

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.

Scholarship Recipient History

The North Umpqua Foundation

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 scholarships (generally \$1,000-5,000 /yr) for appropriate research topics, performance, and need. Several students have become leading experts in their fields of specialty, and in the education and conservation arenas. The diversity of recipients and their areas of interest and passion is evident in this chronological summary:

1. Jeffrey Dambacher, PhD candidate, OSU - *Zoogeography of Oregon fishes / theoretical ecology* (1996 recipient)
2. Lisa Krentz, MS candidate, OSU -- *Estuary movement of sea-run cutthroat trout in the Salmon River.*
3. Sharon Frazy, MS candidate, OSU -- *Relationship of stream-side vegetation to juvenile-anadromous fish population numbers.*
4. Pollyanna Lind, MS candidate, U of O, *Geomorphology as related to watershed erosion and deposition on the Sprague River.*
5. Jeremiah Bernier, MS candidate, Humboldt State University -- *Differential gene expression between fall and spring Chinook salmon on the Feather River.*
6. John McMillan, MS candidate, OSU -- *Life history diversity of rainbow trout in the John Day River.*
7. Kelly Crispen, MS candidate, University of Montana -- *Retrospective Analysis of the ecology of salmonid fishes in the Umpqua River.*
8. Sierra Lewis, MS candidate, 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 candidate, OSU (Roseburg resident and UCC graduate; now Restoration Coordinator at the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers) -- funded for BS studies in fisheries and conservation at OSU (2011-14 recipient).
10. David Treskey (UCC graduate) -- BS candidate, Environmental Science, OSU (2015-16).
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, fly-fisher, and whitewater guide (2017 recipient).
15. Eric Stauder, BS candidate OSU/UCC, *restoration ecology emphasis*; Roseburg native (2018-19 recipient).
16. John Stevenson, PhD candidate OSU, *Dammed water quality: Longitudinal stream responses below beaver ponds in the Umpqua River* (2019 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)
18. Araya Jensen, BS candidate, OSU College of Natural Resources; Phoenix HS (Roseburg) graduate, Douglas County native (2021-22 recipient)
19. Kylie Rubrecht, BS candidate UCC/OSU, College of Natural Resources; Glide native and Glide HS graduate (Valedictorian), creator of science building ecology mural (2022 recipient)
20. Wilhem Diehl, MS candidate, OSU Environmental Science Graduate Program, evaluation of habitat restoration in Wolf Creek OR on substrate conditions and coho salmon abundance (2023 recipient)

Selected Scholarship Student Testimonials

From Araya Jensen, 2021-22 recipient:

I have been busy working with the USGS monitoring amphibians, primarily in the Sky Lakes and Three Sisters Wilderness. Much of our research includes eDNA sampling of alpine lakes to better understand their inhabitants, fish included! ... Moving forward, I hope to pick up a position tracking stream flow permanence with the Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis during the Fall. My hope is to find a permanent position with the Forest Service next year, in the Umpqua...but am open to see what great opportunities are available now that I have this degree! Eternally grateful for your support in earning my degree. It has been such an amazing blessing.

From Dave Tresky, 2015-16 recipient (now a USFS Hydrologist on the Umpqua National Forest, and a 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. So once again I just wanted to say thank you to everyone in TNUF.

From Cris Salazar, 2011-14 recipient (now Restoration Coordinator at the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers):
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.

From Jeffrey Dambacher, 1996 recipient (now a Principal Research Scientist, Environmental Modelling and Monitoring, CSIRO, Australia):

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.