



John R. Simmons Scholarship

Jenessa Blotter

Biology Major, Cellular/Molecular Emphasis,
Senior

A few things about me:

My name is Jenessa Blotter and I am entering my senior year in the Department of Biology here at Utah State University. Majoring in Cellular/Molecular Biology and minoring in Chemistry, I love to learn about chemical and cellular processes. My first two years here at Utah State I have enjoyed being a part of the USU Honors program, and USU College Republicans as I continue my knowledge of biology and chemistry. Academically, I have done well, maintaining a 3.96 GPA while taking hard classes like Genetics and Organic Chemistry. I have enjoyed my involvement in undergraduate research at the Spider Silk lab at Innovation Campus, with Xioali Zhang and Randy Lewis as my mentors. It has been fascinating to assist in the creation of a transgenic silkworm that produces silk with spider-like mechanical properties. This spring I had the opportunity to go on a humanitarian mission to Tena, Ecuador with the Charity Anywhere Foundation. I conducted hundreds of hearing tests and fit people in need of hearing aids. This past summer I studied abroad in La Rioja, Spain and became fluent in Spanish while fulfilling the requirements to take me from a Bachelor of Science to a Bachelor of Arts when I graduate next spring. When I am not in the lab or studying for exams, I love to play soccer, throw the javelin, and scuba dive. With still so much ahead of me, and so much to learn, I look forward to continuing my education here at Utah State. This scholarship means so much to me, because it means I can continue to participate in research and study hard instead of having to pursue a meaningless job in order to pay for tuition. I am recently married and I do not know if my husband and I could even pay for fall tuition without this generous contribution. After my undergraduate education I plan on applying to medical school with hopes to become a radiologist.