

## Balancing the Books

*CED Major Creates System to Help Nonprofit*

After what was supposed to be a month-long visit to work with the Children and Youth Empowerment Center in Nyeri, Kenya, **Caroline Gimmillaro** landed an internship with the U.S.-based Zawadi Fund International, and extended her stay by a month.

Before her trip to Kenya, she had been working with Zawadi Fund, which supports the center, a residential and educational program for street-dwelling children and other vulnerable youths in Kenya. The original trip was part of a study-abroad program embedded into one of her classes.

"I was working with an accounting professor who asked me to stay," she explained. "I was able to turn it into an internship."

The Paoli, Pa., native always knew she wanted to help people and see the world, so she did some research and decided to major in Community, Environment and Development and get a minor in Economics.

"I feel blessed for my education," she said. "Eventually I would like to use



*Caroline Gimmillaro*

it to help other people."

Gimmillaro decided on Penn State because she had been going to football games since she was a kid, and no other

colleges she visited could compare.

Her main job as an intern, and for class, was to come up with a micro-finance plan for the older children who

already had started a co-op with different businesses, including agriculture and crafts. The plan would help the kids expand their businesses and help them get loans to start their own businesses when they leave the center, she explained.

"I helped to facilitate meetings and classes with my Kenyan counterparts," Gimmillaro said. "I also helped them with record keeping. They were lacking a formal structure in their organization."

She gained valuable life skills in organization, developing contacts and relationships with local people, and learning to live and adapt in unfavorable situations.

After graduation, Gimmillaro plans to work for a few years -- she hopes abroad with those in need -- and then she wants to go to graduate school. Her dream job is to run a nonprofit organization that empowers women.

For more information about the Community, Environment, and Development major, visit [thinkagain.psu.edu/ced](http://thinkagain.psu.edu/ced) online.

## Designing His Future

**Environmental Major Initiated Internship**

Create your own opportunities.

Those are words that **Nathan Shultz** lives by. His determination and investigative efforts resulted in a great internship with P. Joseph Lehman Consulting Engineers during the summer of 2011.

Through online research and the phone book, he was able to "hunt down" the opportunity. After he contacted the company, he was granted an interview. Shortly after, he was offered a position as an environmental technician intern.

A senior majoring in Environmental Resource Management with minors in Environmental Soil Science and in Watersheds and Water Resources, the Altoona, Pa., native chose his field because environmental jobs are readily available.

"The curriculum includes courses that provide real-world experience and hands-on learning," he said. "The courses being taught equip students with information that will be needed to protect

the environment years down the road."

Shultz attended Penn State Altoona for two years before transferring to the University Park campus during his junior year. His decision to attend Penn State was based completely on academics.

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Shultz worked on multiple projects during his internship, preparing the background information and performing site

inspections necessary for companies to build structures.

His main duties included completing wetland delineations and reports, erosion and sediment-control plans, and soil reports using computer programs such as the Web Soil Survey, Pennsylvania eMap and the Penn State Soil Map.

"My favorite part of the internship was having a true sense of what a real job is going to feel like," Shultz explained. "I worked 40 hours a week, every week, both inside and outside."

"I was treated like a real, full-time employee, and that made a huge difference."

He learned a lot through his experience. "I have enhanced my communication skills," he said. "My experience allowed me to become more resourceful, and I learned how to pull information from resources I never knew existed."

He is passionate about bass fishing, so his dream job would be to work for



*Nathan Shultz*

a private engineering firm while fishing on a semi-pro bass-fishing circuit.

For more information about the Environmental Resource Management major, go to [thinkagain.psu.edu/erm](http://thinkagain.psu.edu/erm) online.