

Profiles

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"I am happy that I joined Zeta Phi Beta," she said. "It has allowed me to meet people I would never have met and do things like host the step show, which I put together."

Even so, when reflecting on the past five years, one regret of Haqq's is "not being involved more" on campus.

She plans to stay in Eugene this summer and work at the Boys and Girls Club, a job she's had since August. Recently promoted to team director, Haqq will be taking on new responsibilities as a public relations contact, a club liaison and a counselor to teens from local high schools.

"The club gives high school students somewhere to go after school, before they go home," she said. "It has allowed me to make a connection with kids I would never have considered, and I wouldn't change that for the world."

Haqq said she's ready to graduate, but feelings of both excitement and apprehension about the future are closing in.

"Much more is expected of you in what people call 'the real world,'" she said. "Once you're there, it's all about working and making change."

—Caron Alarab

Designed to help new students

When Collins Makunda was growing up, he collected stamps, but he never thought he'd get the opportunity to meet people at the University from the countries where those stamps originated.



MAKUNDA

Since fall 1999, the Kenya native has been a Duck, and he

will earn his master's degree in Interior Architecture upon graduation. He was the recipient, at the University awards ceremony, of the Friendship Foundation's Outstanding Student Merit Award. Recently, Makunda presented his final interior design presentation, a theoretical Center for African Studies in Portland. He has been working on this project all year, which often meant an average of three hours of sleep per night.

Golda Portillo, the International Student Association's program coordinator, said Makunda's committed service to campus and upbeat personality will be missed.

"He's a very energetic person," she said. "Whenever he helps out, he's so enthusiastic. He brightens up the room."

Makunda has worked as an intern with the ISA, a volunteer in the Office of International Programs, and a participant in Campus Crusade for Christ, as well as serving in the African Students Association. Makunda said he enjoys offering his resources to new graduate students who come to the University.

"It's thrilling just to help people," he said. "I'm the first person, the first contact, for people when they come here."

But when he's not studying or volunteering, he said he enjoys hiking and traveling.

"Being outdoors has helped me to feel at home in Oregon and reconnected to my own country," he said. "Seeing trees, I always feel refreshed."

After a relaxing summer break, he plans to participate in a year-long practical training program in interior architecture in the United States, then earn his doctorate. Makunda said he eventually plans to return to Kenya to start his own architecture firm and teach at the University of Nairobi.

—Lisa Toth

Healing the sick helps the heart

After graduation, Amy Biggs is off to heal the world — some more.

During a study abroad medical internship to Zimbabwe, Africa, Biggs delivered three babies in one hour, by herself.

Biggs, an Honors College student who is graduating with a degree in general science this term, is working to become a doctor.

"I have a strong desire to help provide health care to all levels of people," Biggs said.

She said she believes there is a big discrepancy in health care around the world. During her four years at the University, she said she has been working to change that, here and abroad.

During her six months in Africa, Biggs said she was able to help those most in need as she worked delivering babies, providing basic health services and assisting with surgeries.

Here in Eugene, while taking premed courses, she has been involved with the Student Health Advisory Committee for three years and this year she served as the committee's chairwoman. Biggs worked to get more student voices heard on issues such as the renovation of the University Health Center and the search for a new Health Center director, she said.

After graduation, Biggs will be applying to medical school and getting married.

"I plan to eventually go into primary care here in the States, and then go abroad to do humanitarian work," Biggs said.

—Katie Franz for the Emerald

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