

2016-2017 Scholarship Committee Report

Chair: Samantha Capen Muldoon

Vice Chair: Melissa Bullen Johnson

The LMGC Scholarship Fund Committee is pleased to announce a successful scholarship cycle. I would like to note that the applicants are getting stronger and stronger every year, with an especially impressive batch of applicants this year. It was a real pleasure to read about all the talented young people studying to be involved in botany, horticulture and agriculture and garden design.

In 2015, several small but important changes were made to the LMGC Scholarship program, including increasing the amount of the scholarship to \$2500 (split or single award), and updating the criteria to reflect that both undergraduate and graduate students were eligible. These changes were maintained going into the 2016-2017 cycle.

In early September, we reviewed and updated the list of institution, and personalized cover letters and links to the online application/criteria were emailed to 12 Minnesota institutions.

- *All of these, and electronic copies of all correspondence is in the binder, or has been sent electronically to the very capable incoming Chair, Melissa Johnson*

In mid-November, we re-emailed and individually called each of the contacts. By December 1, we had received 13 applications! (Worth noting, that for the second year, not one application was hard copy – they were ALL electronic).

The Scholarship Chair narrowed prepared a binder of the applications. Then the LMGC President, the Scholarship Chair and Vice-Chair selected the two recipients. The two final recipients were notified in late December of their selection with checks cut in late December to meet the spring tuition deadline.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I notify the LMGC that we have chosen two outstanding students to receive the award – **Madison Taylor and Erin Moseman**. Each was awarded a \$1,250 scholarship, for the 2016 Spring Term. We should be very pleased to be able to award the LMCG scholarship funds to such dedicated and impressive applicants.

Madison Taylor

Madison Taylor just completed her Junior year at the University of Minnesota in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences pursuing a degree in Agricultural Communication and Marketing. She grew up on a fourth generation century farm, and she has a deep interest in teaching and promoting agriculture and farming to adults and student learners. Madison was Valedictorian of her high school class, was a 3-sport athlete, and was a member of the Concert and Jazz bands. She has continued with her extracurricular involvement in College, where she was an active member of the Agricultural Education Club and was also on the Deans List.

Madison has an internship this summer in Washington DC with the American Farm Bureau Federation, working on agriculture policy and leadership and membership development. She is going to be a Senior at the University of Minnesota this fall, studying Agricultural Communication and Marketing and International Agriculture Education. She will be heading to Argentina to study abroad for the semester, in order to focus on Spanish language development and International Agriculture Education.

Erin Moseman

Erin Moseman just completed her second year as a graduate student at Minnesota State University at Mankato working towards a MS in Biology. Previously, she attended the State University of NY at Plattsburg where she received her BS in Ecology, and a minor in Botany. She was President of the Wildlife Club and has worked at a Graduate Research Assistant at *Mankato*, a teaching assistant at *SUNY Plattsburg*. She also has worked at the Lake Champlain Research Institute, where she sampled water quality and identified freshwater plankton, and the Stony Kill Foundation in Fishkill, where she planned and led environmental educational programs for children. In each of these endeavors, she has led and directed student teams, mentored other students, and been a role model for women in STEM and science.

Her passion lies in exploring the biochemical cycling of nutrients within wetlands, with an end goal of working for a federal or state agency as a wetland specialist.

Erin was able to speak at our annual meeting on June 15, 2017, and talked briefly about her interests and passion for wetland preservation, and the role of biochemical cycling, with specific reference to her research with the role of the sun on the breakdown of biomass.