

## RETIREES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – 2018 AWARDS

The WRD Retirees organization awarded five scholarships this year. Since the program began in 2006, our organization has awarded 21 scholarships, not including the five awarded this year.

Including this year's awards, we have awarded \$61,000 in all.

This year's scholarship awardees are:

**Holly Eschenburg.** She is a full-time Hydrologic Technician in Oklahoma. Holly started as a Pathways student in 2013. She lacks one course for OPM qualification as a Hydrologist: Engineering Physics II. **Total awarded: \$700**



**Olivia Stoken.** She is a Pathways Hydrologic Technician in Oregon. She lacks 4 hours of calculus for OPM qualification as a Hydrologist. **Total awarded: \$500**

Award was presented by Marcia 'Marty' Erickson, Hydro Technician, Northwest Region

"My best experiences as a hydrologic technician with USGS have always been in the field enjoying the outdoors with great co-workers. We spend a lot of time driving boats to our water quality field sites on the Upper Klamath River and Upper Klamath Lake. The beautiful Cascade mountains offer a great background for bird watching, which is a must when your sites are part of the Pacific Flyway. The first time I saw a sandhill crane was here in Klamath during work. It reminded me of Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac and the importance of the science we do at USGS. It's hard to beat a job where you are paid to spend time outside enjoying beautiful scenery as you work on issues that are important to you. Thank you to the USGS Retirees for providing me a scholarship to take a class to convert to the hydrologist series which will allow me to continue to conduct meaningful science in beautiful places." **Olivia Stoken**

"Let me start off by thanking you all for your scholarship program and specifically for your award to Olivia Stoken. Olivia came to us recently as a grad student and she has immediately had an impact on our science in the Klamath Basin. Aside from being a stalwart and enthusiastic technician, Olivia has huge curiosity and ambition. Less than a year with us as a technician, and she conceived of and is executing a pilot study to evaluate dissolved organic carbon in the Klamath River. This is GS-11 hydrologist level work, which just goes to underscore how appropriate your awarded scholarship is. It will allow her to take the remaining college coursework for her to officially qualify for the hydrologist series. She has a bright future with the USGS!"

**-James Crammond, Director Oregon Water Science Center, Northwest Region**



**Skylar Smith.** He joined USGS in Illinois as a student contractor in 2014 and became of full-time Hydrologic Technician in 2016. He lacks 1 trigonometry and 2 calculus courses. He is going to Parkland College and plans to complete these courses by May 2019. **Total awarded: \$1,500.**



**Johnse Ostman.** He is a Hydrologic Technician and has been employed with USGS in Alaska for 9.5 years. He has a BS and is working towards a Master's in Environmental Science. **Total awarded: \$3,000.**

Presented by Jeff Conaway, Office Chief, Water, Ice, Landscape Dynamics, Alaskan WRSC (on the left) to Johnse Ostman

**Johnse** writes: "Many years ago, as a non-traditional undergraduate I watched in near- envy as fellow students began USGS careers as Hydrologic Technicians, but my life circumstances prevented me from pursuing that opportunity then. Several years later, while consulting as a Hydrologist in Southeast Alaska, I finally had the chance to join USGS at the Alaska Science Center and work within the Water Data Section maintaining Alaska's surface water monitoring network. From the Colville River to Cordova, I have had the pleasure of working on rivers that support the lifestyles and livelihoods of Alaska residents. Besides ever-challenging fieldwork in the most spectacular regions on Earth, some of my best experiences include our

USGS interactions and relationships built among the many Native Alaskan communities we have the pleasure of working with. To learn about their rivers from their perspectives has allowed me the opportunity to teach USGS Hydrology to children from many Alaska villages from that local perspective, while emphasizing the global-to-local feedback and its effects.

Thank you to the USGS WRD Retirees' Hydrologic Technician Scholarship board- I am humbled to have been chosen to receive this award. Now, as I strive to balance seemingly endless Data Section responsibilities, while raising my family, I pursue defense of my graduate work quantifying runoff generation from neighboring headwater basins with differing glacier coverage using the distributed hydrological model WaSiM in the Eklutna watershed- the state's largest municipal reservoir. Once my thesis is complete, I look forward to contributions I can make as a USGS Hydrologist on local projects in hydrological science that affect Alaskans in a changing world."



