

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS OF THE 2010 WEAO SCHOLARSHIPS

Kelly Kennedy, Stantec, 2010 WEAO Scholarship Program Manager



WEAO is pleased to announce that the 2010 WEAO scholarships

have been awarded to four deserving future water environment professionals: 1st Place – Joel Citulski (University of Guelph); Runners up – Laura Sauder (University of Waterloo), Danker Kolijn (Queen’s University), and Amanda Lynn (Fanshawe College). The 1st place winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship, and the runners-up receive \$1,000 each.

The scholarships were established in 2007 to promote student awareness of, and recognize outstanding students in, the water environment field. This year featured a total of 23 applicants. Valid applications were received from students at various universities and colleges across Ontario including Toronto, Waterloo, Royal Military College, Ryerson, Queen’s, Guelph, Windsor, McMaster, Carleton, Windsor, Fanshawe College, Conestoga College and Durham College.

The scholarship is open to full-time students enrolled in an Ontario university or college in a program related to the water environment field. They must also be WEF/WEAO members. Applicants apply by submitting an application form, complete with two reference letters (academic and professional), and an essay on an issue that is important for the preservation of water quality in Ontario. Information on the 2011 WEAO scholarship program will be available soon.

In 2010, Veolia Water Canada observed the tenth anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy by donating the generous sum of \$2,500 to the WEAO scholarship program to support our initiative. We are proud to have used this generous donation to support these deserving scholarship winners.

Congratulations to all winners! A description of two of the candidates follows.

For more information, contact scholarship@weao.org or visit <http://www.weao.org/scholarship/>



Joel Citulski is a Ph.D. candidate in the Environmental Engineering program at the University of Guelph, under the supervision of Dr. Khosrow Farahbakhsh. Joel’s research is focused

on determining the effects of anaerobic and aerobic treatment processes and storage conditions on endocrine-disrupting compounds (EDCs) in biosolids, using the yeast estrogen screen (YES) assay, in collaboration with the City of Guelph and City of London, ON. Joel previously completed a Master’s degree in Environmental Engineering and International Development at Guelph, studying the use of ultrafiltration membranes as a tertiary-treatment option for wastewater reuse applications, and has worked for GE Water and Process Technologies. Having completed and undergraduate degree in chemistry, Joel’s motivation for switching paths towards environmental engineering was prompted by volunteer work in water provision and sanitation in southeast Asia. Joel hopes to continue focusing on wastewater treatment technology research after graduation.



Danker Kolijn graduated from Civil Engineering at Queen’s University in May 2011 and is currently working for Baird & Associates in Ottawa, ON.

He intends to pursue a Masters in Hydraulic Engineering in the fall at the University of British Columbia. In previous summers, he has been involved in Europe and Asia with numerous eco-civil engineering projects. These projects were primarily focused on stormwater management using innovative man-made systems in urban and rural environments. Among these were floating islands for water quality control in stormwater management ponds and wetland estuaries. In 2010, Danker travelled to China to contribute to the new CaoFeidian Eco-city in the Hebei Province. His interest in stormwater management continued after his work in China and he travelled to Rotterdam and Copenhagen to continue his research in progressive stormwater management techniques from an urban planning and engineering perspective. In his final year of undergrad at Queen’s University, Danker did voluntary thesis work on low impact development (LID). The project was coordinated with the City of Kingston and Utilities Kingston and involved the retrofit of an old inner city neighborhood which was experiencing stormwater control issues. The study analyzed the street demographic and, through a series of resident surveys and interviews, gauged which LID technologies were supported. The goal of the study was to implement a new LID street retrofit that maintained the functionality of the street and reduced stormwater runoff rates, while gaining popular resident support. The final publication provided very useful information to local conservation authorities and the municipality has shown considerable interest in some of the work. Danker hopes to continue his studies and possibly return to his home country of the Netherlands to pursue Ph.D. work. ♦