AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY®
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THE 2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS...

Congratulations to

Elizabeth Burzynski

Katherine East

Jaclyn Fiola

Jerry Lin

Sydney Morgan

Maria Smith

Jake Uretsky

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Elizabeth Burzynski

Ph.D. Candidate
Cornell University

I have been exploring the role of malic acid in wild *Vitis* grape berries. Wild *Vitis* species are known to contain high malic acid levels, and since wines with lower pH and higher titratable acidity are perceived as sour by the consumer, this is a critically important element of wine composition. We examined the concentration of malic acid at multiple berry ripening stages in the wild *V. riparia* and *V. cinerea*. Next steps will employ genomic sequencing tools to better understand the differing malic acid metabolism pathways in these two species. These results are important to the North American wine industry because they can be used to create better wine from interspecific hybrid varietals.

Columbus Ohio Scholarship: In appreciation of the strength and vitality of the Columbus Chapter

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Katherine East

Ph.D. Candidate
Washington State University

My research examines developmental dynamics of and management strategies for the northern root-knot nematode in Washington wine grapes. This nematode is a major pest in Washington vineyards and damages vines, reduces longevity and delays vineyard establishment. I am developing a life cycle model of the northern root-knot nematode in vineyards, which will improve the timing of chemical or biological intervention. I am also looking at cultural management options, including use of rootstocks and irrigation manipulation, and chemical nematode management options within commercial operations in Washington.

Lehigh Valley Chapter Scholarship

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Jaclyn Fiola

Ph.D. Candidate

Ohio State University

My current and future research involves the sustainability, both environmental and economic, of the grape and wine industry in North America. The production of high-quality grapes for high-quality wine is rooted in site selection and vineyard floor management, and my goal is to understand the relationship between grapes and soils. As a PhD student at The Ohio State University, I am studying vineyard soil health & fertility, and the impact of soil factors on vine growth, cold hardiness, and fruit composition.

Carroll County, MD Scholarship:
In honor of Becky and Dean Wilson

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Jerry Lin

Masters Candidate
University of California-Davis

My research focuses on a population of vines resulting from a cross between Riesling and Cabernet Sauvignon. The parents of this cross were chosen for their very distinct, very divergent traits and importance to the wine industry. I am studying the genetic, physical and metabolomic characteristics of the individuals in this population and comparing them to the parent cultivars. The goal is to identify a number of genes responsible for desirable flavor traits in Cabernet Sauvignon, Riesling, and related varieties.

North Alabama Chapter Scholarship

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Sydney Morgan

Ph.D. Candidate
University of British Columbia

I am passionate about helping winemakers enhance the local character of their wines. To do this, I have dedicated my PhD to researching methods of fermentation that can promote the growth of indigenous yeasts and allow them to make a meaningful contribution to a wine's sensory profile. This research has led me to discover a population of *Saccharomyces uvarum* native to the Okanagan Valley wine region of Canada with great winemaking potential. I plan to spend the reminder of my thesis working with our local winery partners to further explore how these yeasts can contribute to the production of exceptional wines with distinct regional character, or *terroir*.

South Carolina/Tuller Chapter Scholarship:
In memory of Bill Tuller and Hal Kohn

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Maria Smith

Ph.D. Candidate
Pennsylvania State University

Growers in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern US face a number of challenges to achieving high-quality wine grape production each year, including cold stress, disease management, and maintaining vine balance. My research explores the use of early leaf removal, a promising canopy management alternative to cluster thinning for improving vine balance and reducing late-season diseases, in Pennsylvania-grown hybrid and *vinifera* varieties. We aim to understand how novel management techniques and vine varietal selection affect vine health and physiology under cool-climate growing conditions, with the goal of advancing the Pennsylvania wine grape industry.

Electric City / Joe Nardelli Scholarship

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Jake Uretsky

P.D. Candidate
University of California-Davis

My research focuses on the wild species from which we derived our traditional phylloxera resistant rootstocks and that we are using to develop improved rootstocks. I am primarily working with *Vitis berlandieri*, a species endemic to the limestone rich soils of south-central Texas. I have performed genetic analyses on these wild grapevines and have assessed the plants for numerous traits, including nematode and Pierce's disease resistance, salt tolerance and lime tolerance. I hope my work will clarify the genetic, geographic and ecological identity of *V. berlandieri* and, more importantly, will aid in better preservation and utilization of this important species in rootstock breeding.

Banfi / AWSEF Scholarship

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