

## **Bleil Scholarship Recipients**

This year, the two recipients for the Bleil Annual Scholarship are Fawn Killion and Miranda Carmon. When you see them, make sure you congratulate them. They will each receive \$750 split evenly (typically) into two payments, one for each semester. Next year, they will be eligible for the scholarship again, as will YOU be, but the jackpot will be raised to \$1,000.

How, you might ask, did they receive such a prestigious scholarship? Well...they applied for it. Yup, that's it; they filled out an application and turned it in. I wish I could say it was competitive (and, honestly, I am delighted these two won; they are outstanding students and would be very likely to receive it even with competition), but they were the only two that applied. That's better than some years. We have had years with no applications for this scholarship.

The bottom line, folks, is go to financial assistance, look to see what scholarships you are eligible for, and apply for them! For crying out loud, it's FREE MONEY! If it took Carmon and Miranda 15 minutes to fill out the application, then, for their effort, they were paid at a rate of \$3,000/hour!!! How often will you make THAT sort of money in you lifetime? Oh, sure, as a teacher, I make that much money, but you probably won't! That's over \$6 million a year!! THESE TWO JUST MADE \$6 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR!!! OK, well, the "job" only lasted for about a quarter of an hour, but still...

Here's the deal: every year, I give money to the Foundation (the charitable arm of DSU) for several things: \$1,500 historically (\$2,000 starting this year) goes to the Bleil Annual Scholarship which is distributed every year to students (starting this year, 2 students will get \$1,000 each); \$1,000 goes to the Bleil Endowed Scholarship (this scholarship is not distributed currently; it will pick up when I am DEAD, stone cold DEAD, when I've joined the choir invisible, when I'm pushing up daisies, when I am dead and buried, when I am rotting worm food, when I am no more) which will eventually replace the annual scholarship; I donate , oh, \$2,400 if I am remembering correctly (through Bleil Laboratories, Inc.) for a Presidential Champion scholarship, and several thousand dollars to the library so YOU ALL have access to the American Chemical Society publications online, including all past issues, full articles, and a great search engine (<http://www.departments.dsu.edu/library/acswb.htm>).

Now, most students are probably interested in the Bleil Annual Scholarship. This is earmarked for physical science majors in their junior or senior year as the highest priority, followed by physical science majors prior to their junior or senior year, followed by forensic science majors in their junior or senior year, followed by forensic science majors before their junior or senior year. There is no GPA requirement, not even an essay; anybody is eligible, so long as they are physical or forensic science majors. If we get more applicants than awards, we look at this priority, but we've had years with NO applicants. And, while you are there, look to see if you are eligible for any other scholarships. Money goes unawarded every year, and I just don't get this.

BY the way, check out the ACS web editions. An institution of our size should not have access to a vehicle this powerful, and we only have it because of my donations. You can look up and read all of the articles in their entirety, you can browse the journals, or search through them, and as physical or forensic science majors, there are lots of publications you should find of interest. These are not

“watered down” science journals for the general public, either; these are the professional journals used by professional chemists, like me, so if you have a hard time understanding them at this point, don’t let it discourage you. You will understand them in time; that is why you are studying! But, just browsing the journals on a regular basis (I try to browse three journals a day) will let you know what is hot in science today, where we are at in the field, and much more.

Many congratulations to Fawn and Miranda.