



Departmental, College, and University Scholarships and Fellowships for Graduate Students in Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Departmental and College Awards

The quality of graduate students that we recruit and retain has a significant impact on the success and stature of our programs. All graduate students enrolled for Fall 2015 or Spring 2016 are eligible to compete for these awards. For those awards that have a cash award, the funds will be provided directly to the recipients. Cash amounts will vary by year depending on funding available.

To apply for Departmental and College Awards that follow, please submit all of the following or your application will not be reviewed:

1. A formal letter of application, addressed to the Selection Committee, in which you (a) clearly identify the scholarship(s) or fellowship(s) or award(s) you are applying for (you may apply for more than one but be clear in qualifications), (b) include a short statement that describes how you satisfy the qualifying criteria of the award(s) you seek as briefly described below, (c) describe your career and/or professional goals, and (d) describe how receiving this award would enhance your professional or scholarly development (e.g., travel to professional meeting or conference, purchase of vital equipment or other research resources, etc.);
2. A copy of your resume, including a summary of your academic performance while at Virginia Tech (i.e., a listing of courses and grade history or a copy of your transcript);
3. A copy of your most recent annual graduate committee evaluation form;
4. A letter of support (limited to 2 page or less) from your faculty advisor that provides a concise reflection on your academic performance, professional development or involvement in professional activities, and progress in publishing or presenting the results of your research activity.

DEADLINE: Friday, January 15th, 5pm

SUBMIT MATERIALS: On paper, Dana Keith, Room 100 Cheatham

MATERIALS REVIEWED: Before January 20th by Graduate Affairs Committee

QUESTIONS: Contact Sarah Karpanty, Karpanty@vt.edu, 150 Cheatham Hall, 231-4586

Awards Available for 2015-2016 at Departmental and College Level

Burd Sheldon McGinnes Graduate Fellowship

The Burd S. McGinnes Graduate Fellowship is given annually to deserving graduate students in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech. A monetary award is provided as part of this fellowship. More information on Dr. McGinnes is provided at the end of this document.

Richard Hunter Cross, Jr. Scholarship

The Richard Hunter Cross, Jr. Graduate Scholarship is designated for a graduate student working in the areas of wildlife, aquatic sciences, or land management whose career goal is to work as a natural resource professional involved with public lands management. A monetary award is provided as part of this fellowship. More information on Dr. Cross is provided at the end of this document.

Georgia Pacific Deans Graduate Fellowship

This monetary award is presented to recognize the graduate student who has demonstrated potential in, and interest in contributing to, the field of natural resources within the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. This award is given to the graduate student(s) based on demonstrated financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular leadership and community service.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

This award is presented to recognize the graduate student who has demonstrated excellence as a teaching assistant and significantly contributed to the instructional program within the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

The A. B. Massey Outstanding Doctoral Student Award

Alumni and friends established this award in 1965 to honor the outstanding contributions of Professor A. B. Massey. Students apply to be recognized as their department's outstanding doctoral student. Then, the credentials of each student selected at the department level are forwarded for the college-level competition. The award is presented to students who have displayed outstanding academic, scientific, and professional leadership. From among the four departmental winners, an overall award is presented at the college level. This college-level recipient is also recognized at the Graduate Education Week awards banquet with a certificate and \$500.

H. E. Burkhart Outstanding Masters Student Award

This award honors years of dedicated graduate student research and mentoring by Dr. Harold E. Burkhart in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. This award is based on academic, scientific, and professional achievement. Students apply to be recognized as their department's outstanding masters student. Then, the credentials of each student selected at the department level are forwarded for the college-level competition. From among the four departmental winners, an overall award is presented at the college level. This college-level recipient is also recognized at the Graduate Education Week awards banquet with a certificate and \$500.

