You are reading the second annual Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences Scholarship newsletter. The purpose of this annual publication is to recognize our outstanding students and donors who have financially supported academic scholarships and other student activities for in CSES. Scholarships are essential for recognizing outstanding academic achievement and helping students with financial need. Other gifts and endowments support learning opportunities outside the classroom. These include soil, crop, and turfgrass judging teams; study abroad courses, international research, and more. Many thanks to our donors and supporters who make this possible!

In addition to the great support we’ve already received for our students, there are also unmet needs. Need still exists for endowed and one-time gifts for students with financial need, judging teams, undergraduate research opportunities, recruiting outstanding students to CSES, and more. Please contact me if you’d like to know more about how you can support students in CSES. If you are affiliated with a company that matches contributions to higher education, please contact your company’s human resources department to learn about matching gift policies. We hope you enjoy reading about our donors, supporters, and student award recipients.

Tom Thompson, Department Head

Student Support from Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences Endowed Funds

The Gerald D. McCart Memorial Scholarship was established for students in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. Gerald McCart was a specialist in soil fertility.

Lucas Rector is a junior in CSS from Meadowview, VA. He is vice president of the Agronomy Club, on the Crops Judging Team (he recently went to Australia for a study abroad experience with the team); he’s an Earth Team Volunteer for NRCS, member of the National Wild Turkey Federation at VT, and he is social chair of the Quality Deer Management Association at VT.

The Richard and June Schmidt Undergraduate Research Scholarship Endowment (donors Richard and June Schmidt) was established for students in the Bachelor of Sciences CSS Turf-option to conduct applied research on understanding regulation of turfgrass growth in response to environmental stress.

Travis Roberson is a senior in CSS – Turf option from Stuart, VA. He has participated in a summer internship at Kinloch Golf Clubb in Manakin-Sabot, VA. He is the Vice President of the Turf Club and has also been a member for two years. Last semester he did an undergraduate research project related to remote sensing with PPWS Research Associate, David McCall.

The Louis and Ginger Brooking Turf Scholarship Endowment (donors Louis and Ginger Brooking) was established for graduate students in the inter-departmental Turfgrass Research Program.

Chantel Wilson is a recent graduate with her PhD in CSES from Frederick, MD. She works for VT, contracted with the Department of Conservation and Recreation in Richmond as an Urban Nutrient Management Technician. In her free time she likes to play broomball (summer) and floorball (fall).
**The Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Obenshain Scholarship Endowment** (donors Donn, Verlin, and Maryan Smith) was established for graduate students whose research uses soil taxonomic information for agricultural or urban purposes.

Daniel Johnson is a 4th year PhD student studying Mine Land Reclamation. He is from Castlewood, VA and in his free time he enjoys hiking, kayaking, rock collecting, and he is the Assistant Coach of the VT Soil Judging Team.

**The Michael S. Kipps Scholarship Endowment** (donors Michele Oliver and Nancy Hughey) was established for undergraduate students studying agronomic sciences who have completed 45 hours, are enrolled in the CSS major, and have achieved academic success.

Daniel Steger is a senior in CSS-Agronomy option from Rochester, NY. He is an Undergraduate Laboratory Assistant in Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at VT and was a Laboratory Assistant and Green House Technician for the CSES department for two years. Honors include Gamma Sigma Alpha, Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Sigma, and VT University Honors.

**The John D. And Mary R. Pendleton Scholarship Endowment** (donor Mary Robeson Pendleton) was established for undergraduate students majoring in CSS in the area of environmental soil science or soil chemistry. Must have completed 60 hours and based on academic and extracurricular achievement.

Olivia Simpson is a senior in ENSC from Franklin County, VA. She is part of the Soil Judging Team/Club and is currently the president. The team practices twice a week interpreting the soil and preparing for the regional competition this October. Last summer she studied the thawing permafrost in Alaska and would like to continue such work after graduation.

**The Larry S. Jones Memorial Scholarship Endowment** (donors Steve Woodring, Lynn M. Woodring, and Craig Betterly) was established for students in the Bachelor of Science CSS Turf-option who are working toward a career as a golf course superintendent.

