

January 15, 2010

Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship
Ag Scholarship Awarded

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Otis and Mary Lee Molz have been contributing to cooperative organization, education and development for many years and are respected leaders in the co-op community. Now, they're encouraging the next generation to plan a future with cooperatives. The Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship was established in 2005 and is awarded annually.

Ashley Guenther of Ottawa, Kansas, was selected to be the 2009-2010 recipient of the scholarship through an invited application process and screening of applicants who were then interviewed by a selection committee, including Otis and Mary Lee Molz.

Ashley is a senior at K-State, majoring in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Communications and Journalism and minoring in International Agriculture. She is a College of Agriculture Ambassador, President of the Ag Econ/Ag Business club, President of the Blue Key Senior Honor Society. Ashley recently served as the Kansas State University Student Ambassador - Female Representative and as State FFA Secretary in 2006-2007. She works for the K-State Foundation with Annual Giving and Student Life Programs and also participated in a study abroad program at Czech University. Ashley grew up participating in 4-H and FFA. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a graduate degree in public administration or agriculture trade policy. The Guenther family is affiliated with Frontier Farm Credit and Lyon-Coffey County Electric Cooperative.

“The scholarship was established to honor and perpetuate the memory of the contribution of Otis and Mary Lee Molz and to encourage an interest in the formation, operation, management, leadership and economics of and participation in all types of cooperatives, including agricultural, financial, electric, telephone, housing and consumer cooperatives,” said Professor David Barton, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. “It's also to provide significant financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in educational programs emphasizing these areas of study.”

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be either a junior or senior in K-State's College of Agriculture at the time the scholarship is received, and be affiliated as a member or as a child or dependent of a member of a Kansas agricultural marketing, supply or service cooperative that is a member of the Kansas Cooperative Council.

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center provides research-based information, education and assistance to people with and interested in cooperative businesses, including cooperative members, directors, managers and employees. The Center also works with students and faculty at educational institutions, the general public and public officials as well as owners, directors, managers and employees of agribusinesses.

Previous scholarship recipients include: Lindsey Voet, Home, KS, Anne Winter, Mt. Hope, KS, and Justin Patterson, Benton, KS. The Molz scholarship was funded by contributions made to the Center's endowment fund with the KSU Foundation. An initial contribution of \$10,000 was made by CoBank with additional contributions by the Molz's and friends in the cooperative community.

“Additional contributions by those who want to honor Otis and Mary Lee Molz and support the purposes of the scholarship are welcome,” Barton said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/ACCC/ Molz” and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. 66506.

Further information can be obtained about this scholarship or about establishing additional scholarships by contacting David Barton at the same address or e-mailing, dbarton@ksu.edu.

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Arthur Capper Cooperative Center
Agricultural Economics
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- if using the photo, the photo caption is as follows:

left to right:, Otis Molz, Ashley Guenther, Mary Lee Molz at the K-State Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, September 25, 2009