

Sascha Smith Appreciates Self Storage More Than Ever

By John Dunlap – Editor, SSA Globe

Sascha Smith has been around self storage for all of her young adult life. She has helped clean out recently-vacated units, done landscaping work at a facility, run the front desk and even helped with auctions. But she had no idea that self storage would then help her with career aspirations.

The Bozeman, Montana, resident has spent the last ten years watching and helping her mother and father, Jo-Anne and Richard Smith, owner/operators of the 4 Corners Self Storage facility. For her, the world of self storage has been a day-to-day experience and she came to realize that it was helping put food on the table and pay the bills. Little did she know that the industry her parents joined would also help put \$2,500 toward her own efforts at Pacific University, where she is majoring in occupational therapy.

Her father found out about the SSA Foundation Scholarship program by reading the *SSA Globe* magazine. When the time came for the applicants for 2011 scholarships to be considered, he made sure that Sascha was entered in the competition.

“I found out about the SSA Foundation Scholarship through my family,” Sascha says. “This was at the point that we were trying for every scholarship we could find, so seeing this one was quite exciting. A couple weeks prior to that, we had talked to one of the college counselors and she had told us to look into businesses like this for scholarships and it paid off. I found out I was a winner from the letter they sent out. When we actually received the letter I wasn’t at home so my mom got to call me with the news.”

That news translated into a big boost to her love of both physical therapy and psychology.

“The \$2,500 is primarily going towards paying for tuition,” she says. “It is really helping out in a broad sense—wherever I really need it. As of now I am still planning on

majoring in exercise science and, within that field, going the occupational therapy route.”

“The reason I have chosen occupational therapy is because it has a greater focus on psychology. My original decision was between physical therapy and psychology, so when I started looking into the occupational therapy field it looked pretty perfect to me. Along with that major I am planning on getting a psychology minor so I won’t be missing out there.”

“I love the idea of occupational therapy because you work with people, helping them from all angles,” Sascha adds. “It has both the scientific health side of things and the psychological side of things.”

Future Plans

For Sascha, the future may be bright, but it also is uncertain—her career goals may be reached via various routes. But, she is excited nonetheless.



Sascha Smith loves the outdoors, but she also loves the idea of being an occupational therapist.

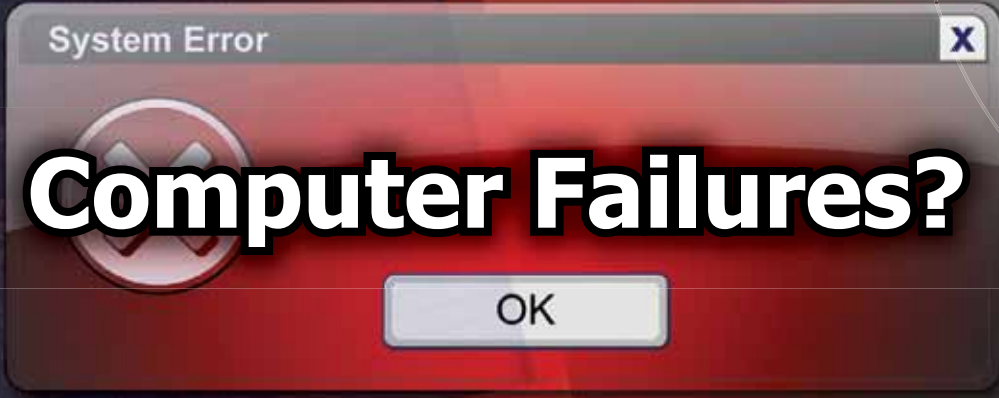
“My plans for after school are constantly changing,” Sascha says. “I know that after college I will be heading to grad school, but after that I’m not sure. There are so many different routes that people suggest that it is almost too soon for me to make any strong decisions.

“My tentative plan as of now is to start by working for a company, possibly a hospital, for a little while and someday open my own practice. That is going to take some time

and really getting my footing in the practice is first. There are many other options I am still weighing, but until I have more of an idea what is going to happen in eight years I can’t make a decision.”

One thing she does know: self storage is an industry she can appreciate on many levels.

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“Our family started the [4 Corners Self Storage] facility around 10 years ago, so we have owned and been working with it for a good part of my life. I can remember starting with three buildings; now we are up to around 300 units. I have helped build the buildings, done yard work around the facility, cleaned units after people moved out, helped with auctions, run the front desk, and watched my parents run the business all of my life. I have gained lots of experience working with them that most other people haven’t had the opportunity to be around.”

Being from Montana and the beautiful country of that region, Sascha has also developed a love of the outdoors. She clearly has no trouble finding ways to enjoy life outside the classroom.

“In my free time I enjoy doing almost anything outdoors,” she adds. “During the summer I teach swimming, life-saving, and kayaking at a camp on Flathead Lake. When it is warm enough, I love anything that has to do with

the water: jet skiing, boating, swimming, sailing, or kayaking. I love hiking and camping with my friends. During the winter we go skiing. Throughout the year we all love playing Frisbee with any extra time we have.”

This SSA Foundation Scholarship winner, with her love of outdoors and her future as an occupational therapist, has a great appreciation of the industry her mother and father chose a decade ago.

“I have had a close connection to the storage facility for years now because of my family involvement and my own personal involvement; but now, after receiving this scholarship, I have the feeling that this organization that my family has put so much time into is giving back in a great way. I know that my parents are not planning on getting out of the business any time soon so I plan on continuing to be involved with it for years to come.”

One thing seems certain, Sascha Smith is most deserving of her Foundation Scholarship award and she seems intent on making sure she uses the award wisely. ❖



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