THE NORTH UMPQUA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP & PROCESS

The North Umpqua Foundation Scholarship, established by Paul and Lory Utz, provides financial assistance to outstanding students working towards a career in fisheries science, aquatic ecology, or related fields. Preference is given to residents of Douglas County, Oregon; students at Umpqua Community College; students considering advanced degrees, and work and research related to the North Umpqua River and/or its native fauna. Nominees must be enrolled in full-time study related to their career goal at an accredited college or university. Applications will be considered for students at every collegiate level (Associate, Bachelor, Master, and PhD). Also, in order to support High School students in planning their education, a Scholarship may be tentatively pledged to a HS senior or graduate, to be awarded upon college enrollment.

Applications are considered year-round – there is no application deadline. Consideration may take up to two months. The dollar amount of an annual scholarship award ranges from $1,000 to $10,000 per academic year. Scholarship awardees must maintain satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the institution, in order to continue to receive the scholarship. Scholarship recipients and other applicants may re-apply in subsequent years, for potential additional awards. Scholarship recipients are requested to meet at least once a year with the Board of Directors of The North Umpqua Foundation to present a summary of their recent efforts and findings.

An application for scholarship consists of:
1) a letter of recommendation from the student’s faculty advisor at the University or College describing the student’s character, academic promise as demonstrated by college grade-point average and aptitude test scores, academic and extracurricular accomplishments, awareness of the problems in the proposed field of study, research experience, and leadership skills; and
2) a brief essay from the student outlining their academic and professional goals, their plans to achieve them, their studies and/or research and how it relates to the North Umpqua River and its native fishes, and how this scholarship will assist the student in achieving their goals. Also, contact information valid for 4 months beyond the application date.

The Scholarship Selection Committee may recommend more than one scholarship applicant within any year to the Foundation Board, which makes the final funding decisions.

Application materials must not exceed 10 pages and must be provided via email and/or attached "pdf" or "doc" files to:

    The North Umpqua Foundation
    Scholarship Selection Committee
    Chair: Richard Grost
    Rich@NorthUmpquaRetreat.com

Thank you for considering our scholarship program, and for your interest in understanding and wisely managing the native aquatic resources of the North Umpqua River.
TNUF Scholarship Recipient History

TNUF scholarship recipients, since the program's inception in 1996, have made significant contributions to the understanding and conservation of aquatic resources of which we can all be proud. Some have received multiple-year scholarships (generally $1,000-5,000 /yr) for particularly appropriate research topics, performance, and need. Several students have become leading experts in their fields of specialty, and in the education and conservation arena. The diversity of recipients and their areas of interest and passion is evident here:

1. Jeffrey Dambacher, PhD, OSU (now a Professor in New Zealand) -- *Zoogeography of Oregon fishes.* (1996 recipient)
2. Lisa Krentz, MS, OSU -- *Estuary movement of sea-run cutthroat trout in the Salmon River.
3. Sharon Frazy, MS, OSU -- *Relationship of stream-side vegetation to juvenile-anadromous fish population numbers.*
5. Jeremiah Bernier, MS, Humboldt State University -- *Differential gene expression between fall and spring Chinook salmon on the Feather River.*
7. Kelly Crispen, MS, University of Montana -- *Retrospective Analysis of the ecology of salmonid fishes in the Umpqua River.*
8. Sierra Lewis, MS, OSU -- *Factors related to anadromous fish migration over anthropogenic and natural barriers, and distribution in the headwaters of the North Umpqua basin.* (2010-11 recipient).
9. Cris Salazar, BS, OSU (Roseburg resident and UCC graduate) -- funded for BS studies in fisheries and conservation at OSU (2011-14 recipient).
11. Leslie Jensen, MS candidate, OSU - *Fish population and community responses to forest harvest and environmental variability in Western Oregon.* (2016, 17 recipient).
12. Cheyanne Rico (Douglas County resident and UCC student), BS candidate, Lane-Benton CC and OSU, 2017-18 recipient.
13. Michelle Pepping, MS candidate UC-Davis - *Spatial distribution of juvenile summer and winter run steelhead in the North Umpqua Basin based on genetic markers.* (2017-19 recipient).
14. Bailey Daniels, BS candidate, OSU (Roseburg native and fly-fisher; 2017 recipient).
17. Dave Busby, MS candidate, University of Montana, *Hydrogeomorphic response of steep streams in the Western Cascades to the 2020 Archie Creek and Holiday Farm fires* (2021 recipient)
Selected Scholarship Student Testimonials

From Cris Salazar, 2011-14 recipient:

Again, I’d like to thank you and TNUF for helping me out. I would likely still be in Roseburg taking online classes, if it weren’t for your support, and I feel I’m getting much more out of it, here in Corvallis... Please let the rest of TNUF know of my progress and appreciation.

I’ve just been busy with school and work, mostly preparing for finals. I’m also learning a ton helping Gordie Reeves’ grad student, Haley Ohms, age her steelhead smolts, scales and otoliths, at the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab. Gordie has also got me lined up to go to Cordova, AK for the Summer working on the fish crew in the Chugach NF, which I am really looking forward to. And I can’t thank Paul Utz enough for helping me get in touch with Mr. Reeves, as well as TNUF for helping me make the move from Roseburg to Corvallis. Things are working out well.

And more recently: Things have been going well with myself. Currently living here in Eugene and living the life of a seasonal technician; bouncing from agency to agency. Summer of 2016, I was hired as a crew leader for AREMP, the inter-agency stream monitoring program I was a part of in 2014. I had a great time traveling all over N. California, Oregon, and Washington and got to expand my resume with supervisory experience. Also, a recent addition to the AREMP protocol was environmental DNA sampling. A method of stream sampling I’ve been increasingly involved and interested in.

During the winter, I’ve been working up at the Northwest Research Station. Dr. Reeves has me in the lab helping some undergrads learn to read Coho scales from the Copper River Delta. Which is great, since winter work in natural resources can be tough to find. Fortunately, I’m also going to start work with the Calapooia Watershed Council in February. I will be conducting spawning surveys for steelhead in the Upper Calapooia as a Fisheries Monitoring Technician. It is only a temporary position but I’ve recently been getting the feeling that working for a watershed council might be a perfect fit and was excited to be hired.

However, despite my passion for hiking up steep hills through devil’s club and vine maple, I have my sights set on graduate school. Depending on the program and adviser, I would like to investigate the methodology used in environmental DNA stream sampling and how detection rates vary seasonally for certain aquatic species. It is my hope that my experience working with researchers over the past years, both in the field and laboratory, will help me succeed. But until then, I would like to thank the North Umpqua Foundation for their continued support and wish everyone a prosperous 2017.

From Dave Tresky, 2015 recipient (now a USFS Hydrologic Technician and TNUF Director):

I just wanted to write and say how much I appreciate the scholarship and how much it is going to help me. I had been losing sleep on how I was going to get my loans paid in the time between when I graduate and when I get my career going and this has taken a huge worry off of my shoulders. I have a savings account that I put the money into and is going to be a huge relief. So once again I just wanted to say thank you to everyone in TNUF.

From Jeffrey Dambacher, 1996 recipient:

Yes I was the recipient of the first award.... I was starting a PhD on the zoogeography of Oregon fishes, and I used the money to take my first class. That class turned out to be on qualitative
modeling, which captured my attention so much that I subsequently changed my dissertation topic to theoretical ecology. It's been a great journey and I remain very grateful for the foundation's initial support which came at a critical time for me. I am presently in Bordeaux France attending a symposium on estuary ecology where I presented a keynote address on my modeling work.