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Scholarship profile: Jenessa Betts

Jenessa Betts, winner of the 2007 Thomas A. Yatooma Memorial Scholarship, is pursuing a double major at Oakland University. Now in her senior year, Betts will graduate in May with a bachelor of science in computer science and a bachelor of arts in mathematics.

Her primary interest is computer science, but Betts enjoys math as well.

"Knowledge of math helps with proving things. It helps you learn how to think things through," she said.

The scholarship provided \$3,000 (\$1,500 per semester) toward Betts' tuition.

"The Yatooma scholarship has eased the financial burden of paying tuition," Betts said.

Betts chose Oakland University because it was close to home, where she still lives with her family. This has been an ideal situation for Betts, who participates in Bible education work on top of her coursework.



Jenessa Betts

"I appreciate the support of my family," she said. "I like Oakland because it feels like a small campus, and I can really get to know my professors. It has also provided me many opportunities."

This semester, Betts is involved in a research project with Assistant Professor of Engineering Jia Li. Betts is doing programming work for Li's project.

Betts is also a technical intern at ImageSoft, where she is a programmer. Her current projects include building e-forms for businesses. As a junior, Betts held an internship at DaimlerChrysler Financial Corporation, where she worked on the information security team.

Like many college seniors, Betts is unsure where the future will lead her.

Betts explained, "It's one thing to learn in the classroom, but it's a whole other world to go out there and apply that knowledge. After I graduate, I plan on working and gaining experience in various facets of the IT field. I want to explore different areas and see where it takes me."

SUMMARY

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