

## Sara Schmelzer



When Sara Schmelzer graduated from high school, she wanted to be an architect. She also wanted to travel to places outside the Inland Northwest. So she attended a technical institute in Phoenix, then went to Germany to visit a friend who was an exchange student.

While overseas, she took a few courses, then came back home and earned her AA degree as a dental assistant from Puget Sound Community College. Then, in another decision that sent her in a new direction, she decided to go into a field that people had always said she'd be good at.

She came to EWU in 1998 and majored in marketing. Having been in Germany, she learned German and Dutch and took a minor in German at Eastern. With her degree, she plans to go into international business.

You would think that Sara might be busy enough without taking on additional activities. Instead, she decided to enter an internship arrangement with the Study Abroad Program. And in fall quarter 2001, as she and her class were working on a marketing management plan for the EWU Foundation, she and a few classmates created a senior gift campaign.

"We wanted a way to leave our legacy as seniors," explains Sara. "We decided that our gift would be a bench, which will be installed before we graduate by the Cheney Normal School Heritage Center. We want this to be an inspiration to other classes."

Senior gifts are a part of Eastern's past. The Sacajawea statue in Showalter Hall was a gift from the class of 1913. And the Pillars of Hercules - the stone gateway flanking the main walkway up to Showalter Hall - was a gift from the class of 1915. But there have been few such gifts since that year.

When completed, the benches will be marked with a plaque recognizing the class of 2002, one bench installed for every \$1000 raised.

"Over the past two years at Eastern," says Sara, "I have been rewarded with an exceptional education. My instructors in the Business Department have assisted me in defining the most suitable package to attain my future goals. The real world classroom assignments from the Marketing Program assisted me in gaining the competitive advantage for success in this field. Thanks to the teaching style, I was able to work with the Foundation to rejuvenate the milestone effort of the Senior Gift. Seeing the project from inception to completion gives me the confidence to accomplish my future career goals."

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