

Kim Bartmess '04

Kim has already crammed a lot of experiences into her brief college career. She was the only freshman chosen to participate in the initial class of the Rhodes St. Jude Summer Plus program and is beginning her third term there. Her first project yielded breakthrough information leading toward effective treatment and prevention of a virus-bacteria combination that is the sixth largest cause of death among humans worldwide. She has just begun a new assignment that will involve her in a procedure known as reverse genetics to examine strains of influenza in hopes of properly targeting drug therapies.

In addition she has volunteered for a semester of night duty in the trauma department of a local hospital, run a marathon, spent a semester at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, served on the Rhodes Social Regulations Council for three years, and tutored children in reading at Jackson Elementary School.

These experiences have caused her to consider a change in career plans. Having volunteered in hospitals since age 14, Kim always knew she wanted to be a physician. After the St. Jude experience she thinks medical research may also play a part in her future. "My experience at Rhodes has been wonderful," she says. "I learned a lot about the value of it when I sat in classes in Aberdeen with 150-300 other people and professors who don't even know your name. At Rhodes my professors care very much and that helps me to set and achieve goals."