other interests. But some will volunteer their time, earning no money for their efforts and in some cases, raising money to do so.

With religious organizations such as Teen Missions and Delta Ministries sending students across the world to perform various projects, many local students have taken advantage of the opportunity to do something a little out of the ordinary.

For Daniel Collins, a junior majoring in linguistics and Spanish, the decision to serve Jesus Christ came very easily.

"I think people should be outwardly focused," he said. "It's good for people to think about people other than themselves."

Collins is leaving today for Anchorage, Alaska, to work with an Eskimo village and an inner-city mission. During the day he will have a full-time job, but during the evening he will evangelize and serve in both communities.

Collins will work with a team of 24 other men as part of the two-month Campus Crusade summer project.

Campus Crusade Director Steve Ellisen said while the full-time jobs some students get can offset much of the cost of the projects, most students have to raise money before hand.

"It's a step of faith, for sure," he said.

In order to raise the $1,800 he needed, Collins sent letters to friends and church members. Almost all the money came in within a few months.

"First, it was kind of tough because I felt like I was begging for money," Collins said.

For Matthew Stormont, a junior architecture major, the experience was very similar. In order to serve in Madrid, Spain, at a camp for a few months, Stormont had to raise $2,695 and has only $450 left.

"I was really scared about that actually because I was never able to raise money like in elementary school where you sell candy bars," he said.

For Stormont though, one of the biggest problems was not having a job or internship for the summer.

"Normally in architecture, this is a good time to find an apprenticeship job with somebody so I was really looking toward that," he said.

The service project soon became a priority as spring came to a close, however.

"The Spain thing became more important through the course of the year," he said.

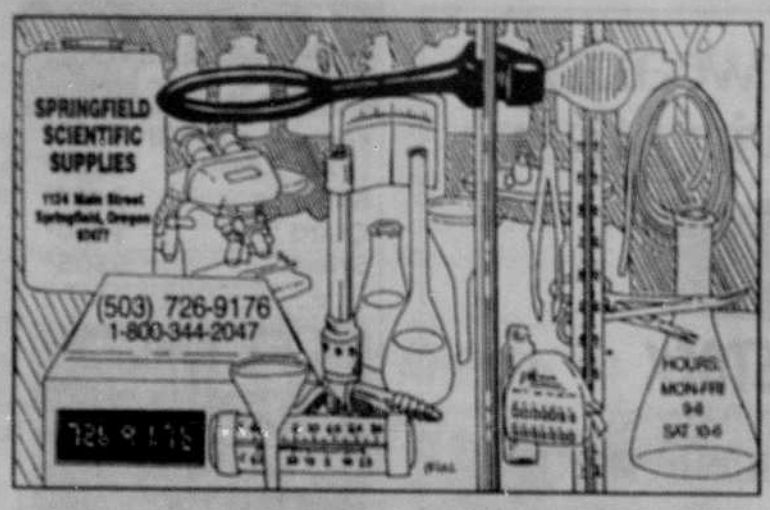
When Susan Pastorino leaves Tuesday for Izhezsk, Russia, she'll not only be serving in a ministry but also fulfilling a life-long dream. A senior Russian major, Pastorino said she's always wanted to see Russia, and being involved in a short-term mission seemed to be the perfect way to do so.

"I'm still pinching myself," she said.

She will work in a youth group in Izhezsk, 600 miles east of Moscow and teach English as a second language. But she has not forgotten the real reason she is going.

Russia has only recently been opened up to Christian organizations and Pastorino is excited to take advantage of the new freedom.

"I just want to serve God," she said. "I just want to be able to witness to people despite the cross-cultural differences."



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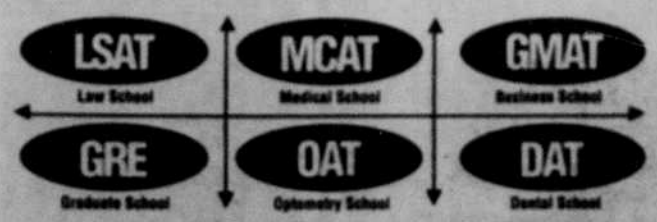

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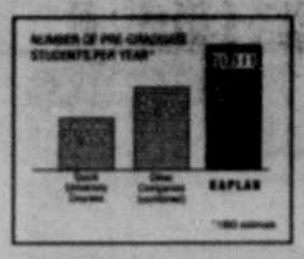

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