University-Level Awards

****To apply for university-level awards, please follow the instructions below. These awards are NOT screened by the department committee and thus must be submitted directly to the graduate school as noted below. All of these applications are due 5pm, February 1st 2016 as noted below.****

William Preston Society Master's Thesis Award – one award in each of the following subject categories:

Science/technology/engineering/mathematics,
Social sciences/business/education/humanities, and
Digital Scholarship - Innovative Application of Digital Technology to Scholarship in a Master's Thesis

Outstanding Dissertation Award- one award in each of the following subject categories:

Math/science/engineering, and
Social sciences/business/humanities

Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award- one award in each of the following categories:

GTA - instructor of record
GTA - assistant

Graduate Student Service Excellence Award

Graduate Student of the Year Award (up to 3 awards)

Outstanding Interdisciplinary Program Student Award

Virginia Tech chartered a chapter of the **Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society** earlier this year and the awardee will be inducted at the April 2015 ceremony at Yale University. Established in recognition of Edward Alexander Bouchet who is the first African American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university, the Bouchet Society seeks to develop a network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in academy. So, the Graduate School is also seeking nominations for membership in the Bouchet Society.

The deadline for all of the above nominations is **5pm, February 1, 2016**. All winners will be recognized during the Graduate Education Week banquet in 2016 with a plaque/certificate and a monetary award. More information about criteria, nomination requirements, forms, and process for nomination for all of the above awards can be found on the graduate school's website at http://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/awards/2015_2016 .

As a final note, I want to bring to your attention the different venues for assistantships, fellowships and scholarships offered by the graduate school. More information including funding levels, nomination requirements and deadlines can be found on the graduate school's website at:

<http://graduateschool.vt.edu/financial/students> AND
<http://graduateschool.vt.edu/financial/departments/gs/funding> AND
http://graduateschool.vt.edu/financial/fellowships_scholarships

Additional Information on Departmental Awards

Burd Sheldon McGinnes

Dr. Burd S. McGinnes was Leader of the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit from 1958 to his retirement in 1982. He was Professor Emeritus in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at Virginia Tech until his death in 1998. Burd was an extraordinary scientist and teacher, a gentleman who demonstrated all that is good in a professor.

Burd was born in Pittsburgh in 1921. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp during World War II and the Korean conflict and held wildlife biologist positions in Delaware and Pennsylvania. He was educated at Penn State and Virginia Tech, receiving his Ph.D. in 1958. His impact on numerous graduate students and the profession are immeasurable and lasting. His friends and colleagues proudly point to his lifetime of contributions to the profession. Amid many committee assignments, he served as President of the Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society and chaired the Virginia Resource-Use Education Council. He enthusiastically taught conservation to school teachers for decades. In 1972, he was awarded the State Conservationist Achievement Award.

Burd's greatest joys were his graduate students; he personally mentored 59 students and served on the committees of 69 others.

Richard Hunter Cross, Jr.

Richard H. Cross, Jr., (now deceased) was Director of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) from 1981 to 1987. His service with the Department began in 1942 and spanned 45 years. Dick was one of Virginia's "pioneer" wildlife biologists, playing a leading role in the recovery of Virginia's wildlife populations.

Dick was born on April 18, 1919, in Concord, Virginia. He earned his undergraduate degree at Randolph-Macon College and a Masters degree in wildlife management at Virginia Tech. In 1942, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps as a fighter pilot. He flew 84 combat missions, earning four air medals, the Silver Star, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Upon his return from military duty, Dick resumed his career as a game biologist with the VDGIF. In 1958 he advanced to the position of Virginia's chief wildlife biologist and in 1978 became Assistant Director of the agency.

In addition to providing leadership and direction to the crew of biologists charged with managing Virginia's wildlife, Dick's professionalism, easy-going style and low-key sense of humor made him extremely popular with Virginia's conservation community. Among his noteworthy achievements were recovery of deer, bear and turkey populations, acquisition of nearly 180,000 acres of public wildlife management areas, development of the Endangered Species and Nongame Programs, and continued development of biologists who can cope with the growing complexities of helping wildlife coexist in a rapidly urbanizing state.

Among those who knew Dick, he is best remembered for his humility, rare sense of humor, and concern for all living things, both human and wild.