The purpose of this annual publication is to recognize our outstanding students and thank our donors who have financially supported academic scholarships and other student activities 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.

In addition to the great support we’ve already received, 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 (wdaniels@vt.edu) 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.

Dr. W. Lee Daniels, Department Head

Agronomy Scholarship provides support to an undergraduate student studying agronomy.

William “Chester” Allen is a senior in CSS – Agronomy option from Campbell County, VA. The past few summers he has been the Orchard Management Intern at 7K Farms in Rustburg, VA.

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.

Robert “Jacob” Odum is a junior in CSS – Turf option from Fort Chiswell, VA. He is a member of the Bass Fishing Team and Turf Club at Virginia Tech.

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.

Martin Battaglia is a CSES PhD student from Pergamino, Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is involved in following: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Graduate Student Committee; Graduate Extension Scholar; CSES Graduate Student Committee representative at faculty meetings; Agronomy Journal reviewer; ACS-Graduate Student Committee Vice-chair 2017; Catalyst Program Member (selected from a group of over one hundred nominees and over fifty second round finalists); Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech, College of Engineering and Pamplin College of Business.

Gabriel Pent is a spring 2017 CSES PhD graduate from Florida. He now works for the CSES department as the Ruminant Livestock Systems Specialist at the Southern Piedmont AREC in Blackstone, VA.

Student Support from Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences Endowed Funds

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Obenshain Fellowship (donors Donn, Verlin, and Maryan Smith) was established for graduate students who work in areas related to soil genesis and taxonomy and/or who use soil taxonomic information in studies of land use for agricultural or urban purposes.

Alexandra Schmidt is a CSES master’s graduate student from Pottstown, PA. She is studying soil quality on the Southeastern Coastal Plain and her advisor is Dr. Hunter Frame.
Abigail Han is a senior in CSS – Crop Genetics Breeding option from Arlington, VA. In the summer 2017 she interned at the World Vegetable Center in Tainan, Taiwan and participated in an experiential learning experience in Mongolia. She was a Congressional Intern in the House of Representatives in the spring of 2017 and the summer of 2016 she was a University of Minnesota Cedar Creek Plant Ecology Intern. She is involved in the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Service without Borders, VT Women’s Ultimate Frisbee and volunteers in Dr. Fukao’s lab. She is also the Student Assistant at FAEIS.

Nupur Sheth is a junior in ENSC from Fairfax, VA. She works as a Textbook Clerk at the VT Bookstore and is a Lab Assistant at the Fralin Life Science Institute. She is the President of the Environmental Student Organization, is a CALS Peer Mentor, and a member of the Society of Indian Americans where she is the Events Planning Chair. She is also on the VT Dhamaal Dance Team.

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 a CSS major, and have achieved academic success.

Hamilton Crockett is a sophomore in CSS – Agronomy option from Falls Church, VA. She is involved in the Vegan Club, Mixed Student Alliance, Korea American Student Association, she’s the co-founder of the Chinese Culture Club and has also worked at the VT Greenhouse.

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

Hailey Humphreys is a freshman in CSS-Agronomy option from Mechanicsville, VA. She is a member of the Agronomy Club and Collegiate Young Farmers.

Jared West is a sophomore in CSS-Agronomy option from Powhatan, VA. He is a member of the Agronomy Club. Last summer he did an internship under Dr. Reed at the Southern Piedmont AREC and presented his research to the Altria Biotechnology Team.
**The Eleanor and Samuel Morris Excellence Fund** is an annual award, given to an undergraduate with a major in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences who is pursuing undergraduate research and/or an internship preferably in environmental stewardship and/or sustainable agriculture. The applicant must have a 3.0 or above and financial need will be taken into consideration.

**Margaret Carolan** is a senior double majoring in ENSC and WRPM from Stafford, VA and Perth, Australia. She has been involved in undergraduate research for three years in environmental engineering under Dr. Marc Edwards and Dr. Amy Pruden. She has participated in population modeling research at the Biocomplexity Institute in response to 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, completed one year of a teaching assistantship in FREC, REUs at Virginia Tech and Stanford University, field studies for water quality and research activities in Flint, Michigan, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Houston, Texas following Hurricane Harvey, and other cities.

