

# Spotlight on Tyler Catchot



Mississippi State civil engineering student Tyler Catchot spent most of his summer working as an intern for Neel-Schaffer, 2 ½ months in the Biloxi office and two weeks in Jackson. But Tyler missed out on the intern luncheon held on July 30 at the Capitol Club.

Turns out, he had a pretty good excuse.

Tyler, a rising senior at MSU, left that day for Tibet, where he and three classmates will help install a water purification and filtration system for a remote village as part of the Tibetan Village Project. Catchot and his MSU teammates helped design the system, competing against teams from three other universities, who will also be in Tibet to complete similar projects.

In an email exchange, Tyler, the son of Neel-Schaffer assistant financial services manager Kathy Catchot, explained why he wanted to spend nearly two days on planes to work for two weeks in a remote village 13 time zones from Mississippi.

"I'm certain there will be a sense of accomplishment at the end of the trip," wrote Tyler. "But more than that I believe there will be a feeling of satisfaction in knowing that people that have never had clean drinking water – something we take for granted – will



now have access to it because of what we are doing."

Catchot, who is from Raymond and attended Terry High School and Holmes Community College in Ridgeland before going to MSU, said his church and friends and "co-workers of my parents" helped fund his trip. "I have been very blessed!" he wrote.

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-Tyler

As an intern, Tyler said he split his time in Biloxi between the office and a paving project in Gulfport. In Jackson, he worked with Travis McCoy on the giant Fortification Street project.

"It's always interesting to see real-world applications of the things I learn in the classroom," wrote Catchot of his internship. "I learned that engineers must use their engineering judgments daily and stay sharp for any problems that may arise in any phase of a project."

Catchot is scheduled to graduate next May, then attend graduate school. After that, he said, "I do not have specific plans...I will always lean toward using my education for helping others, whether it be for civil or humanitarian projects."

*By Rusty Hampton*

