



## Rubisch Receives Annual AL SWCS Scholarship

Auburn, Ala., August 28, 2013 – Mary Catherine Rubisch, a junior in Biosystems Engineering at Auburn University (AU), received a \$2,000 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 Dr. Steven Taylor, P.E., Professor and Department Head of Biosystems Engineering and Dr. Mark Dougherty, P.E., Associate Professor, Biosystems Engineering at AU.



Mary Catherine Rubisch accepts a \$2,000 scholarship check from the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. l-r: Dr. Steven Taylor, Department Head Biosystems Engineering, Auburn University, Perry Oakes, AL SWCS Chair of the Education Committee, Rubisch, and Dr. Mark Dougherty, Associate Professor Biosystems Engineering.

Mary Catherine developed an interest in environmental engineering while in high school. On a visit to AU while she was still in high school, she learned about the major in Biosystems Engineering. Engineering and the environment has been her passion since then.

While at Auburn, in addition to her regular curriculum, she has worked on undergraduate research projects with major professors. She worked to protect wildlife habitats and to install best management practices for erosion and sediment control. During the summer she interned with AMEC Environmental and Infrastructure in Ashville, NC, where she worked with staff members and scientists on various projects.

Mary Catherine said she was very excited to receive the award and thanked the Society for considering her application. Being an out-of-state student at AU, she said she has additional course work that is not covered by other financial aid. She was very appreciative of the scholarship.

After graduation she indicated she would like to continue to work in a field conserving soil and water while pursuing her professional engineering license.

Mary Catherine has earned the respect of her peers and the professors in her field of study. Dr. Dougherty said, "Mary Catherine has a clear aptitude and natural proficiency in engineering. She

participates in undergraduate research and is active in community service within the Auburn area. She is very deserving of the scholarship. I look forward to her continued outstanding achievement and progress within Biosystems Engineering and Auburn University.”

Perry Oakes said that he was pleased with the quality of the scholarship application submitted by Mary Catherine. He was especially impressed with her keen interest in the soil and water conservation field. Oakes said he wishes her all the best in her educational endeavors.

Mary Catherine was chosen for the scholarship from a pool of very qualified applications by the Executive Committee of the AL SWCS. 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 biosystems 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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