2023 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS DONOR CELEBRATION

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

PennState
College of Agricultural Sciences
2023 Scholarships, Awards and Fellowships

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, a total of $3.6 million was awarded to 903 students in the College of Agricultural Sciences for the 2023–2024 academic year as of Aug. 11, 2023.
Welcome
Robert Shannon
Environmental Resource Management, Class of 1979
Robert and Tammy Shannon Environmental Resource Management Scholarship

Remarks
László J. Kulcsár
Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences

Student Thank Yous
Brandon Bixler
Eddie McDaniel
Megan Guy
Sydney McMurray
Kareena Pandya
Cheyenne Bastian-Brown
Abigail Wilson

Praharsh Patel
Jacqueline Ford
Katherine Blocklove
Abby Stoltzfus
Jo Ono-Raphel
Madison Jurcik

Undergraduate Student Keynote Speaker
Megan Guy
Plant Science

Graduate Student Keynote Speaker
Katherine Blocklove
Agricultural and Environmental Plant Science

Milestones Speaker
Kareena Pandya
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Closing Remarks
Robert Shannon
Environmental Resource Management, Class of 1979
Robert and Tammy Shannon Environmental Resource Management Scholarship

Stay Tuned for an Announcement of the Date for the 2024 Scholarships and Awards Celebration. Information and invitations come via email. Please keep your contact information up to date with the Development Office to ensure you receive timely notification.
New Scholarships & Awards for 2023

Burl H. Burleigh Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Fred and Kathy Fries Scholarship in Horticulture in the College of Agricultural Sciences
James M. Bowser Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Dr. Joseph A. Maser Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Carolyn Wallace Thomas Food Science Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Carol and John Graham First-Year Scholarship Endowment
The Nicely Ridge Foundation Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Aarush Reddy Scholarship in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department
Samira Reddy and Ashwin Reddy Scholarship in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department
Dr. Marion P. Cullen International Travel Endowment in Animal Science
Kelsey Benn Memorial Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
FMC Fellowship in Applied Entomology
Lactalis Scholarship Program in Food Science
Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Excellence Fund
Richard Craig Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Ralph Mumma Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Paul F. Heffner Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Ray A. Kline, PAS, Graduate Award for Dairy Nutrition Research Activities in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Milestones — Continued Support

Five Years

Dale T. Landis and Barbara Forrester Landis Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

J. & J. Darlington Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Gempesaw/Albay Scholarship for the College of Agricultural Sciences

Terry and Constance Updegraff Eshenour Endowed Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Daniel R. and Rosemary E. Hagen Scholarship in Animal Science in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Diane Malcolm and Michael E. Katzaman Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Richard C. Hann and Elise F. Hann Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Krear Family Award for Wildlife and Fisheries

Indigo Agriculture Graduate Fellowship

Harold “Doc” Harpster Award

Dr. Fern “Bunny” Willits Graduate Award Endowment in Rural Sociology

Professor Arun Kilara Memorial Graduate Student Award in Food Science

Selma L. Terhorst Memorial Scholarship

Max St. Clair Amoss, Jr. Scholarship

Eric, Albert, and Kathleen Wachsmuth Open Doors Scholarship

Anna M. Griswold Open Doors Scholarship

Tim and Gwen White Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Pruss Family Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Richard and Ruth Cybulski Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Wendell and Carol Hunt Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Scanlon Family Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences

Jeffrey A. Conrad Open Doors Scholarship
Milestones — Continued Support

John and Carol Graham Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Hagen Family Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Loughner Family Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Erskine and Wilhelmina Cash and Family Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Dr. John S. and Gloria J. Shenk Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Mountain Family Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Donley and Nellis Families Open Doors Scholarship
John and Marlene Milsom and Family Open Doors Scholarship
Donald L. and Marjorie Resta Young Open Doors Scholarship
Kane Family Open Doors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Andrew S. McNitt Turfgrass Graduate Fellowship for Improvement of Sports Turf Surfaces
Paul R. Latshaw Turfgrass Graduate Fellowship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Matthew G. Shaffer Turfgrass Graduate Fellowship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Tioga Valley Saddle Club Scholarship
Darwin G. Braund Ph.D. Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
J. Richard and Deborah S. Roenigk Family Scholarship in Agricultural and Extension Education
Penn State Extension Graduate Scholarship in Honor of Dr. John S. Shenk and Dr. J. D. Harrington
Robert and Tammy Shannon Environmental Resource Management Scholarship*

*Scholarship was omitted from the five-year listing in 2022
Milestones — Continued Support

Ten Years
Donald and Lelia Ace Trustee Scholarship
Azzara Family Trustee Scholarship
Firth Family Trustee Scholarship
Harbaugh Family Trustee Scholarship
Hoover Family Trustee Scholarship
James L. and Dolores J. Pierson Trustee Scholarship
in the College of Agricultural Sciences
PA Pork Producers Council Founders Trustee Scholarship
Stanley and Mary Pruss Trustee Scholarship
M. Forest Randolph and William F. Randolph Trustee Scholarship
C. Channa and Usharani C. Reddy Trustee Scholarship
Jay V. and Joyce H. Rush Family Trustee Scholarship
H. Mark Saunders and Lynn M. Walker Trustee Scholarship
M. E. John Applied Research Endowment Award
in Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education
Carl and Veronica Stravinski Scholarship in Forest Science

