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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **ERIKA ANSCHUTZ WINS WORLD UNIVERSITY ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES**

Erika Anschutz of Hamilton, Ohio won two gold medals and a bronze medal as a member of the 2008 U.S. World University Archery Team that competed in the 7<sup>th</sup> World University Archery Championship tournament that was held on the campus of Chang Jung Christian University in Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) during July 7-10. The tournament, which is held once every two years at a different location around the world, was attended by a record number of 157 archers, representing 27 nations. The U.S. Team was comprised of twelve collegiate men and women archers from across the nation who were divided into four, three-person teams based on their gender and type of bow used (recurve or compound). Erika, who was one of the youngest members of the U.S. Team, was joined on the collegiate women's compound bow team by Brittany Lorenti and Jessica Fasula who are both students at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Erika completed her sophomore year of school at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio this past spring and will be a junior, majoring in psychology at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska during the coming fall semester.

During the individual competition event, Erika shot against 25 other archers representing 14 nations. She finished the qualification round ranked in second place, two points behind the Korean archer, Oh Hyang Kwon, who won the top seeded position for the next round of competition that determines the world champion. The qualification round consists of 72 arrows shot at a 122-centimeter target face set at a distance of 70 meters. Based on the results of that round of competition, the archers were numerically ranked and assigned to tournament bracket pairings in preparation for the 12-arrow Olympic Round elimination matches which are also shot at a distance of 70 meters. Erika, who was seeded second in her division of competition going into this event, was paired in the 1/8 elimination round against the Italian archer, Katia D'Agostino, whom she easily defeated (112-107). During the 1/4 round, she again shot well and won her match against the Finish archer, Anne Laurila (110-107). In the semi-finals, Erika faced the third seeded archer from Russia, Viktoria Balzhanova, and easily defeated her (112-106). The stage was now set for Erika to face the top seeded Korean in the gold medal match for the world championship title. As anticipated, the match was intense and hard fought. With three arrows remaining to be shot in the match, the score was tied. The final outcome remained undecided until the last arrow was shot with Erika coming out on top by a narrow two-point margin (110-108). In the bronze medal match, Balzhanova was defeated by her Russian team member, Albina Loginova (111-109).

In the mixed team event, Erika was paired with the top ranked collegiate male compound bow archer on the U.S. Team, Jedd Greshock (James Madison University), who also won the individual gold medal and world championship title in his division of competition at the tournament. Consequently, the U.S. mixed team was the top seed among the eight competing

international teams. In a departure from the more traditional means of scoring arrows shot in archery tournament competition, arrows shot during team event competitions at world university championship tournaments are scored as either a “hit” or “miss.” Each arrow shot into the gold-colored area of the 122-centimeter target set at 70-meters that would have otherwise registered a score of either nine or ten points is considered a “hit,” while a “miss” is any arrow shot outside of that scoring area. Also in the mixed team event, each team is required to shoot a total of 16 arrows (eight arrows per archer) during a match. In the 1/4 round competition, the U.S. Team shot perfect to easily defeat the bottom seeded Italian team (16-12). During the semi-finals, the U.S. Team faced stiffer competition from the French, but again prevailed by shooting another perfect score (16-12). In the final match of the competition for the gold medal and the world championship title, the U.S. Team went up against the third seeded Russians. After 16 arrows were shot by each team, the score was tied (15-15), necessitating each member of the two competing teams to shoot another arrow to resolve the tie and determine the winner. Under considerable pressure with the world championship title at stake, Erika and her U.S. Team mate, Jedd, each scored a hit with their respective arrows while the Russians missed with one of their two shots. In the mixed team match for the bronze medal, the Koreans narrowly defeated the French (15-14).

During the collegiate women’s compound bow team event that included representation from six nations, the U.S. Team was the number two seed behind the Korean team. Seeding for this team event is based on the combined scores for each of the three archers representing their respective country during the 72-arrow individual qualification ranking round. Also, in this particular team event, each three-person team shoots a total of 24 arrows (eight arrows per archer). After receiving a bye for the 1/4 round, the U.S. collegiate women went up against the third seeded Russians in the semi-finals, but unfortunately lost to them after a hard fought match (20-22). During the bronze medal match against the Italians, Erika and her two team mates shot a near-perfect score (23-14) to claim their prize. The gold medal was won by the Koreans who defeated the Russian team following a tied score (21-21) that required a nerve-wracking nine-arrow shoot-off to determine the final outcome of the exciting match.

This was the eighth U.S. World Archery Team that Erika has competed on in the past six years, and her first experience as a member of a world university team. During August 2002, she traveled with the U.S. Team to Nymburk, Czech Republic for the VII Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship and established a new world record score while winning the gold medal in the individual compound bow competition for cadet women (age 16 and under). Less than one year later, Erika was the youngest member of the U.S. Team that went to Nimes, France during March 2003 for the VII World Indoor Archery Championship. While in France, she competed in the junior division (age 18 and under) and won her second and third world titles with first and second place finishes in the team and individual competitions, respectively. During July 2004, Erika competed in the VIII Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship at Lilleshall, Great Britain. She won gold and bronze medals at that tournament in the junior division for the team and individual competitions, respectively. In March 2005, Erika traveled with the U.S. Team to Aalborg, Denmark for the VIII World Indoor Archery Championship where she won a silver medal while competing in the individual event for junior women. Later that same year in June, Erika was a member of the U.S. Senior World Archery

Team that competed in the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Outdoor Target Archery Championship in Madrid, Spain during 2005 and won a silver medal in the senior women's compound bow team event. During October 2006, she was a member of the U.S. Junior Team that competed in the IX Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship in Merida, Mexico where she won a bronze medal in individual competition. In July 2007, Erika competed again with the U.S. Senior World Archery Team when it went to Leipzig, Germany for the 44<sup>th</sup> World Outdoor Target Archery Championship. She won a bronze medal in the women's compound bow team event and also helped set two new world record team scores during the tournament. As a result of her recent performance at the world university championship tournament in Chinese Taipei, Erika has amassed an amazing total of twelve world archery titles since 2002, including five gold, three silver, and four bronze medals. During this same period, she has also shot a total of twenty world record scores in indoor and outdoor competition.

For more information about how Erika and her fellow U.S. Team members performed at the 7<sup>th</sup> World University Archery Championship tournament, go to the U.S. Collegiate Archery Program's website at <http://www.uscollegiatearchery.org/>. Additional information about the tournament may also be accessed at <http://2008wuac.ctusf.org.tw/english/index.php>. To learn more about Erika and all of her archery accomplishments, please visit her website at <http://www.erikaanschutz.homestead.com/>.

Along with archery, Erika enjoys listening to music, watching movies, and spending time with her family and friends. She is the daughter of Steve and Jurita Anschutz who reside in Hamilton, Ohio. Steve is a retired Federal employee, while Jurita works for The Procter & Gamble Corporation in Cincinnati.