

Soil and Water Conservation Society of Alabama

Carr Receives First AL SWCS Scholarship

On July 23, 2010, Ronny Samantha Carr, a Bio-systems Engineering student at Auburn University, was presented a \$1,000 scholarship from the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (AL SWCS) by Perry Oakes, Past President. On hand for the scholarship presentation was the Bio-systems Engineering Department Head Dr. Steven Taylor and Assistant Professor Dr. Mark Dougherty, and her mother, Susan Carr.

In the spring of 2010, AL SWCS decided to sponsor an annual scholarship to provide financial aid to a student enrolled in an Alabama school and interested in furthering their education in a soil and water conservation field of study. Criteria and application information was forwarded to related departments at Alabama colleges to inform students of the availability of the scholarship.

Ronnie received an e-mail from the Bio-Systems Engineering department and decided to apply for the scholarship. She knew it would be a big help with the rising costs of higher education.

In high school, Ronnie developed a passion for conservation, especially clean water. She conducted water quality experiments for a 10th grade science fair project, discovered she loved research, and made it to the state science fair.

In her scholarship application, Ronnie said she wanted a career that would allow her to help others, conserve the earth, and still explore expansion and technological endeavors. She feels that bio-systems engineering fits her perfectly.

On a recent trip to Honduras, Ronnie experienced first-hand some of the challenges developing countries face in providing clean drinking water for citizens. After graduation, she hopes to work to help bring safe and affordable drinking water to developing countries. She said, "Bio-systems engineering is something I have always wanted to do. I have always wanted to help people."

Perry Oakes, said, "We had some good applicants for this year's scholarship, some tight competition, and Ronnie came in on top."

Ronnie said, "I thank the Alabama Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation for this scholarship. It will really help out with my education."

Ronnie also won the Sam S. Williams Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Scholarship from the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District this summer.

To apply for the AL SWCS Scholarship, each applicant must be enrolled in an Alabama college or university majoring in a soil and water conservation related field (majors may include bio-systems engineering, civil engineering, environmental engineering, agronomy and soils, environmental science, landscape architecture, or other similar majors). They must also be enrolled for the upcoming fall semester.

For more information about the scholarship, please visit the Alabama Chapter of SWCS: <http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/scholarship.htm>



Ronny Carr (center), a Bio-systems Engineering student at Auburn University, was presented a \$1,000 scholarship from the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (AL SWCS). l-r: Perry Oakes, AL SWCS Past President, Susan Carr, Bio-systems Engineering Department Assistant Professor Dr. Mark Dougherty and Dr. Steven Taylor, Department Head.