

**Name:** Ross Fackrell

**Current City:** West Des Moines, Iowa

**Hometown:** Antioch, California



**Occupation/Career:**

Ross is a full-time student pursuing his MPA at Drake University. When not attending class, he holds down two part-time jobs. He works as a support specialist (temporary) at Robert Half International, the world's largest staffing firm. He also works as an ELL children's coordinator (contract) for the Des Moines Public School system; he works specifically with refugee children from places like Sudan, Nepal, Iraq and Somalia.

**Education:**

Ross graduated from the University of Iowa in 2006 with a B.A. in history and a minor in religion studies. His original intent was to pursue his master's degree in history; an increased passion for volunteerism and a corresponding interest in the non-profit sector, however, led to a change of plans. It was with that change of plans that he eventually enrolled in Drake's MPA program.

**Professional/Personal Goals in Participating in DrakeSmart 2011:**

**Professional:** Ross would like to gain insight into the organizations that have tackled, and continue to tackle, the enormous problem of food security around the world. He hopes to learn about the methods with which European agencies address such matters so that he might better understand their work and their long-term goals.

**Personal:** This will be the first time Ross has visited Europe, though his interest in the continent and its history stretch back to his childhood. It was after reading Homer's "Iliad" that he became intrigued by the Greco-Roman heritage and the civilizations that followed Rome's collapse in the fifth century – many of which comprise the nations of modern-day Europe. He has certainly come to appreciate European art, literature and culture, yet he believes that setting foot on European soil will provide some meaningful perspective. Moreover, he is looking forward to having a great time with his peers and colleagues!

**Personal:**

Ross has two siblings – Sarah Burstein, who works as an attorney in Des Moines, Iowa; and Eric Fackrell, who is currently studying law in Nashville, Tennessee at Vanderbilt University. His parents, Scott and Jana Fackrell, reside in Clive, Iowa.