Travis Roberson, SEE PAGE 1.

**The Roy and Catherine Blaser Fellowship** (donors Roy and Katherine Blaser) was established for CSES graduate students who are concentrating in the fields of Environmental Science or Grassland Science. Recipients shall demonstrate outstanding academic merit.

Gabriel Pent is a CSES graduate student from Gotha, FL. His research is in performance and behavior of sheep in hardwood silvopasture systems. In his free time he enjoys homesteading.

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The CSES CALS Ambassador Scholarship was established for CSS and ENSC students selected to be ambassadors for the college. These students represent the college at recruiting events and serve as host and hostesses at alumni receptions and events. They gain leadership and communication skills in this position.

Lydia Fitzgerald is a sophomore in CSS-Agronomy option from Nelson County, VA. Besides being a CALS Ambassador, she is involved in Block and Bridle, New Life Christian Fellowship, 209 Mann Ministries, and the American Heritage Girls Program (sponsored by NLCF).

Katherine Olson is a senior in ENSC from Sterling, VA. Besides being a CALS Ambassador, she is involved in Engineers without Borders and did undergraduate research this past summer in the Civil & Environmental Engineering department in environmental biotechnology and the bioenergy lab. She is interested in foreign languages – she is proficient in Hindi and started learning Chinese five months ago. She enjoys morning runs, cooking, hiking, and she is scuba licensed!

Haley Randolph is a senior in ENSC from Center Valley, PA. She is a CALS Ambassador, the Student Government Executive of Sustainability and Earth Week Coordinator with the Environmental Coalition. Haley served as an environmental health and safety intern for Qualitest Pharmaceuticals in Huntsville, AL. She has done undergraduate research in the Rhizosphere and Soil Microbial Ecology/Biogeochemistry Lab with Dr. Mark Williams and studied abroad in Ecuador. She is also the office manager at the Center for the Arts.

Student Support from College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Endowed Funds

The Aaron Slack Memorial Diversity Scholarship

Karina Ernst is a sophomore in ENSC from New Freedom, PA. She is part of Cru, Young Life, the Environmental Student Organization, and Campus Band.

The Mary Jane Neiman Scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior majoring in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Agricultural and Extension Education, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, or Horticulture on the basis of quality of application, work history, career plans, awards, and financial need. Recipient must be a Virginia resident.

John R. Dawkins Scholarship for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is given to students (first preference) from Greenbrier County and Monroe County West Virginia. Second preference is given to students from other areas in West Virginia and Virginia.

Stephany Ospino is a recent transfer student and a junior in ENSC from South Riding, VA. Previously, she was an AmeriCorps Volunteer – City Year Miami and also volunteered at the Discovery Station at the Air and Space Museum.

Madeline Ryan is a senior in ENSC from Alexandria, VA. She is currently involved in undergraduate research in the Biology Department and a lab assistant in the Chemistry Department. She was selected to participate as a NSF REU Fellow in Interdisciplinary Water Sciences and Engineering at VT. She has also interned at OTC Markets Group and the Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District. She is treasurer in the sorority, Gamma Delta Sigma.

The Donald and Evelyn Mitchell Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need, relevant family circumstances, academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, and community service.

Caitlin Atkins is a junior in CSS-Agronomy option from Moneta, VA. She is a member of the Collegiate FFA, Secretary of the Agronomy Club, and Chairman of the Collegiate Farm Bureau Young Farmers Chapter. She was elected as a Virginia FFA State Officer for the 2013-2014 year. Recently, she interned for the Madison County VA Cooperative Extension Office.

Daniel Steger, SEE PAGE 2.
The Garnett H. Harvey Memorial Scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen. First preference is given to students from Amherst County or Nelson County. Second preference is given to students from any locality in Virginia. May be renewed for subsequent years for recipients who remain in good academic standing.

Fiona Thatcher is a freshman in ENSC from Afton, VA. She is on the crew team at VT and enjoys spending time outdoors, running, biking, and hiking. She also loves to sing and has participated in choir for many years.