Fifteen Years
Penn State Alumni Association Trustee Scholarship
in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Eckel Family Trustee Scholarship
George R. and Ann E. Kemp Trustee Scholarship
in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Charles H. Strauss Trustee Scholarship
Lowell T. and Lois B. Underhill Trustee Scholarship
in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Penn State Block and Bridle Club Fund
William B. and Dorothy McCollom Bradly Scholarship in Horticulture
Joseph Cordivano, Sr. Memorial Award
Janet vL. and Thomas C. Doyle Scholarship
in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Dr. David C. Kradel Memorial Award
**Milestones — Continued Support**

**Twenty Years**
Earl K. and Kay L. Harbaugh Trustee Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
George W. Sherlock Trustee Scholarship in Agricultural Sciences
Royal P. Fisher, Sr. and Virginia Breneman Fisher Scholarship in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Karl A. Snyder Memorial Support Fund for the ASAE Student Branch of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Program
Jose R. de la Torre, Sr. Endowment in International Agriculture

**Twenty-Five Years**
Alec and Lexi Beliasov Scholarship in Agricultural Business Management
Donald E. Evans Memorial Delta Theta Sigma Scholarship in Agricultural Sciences
Leslie N. Firth Scholarship in Agriculture
Jerry D. and Alice A. Frantz Agricultural Excellence Endowment Scholarship
George W. Hamilton, Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Turfgrass Science
George W. Hamilton, Jr. Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research
Lawrence D. and Delores A. Muller Scholarship in Dairy Science
Pass-It-On Fund in Agricultural Sciences
Poorbaugh Family Award in Agricultural Sciences
Kelly Shane Quinn Scholarship in Agricultural Sciences
Rumbaugh Family Award
Rumbaugh Agricultural Leadership Award
Ray and Kathryn Treichler Memorial Scholarship in Agricultural Sciences
Harold V. and Velma B. Walton Doctoral Student Endowment in Agriculture & Biological Engineering
George V. Woodrow Scholarship

**Thirty Years**
Ilene Glenn Scholarship in Environmental Resources
Sara L. Ristey Memorial Scholarship
Clyde S. Robison Memorial Scholarship
Frank and Leonore H. Spearey Scholarship in Forest Resources
Milestones — Continued Support

Thirty Years (cntd.)
Merrill P. and Adeline B. Tait Memorial Scholarship
Edwin M. Wagner Memorial Scholarship

Thirty-Five Years
Dr. David A. Morrow III Alpha Zeta Fraternity Scholarship
Kenneth and Elizabeth Beachley Scholarship
Bicksler Scholarship
John and Mary M. Byerly Scholarship in Agriculture
Oliver L. Christman Scholarship
Richard and Barbara Grubb Agricultural Excellence Award
Catharine S. Imbt Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences
Fred and Florence Jacobson Food Science Graduate Scholarship
Albert E. Madigan Award
Lester P. Nichols Memorial Award
Penn State Horticulture Club Scholarship
Raymond E. and Frances B. Sperry Scholarship
Gilbert S. Watts Memorial Award

Forty Years
Buckwheat Scholarship
Burton S. Horne Memorial Scholarship
Willis L. McClellan Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Mabis McKenna Fellowship

Forty-Five Years
James Clinton Burns Scholarship Fund
Michael J. Daly Memorial Award Fund
Howard W. Dunne Memorial Award
David R. McClay Agricultural Education Award Fund
William D. and Clara Calhoun Phillips Scholarship Fund
William and Edward Powers Poultry Science Grant Fund
Radley Run Garden Club Scholarship Fund
Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp ’15 Memorial Scholarship Fund
Morrell Smith Scholarship Fund
Milestones — Continued Support

Fifty Years
Dr. John E. Baylor Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council Scholarship
Herman R. Purdy Award Fund
Darrell E. Walker Memorial Scholarship

Fifty-Five Years
College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Scholarship Fund
Ferguson-Cope Forestry Award
Kurvin W. and Eva S. Lauer College of Agricultural Sciences Student Grants Fund

Sixty-Five Years
Allen L. and Richard H. Baker Memorial 4-H Scholarship

Seventy Years
Eastern Meat Packers Association Scholarship
Pennsylvania Seedsmen’s Association Award

Seventy-Five Years
Harry W. Skinner Scholarship

Ninety-Five Years
Two-Year Agricultural Class Memorial Fund

One Hundred Years
Arthur C. Bigelow Memorial Scholarship
Boys Working Reserve of Allegheny County
Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Prize

College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarships and Awards Committee

Ellen A. Rom, M.S.
Assistant Teaching Professor,
Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs and Alumni Relations

Robert Shannon, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering,
Coordinator of Environmental Resource Management Program,
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education

