

Carol Christine Gustafson Endowed Fellowship Fund

Background

Carol Gustafson was a life-long mid-Michigan area resident with strong ties to Michigan State University. Her first contact with MSU was her enrollment in the MSU Child Development Lab. Later, in 1983 she earned a BA in Economics and then began work at MSU in 1985. In 1991 Carol earned a MBA from MSU. Carol had tremendous energy for her work, a love of the outdoors and a seemingly limitless intellectual curiosity. While working in a challenging position with the MSU Office of Planning and Budgets, she enrolled in the Department of Forestry to pursue a PhD in Forest Economics. Even after diagnosed with leukemia in 1996, Carol continued her work in the OPB, earned high GPAs each semester and engaged in her research. She was several credits away from graduation when she passed away in 2000.

Carol was interested in finding a balanced approach to forest management, which included utilization for products and preservation of natural areas. She was concerned with the economic impacts of various uses and believed that “there is a place for and a need for (timber) production.” She also however, believed that “natural areas can be preserved without being economically destructive” and was interested in studying “ways to use our natural resources without destroying their productivity for other (multiple) uses and for the future.” At the time of her death Carol’s research was on private forest landowner behavior and policies for private forest management for both wood production and recreational/ecological purposes. Her papers in progress included “What kind of technical assistance to nonindustrial private forest owners want and what is being provided: policy implications”, and “Can a simple visual model of economic and ecological alternatives help non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners make better decisions for their forested or potentially forested property?”

Carol’s family established this endowed fellowship to honor Carol’s enthusiastic pursuit of professional goals and continuing education and her love of forests.

Qualification for Application

Recipient must be a graduate student enrolled in the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University. Continuing or new graduate students may apply, but the student must be enrolled for the upcoming academic year when fellowship disbursement occurs.

Application Materials

CV, personal statement, two letters of support (including one from current or past major professor or employer/supervisor), and graduate and undergraduate transcripts

Evaluation Criteria

1. Demonstrated capacity to achieve educational and professional goals
2. Demonstrated motivation to achieve these goals
3. Demonstrated initiative to seek opportunities to further their progress
4. Recipient must be a U.S. citizen

Selection committee

The selection committee will consist of the department Graduate Committee and one additional faculty member appointed by the Chair.

Time-line

1. Letter of announcement to open the opportunity – January 15
2. Application submission – February 1-February 28
3. Carol Christine Gustafson Endowed Fellowship Fund Committee review– March 1-March 15
4. Section committee recommendation to the Department of Forestry Chairperson– March 15
5. Notification of award by March 22 by Department Chairperson

Additional Notes:

One or more fellowship recipients will be selected each year, normally during Spring Semester. A recipient may only receive the 12 month (three semester) fellowship once during her or his current graduate degree program. Funds are normally disbursed during the tuition payment process.

Mail Applications to:

Chairperson, Graduate Committee
Michigan State University
Department of Forestry
126 Natural Resources Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1222