The Cyrus H. McCormick Undergraduate Scholarships are awarded annually to both freshmen and outstanding returning undergraduates in agriculture and life sciences, including Biological Systems Engineering. Academic merit, financial need and extracurricular achievements are considered in the selection.

Carrie Ortel is a senior in CSS-International Agriculture option from Herndon, VA. She is part of the Soil Judging Club, she studied abroad in Ecuador last winter break, and this past summer she worked on a research project about soybean genetics under Dr. Saghai Maroof.

The Walter S. Newman Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to entering freshmen. Recipients must be from Southwest Virginia and from a rural background. Academic achievement, financial need, extracurricular activities, and leadership potential are also considered in the selection. May be renewed for four years if GPA is maintained at 3.0 or above.

Matthew Roberts is a senior in CSS-Agronomy option from Max Meadows, VA. He has been a part of the FFA and remains a part of Collegiate FFA. He is involved in the Agronomy Club and volunteers with the local Max Meadows Ruritian Club and the USDA-NRCS Earth Team. He has worked with the Big Walker Soil & Water Conservation District in Wytheville and as a WAE Soil Conservation Technician with NRCS. He currently is a full time Soil Conservationist Trainee and after graduation plans to work as a Soil Conservationist in VA.
Jessica Cox is a senior in CSS-Agronomy option from Bristol, VA. She is on the Soils Judging Team/Club, studied abroad in Ecuador this past summer, and has interned for NRCS in TN.

Olivia Simpson, SEE PAGE 2.

The William Powers Sadler Scholarship are awarded annually to freshmen and returning students on the basis of academic merit and financial need.

Isabel Ahwee-Marrah is a recent transfer student in ENSC from Chester, VA. She is working as a Laboratory Aid at the Plant Disease Clinic at VT. Previously she did undergraduate research creating clean water filters for villages in Africa. When she attended Sweet Briar College, she was the CEO of the campus event organization and the freshman representative for the Student Government Association.

Logan Howard is a senior in ENSC from Stephens City, VA. He has been assisting a PhD student in the Grape Pathology Department at the Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC in Winchester, VA for the past two summers.

Gabi Sanderson is a freshman in ENSC from Richmond, VA. She is the Alumni Coordinator for “The Silhouette,” a literary magazine dedicated to showing the talent and uniqueness that resides at VT. She also works for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, where she works on their blog and mail the Master Gardener certificates and honor pins.

The William R. Powell Scholarships are awarded annually to a freshman, returning, or transfer students on the basis of good character, scholastic achievement, and financial need.

Tadd Alexander is a senior in ENSC from Harrisburg, PA. He is a member of the University Honors College and VT Whitewater. This past August he went on a “Partners in the Park” trip hiking and backpacking Mt. Rainier in Washington State. Over the summer he was an intern for the Department of Environmental Protection for the State of PA in his hometown.

The Dean James R. Nichols Scholarships are awarded based on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. Preference is given to Virginia residents. Freshmen and returning students are eligible.

Jessica Cox, SEE LEFT COLUMN.

Lindsey Demers, SEE PAGE 4.

Matthew Roberts, SEE PAGE 4.

Katelyn Cox is a senior in CSS-Agronomy option from Bristol, VA. She is on the Soils Judging Team/Club, studied abroad in Ecuador this past summer, and has interned for NRCS in TN.

Gabrielle Sanderson is a freshman in ENSC from Richmond, VA. She is the Alumni Coordinator for “The Silhouette,” a literary magazine dedicated to showing the talent and uniqueness that resides at VT. She also works for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, where she works on their blog and mail the Master Gardener certificates and honor pins.

John Lee Pratt Merit Scholarship Endowment supports scholarships on the basis of academic achievement, leadership, school and community service, extracurricular activities and expressed interest in study of animal nutrition.

Jessica Cox, SEE LEFT COLUMN.

Steffany Yamada is a senior in CSS-Agronomy option from Woodbridge, VA. She has an interest in agriculture and was an active member of both the 4-H and FFA. While at VT, she received her American FFA Degree through the Collegiate FFA. She also had the opportunity to study abroad in Ecuador where she learned about the culture and diverse agriculture of the country.
The Smith Scholarship is awarded to the sophomore student in CSES with the highest freshman grade point average.