**Katherine Olson** is a senior in ENSC from Sterling, VA. She is currently a CALS Ambassador, Office of Undergraduate Research Ambassador, undergrad researcher for EBBL (environmental biotechnology & bioenergy lab), VT dining services employee, “long distance” work: Chinese/English teleconference interpreter for Jiangsu Institute of Environmental Industry (JIEI), member of Shouwangzhe Lianmeng’s volunteer-training team, Chinese/English translator for Waterkeeper Alliance. In the past she has done indoor environmental health consulting at Pureliving China, Shanghai office, sales associate/lab tech at Rhonin Biosciences (Chengdu, Sichuan Province), environmental/natural science teacher at Shouwangzhe Lianmeng summer camp for rural students (Tai’an, Yunnan Province), citizen outreach intern & Chinese/English interpreter at Green Zhejiang. She plans to get a master’s degree in environmental science & engineering at Nanjing University.

**Nupur Sheth**, SEE PAGE 2.

**The Outstanding Environmental Science Student Scholarship** provides support for outstanding students in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, majoring in Environmental Science.

**Isabel Ahwee-Marrah** is a senior in ENSC from Chester, VA. She is the Assistant to the Director of the Sustainability Institute at VT and is the president and co-founder of Sort It Out, a recycling club on campus. In the past she has been a lab assistant in the Plant Pathology Clinic and interned spring semester 2016 at Walt Disney World as a Conservation Education Presenter. Last summer she was an orientation leader and this past fall, she was a Peer Mentor for the CALS First Year Seminar.
The Charles R. and Violet S. Drake Scholarships are awarded each year to incoming freshmen. Recipients must be Virginia residents with SAT scores of at least 1000 and a GPA of at least 3.0. They must also be in the upper 25% of their high school class, from a rural background, and planning to work in the agricultural industry after graduation. May be renewed for four years if GPA is maintained above 3.0.

Elizabeth Gray is a fall 2017 graduate CSS-Agronomy option and a minor in ENSC from North Chesterfield, VA. She has been part of the VT Soils Judging Team/Club the last two years and this year she is also part of the Agronomy Club. Summer 2017 she studied abroad in Ecuador and did a Pathways Internship with NRCS as a Soil Scientist Trainee in Hot Springs, AR.

Mitchell Williams is a freshman in CSS-Agronomy option from Suffolk, VA. He is in Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He has joined Chocolate Milk Mondays Club and plans to be part of the Agronomy Club.

Watt R. Foster, Jr. and Jennifer Foster Scholarship is awarded to undergraduates on the bases of scholastic ability, leadership, and interest in leadership in the agricultural industry. Preference given to students from Campbell County and surrounding regions.

The Dr. Charles I. Rich Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the memory of Dr. Charles I. Rich, former professor of Agronomy. In 1970, Dr. Rich was one of the first six professors to be honored with the title of University Distinguished Professor. The scholarship is given annually to a deserving graduate students in CSES.

Neal Carpenter is a fall 2017 CSES PhD graduate from Paxton, IL. His research involves identification and mapping of genetic resistance to wheat rust diseases.

The Smith Scholarship is awarded to the sophomore student in CSES with the highest freshman grade point average.

Jamie Conner is a sophomore in CSS-International Agriculture option from Nelson County, VA. She is involved in Alpha Zeta and she did an internship this past summer with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in her hometown. This spring semester, she will be studying abroad in Switzerland with the Presidential Global Scholars Program.

Student Support from College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Endowed Funds

The Reese O. McCormick Jr. Scholarship is awarded to CALS students who demonstrate a proficiency in academic achievement.

Mitchell Braun is a sophomore in ENSC from Warrenton, VA. He is in the VT Corps of Cadets, Alpha Company, Army ROTC, Skipper Crew, Eagle Scout Association, and VT Snow Club.

The Charles Driver Jordan and Marie Saunders Jordan Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and leadership potential. Preference will be given to individuals demonstrating financial need and to those students pursuing studies in agronomy in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. May be renewed for subsequent years for students who remain in good academic standing.

Kristina Estrada, SEE PAGE 3.

Curtis Guilford is a junior in CSS – Crop Genetics and Breeding option from Windsor, VA. He has spent the past two summers at the Tidewater AREC interning with Dr. Hillary Mehl.

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.

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

Karina Ernst is a senior in ENSC from New Freedom, PA. She is involved in Cru, the Environmental Student Organization, and campus band. She is a lab assistant in PPWS and an undergraduate research assistant with Dr. Daniels in CSES. Last summer she interned with NRCS as a soil conservationist in Harrisonburg, VA.


The Dr. Charles R. and Violet S. Drake Scholarships are awarded each year to incoming freshmen. Recipients must be Virginia residents with SAT scores of at least 1000 and a GPA of at least 3.0. They must also be in the upper 25% of their high school class, from a rural background, and planning to work in the agricultural industry after graduation. May be renewed for four years if GPA is maintained above 3.0.

