

## Graduate focuses on aiding community

*By Taryn Sauthoff*

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Douglass College senior Jaymie Stein seems to have done it all before graduation- she was president of her class until her junior year, spent a summer in Washington, D.C., as a grassroots outreach intern for the National Wildlife Federation, founded ArtopiA, a New Brunswick artist cooperative, and streaked across Woodlawn.

Streaked across Woodlawn?

"Douglass College Government Association put out a list of 101 things to do at Douglass College before your graduation. Streaking across Woodlawn was one of them," she said.

Stein had a unique undergraduate experience at the University, with a major in visual arts with a concentration in painting, and a minor in political science. After graduation, she hopes to work for a nonprofit organization, such as public art advocacy, or with a women's rights group. Eventually, she said she wants to attend law school.

"I'm going to take some time off before taking the LSAT's. One day, I want to work for a nonprofit international human rights organization, helping refugee women seeking asylum in America," she said.

Last summer, Stein volunteered with the Global Literacy Project in Teso, Kenya. Students at the University and professors founded this group in 1998, which is now based out of New Brunswick. In Teso, Stein and other volunteers helped organize 6,000 donated books into the Dewey decimal classification system. Stein also taught English to high school students. "It was the first time they had ever heard of Shakespeare. We read Romeo and Juliet, and they wrote their own play about HIV. The entire experience was wonderful and inspirational."

Stein's time in Kenya became her inspiration for her visual arts senior thesis. She used different patterns of paints to focus on different cultures to open people's eyes to cultural experiences and world tolerance. "The images I employ in my artwork will confront society so the issues of cultural diversity can be central to a discussion."

Stein also has contributed to the New Brunswick community by founding ArtopiA - The New Brunswick Artist Cooperative. As a member of the Institute for Women's Leadership program, founding ArtopiA was her social action project. "ArtopiA was founded to fill the gap between the New Brunswick community and Rutgers. Art can bring communities together- we have visual arts shows in the basement of my house where we built a gallery, and we volunteer with the Institute for Arts and Humanities Education, a non-profit in New Brunswick who does tolerance-based art in local schools."

Jaymie said her passion for helping human advocacy groups comes from her mother, who is a nurse in an HIV/AIDS clinic, and from the Douglass College community. "The women's support at Douglass is incomparable to other colleges. When I came to Rutgers, I anticipated a supportive environment, but it reached beyond what I could have ever thought. I didn't realize how wonderful it would be."

Although Stein said she was excited about her future, she said she will be upset about leaving the College.

"Douglass is my home now. It'll always be with me."

