

Phoebe Daroyanni '07



As a fourth-year student working on her doctorate in clinical psychology, Phoebe Daroyanni has got quite a bit on her mind. After doing her undergraduate work at University of Wales, Swansea, she began to work at the University of Indianapolis-Athens on her doctorate. When she finishes her degree next year, she hopes to return to her home in Athens, Greece, and become a teacher of clinical psychology. But Phoebe isn't focused only on herself. As part of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Program (OIF) at the VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Phoebe spends time offering counseling services to veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. "I enjoy my participation in the program and being part of a committed team of professionals," she said. "I have the opportunity

to work with clients who have interesting personalities and life experiences and who often haven't worked with a therapist before." Phoebe sees her work as challenging, but she doesn't back away from it. "Watching as these individuals resume their daily lives is rewarding," she said. She hopes to find work in a military setting when she returns to Greece. "I like teaching because through the communication of ideas, the instructor's mind remains alert, informed, and able to pass on knowledge."

As Phoebe spends more time working at the Medical Center, she has noticed changes within herself as well. "Volunteering has given me new skills and has helped me to develop a sense of professional competence," she said. "It has given me the ability to expand my understanding and has enhanced my ability to communicate with people from walks of life different from my own." Even after earning her degree, she hopes to keep volunteerism as part of her life. "It stimulates my brain," she said, "and allows me to stay connected with my local community. But I also learn and grow by doing something I find beneficial to myself and others."

Phoebe encourages others to find volunteer activities that relate to them personally. "I don't believe in volunteering just to volunteer," she said, "but it's important to find a volunteer activity that can help your personal development, relates to a hobby you enjoy, or helps a group of people you are concerned about." —Jennifer Huber

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