



MARINE AQUARIUM SOCIETIES OF NORTH AMERICA

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### **2016 - 2017 MASNA Student Scholarships Awarded at MACNA 2016**

San Diego, CA. – September 6, 2016

At MACNA 2016, MASNA will be awarding its annual Student Scholarships at the MACNA banquet on Saturday, September 10th, 2016. Two \$4000.00 scholarships will be granted, one to an undergraduate student and one to a graduate student.

Over the past 9 years, the Marine Aquarium Societies of North America (MASNA) has provided \$48,000 in funding for undergraduate and graduate college students to help continue their degrees in the marine science discipline. In the past 9 years, The MASNA Scholarship Program has grown to over 250 applicants from North America and abroad. It has fast become a very competitive and esteemed award.

Applications for the awards are judged based on the applicant's enrollment in a marine science undergraduate or graduate degree program, a G.P.A. of 2.5/4.0 or greater, and their proven contributions and demonstrated commitment to the marine aquarium hobby.

This year's scholarship selection committee was co-chaired by MASNA President, Kevin Erickson, and MASNA Industry, Legislation, & Ocean Conservation Director, Dr. Adeljean Ho. The committee further consisted of Tom Lisciandra, MASNA Secretary, Christine Rowe, MASNA Treasurer, Dr. Craig Bingman, a Biochemist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Dr. Matthew Wittenrich, Marine Biologist, Matthew Pedersen, Editor of Reef 2 Rainforest, Kristin Privitera-Johnson, 2010 – 2011 Undergraduate MASNA Scholarship Winner, Robert Ortiz, 2012 – 2013 MASNA Undergraduate Scholarship Winner, and Tim Lyons, 2015 – 2016 MASNA Undergraduate Scholarship Winner.

This year, with sponsorships from Doctors Foster and Smith LiveAquaria.com, Ecotech Marine, and MASNA, MASNA is able to again award both a \$4,000 undergraduate student scholarship and a \$4,000 graduate student scholarship, and provide all expense paid trips for both winners to MACNA 2016 in San Diego, CA.

It is with great pleasure that MASNA can announce this year's MASNA Student Scholarship recipients.

The 2016-2017 MASNA Undergraduate Student Scholarship recipient is Kory Enneking. Kory is a full time Marine Biology & Environmental Science undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Kory currently keeps three tanks at home and one at school. At school he maintains a 4-gallon mushroom and zoanthid system. At home he has a 55-gallon mixed reef, a 24-

gallon biocube, and a 24" × 48" frag tank for zoanthid grow-out and bubble-tip anemone propagation. Kory believes that much in the world can be learned just as well outside, as inside a classroom. Hands-on learning is certainly a hallmark of the marine aquarium hobby. With this in mind, Kory co-founded the UNC Wilmington Reef Club to help teach other students how to maintain marine aquariums by providing an avenue for them to physically interact with the systems they maintain, and not just read about them in books and blogs. Kory served as the Vice President and Social Media Coordinator for the club from 2014 - 2015. Professionally, Kory wants to aquaculture marine aquarium organisms for both the aquarium industry and for conservation. He thinks that in the future farming species normally grown for the aquarium industry will diversify into various other sectors. Furthermore, Kory thinks that education at the high school and collegiate levels are paramount to guiding a change in how humans interact with the environment and usher in an age of environmental sustainability. In the near future, Kory hopes to pursue a master's degree in aquaculture at the University of Florida.

The 2016-2017 MASNA Graduate Student Scholarship recipient is Elizabeth "Liz" Groover who is attending the University of Florida Tropical Aquaculture Lab (TAL) for her Master of Science degree. Liz used to keep a 20-gallon soft-coral-reef tank with a mochavinci *Amphiprion ocellaris* and an *A. percula* anemonefish, along with some other inhabitants. She also had a 30-gallon soft-coral tank with a breeding pair of black *A. ocellaris*. However, she traded those tanks in for the massive broodstock tanks at the TAL facility. At TAL, Liz is working on the captive reproduction, larval culture, and production techniques for three species of wrasse prized by the aquarium trade. In her own words "I'm really enjoying my first few weeks of grad school at TAL! [We are] already making some progress with the wrasses and it's really exciting." After MACNA 2015 in Washington, D.C., Liz started a six month internship with Biota Aquaculture in Palau. At Biota Aquaculture, Liz was able to work and learn many facets of the marine aquarium aquaculture industry. Her experience there has influenced her greatly, and after finishing her master's degree, Liz plans to get more hands-on, real-world experience by working at various marine aquarium aquaculture facilities around the world. She is interested in joining the Peace Corps and traveling to underdeveloped countries in the Pacific and Caribbean to help the local populations make a living through sustainable fish, clam, and coral aquaculture.

MASNA, the MASNA Student Scholarship Committee, Doctors Foster and Smith LiveAquaria.com, and EcoTech Marine would like to congratulate Liz and Kory on their awards. We are proud to name Elizabeth Groover and Kory Enneking the 2016 - 2017 MASNA Student Scholarship recipients, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

MASNA would like to thank Doctors Foster and Smith LiveAquaria.com and Ecotech Marine. Without them, the two \$4,000 MASNA Student Scholarships would not be possible.

More information on the MASNA Student Scholarship program can be found at <http://masna.org/masna-programs/scholarship-program/>

Photo Captions:

- KE1: Undergraduate MASNA scholarship winner, Kory is holding a bay scallop (*Argopecten irradians*) which is one of the different bivalves he helps tend to at the UNCW Shellfish Research Hatchery.
- KE2: Undergraduate MASNA scholarship winner, Kory pulling out a stiff pen shell clam (*Atrina rigida*) used in a recent spawning trial for his project.
- KE3: Undergraduate MASNA scholarship winner, Kory is counting oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) veligers to calculate the alga density required to feed the oysters.
- KE4: Undergraduate MASNA scholarship winner, Kory Standing with the anemonefish broodstock system he helped build. The system was part of a previous project that he worked on that studied juvenile *Amphiprion ocellaris* social hierarchy. .
- KE5: Undergraduate MASNA scholarship winner, Kory adjusting the nutrient drip line on an alga bag at the UNCW Shellfish Research Hatchery.
- EG1: Graduate MASNA scholarship winner, Liz at Roger Williams University (RWU) Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED) Marine Laboratory, December 2015, determining culture densities of *Parvocalanous* sp. copepods used in raising many species of marine aquarium fish.
- EG2: Graduate MASNA scholarship winner, Liz at Biota Aquaculture Palau, February 2016 Marine Ornamental Aquaculture Internship, prepping green *Nephthea* soft coral for shipment with Bradley Nareto (live feeds and larval care expert).
- EG3: Graduate MASNA scholarship winner, Liz during her New England Aquarium, Spring 2015 Giant Ocean Tank (GOT) Internship, getting up close and personal with a curious green moray eel during one of her feeding dives in the GOT.
- EG4: Graduate MASNA scholarship winner, Liz in Bonaire (Dutch Caribbean), Fall 2013, conducting an AGRRA (Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment) fish survey with a T-bar during her study abroad semester at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire
- EG5: Graduate MASNA scholarship winner, Liz in Boston Harbor, July 2016, for her University of New Hampshire graduate research. There she was beach seining for young-of-the-year winter flounder
- EG6: Graduate MASNA scholarship winner, Liz at New England Aquarium, Spring 2015 Giant Ocean Tank (GOT) Internship. She states “[I] couldn't be happier after a successful maintenance dive in the GOT.”