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## GAME ON

IN FEBRUARY, THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING VANCOUVER AS THE WINTER 2010 GAMES BEGIN. ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENT KRISTIN KING WRIGHT KNOWS FIRSTHAND WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN OLYMPIAN. By Doug Hensley

A short conversation with Kristin King Wright reveals one thing: She has the mettle to accomplish whatever she sets her mind to — and the medal.

Wright, who began the Master of Athletic Training program in May, would like nothing better than a chance to return to the Olympics — not as a competitor; she's already done that — but as a health professional.

"I want to work in the atmosphere of elite athletes," she said. "I remember the trainer who took great care of me, and I'd like to give back in that area."

Wright was a member of the U.S. Women's National Hockey team that finished third at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. So the bar is pretty high when it comes to the future.

"I have changed my mind frequently, and right now I have dreams of having a family," said Wright, who married her husband, Jeremy, in May. "At first, I thought about professional sports, but that requires a serious time commitment."

For now, she's considering beginning her career in a clinical setting, while contracting with high school sports teams. Eventually she hopes to work with the U.S. Women's Hockey team as well.

"They (professional teams) go to some tournaments and have camps leading up to those tournaments," she said. "Right now, they have someone who works with them full time, and they send a different person to the tournament. I'd like to get in that area and maybe work specifically in strength, conditioning and rehab."

That is still a ways off. Wright, who earned an undergraduate degree in sociology from Dartmouth, said she's happy to be part of the TTUHSC program.

"I looked at about four schools when I was applying to grad schools," she said. "I went to three of the four and visited with professors and directors. When I talked to Dr. (Michael) Smith and Dr. (LesLee) Taylor and professor (Troy) Hooper, I got a sense that they were really passionate about the profession."

"That really excited me about coming to Tech. This is where I thought I would learn best, and so far it has lived up to my expectations."