Dan Kniffen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Animal Science,
Undergraduate Adviser–Beef Cattle, Block and Bridle Club Adviser,
Collegiate Cattlewomen Adviser
Robert Shannon is the program coordinator for the undergraduate Environmental Resource Management major and an associate professor in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. The interdepartmental ERM program recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and is affiliated with the college’s Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science. Shannon also serves as assistant dean for undergraduate education in the college and is an alumnus of the college and ERM program. He and his wife, Tammy Shannon, have endowed a scholarship for ERM students who participated in the international Envirothon competition as high school students. Both Shannons have led many embedded study abroad courses for ERM and other Ag Sciences students, exploring countries and continents as varied as Chile, New Zealand, Costa Rica and Antarctica. After more than 27 years at Penn State spent teaching and advising ERM students who are passionate about the environmental sciences, Robert Shannon’s greatest satisfaction continues to be working with students, faculty and staff who want to make the world a better place.

Away from Penn State, the Shannons like to hike, run, bike, canoe and explore the outdoors. Rob is a through-hiker of the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail, and the couple has started a second round, currently completing over 1,200 miles of the trail. Their adventures have provided many stories for their ERM classes.
László J. Kulcsár
*Interim Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences*

László J. Kulcsár is a professor of rural sociology and demography at Penn State, where he currently serves as the interim dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, following his appointments as the head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education and the interim senior associate dean of the college. His field of expertise is social demography, with an emphasis on migration, urbanization, aging and regional development. His research on population dynamics and community development in rural areas focuses on aging, depopulation and the use of natural resources.

Kulcsár has published numerous papers, contributed chapters to many books, given more than 100 talks, taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses and served as the editor of *Rural Sociology* between 2017 and 2020. Before joining Penn State in 2017, he was a faculty member and department head at Kansas State University in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work.

Prior to embarking on his academic career, he consulted for the European Union on various rural development projects in Eastern Europe and worked in the public opinion polling industry in Hungary. He has an M.A. in public administration studies from the College of Public Administration and an M.A. in sociology from Eötvös Loránd University (both institutions are located in Budapest), and he earned a Ph.D. in development sociology from Cornell University.
Megan Guy

Plant Science

Megan Guy, of Dalton, New York, is a senior majoring in Plant Science, with a focus in crop production. Growing up on a farm in western New York, Guy found her passion in agriculture, weed science and politics. During her time at Penn State, Guy has taken every opportunity to develop these passions by working for the Weeds Science Lab and conducting research on the Agronomy Farm. She takes classes in agronomy, agroecology and leadership development while also being the vice president of the Collegiate Farm Bureau and a member of the Agronomy Club and Alpha Zeta. She also speaks on the University radio station. Outside of Penn State, Guy has worked for Western New York Crop Management as a scout and interned at Cornell University as part of the Dairy Advancement Program. After graduating this May, Guy plans on becoming a certified crop adviser to consult for farmers, and she hopes to eventually become a political advocate for the agricultural industry.
Katherine Blocklove
Agricultural and Environmental Plant Science

Katherine Blocklove, of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, is a Ph.D. candidate in Agricultural and Environmental Plant Science. After completing her undergraduate degree with majors in Neuroscience, Biology and Psychology, she was inspired to switch fields after returning to her hometown woods and finding the ecosystem weakened and the plant community changed. As a Root Resilience Fellow at the Center for Root and Rhizosphere Biology, her research applies genomic and molecular techniques to investigate how invasive species interact with the soil microbiome to change ecosystem properties from the ground up. In addition to her focus on conservation, Blocklove is passionate about sustainable agriculture, justice in food production and empowering communities to grow nutritious local produce. When not in classes, teaching undergraduates or working in the lab, Blocklove can be found tending her plot at the Penn State Community Garden, crocheting or painting. After completing her Ph.D., Blocklove plans to pursue faculty positions where she can continue research, teaching and outreach to smallholder farmers and natural ecosystem managers.
Kareena Pandya  
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Kareena Pandya, of Edison, New Jersey, is a junior majoring in Pharmacology and Toxicology with a minor in Biology. Pandya has always had a passion for healthcare, the pharmaceutical industry and improving the community. She has worked as a medical scribe at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in the emergency department for the past two years and completed an internship at Merck in its Global Clinical Trial Operations team last summer, where she contributed to the drug development process, data-driven clinical trials and scientific discovery. At Penn State, she is the lead in planning the annual Diversity in Healthcare conference, volunteers locally through the philanthropy club ServeState, works as a learning assistant for a human physiology course and is completing her honors thesis in the Center for Molecular Toxicology and Carcinogenesis through the Patterson Lab. After graduating, Pandya plans to attend medical school and pursue a career in clinical trial research.
For more information about supporting the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, please contact

**Lauren Steinberg**  
Senior Director of Development,  
at 814-865-0158 or lxs229@psu.edu,  
or visit [www.agsci.psu.edu/support](http://www.agsci.psu.edu/support).

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