

## Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



**Louise Merkens**

*Pediatric Research, Metabolic Lab*

### **Michelle Sconce from the Murdock Scholar Program submitted the following nomination...**

This summer I became a Murdock Scholar in which students from the private undergraduate universities in the Portland are given an incredible opportunity to work in the labs at OHSU. Every candidate interviewed with at least three different labs who were participating in the program and would rank which lab they wanted to work with the most. Right away I knew I wanted to work in Dr. Steiner's lab where they specialize in investigating Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome. Typically the first day of working in any lab is really intimidating, especially for an undergraduate working in a professional lab for the first time. My first day, however, was unquestionably fantastic because I got to work side-by-side with Dr. Louise Merkens(PhD). Right away I felt at ease working with her because she was so friendly and patient. She even took me out to lunch. Dr. Merkens is the definition of exceptional not only as an employee but also as a person. She is at work before I arrive at 7:45 AM and she is still there after I leave at 5:00. In fact, not once have I seen her take more than 20 minutes for a lunch break. By working with Dr. Merkens I have seen what it truly means to work hard and what it means to faithfully take pride in the work being done. When I talk to other employees at OHSU and I tell them that I am working with Dr. Merkens, every single person who knows her says with a big sincere smile, "isn't she great?" Dr. Merkens has been a wonderful mentor for me. She has given so much of her time to OHSU as well as nothing but her best. Dr. Merkens unequivocally deserves to be recognized by being given the Golden ROSE Award because she is an outstanding employee, a wonderful friend and an incredible mentor.

**August 2011**

