Student ID

NAME: Allyson Junker
SCHOOL: UNI’09
MAJOR: Environmental studies, with a focus on northern Africa
HOMETOWN: Greenwich, Connecticut

How did you choose your UNI concentration?
I did Model UN in high school, and somehow I constantly ended up with African countries. I started taking Arabic at BU, and that got me interested in the northern sphere. I’ve been interested in the environment forever — my dad was a Boy Scout, and we went camping and hiking all the time.

Any local customs that you miss?
I miss eating “African style.” Family and friends gather around one big plate of food that everyone eats from and shares. The different table setup means learning a whole new mealtime etiquette: never reach across the dish, don’t lick your fingers, break up large vegetables for everyone to share, etc. Meals are a time for everyone to come together, and the physical proximity of it makes you feel that much closer to your friends.

Have you studied abroad?
I went on BU’s Niger program in fall 2007, and then last spring I went to an English-speaking university in Morocco called Al Akhawayn. A lot of the students were children of Moroccan princes and ministers. At the school, I was dealing with people who had a lot of money, who were a bit more narrow-minded, and then on the weekends I was going out and seeing the real Morocco.

Do you have a job?
I work at Agganis Arena as an usher, and I’m interning at the American Islamic Congress. I write for their newsletter, Civil Rights in the Middle East Report, trying to get activists from around the world to work together.

What’s your favorite place in Boston?
The Minot Rose Garden in Brookline. It’s this tiny park with a playground, and there’s a really nice rose garden. It’s quiet, but at the same time you’re a block away from the city.

Katie Koch (CAS’09, COM’09)