Elizabeth Gray is a fall 2017 graduate CSS-Agronomy option and a minor in ENSC from North Chesterfield, VA. She has been part of the VT Soils Judging Team/Club the last two years and this year she is also part of the Agronomy Club. Summer 2017 she studied abroad in Ecuador and did a Pathways Internship with NRCS as a Soil Scientist Trainee in Hot Springs, AR.

Mitchell Williams is a freshman in CSS-Agronomy option from Suffolk, VA. He is in Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He has joined Chocolate Milk Mondays Club and plans to be part of the Agronomy Club.

Watt R. Foster, Jr. and Jennifer Foster Scholarship is awarded to undergraduates on the bases of scholastic ability, leadership, and interest in leadership in the agricultural industry. Preference given to students from Campbell County and surrounding regions.


The Charles Driver Jordan and Marie Saunders Jordan Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and leadership potential. Preference will be given to individuals demonstrating financial need and to those students pursuing studies in agronomy in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. May be renewed for subsequent years for students who remain in good academic standing.

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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.
Korinne Wills is a freshman in CSS from Falls Church, VA. She is participating in Cru and works at Au bon pain in Squires Student Center.

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.

Joshua Viau is a freshman in ENSC from Seven Lakes, NC. He is involved in VT Engage, Design for America, Mountain Bike Club, and Entrepreneur Club.

The Powers Memorial Scholarship is in memory and in honor of the contributions Danny Powers made to agricultural research at the Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The Powers Memorial Scholarship has been established. One award of $2,000 will be made annually to an undergraduate student in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Applicants must have a permanent residence in one of the following Virginia counties to be eligible: Amelia, Dinwiddie, Lunenburg, or Nottoway. The awardee will be selected based on academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, community service, and financial need.

Hannah Warren is a freshman in CSS from South Hill, VA. She is a member of the Agronomy Club and VT Collegiate Young Farmers.

The William P. Sadler Scholarships are awarded annually to freshman and returning students on the basis of academic merit and financial need.

Larry Wade is a senior in ENSC from Botetourt County, VA. In the summer of 2017, he did an internship at the VDOT Environmental Division and is continuing to work part-time with them.

The Aaron Slack Memorial Diversity Scholarship

Karina Ernst, SEE PAGE 4.
The Thornhill Family Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship is awarded to active brothers of the Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho for leadership and academic excellence.

Jack Bunn IV is a senior in CSS – Agronomy option from Newsoms, VA. He was a DuPont Research Development Intern in 2017 and assisted in crop research at the Tidewater AREC in 2015 and 2016. He is a member of the Agronomy Club, Ducks Unlimited and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, he serves as their Noble Ruler.

Colton Sullivan is a senior in CSS – Agronomy option from Goochland County, VA. He is a member of the Agronomy Club, Crops Judging Team, VT Young Farmers, and Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He is a double major in CSS and Agribusiness and enjoys farming, hunting, and crops judging.

The John Lee Pratt Merit Scholarship is awarded annually on the basis of academic achievement, leadership, school and community service, extracurricular activities and expressed interest in study of animal nutrition.

Joshua Bryant is a senior in CSS-Agronomy option from Lottsburg, VA. He is the president of the Agronomy Club, is a member of the Crops Judging Team and went to Australia in the fall of 2016 to compete. He has also interned at Crop Production Services.

Dalton Clabaugh is a junior from Keymar, MD. – picture not available.

Jamie Hodnett is a fall 2017 graduate in CSS-Agronomy option from Ringgold, VA. She is Vice President of the Agronomy Club, a member of the Crops Judging Team and a TA for Crop Evaluation. She has interned with Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Japan Tobacco International and Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau. She competed in Australia in 2015 and 2016 with the Crops Judging Team where they won 3rd place overall.

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.

Hailey Humphreys, SEE PAGE 2.

Morgan Gallagher, SEE PAGE 3.

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

The Washington County Master Gardner 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, CSES, Entomology, or PPWS.

Lindsey Kyte is a sophomore in ENSC from Mechanicsville, VA. She is involved in the Environmental Student Organization and the Outdoor Club. She also volunteers with VT Engage.

Lucas Rector is a graduate student in PPWS from Meadowview, VA. He received his undergraduate degree in CSS – Agronomy option in the spring 2017. While an undergrad, he was part of the Crops Judging Team and Agronomy Club. He also interned with BASF and Crop Protection Services.

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

Robert “Jacob” Odum, SEE PAGE 1.
W.R. Winslow Trust Agriculture Scholarships are awarded to students from Maryland, North Carolina, or Washington, D.C. or Virginia.

Mary Coughter is a junior in ENSC from Charlotte, NC. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and spent her fall 2017 semester participating in the Dean’s Semester on Global Challenges in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland.