Lyndsey Gerold is a sophomore in ENSC from Olney, MD. She is part of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Environmental Student Organization, a Peer Leader in the CALS First Year Seminar, and works part time at the University Bookstore. She plans to study abroad in Ecuador during the upcoming winter break.

The John Alton “Tip” Spivey Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need and any relevant family circumstances, academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, and community service.

Megan Orentas is a senior in ENSC from Purcellville, VA. She is ranked captain and plays the trumpet in the Marching Virginians and is the President of the Environmental Student Organization. She was a GIS Intern for the Town of Leesburg in the Utilities Department and also does undergraduate research testing water quality.

Camille VanSkiver is a freshman in ENSC from Manassas, VA. She is part of the Environmental Student Organization and while in high school she was part of 4-H and many school clubs including America’s Club, National Science Honor Society, and the German Club.

The Archa Vaughan, Jr. Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, and extracurricular leadership and service.

Arabella Ruggles is a freshman in ENSC from Richmond, VA. While in high school she interned for one of the school’s science teachers her senior year, worked at South of the James Farmers Market, and was a teacher assistant at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for kindergarten art classes.

The Virginia Tech Agriculture Alumni Organization Scholarships are awarded to undergraduates on the basis of academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, financial need, and community service.

Taylor Church is a junior in ENSC from Yorktown, VA. She is part of the Residential Leadership Community, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and plays in the Marching Virginians. This past summer she participated in the Alaska Soil Geography Field Study course through the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she learned about soil and ecology in that region.

The Thornhill Family Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship is awarded to active brothers of the Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho on the basis of leadership and academic excellence.

Coty Goodwin is a senior in CSS-Agronomy option from Gordonsville, VA. He has been an active member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, serving as Philanthropy and Planning Chair. He also a member of the Dairy Club at VT where he had the opportunity to go abroad to the Czech Republic and learn how dairy farming differs in Europe. Upon graduation he looks forward to returning home to help manage his family’s dairy farm, where he will focus on increasing forage production and quality.

The Marion & Anne Williams Scholarship for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is given to students who are from Franklin County, Patrick County, Henry Count, Floyd County, and the state of Virginia, respectively.

Watkins Pittard is a freshman in CSS-Agronomy option from Buffalo Junction, VA. In high school he was involved in varsity golf and baseball for four years, FFA and held office for the chapter, and student class president. He also helps run the family farm operation.

Travis Roberson, SEE PAGE 1.
The Charles W. Wampler, Sr. Scholarships are awarded annually on the basis of scholastic achievement, good character, financial need, or demonstrated leadership ability.

Victor Hong is a freshman from Woodbridge, VA. While in high school he was part of Dale City LEO Club, Gar-Field Green Club, VSA, FBLA, and Model UN.

The Washington County Master Gardener Association Scholarships are awarded to residents of Washington County, Russell County, Smith County, Bristol, Va., or Bristol, Tenn., or a student from St. Paul High school majoring in Horticulture, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Entomology, or Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science.

Katelyn Cox, SEE PAGE 5.

Lucas Rector, SEE PAGE 1.

The John Lee Pratt Animal Nutrition Senior Research Scholarship Program are awarded annually to rising seniors to aid in conducting senior research projects under the guidance of faculty advisors. A research proposal and letter of application from the student and his or her faculty advisor are required.

Katelyn Cox (advisor, Dr. Ozzie Abaye), SEE PAGE 5.

Student Support from Industry and Other Supporters

The Robert L. Harrison (funded by Virginia Crop Improvement Association) was established for students pursuing careers in agriculture, studying agronomic crop production, plant breeding, management or marketing.

Daniel Joyner is a junior in CSS-Agronomy option from Suffolk, VA. He did an internship this past summer with Dow AgroSciences and is part of the Agronomy Club at VT.

Edgar Correa is a junior in CSS-Crop Genetics & Breeding option from Harrisonburg, VA. He is part of the Soybean Genetics and Breeding Lab at VT and Circle K International.

