

2007 Scholarship Recipients

2007 KERRY GARLAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

"Yes, I do," replied then-intern **Kristin Hodges**, a senior journalism major at Louisiana Tech University, when asked by a WOFL-TV (Orlando, Fla.) news producer, "Are you sure you want to do this?" Kristin was 13 when "journalism crept into my world." Constant "transfusions" of information through newspapers and round-the-clock TV news solidified her conviction that she "had to be in journalism."

Carrying a 3.9 cumulative GPA (4.0 in her major), Kristin, 21, has worked on the Tech Talk since summer 2006 and interned in Orlando last summer. "It was amazing to see what goes on behind the scenes during newscasts and the teamwork involved in getting the shows together," she wrote in her scholarship application essay. "I loved the crunch right before airtime and how the show must go on...."

"Are you sure you want to do this?"

"Yes," is her instant reply. "Even with the dropped stories, deadlines, technical difficulties, interviews that fall through and the people who hide the truth. I have to do this."

2007 ORLAND DODSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Being a 21-year-old Army Reserve broadcast journalist in Baghdad, Iraq, quickly clears up any misconceptions that journalism is glamorous! **Kristen King**, a senior mass communications/broadcast journalism major at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, used to envision a lot of "glamor" in journalism before she spent eight months in Iraq. Once there, she found as many good things happening as bad, and "thought everyone at home needed to hear the good news, too."

Now 23, Kristen carries a 3.6 GPA (3.8 in her major) and is more convinced than ever that she wants to be a journalist. She knows it is "not about traveling to exotic countries ... or climbing the ladder to wealth and fame." She wants to be a journalist "because I know what it's like to hear only one side of the story and know there's another side to tell. Informing the public doesn't mean picking the side of the story that best represents your agenda. Informing the public means telling the whole story to the people who are turning to you for their information. I want to be a journalist who tells the whole truth."