

□ 2007 MSFA Scholarship Recipients □

The MSFA awarded two \$1,500 scholarships this year. The scholarships are granted to Junior, Senior, or Graduate Engineering students specializing in a study area related to stormwater-floodplain management. The two individuals selected for the 2007 scholarships are Ms. Abby Richmond and Ms. Jacquelyn McNett.

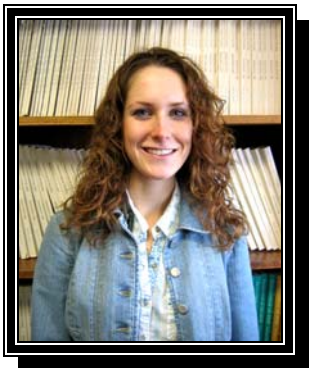


 Abby Richmond 

Abby Richmond, of Leslie, Michigan, is currently a junior in the Biosystems Engineering program at Michigan State University, with an anticipated graduation date of May 2009. She has interests in both agriculture and natural resources management, including watershed management. Her experience working for Agri Business Consultants as a student assistant during the summer and fall semester of 2006 included the opportunity to help organize and write Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.

Abby is a student member of the American Society of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineers, the Biosystems Engineering Student Club, and the Society of Women Engineers. She is active in her local community as a 4-H leader, where she teaches leather craft and directs the poultry, rabbit, and working steers areas of her 4-H club. In addition, Abby is a board member for the Midwest Ox Drivers Association and volunteers at Tillers International in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Growing up on a farm, Abby has developed a love for agriculture and wants to be a liaison between the farmer and the natural resource preservationist. As she stated in her application essay: “ While working for Agri Business Consultants, I developed an understanding of how difficult it is to guide farmers to use their land in a way that is going to benefit and preserve the water and resources around them. I also experienced how beneficial and rewarding it is to personally work with farmers. With my whole life spent on a farm, I have an advantage when communicating with other farmers. I speak their language, I can identify with them. I may be the bearer of bad news, in their minds, but I can develop better solutions for them because I know how a farming operation works.” It is through communication that our environment will be preserved, and it is Abby’s goal to facilitate and encourage that preservation.



 Jacquelyn K. McNett 

Jacquelyn McNett, of Commerce Township, Michigan, is a Junior in Biosystems Engineering at Michigan State University. She is greatly interested in ecosystem restoration and the use of low impact development techniques that prevent environmental degradation, such as rain gardens, also know as bioretention facilities. This past summer she assisted Dr. Steven Safferman, a faculty member in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, with the research of phosphorus removal from wastewater and with writing a proposal and conducting research for Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environment Needs). Project GREEN is a cooperative effort by plant-based commodities and businesses in cooperation with Michigan State University Extension, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Jacquelyn is a member of the Biosystems Engineering Club, Society of Women Engineers, and the Honors College. She volunteers on the student organic farm and strongly advocates biodiversity and sustainability. Additionally, she has been on the Dean's List every semester and has maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.9/4.0. She will earn her Bachelor of Science in Biosystems Engineering in May 2008.

In addition to being a full-time student, Jacquelyn is a teaching assistant for an introductory Biosystems Engineering design course taught by Dr. Bradley Marks. She enjoys stimulating class discussions, answering questions, and holding weekly office hours. In the spring of 2007, she will serve in a similar position as a teaching assistant for Lyman Briggs Calculus, for Dr. Aklilu Zeleke. Outside of school, Jacquelyn enjoys spending time with family and friends, doing yoga, hiking, and painting.

As she stated in her application essay, "I am looking for a challenging career to maximize my potential as a problem solver and a career that will encourage growth in environmental awareness from others as well as myself." She strongly believes in educating the public on environmental issues and thinks environmental engineering designs must be sustainable. Whatever Jacquelyn does, she would like to concentrate on promoting natural solutions that prevent environmental degradation and support sustainability.