

## Alumni Scholarship Winner Danielle Mosier

Danielle won a \$2,000 CollegeNET.com scholarship in October 2008. She's currently working on finishing her master's degree in teaching at Washington State University, Vancouver, where she also completed her undergraduate work.

### CollegeNET: What was your winning forum topic?

Danielle Mosier: Since the election took place over an entire month, I wrote a lot of forums and posts, so it's tough to tell which ones really earned the votes, but my two most popular forums at the time were "Zygote Baby Fetus" about when life begins, and "No Student Loans," about what you would do if you couldn't get student loans anymore.

### CN: Has your opinion changed on the topic today?

DM: I was just looking back at those forums, and I didn't really offer my perspective much. I asked a lot of questions, though, which really furthered the discussion.

With the "Zygote" forum, I was really curious about when people thought life began. At conception? When the fetus has a heart-beat? When a baby is born? This leads into a whole host of connected topics, like when a person has a soul, and what a life is worth. It was really interesting, and I still wonder. My religious/spiritual views are slightly different than they were then, but I think the question is still worth asking, and I don't know that I'll ever have a definite answer. I think it's important to be open to changing your own ideas as you continue to learn.

With the forum about student loans, I shared a little about my experience at community college. I had worked full time and took classes as I could afford them. I was worried about where our economy was going, and was wondering if student loan funding would be cut. I wanted to know

what people would do if student loans weren't available.

### CN: How did winning your CollegeNET scholarship impact your education?

DM: Because I won the scholarship, I was able to continue on with school, with \$2,000 less in student loans. As a result, I'm also accruing less interest; and, when you're out of work, like I am, that's a good thing! That \$2,000 will probably shape up to save me even more money once I think about how much interest my student loans will accrue over the course of making payments.

Also, winning the CollegeNET.com scholarship helped me to feel more comfortable with taking my graduate classes at a more manageable pace because I didn't have an enormous debt hanging over my head. I still have two classes to go until I'm finished with my master's degree. My classmates were worried about taking out additional loans, but I felt more comfortable taking things at a pace that was better for me. I appreciate that, because the master's program is the most challenging thing I've done so far, in terms of stress.

### CN: What do you like to do in your spare time?

DM: I still spend time on CollegeNET.com, though not as much as I used to. I keep in touch with friends and family on Facebook. I spend a lot of time applying for jobs. I've also been training to run a 5k, and am confident that I can do it now (I'm really proud of that!). I also love art and music, and enjoy painting, karaoke and reading. I've continued to write for our campus newspaper.

### A Sampling of the Chatter on CollegeNET.com — Join the Conversation!

**Too Young To Love?** "Our brains don't actually finish developing until we are in our twenties. The last part to develop deals with regulating emotions and abstract thought. I think this is evident in teenage relationships."

**To Facebook or Not to Facebook?** "I felt coerced into getting a Facebook. If I didn't have a Facebook, I was almost completely out of the loop on what was going on with my friends."

**What Do You Think About the Burning Quran Thing?** "I am against burning of books in general because it is destroying and denying other's ideas and beliefs. If we aren't entitled to our own ideas and beliefs, then what is the U.S. coming to?"

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*If you have a tip for CollegeNET.com, or you are a past scholarship winner who would like to be profiled, email us at [collegenet@schwartz-pr.com](mailto:collegenet@schwartz-pr.com).*

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### CBS MoneyWatch – College Text- books: 7 Ways to Save Money

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