Future Environmental Engineer Feels Right at Home at Yale

STUDENT PROFILE

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— Megan Altizer ’12

Megan Altizer ’12 came to Yale from Williston, North Dakota. To some, travelling the 2,000-plus miles might seem a long way, but with a roommate from Thailand and classmates from around the world, Alitzer says it’s not much by comparison. Besides, the sophomore in Silliman College feels right at home at Yale.

With a strong interest in science, Megan is majoring in environmental engineering and gaining experience in the laboratory of Julie Zimmerman, assistant professor of environmental engineering and forestry & environmental studies. “We are working on bio-hydrogen production,” she said. “This involves creating the ideal environment for bacteria to produce hydrogen that can then be used as an energy source.” Megan also credits Professor Ann Valentine with giving her a strong appreciation for science. “She really taught us how to approach problems and apply the concepts we learned,” she added.

Also involved in her residential college, Megan co-chairs the Silliman seminar committee and feels grateful for the opportunity to have input on the curriculum as a student. And she traveled to China on a Yale Reach Out trip, where she taught elementary school children in Beijing. Excited to visit for the first time, Megan says she welcomed the opportunity to learn more about the country that some of her fellow Yalies call home.

Following graduation, Megan plans to attend graduate school and earn her Ph.D. Ultimately, she hopes to have a career in research. But first, she wants to enjoy her next two years at Yale and all the people she has met. “It’s very easy to get caught up in academics and grades, but even when you are very busy you can still appreciate the people around you and that they are here to support you,” she said. “They give you perspective.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Megan to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.