Lauren Goff is a recent graduate in CSS-Agronomy option from Nelson County, VA. At VT she was part of Sigma Alpha, the Agronomy Club, and the Dairy Club. She is currently teaching agriculture at Nelson County Middle School.

Altria Agricultural Production Scholarship (funded by Altria Group) was established for undergraduate students majoring in CSS interested in pursuing careers in agronomic crop production. Scholarships are awarded annually to a freshman, returning, or transfer student on the basis of academic and extracurricular achievement, a demonstrated interest and activities in agricultural areas, and plans to work in the agricultural industry after graduation.

Austin Hayes is a junior in CSS from Amelia County, VA. He has interned at Southern Piedmont AREC and did undergraduate research under Dr. David Reed with Organic Tobacco Fertilization in Greenhouse Bays. He is also part of the Agronomy Club and Block and Bridle.

Jamie Hodnett is a sophomore in CSS-Agronomy from Ringgold, VA. She is part of the Agronomy Club and Crops Judging Team and recently studied abroad in Australia with the Crops team. She is also a Peer Leader for the CALS First Year Seminar course.

Watkins Pittard, SEE PAGE 6.

Lucas Rector, SEE PAGE 1.

The W. S. “BILL” Connelly Memorial Scholarship (funded by Landscape Supply Company) was established for students in the Bachelor of Science CSS Turf-option with an emphasis on academic and extracurricular achievement.

Camden Shelton is a recent CSS-Turf option graduate from Danville, VA. He is currently a graduate student at VT in the Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology, and Weed Science program working under David McCall and Dr. Shawn Askew for a master's degree in turfgrass disease science. He is part of the Turf Club and enjoys hunting and playing golf.
The Thomas B. Hutcheson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship (funded by Virginia Turfgrass Council) was established for students in the Bachelor of Science CSS Turf-option with an emphasis on academic and extracurricular achievement.

Ben Morrison is a senior in CSS-Turf option from Rich Creek, VA. He is part of the Turf Club and does undergraduate research on golf greens.

The Merl Longest Scholarship (funded by Virginia Crop Improvement Association) was established for students pursuing careers in agriculture, studying agronomic crop production, plant breeding, management or marketing.

Robert Longest is a graduate student in CSES from Mechanicsville, VA. He is working with Dr. Hunter Frame researching tillage systems in upland cotton. He likes to help on the family farm in King and Queen County, VA, raising corn, soybeans, wheat, and beef cattle. He also enjoys hunting and fishing and he's been involved with the VT Crops Judging Team for several years.

Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association Scholarship was established for students pursuing careers in the golf course industry or future turfgrass researchers and educators.

Travis Roberson, SEE PAGE 1.

The Virginia Soybean Association Scholarship is awarded to a college student pursuing a post-secondary degree, preferably in an agricultural related field and who have accomplishments in academics, leadership, community service, athletics, and other extracurricular activities.

Lydia Fitzgerald, SEE PAGE 3.

The Virginia Grain Producers Association Scholarship is awarded annually to a current or future full-time student at a Virginia institution of higher education. Preference is given to agriculture students and applicants with a close relationship to the Virginia Grain Producers Association.

Lydia Fitzgerald, SEE PAGE 3.

Virginia State Golf Association Scholarship is awarded to students working toward graduate Turfgrass degrees at VT.

Tyler Green is a recent graduate with a degree in CSS-Turf option. He was the President of the Turf Club and also worked as a field assistant at Glade Road Research Center. He is currently the Assistant Superintendent at Salisbury Country Club in Midlothian, VA.

Travis Roberson, SEE PAGE 1.

The Virginia Turf Association Scholarship is awarded to deserving students working toward degrees focused on turfgrass.

Travis Roberson, SEE PAGE 1.

In addition to the individuals and organizations named above, we are grateful to the following for their support of student learning and activities in CSES:


Jessica Cox, SEE PAGE 5.

Olivia Simpson, SEE PAGE 2.

Steffany Yamada, SEE PAGE 5.