

December 1, 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.

Kim Kerschen of Garden Plain, Kansas, was selected to be the 2010-2011 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.

Kim is a junior at K-State, majoring in Agronomy. She is an Agronomy Ambassador, Kansas State University Soil Judging Team member and a Wheat State Agronomy Club member. Kim was a member of the 2009 K-State National Championship Soil Judging Team where she received 12th Individual Ranking and is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She completed a cooperative internship with the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company and works on campus as an office aid while going to school. After graduation, Kim hopes to work as an agronomist. The Kerschen family is affiliated with Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company, Andale Farmers Cooperative Co., Farm Credit, McPherson Co-op Credit Union, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Association and Farmers Cooperative Grain Association.

“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: Ashley Guenther, Ottawa, KS; 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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- if using the photo, the photo caption is as follows:

left to right: Mary Lee Molz, Kyla Clawson – Joseph Lieber Memorial Cooperative Scholarship Recipient, Kim Kerschen – Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship Recipient and Otis Molz at the 2010 Symposium and Leadership Roundtable.