

~ OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD ~

YOUNG ALUMNA'S COMPASSION, ENTHUSIASM BENEFIT CHILDREN OF AFRICA

By Andrea Mostyn

In the 2½ years since she graduated from Missouri State University, Kelli Wolf Moles has accomplished more than many people decades older. In addition to moving to New York City to take a job on Wall Street, she has organized two volunteer trips to Africa and raised more than \$46,000 for projects in the continent.

After her first trip to Africa in 2006, Moles was diagnosed with malaria. Her illness prompted her to help children in Africa avoid contracting the same disease.

Moles helped raise about \$6,000 to buy malaria nets for children in Uganda (east Africa) and more than \$40,000 to build a neighborhood health clinic to focus on clinical care, as well as preventative education in Ghana. Last fall, she and her husband, Kyle Moles, '06, led a group of 13 volunteers to Ghana, where they worked alongside an African construction team to build the clinic.

"I am most proud of our health clinic in Africa," said Moles. "Having malaria was a very scary experience for me and my family. I had wonderful treatment and care here in the U.S. and thought of all of the people I met in Africa who do not have the same opportunities when faced with deadly

diseases. Working together with co-workers, friends and family to raise enough money to help fight malaria and other diseases is something I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Moles' most lasting legacy at Missouri State is the creation of Public Affairs Week, during which students celebrate and demonstrate the University's public affairs mission. Dr. Earle Doman, vice president for student affairs, said Moles introduced the idea on a bus ride back from Jefferson City, where she and other students had advocated for the University's name change.

"I have encountered numerous exceptional student leaders during my many years working in student affairs," said Doman. "I can certainly name outstanding students who made a difference on our campus and have gone on to be community and business leaders. Very few, however, can match the passion and continuing actions for serving others as demonstrated by Kelli. She is indeed a

role model for civic engagement and is someone our great University can proclaim as living the public affairs mission."

In 2004, Moles became a member of the Missouri State Board of Governors. Through her involvement she developed a close friendship with Board Member Mary Sheid.

"When I was a sophomore, I started on the Board of Governors," said Moles. "And very quickly, Mary became a very special mentor and friend to me. She really encouraged me to go for it. When I said 'I don't know anyone in New York,' she said 'find someone.'"

The high esteem that Moles holds for Sheid is very much reciprocated.

"Although Kelli has graciously credited



KELLI WOLF MOLES '06

JPMorgan Securities Inc.

Investment Banking Analyst

Residence: New York, New York

Moles graduated summa cum laude in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and minors in Spanish and economics. She was among *Glamour* magazine's 2005 Top College Women. She is a board member of Global Action Project, a youth media arts program. She is married to Kyle Moles, '06.

me with mentoring her...I can truly say I have learned as much from her as she has from me," said Sheid. "Kelli is extremely smart and motivated and has the ability to discuss subjects in a manner that is always thought-provoking and encourages others to grow. One of the characteristics of Kelli's personality that I find so admirable is that she has the ability to be extremely engaged in life. I doubt Kelli has ever pursued anything with the intent of 'not taking on too much extra.' I think the type of mentality that Kelli exemplifies is to embrace life and improve on it when she can."

Moles is an alumna to keep an eye on. Within the next few years, she plans to pursue an MBA at a top-five university. She also plans to continue volunteering in Africa and seeing as much of the world as she can. ■

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