Allison Magnant is a senior in ENSC from Virginia Beach, VA. She does undergraduate research in the soil fertility lab, volunteers as a YoungLife Leader at Shawsville Middle School, and is a CALS Ambassador where she serves as Service Chair on the executive team.

Heather Rigg is a senior in ENSC from Frederick, MD. She is a member of Alpha Zeta fraternity and a service organization called Circle K. She is a lab assistant in the Plant Pathology Clinic and loves working outdoors and learning about animals and the environment.

Student Support from Industry and Other Supporters

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.

Jessica Bailey is a sophomore in CSS – Agronomy option from Keysville, VA. She is a member of the Agronomy Club, Poultry Club, and Collegiate FFA. This past summer she interned with the Southern Piedmont AREC conducting her own research and also doing field work for other research projects.

Caleb Hinkle, SEE PAGE 2.

Eric Scruggs is a senior in CSS–Agronomy option from Mechanicsville, VA. He worked two summers for a large grain farm in Central Virginia doing various activities including planting soybeans, scouting fields, and working with wheat and straw harvest. Last summer he interned with BASF in Central Iowa as a crop protection intern. At VT he is active in the Agronomy Club, Sigma Chi Fraternity, and a peer mentoring program called Linkous Lads where he mentors 4th and 5th graders at Gilbert Linkous Elementary School.

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

Nick Lord is a CSES master’s graduate student from Sterling, VA. He is part of the Vietnamese Student Association, did a summer undergraduate research fellowship, participated in undergraduate research with Dr. Bo Zhang, and was a CALS Peer Mentor.

Colonial Agricultural Education Foundation Scholarship are awarded to students who are furthering their education through attendance at a college, university, vocational, or trade school. Scholarships are awarded annually to individuals who exhibit an aptitude for learning and a desire for self-improvement through education. Recipients must be of at least college age, reside in one of the counties served by Colonial Farm Credit, and be a full-time student.

Caleb Hinkle, SEE PAGE 2.

Caleb Hinkle, SEE PAGE 2.

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

Bodie Fletcher is a senior in CSS – Crop Genetics and Breeding option from Smithfield, VA. She did an internship summer 2017 through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Midwest Research Inc.; summer 2016 worked with the VT Small Grains Breeding Program; and summer 2015 she interned in the Propagation Department of Lancaster Farms. She is a member of New Life Christian Fellowship Bible Study and Board Game Club at VT. She is also a CALS Ambassador and a CALS student representative on VT’s Diversity Committee: Inclusive VT.
Christopher Moritz is a senior in ENSC from Gloucester, VA. He is on the Soil Judging Team, studied abroad in Ecuador, does research with Dr. Galbraith, and worked as a Soil Technician with the Forest Service the summer of 2017.

Sabrina Vladu is a junior in ENSC from Yorktown, VA. She is secretary of the Soil Judging Team and works at War Memorial Gym.

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

Matthew Herrmann is fall 2017 graduate in CSS - Turf option from Suffolk, VA. He is president of the Turf Club and part of the VT Quality Deer Management Association. He did an internship this past summer at Pinehurst Course #2 and currently works at the Glade Road Turf Research Center.

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

Jacob Odum, SEE PAGE 1.

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.

Colton Sullivan, SEE PAGE 6.

Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Advisors Scholarship is to provide financial support to students interested in pursuing a career in plant and soil sciences. Given the declining student enrollment in regional agronomy related programs, the Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Advisers encourage students to consider careers in agronomy by supporting their education needs through the use of scholarships.

Jamie Conner, SEE PAGE 4.

Eric Scruggs, SEE PAGE 7.

Nelson Yield-Limiting Factors Graduate Student Scholarship is to encourage students to pursue research and careers in diagnosis of yield-limiting factors in agronomy. The focus of the scholarship is on leadership and accomplishments and the nominee's long-term personal goals to research and develop improved diagnostic techniques and solutions. The scholarship is provided through the Agronomic Science Foundation by the Werner L. Nelson Fund and administered through the American Society of Agronomy.

Martin Battaglia, SEE PAGE 1.

Syngenta Regional and National Scholarship is available to eligible university students enrolled in a crop-related discipline. Based on academic merit, essay, and application.

Abigail Han, SEE PAGE 2.

Ellen E. Wade Graduate Studies Fellowship is for VT graduate students nominated by a faculty member or department. Based on academic merit and financial need.

Martin Battaglia, SEE PAGE 1.

The Virginia Soil Scientist Scholarships (funded by Commonwealth of Virginia) are awarded to undergraduate students majoring in CSES, especially students that will compete in soil judging competitions.

Cameron Bermand, SEE PAGE 3.

Elizabeth Gray, SEE PAGE 4.

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: