

News Release

Two from U of M Crookston Recognized with 2013 Student Conservationist Awards from the Minnesota Chapter of the Soil and Conservation Society

By Itollets on Thursday, May 30, 2013 Wade Jackson '13 and Senior Bob Guetter were recently named recipients of 2013 Student Conservationist Awards from the Minnesota Chapter of the Soil and Conservation Society.

The Award is given to outstanding conservation students at a Minnesota college or university and consists of a \$ 500 stipend. Students are typically nominated by one of more of their professors based on their academic and leadership achievements. They are also required to complete an essay in which they outline how they would personally address the range of current conservation issues but especially those related to soil and water conservation.



Jackson, from Walker, Minn., recently graduated with a degree in natural resources management and is on a career track appointment with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He will be based in Crookston on a training assignment this summer. In the summer of 2012, Jackson was on assignment in Duluth [Minn.] where he worked with Dan Weber, a 2003 graduate who is based there with the NRCS. Wade is an older-than-average student who made a considerable sacrifice to return to college and complete his degree.

"We especially appreciated Wade sharing his life experiences in classes and their conservation implications," notes Professor Dan Svedarsky. "It was especially fitting that Kathy Fillmore was able to present Wade with his award since Kathy also completed her UMC degree as an older-than-average student." Fillmore, a '99 graduate, is now a district conservationist with the NRCS in Thief River Falls, Minn.

Guetter is from Miltona, Minn., and is on a career track with the NRCS but has launched his career in North Dakota, having worked in Valley City, Bottineau, and now this summer in Fessenden. Guetter is maintaining a 3.75 grade point average while majoring in wildlife management and natural resource management and plans to graduate at the end of winter semester of 2013. He also finds time to provide key leadership to the Golden Ducks, Crookston Chapter of Duck Unlimited as well as being a member of the UMC Natural Resources Club.

"Bob did not grow up on a farm but purposely wanted to gain first-hand farm experience since NRCS personnel work with private landowners so he hired on part-time with Wayne and Kevin Capistran Farms of Crookston," according to Svedarsky. "Somehow or another, Bob was able to squeeze a lot into a full schedule and do a great job on all of it!" Guetter received the UMC John Polley Soil and Water Conservation Award in 2012.

Background

The Minnesota Chapter of the Soil and Conservation Society is affiliated with the national Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), a nonprofit scientific and educational organization -- founded in 1943 -- that serves as an advocate for conservation professionals and for science-based conservation practice, programs, and policy. SWCS has over 5,000 members around the world, including researchers, technical advisors, teachers, students, farmers, and ranchers. Members come from nearly every academic discipline and many different public, private, and nonprofit institutions. Chapters, numbering 75 are located throughout the United States and Canada and conduct a variety of activities at local, state, and provincial levels and on university campuses. Discussions are underway between Regional One Representative, Kathy Fillmore and UMC conservation faculty to establish a student SWCS affiliated chapter on the UMC campus.

For more information, contact Svedarsky at 218-281-8129 (dsvedars@crk.umn.edu).

Today the University of Minnesota Crookston delivers 28 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 39 concentrations on campus--as well as 11 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

In the photo: Brenda Miller, lecturer in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department; Robert Guetter; Wade Jackson; and Kathy Fillmore, district conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Thief River Falls, Minn.

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