**Joshua Lee.** He has been employed by the USGS in South Carolina for only 7 months but has proven himself. He was recently converted from intern to full-time Hydrologic Technician. He has a BS and is working towards a Master's in Environmental Policy and Management with a concentration in Fish and Wildlife Management. **Total awarded: \$3,000.**

Award was presented to Joshua by Brian McCallum, GA Data Chief and Eric Strom, Director Southeast Region at the SAWSC Data Section All Hands Meeting in Norcross.

### Scholarship History of the Retirees Scholarship Program

#### **NL132 (August): 2006 Winner:**

**Jacob B. Dayley** of **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix, Arizona. Jacob had a 2006 summer internship with the California Water Science Center. An official ceremony was held at GateWay Community College. The award was **\$1500**.

#### **NL136 (August) 2007 Winner:**

**Gretchen Anderson** of **Vermilion Community College**. An official presentation ceremony was held at the Tulsa Oklahoma field office, where Gretchen participated as a summer intern. The award was **\$1500**.

#### **NL140 (August) 2008 Winner:**

**Claire Bunch** a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix and a USGS summer intern in the Sacramento office was the winner. Claire received a plaque and **\$1500** check.

#### **NL 144 (August) 2009 Winners:**

**First place** winner of a **\$1500** scholarship was **Lisa Ashmore**, a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix, AZ, who interned this summer in the Montana WSC.

**Second place** winner of a **\$1000** scholarship was **LaShawn Nohrenberg** who attended **Vermilion Community College** in Ely, MN. She was a summer intern in the Nebraska WSC.

#### **NL148 (August) 2010 Winners:**

**First place, \$3000:** **Travis L. Gibson**, a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix was a summer intern in the Salt Lake City, Utah WRD office.

**Second place, \$2000:** **Michael Blumberg**, a student from **Vermilion Community College** in Ely, MN interned in the Richmond, VA office.

#### **NL153 (November) 2011 Winners:**

**Casey P. Lovato**, was the winner of a **\$4000** scholarship. Casey was a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix and was a summer intern at the Oregon Water Science Center.

**Brandon Clark** won a **\$2000** scholarship. He was a student at **Western Dakota Technical Institute** in Rapid City, SD. Brandon was an intern at the South Carolina Water Science Center in Columbia.

**Jeffery S. Sallas**, won a **\$2000** scholarship and was a student at **GateWay Community College**. Jeff was an intern at the Sullivan's Island, SC office and was presented his award during a ceremony at the SC Water Science Center arranged by SC Water Center Director **Eric Strom**, and **Gary Tasker** represented WRD Retirees.

**Michael Buil**, won a **\$2000** scholarship. He was a student at **GateWay Community College** and interned at the Massachusetts Water Science Center. Michael received his award during a ceremony at the MA Water Science Center arranged by **Wayne Sonntag**, MA Water Science Center Director, and WRD retiree **Forest Lyford** represented WRD Retirees.

**NL157 (November) 2012 Winners:**

**Timothy Brunetto** received his award, a **\$4000** scholarship, attends **GateWay Community College** (in Hawaii part of the Pacific Islands WSC)

**Alyx Schlafge**, the **\$3000** 2nd Place scholarship Austin Field Unit, Texas WSC attends **Vermilion College**.

**Sarah Jeanne Davis** of Wyoming WSC received her **\$3000** award -- she attends **Western Dakota College**.

**2013** – No awards were made due to a freeze by the Department of Interior on summer hires.

**NL165 (November) 2014 Winners:**

**Carl Turner**, **\$4000** -- **Vermillion Community College, MN**.

**Adam Mastalir**, **\$4000** – **Madison Area Technical College, WI**.

**NL169 (November) 2015 Winners:**

**Keith E. Mecum**, **\$4000** – **University of Texas, San Antonio, TX**.

**Devin S. Minnich**, **\$3000** – **University of Santa Cruz, CA**.

**NL173 (November) 2016 Winners:**

**Ruth Law**, **\$2000** – **University of Wyoming**

**Joe Morgan**, **\$2000** – **Western Washington University**

**Jacob Pascoe**, **\$2000** – **Oklahoma State University**

**2017** – No scholarship awards were made.