

January 15, 2010

Matthew Kent Stamper
Ag Scholarship Awarded

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Matt Stamper and Preston Smith are two young people who shared similar backgrounds and plans for the future. Both grew up in rural Kansas and planned to work in agriculture as adults. But, Matt Stamper's plans for the future were tragically cut short on May 23, 1999 when he died in an automobile accident, just shy of his 22nd birthday.

In his honor, the Stamper family funded the Matthew Kent Stamper Memorial Scholarship beginning in May 2000 through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center at Kansas State University.

Preston Smith, of Sharon Springs, was selected to be the 2009-2010 recipient. He is a senior at Kansas State University, majoring in agribusiness. Preston participated in the C.L.A.S.S Leadership course, National Honor Society and completed an internship with Crop Quest. He grew up in western Kansas working on the family farm and now co-manages a family operation with his father. Upon graduation, Preston hopes to work as a field agronomist and eventually have his own farm. The Smith family is affiliated with Farm Credit, United Plains Ag and Aurora Cooperative.

“The scholarship was established to honor and perpetuate the memory of Matt Stamper and to encourage an interest in the operation, management, and economics of agricultural cooperatives, beef production and grain production enterprises,” said Professor David Barton, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. “It's also to provide 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 with a Kansas agricultural marketing, supply or service cooperative as a member or as a child or dependent of a member.

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.

The Stamper scholarship has been awarded annually since 2000 and is funded by contributions made to the Center's endowment fund with the KSU Foundation. An initial contribution of \$10,000 was made by the family and friends of Matthew Stamper and additional contributions have been made each year. Previous scholarship recipients include: Tyler Turner, Stafford, KS; Sarah Janssen, Erie, KS; Kevin Thielen, Dorrance, KS; Kendra Robben, Sharon Springs, KS; Stephen Bigge, Stockton, KS, Nathan Hoffman, Hays, KS, Nicholas Mizner of Esbon, KS.

“Additional contributions by those who want to honor Matthew and support the purposes of the scholarship are welcome,” Barton said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/ACCC/Stamper” 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: Bette Stamper, Preston Smith and Marcie Diaz at the K-State Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, September 25, 2009