

2020 LMGC Scholarship Report

We had a total of 9 applicants for the 2020 "year of Covid." We had one professor state he was sad to say he didn't have any students this year but hopefully will next year. The applications went out to 29 different professors in 12 schools in early September, with a deadline of the Friday before Thanksgiving. All the professors were then again contacted by email in early November to ask that they encourage & remind their students to apply. At that time they were also reminded of all the Scholarships the GCA offers with deadlines in January & February. We had 2 applicants from Gustavus Adolphus College & 7 from the University of Minnesota. One of the applicants was in her second year of her PhD program at the U of M, this brought some discussion, in our review, about whether there should be a restriction for graduate & PhD candidates.

Heather Haeg & I reviewed all the candidates together & narrowed our choice down to 4, for a final review with Mitzi Magid & Kate Byrant. We unanimously chose James Miller. James is a Senior at Gustavus Adolphus who also had applied last year & was our second choice in 2019. His major is Biology & Geography with concentrations in Horticulture & Human-environment interactions. As an undergraduate, he prioritized coursework that taught him about food systems, plant cultivation, ecology, and the history of the land. He is "passionate about building more equitable food systems and creating spaces in which people can commune with plants."

We are looking forward to meeting James & hearing him speak at our August meeting at the Arboretum.

All of our received applications for the LMGC Scholarships were very impressive, interesting & grateful for the chance to apply.

**Laura Inglis
2020 LMGC Scholarship Chair**