



Ritchey Receives Alabama SWCS Scholarship

Auburn, Ala. – (June 13, 2012) - Elissa Claire Ritchey, an Auburn University Horticulture graduate and Master of Landscape Architecture student in the School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (AL SWCS). The award was presented by Perry Oakes, Chair of the Education Committee. On hand for the presentation was Ms. Charlene LeBleu, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture.

During the 2011–2012 school year, Claire was a senior in the Horticulture program of the College of Agriculture. She qualified for advanced placement in the Landscape Architecture program in the College of Architecture, Design, and Construction where she also worked as an

undergraduate student research assistant for Ms. Charlene LeBleu, ASLA, AICP, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture. Ms. LeBleu whole-heartedly supports Ritchey for the scholarship. She believes Claire will be a great ambassador for the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society. Ms. LeBleu said, “Claire is an excellent candidate for this scholarship. She has a strong environmental ethic and has displayed great accountability in her student courses.”

At this point in her career of study, Claire does not know exactly where her path will take her, but she does know that she wants to work in the realm of environmental stewardship; hopefully, through the avenue of landscape architecture.

Perry Oakes said that he was pleased with the quality of the scholarship application submitted by Claire. He was especially impressed that she took the initiative to reinforce her horticulture field of studies with a Minor in Sustainability. This study of agronomy and soils will give her a firm foundation to help her succeed in her field of landscape design. Oakes wished Claire all the best in her educational endeavors.



Claire Ritchey (center) was presented a \$1,000 scholarship from the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. l-r: Dr. Charlene LeBlue, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Auburn University and Perry Oakes, AL SWCS Chair of the Education Committee.

Photo by Fay Garner, Public Affairs Committee, AL SWCS

Claire was chosen for the scholarship by the Executive Committee of the AL SWCS from a pool of eligible applications. This annual scholarship is awarded to a student 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 similar majors.

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

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