

2017-2019 Scholarship Committee Report

Chair: Melissa B. Johnson

Vice Chair: Holly Adams

The LMGC Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce a successful scholarship cycle. I would like to note that we had a record number of applicants this year and they continue to get stronger and stronger, was an especially impressive batch of applicants. It was a real pleasure to read about all the talented young people studying to be involved in botany, food systems, horticulture, agriculture and garden design.

As a reminder The LMGC Scholarship program award is \$2,500 (split or single award). Recommendations for next year are to add "Entomology related to pollinators" for the courses of study that can apply for the scholarship and changing the deadline from the first Monday in December to a non Monday in early to mid-November and move up deadlines accordingly.

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

- *All of these in electronic copies and correspondence has been sent electronically to the very capable incoming Chair, Holly Adams*

In mid-November, we re-emailed and individually called each of the contacts. By December 4th, we had received a record 19 applications! The Scholarship Chair narrowed and prepared a binder of the applications. Then the LMGC President, the Scholarship Chair and Vice-Chair selected the recipient. The recipient was notified in early December of their selection with a check 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 an outstanding student to receive the award, Emily Swanson. Emily was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship, for the 2018 Spring Term. We are very pleased to be able to award the LMGC scholarship funds to such a dedicated and impressive applicant.

Emily just completed her senior year at the University of Minnesota and received a BA in Food Systems, specializing in Local and Organic Production. Emily participated in the University Honors Program and was an officer in not one but three student organizations. She worked for the UMN Extension, Regional Sustainable Development Partnership which brings together community ideas and expertise with UMN knowledge and resources to drive sustainability in four areas: sustainable agriculture and food systems, sustainable tourism and resilient communities, natural resources and clean energy. Emily has worked tirelessly in the Julia Grossman Research lab where her professor stated that "Emily has been one of the most capable undergraduate students we have employed in our laboratory". She has also gained experience working at the Harvest Moon Edible Landscapes, Spring Wind Farm and Tom Michaels Research Lab where she worked with hydroponic systems.

Emily currently works at Cornercopia, the student organic farm at the University of Minnesota and hopes to move to Florida early next year to learn about tropical agriculture with a group called ECHO. In one of Emily's recommendation letters her advisor stated that she "predicts Emily will be a leader in sustainable horticulture and food systems".

Emily will speak at our annual meeting on June 14, 2018, and talk briefly about her interests and passion for local and organic food production and her plans for the future.