

May 26, 2009

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

Thank you once again for the outstanding support you have shown our students through the Kate Svitek Memorial Award. Our Svitek Scholars are some of our strongest students who demonstrate the leadership potential and passion to affect lasting positive changes in service to our environment.

Each year since 2003 we have chosen two outstanding interns as Svitek Scholars and this year we had an outstanding pool of applicants. For Summer 2009 you are generously supporting three Svitek Scholars who will conduct their intern work in Vermont, Washington, and North Carolina. How fitting it is that Kate's legacy will reach from coast to coast to include the state which is home to her alma mater.

Let me share with you some information about our 2009 Kate Svitek Scholars:

**Eliese Dykstra** is a major in the Wildlife & Fisheries Biology program, a Lola Aiken Scholar and member of the Golden Key International Honor Society. In Spring 2008 she was a Research Assistant with Round River Conservation Studies in Ecuador. This summer Eliese will conduct field research in Vermont and explore questions surrounding multifunctionality in agricultural areas. She hopes to find solutions that help conserve fragile riparian areas without reducing economic profit from agriculture. She writes, "Although I never knew Kate Svitek, I am moved by the passion and devotion that she and her family have shown for the continued success of environmental education and outdoor leadership."

**Zachary Lance** is majoring in Environmental Studies with minors in Geography and Recreation Management. Summer 2008 he conducted community education and outreach for the Lake Champlain Basin Program. This summer he will work as a Backcountry Ranger at Olympic National Park in Washington through the Student Conservation Association. Zak writes, "Throughout this service work, I will help educate park visitors about the benefits of Leave-No-Trace principles in the high alpine territory of the Pacific Northwest. I am excited to gain hands on experience and explore a region of the country that is completely unfamiliar to me."

**Allison Prokop's** childhood in rural Western MA inspired her to pursue a major in Wildlife Biology. In past summers she has worked as a Researcher in Denali National Park, Alaska, and as a Wildlife Technician with the US Department of Agriculture – Vermont Wildlife Service. Summer 2009 she has taken an unpaid aquariology internship with the Fort Fisher Aquarium in Kure Beach, NC where she will maintain the fresh and salt water exhibits, conduct animal husbandry and pursue fieldwork. Allison writes, "...with this aid, I will be able to take part in an incredible opportunity working for an aquarium that focuses on conservation and research of the Atlantic coast ecosystem and its species..."

The Foundation continues to serve as a valuable resource in our students' efforts to protect our world through education, research, and civic engagement. We are inspired by their commitment and through their contributions we honor Kate's memory. On behalf of our entire Rubenstein School community, thank you so much.

Sincerely,



Mary Watzin

Dean and Professor

The Rubenstein School of Environmental and Natural Resources

University of Vermont