

MNLGA 2019 Scholarship Recipients

In keeping with its mission to promote and provide for the future success of Maryland's ornamental horticulture industry, the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association shall sponsor academic scholarships to students pursuing an education in the field of landscape/ornamental horticulture. The 2019 applicant pool all shared their passion for horticulture; either in design/architecture, plant science, or greenhouse specialization, and their excitement to enter a career in the horticulture industry was abundantly expressed in their applications. We congratulate our 2019 scholarship recipients: Brittney Baltimore, Zachary Jones, and Mia Manning. We would also like to congratulate 2019 Link Shanks award winner Billy Phillips.

The MNLGA chose to name one scholarship after Dr. Frank Gouin, a distinguished professional and professor at the University of Maryland. Dr. Gouin passed away in August of 2018, but the impact that he had on UMD and its students and staff will live on forever. "To many working in the Green Industry, Frank Gouin was the Department of Horticulture. Frank was a human dynamo..." Even after he left the University, he continued to raise money and endowed the Francis R. Gouin Undergraduate Research Award to give students the ability to fully participate in various research opportunities. His contributions to UMD as well as the Green Industry speak volumes, and we hope to keep his memory alive through this scholarship award each year.

Brittney Baltimore

Brittney is currently a Graduate Student at Morgan State University working towards her Master of Landscape Architecture. Her pursuit of a career in landscape architecture is driven by her desire to provide access to safe green spaces for those living in urban environments. Brittney's enthusiasm for landscape architecture started with her love of connecting people and communities through green spaces.

Brittney served in the AmeriCorps at Little Gunpowder Farm in Monkton where she discovered a passion for cultivating plants and sustainably managing the natural environment. Through her service she learned how to grow healthy food to nourish local communities, and how to build connections while growing cut flowers on formerly vacant lots in the Baltimore area. Brittney has seen firsthand some of Baltimore's disinvested and underserved communities which has only fueled her passion to continue to work for the equitable design and development of Baltimore's outdoor spaces.

A professor wrote of Brittney, "I find Brittney to be extremely personable, engaging, inquisitive, attentive, focused, organized and self-motivated." This is evident through her broad range of academic courses, while also maintaining a full-time job. She has excelled in classes ranging from environmental design to botany to principles of site planning and much more.

Brittney's future plans are to graduate with her Master of Landscape Architecture degree and dive into the profession of Landscape Architecture where we are sure she will thrive.

Mia Manning

Mia is currently a senior at the University of Maryland College Park pursuing a degree in Landscape Architecture. She was initially drawn to the Landscape Architecture profession by the fact that it touches on almost every discipline in the public realm focused on the environment and people.

Mia has taken a range of classes during her time at UMD from design fundamentals to digital design tools to woody plants in the landscape to planting design and everything in between. Her classes have given her access to urban agriculture, sustainability, ecology, planting design and the incorporation of technology into designed landscapes.

During her internship with the Druid Heights Community along with a summer course she was learning about plants that are best served in Mid-Atlantic landscapes while also getting first-hand experience in interpreting raw data to develop maps and mock-up murals for communities in Baltimore. She also had experience in managing a greenhouse while assisting customers in selecting plants, exploring database management, and visiting sites for field measurements for grading and stormwater management calculations.

Mia plans to use her scholarship award in continuing her curiosity with everything that is landscape architecture: rich histories of place, people, and plants. After graduation she plans to transition to international work within the landscape architecture profession. Her main interest is in establishing infrastructure in developing nations, specifically stormwater management and green infrastructure.

Zachary Jones – Dr. Frank Gouin Scholarship Award

Zachary Jones is currently a senior at the University of Maryland College Park pursuing a degree in Plant Science: Landscape Management. Zach has not only excelled in his studies at UMD but has also earned the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. Through this program Zach was taught to be a leader, and how to be dependable and accountable in his personal and professional life.

Zach's leadership skills have shined brightly at the University of Maryland where he holds various leadership positions including the Director of Planning for Green Roots Hydroponics Club, as well as Vice President for Philanthropy for his fraternity, and Secretary for the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Student Council. Zach also was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America where he won 2nd place in the Entrepreneurship Competition at the state tournament.

Zach's academic courses have included topics such as horticulture, irrigation and drainage, chemistry, soil, accounting, human resources, and many more. Zach has been able to gain not only academic experience but hands-on experience in the field as well, understanding the business side of the industry which has given him the tools to ultimately be successful in owning his own landscape company one day.

A professor wrote of Zach, "Zach is exactly the type of individual landscape firms seek to hire. He has extensive experience in working with the Green Industry yet remains hungry to learn more about how landscape firms successfully run their businesses." Zach's plans after graduation are to work for a

landscape firm for a few years to continue to learn the ins-and-outs of the business and then to open his own full-service landscape company.

Link Shanks Scholarship Award Winner – Billy Phillips

Excerpts of this write up are courtesy of Terp Magazine (Winter 2019)

Billy Phillips is currently a sophomore at the University of Maryland College Park and plays on the UMD Baseball team. Billy was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware and attended high school at St. Mark's.

The Link-Shanks award is given to a student who has demonstrated an increased interest in horticulture through improved academic performance. Billy Phillips has not only excelled academically, but personally as well facing hurdles and battles that we can't imagine.

During his senior year of high school in 2015, Phillips was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. After weeks in the hospital and a more than yearlong intensive recovery—and with support from his UMD teammates—he made his collegiate debut last season, and he's ready to keep the Ks coming.

After committing to UMD, though, Phillips didn't get to play as a senior. He woke up one morning with a terrible pain in his hip, one that never subsided. He became anemic and pale, his lymph nodes swelled up, and he lost more than 20 pounds. Blood tests revealed he had developed leukemia.

He "kicked butt" on the introductory round of chemotherapy and was optimistic that he might get to return for the second half of the season at St. Mark's. But after a bone marrow transplant, he developed graft-versus-host disease, in which donated stem cells attack the patient's healthy tissues and organs.

The Terps made his extended hospital stays a little bit easier. Head coach Rob Vaughn, an assistant at the time, drove to Delaware with other coaches to visit Phillips. The players' caps that spring had "#BP15"—Phillips' initials and high school graduation year—stitched on the back. In November 2015, the team participated in the Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at Camden Yards in Baltimore.

Phillips healed enough to arrive at UMD in August 2016. He didn't play that season, but by last year, he had gained enough weight to be reinstated.

We are proud to support Billy in his academic career at the University of Maryland and hope to see him on the mound many more times in his collegiate career.

The MNGLA is pleased to endorse our 2019 scholarship recipients' goals and we applaud them for their hard work and dedication. We extend our best wishes to Brittney, Mia, Zachary, and Billy for their future success.

You may find more information on the Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association Ornamental Horticulture Scholarship, as well as additional horticulture education scholarships at:
<http://www.mnlga.org>.