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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **ERIKA ANSCHUTZ RETURNS FROM THE WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES IN SERBIA WITH SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALS**

Erika Anschutz of Hamilton, Ohio won silver and bronze medals as a member of the U.S. World University Games Archery Team that competed in the 25<sup>th</sup> World University Games held in Belgrade, Serbia during July 2-12. The World University Games event is an international sporting and cultural festival for collegiate students. The event is staged once every two years in a different city and is considered to be second in importance to only the Olympic Games. A total of 211 collegiate archers, representing 39 nations, competed in the Games this year. The U.S. Archery Team was comprised of 12 collegiate men and women archers from across the nation that were divided into four, three-person teams based on their gender and type of bow used (recurve or compound). Erika, who will be a senior majoring in psychology at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska during the coming fall semester, was joined on the collegiate women's compound bow team by Brittany Lorenti (James Madison University in Harrisburg, Virginia) and Elissa Falconer (Miami University in Oxford, Ohio).

During the individual competition event, Erika shot against 35 other archers representing 17 nations. She finished the qualification round ranked in fifth place, nine points behind the Croatian archer, Ivana Buden, 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 was paired in the 1/16 elimination round against the Turkish archer, Sevinc Uysal, whom she easily defeated (115-111). During the 1/8 round, she again shot well and won her match against the Belgian archer, Cathline Dessooy (113-110). In the quarter-finals, Erika faced Li-Ju Chen of Taiwan and defeated her in an exciting two-arrow shoot-off following a tied match score (111-111). As the stakes increased going into the semi-finals, Erika was upset in a hard fought match with the lower ranked Russian archer, Victoria Balzhanova (113-111). The stage was then set for the bronze medal match that paired Erika against another Russian archer, Albina Loginova. The final outcome of that match remained undecided until each archer had shot their last arrow with Erika coming out on top for a narrow one-point victory (111-110). In the gold medal match, number two seeded Jihyun Seok of Korea easily defeated the Russian, Balzhanova (114-108) for the world championship title.

In the mixed team event, the top-ranked male and female archers represented their respective countries. Erika was paired with Steve Gatto (Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing, New Jersey), who won the individual gold medal and world championship title in his division of competition at the Games. Based on the results from the individual qualification round, the U.S. mixed team was seeded third 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, only 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 quarter-finals, the U.S. team shot against the French team and won the match in a thrilling two-arrow shoot-off following a tied match score (15-15). During the semi-finals, the U.S. team faced stiff competition from the second seeded Korean team, but again prevailed after a nerve-wracking three-arrow shoot-off to resolve another tied match score (15-15). In the final match of the competition for the gold medal and the world championship title, the U.S. team went up against the top seeded Russians. For the third consecutive time of the event, the match was tied (15-15) after 16 arrows had been shot by each team, necessitating yet another shoot-off to determine the final outcome. Under considerable pressure with the gold medal and world championship title at stake, Erika and Steve each shot three more hits while the Russians continued to match them arrow for arrow. The tie was ultimately resolved by event officials who determined that one of the Russian arrows was closest to the center of the target face by a mere ¼-inch. Thus, the U.S. mixed team received the silver medal while the Russians escaped with the gold medal. In the mixed team match for the bronze medal, the Koreans narrowly defeated the Italians (16-15).

During the women’s compound bow team event that included representation from nine nations, the U.S. team was the number two seed behind the Koreans. Seeding for this team event is based on the combined scores for each of the three archers representing their respective country during the 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 1/8 round, the U.S. women went up against the Italians in the quarter-finals and easily won the match (23-17). In the semi-finals, the U.S. team encountered stiffer competition and was upset by the third seeded team from Russia (23-20). During the bronze medal match against the top seeded Koreans, Erika and her two team mates again shot well but were unfortunately defeated (23-20). The gold medal and world championship title was won by the fifth seeded team from Taiwan that upset their higher ranked Russian counterparts (23-20).

This was the tenth U.S. World Archery Team that Erika has competed on in the past seven years, and her second experience as a member of a world university team. As a result of her recent performance at the World University Games in Serbia, Erika has amassed an amazing total of 16 world archery titles since 2002, including six gold, four silver, and six bronze medals. During this same period, she has also shot a total of 21 world record scores in indoor and outdoor competition. At the national level, Erika has also been very successful in archery competition as she has won a total of 38 national championships and established 150 national records since becoming involved with the sport 13 years ago. During March of this year, Erika won gold and bronze medals in the women’s compound bow team and individual events, respectively, and helped set a new world record score as a member of the U.S. Senior World Indoor Archery Team that successfully competed in the 10<sup>th</sup> World Indoor Archery Championships in Rzeszow, Poland. She is also a member of the U.S. Senior World Outdoor Archery Team that will travel to Ulsan, Korea for the 45<sup>th</sup> World Outdoor Target Archery Championships on September 1-9.

For more information about how Erika and her fellow U.S. team members performed at the 25<sup>th</sup> World University Games, go to the U.S. Collegiate Archery Program's website at <http://www.uscollegiatearchery.org/>. Additional information about the event may also be accessed at <http://www.universiade-belgrade2009.org/> and <http://www.archery.org/>. Further information about Erika and all of her archery accomplishments can be found at her website <http://www.erikaanschutz.homestead.com/>.

Along with archery, Erika enjoys listening to music, watching movies, playing card games, 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.