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Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation (FTRF) Awards \$8,000 in Academic Scholarships

ORLANDO, Fla. (Oct. 6, 2008): On Sept. 18, the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation (FTRF) announced that six Florida students will receive scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year.

All recipients attend either the University of Florida or Lake City Community College and are preparing for careers as a golf course superintendent or in turfgrass management. These students were selected based on their academic record, leadership capabilities and extra-curricular activities.

Lake City Community College

- Edward MacDonald
 - Received the James L. Blackledge Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,500.
 - Edward is from Gainesville, Fla. He has worked at the Gainesville Golf and Country Club for the past three years and interned at the Colleton River Plantation Club.
- Gabriel Gallo
 - Received the General Scholarship awarding \$1,000.
 - Gabriel is from Gainesville, Fla. He has worked at the Haile Plantation Golf and Country Club. Interned at Calusa Pines Golf Club and Meadowbrook Golf Club.
- Nate Watkin
 - Received the Hans Schmeisser Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,500.
 - Nate is from San Francisco, CA. He has worked as an assistant in training at the Haile Plantation Country Club.

University of Florida

- Julie Cara Vazquez
 - Received the Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,500.
 - Julie Cara is from St. Petersburg, Fla., and is pursuing her PhD in Entomology and Nematology. Her dissertation involves the southern chinch bug insecticide resistance, monitoring, mechanisms, and management. Julie Cara has worked for the University of Florida, the USDA-ARS, Florida Pest Control and Chemical Co., and FMC.
- Natasha Burkholder
 - Received the General Scholarship awarding \$1,000.
 - Natasha is from Lakeland, Fla., and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in Golf and Sports Turf Management.
- Shweta Sharma
 - Received the Max J. McQuade Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,500.
 - Shweta is from Nepal and is currently working on her master's degree in Environmental Horticulture.

The Florida turfgrass industry has a \$5 billion economic impact in the state and provides about 84,000 jobs. FTGA, founded in 1953, advocates for and promotes the turfgrass industry with research, continuing education, and networking opportunities for turfgrass professionals.

For more information, please visit the FTGA Web site at www.ftga.org.

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